



St. James News

CHRIST AT THE CENTER. TRUTH IN ALL THINGS

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From The Desk Of *Pastor Mark Loder*

July Spiritual Discipline: Memorize a Hymn

Paul and Silas were in Philippi. They gathered at the place of prayer. There they were met by a girl who had a spirit of divination. She was a slave who made her owners wealthy by means of satanic arts. Even the demons must speak the truth. The girl said, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." (Acts 16:17) For many days, she acknowledged this truth, much to the dismay of Paul. When Paul was fed up, he cast the unclean spirit out of the slave girl.

When the girl's owners realized their source of income was no longer available, they dragged Paul and Silas to the magistrates, stirred up the crowd, beat, and jailed them.

It was midnight. Paul and Silas had every reason to lose hope. It had been a long day. They had the scars to prove it. That's when they started singing: "But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them." (Acts 16:25) They likely had no hymnal with them. They sang from their memories. They had committed to their minds some of the hymns of the church. When the opportunity arose, they proclaimed Christ through song.

The Word of Christ dwelt richly in them. They were admonishing one another and others in the hymns of the church. The impact was felt. Following an earthquake and the release of the prisoners, the Philippian jailer was converted. That very night, he was baptized into Jesus. Not just the jailer. All his household became members of the family of God!

We are given no indication in Acts 16 of what hymns Paul and Silas sang. There is no commentary on their ability to carry a tune. They sang for joy with boldness and confidence. That is what we know.

The hymns of the church are primarily meant to teach us. They serve as the proclamation of the Word set to music. When it comes to the teaching of the Word, we don't settle for what is less than stellar. We want the best. We want to be taught in the clearest possible way. We seek hymns that articulate the truths of Scripture, allow us to proclaim those truths in music, and prepare us for our deathbed.

Consider the hymn: "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive." How masterfully it teaches us of the assurance of forgiveness in verse 5. "Oh, how blest it is to know: were as scarlet my transgression, it shall be as **white as snow** by Thy blood and bitter passion: For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive."

YOUR SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE FOR THIS MONTH OF JULY IS TO MEMORIZE A HYMN; work towards becoming like Paul and Silas. No, don't **get yourself sent** to prison. Memorize a beautiful hymn, be taught, and then teach others the comfort of Christ's forgiveness in song.

✚ *Bible Trivia* ✚

See answers below

1. What is the second book of the Bible named after a woman?
2. While Ahab rode to Jezreel, who ran ahead on foot?
3. On what two occasions did God say, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."?
4. How did Peter temporarily earn Paul's disfavor?
5. According to Hebrews, where should the Christian fix his eyes as he runs the race before him?

Answers: 1. Esther 2. Elijah (I Kings 18:46) 3. Jesus' baptism and transfiguration (Matthew 3:17, 17:5) 4. By his shunning of uncircumcised Gentiles (Galatians 2:11-21) 5. On Jesus (Hebrews 12:2)

Our Church Records

Church Attendance

Sunday, June 7	115
Sunday, June 14	169
Sunday, June 21	155
Sunday, June 28	178

Communion Attendance

Sunday, June 7	115
Sunday, June 14	115
Sunday, June 21	95
Sunday, June 28	118

Marriage

Micah and Emily Loder on June 27, 2025
by Pastor Loder.

Transfer Out

Chad and Kelli Burau along with their children Drew, Marcus and Maggie to St. John's Lutheran Church, Winsted, MN.

Tim and Bridey Boese along with their children Collin and Caleb to St. John's Lutheran Church, Winsted,



Hear the Good News of the Gospel on the Lutheran hour each Sunday at 9:00 am on KDUZ 1260 AM Radio.

During the month of July, you will hear the following topics:

July 5, 2026

"Bloom Where You're Planted"

Blessing, in a Biblical sense, means God's favor in any circumstance, no exceptions, because there is no place or circumstance in which God does not belong. Genesis 39:21

July 12, 2026

"Knight, Death, and the Devil"

Jesus has triumphed over all the powers of death and hell and He has pledged Himself to be your protector and the armor that you wear. Ephesians 6:12

July 19, 2026

"From Groans to Glory"

A day will come when the grief will end, the groans will be silenced. Jesus will return and the dead in Christ will arise with bodies glorified. Romans 8: 21-27

July 26, 2026

"Worth the Wait"

The certainty that Jesus offers is not theoretical or experimental. It's the certainty of a promise, of a secure relationship. Matthew 13:44



July: Logan Cardinal (1), Zachary Thorson (2), Arnold Hechsel (5), Loren Wegner (5), Marjorie Helinske (7), Astrid Glessing (8), Teresa Schmieg (8), Colton Franz (9), Paul Lindahl (11), Jim Yukel (11), Alan Hendrickson (15), Eric Stoll (15), LaVonne Burkett (16), Brycen Diers (16), Jill Kittock (16), Becky Hagemann (17), Ezra Hartkemeyer (18), Michael Stueven (18), Roy Bakeberg (19), Quinton Wernette (19), Kelly Reich (20), Luke Dahl (21), Tyler Gruenhagen (21), Carolyn Kotila (21), Riley Bickmann (23), Lucas Kilpela (23), Carson Woolhouse (23), Clark Hassa (24), Brooke Gabbert (25), Wayne Birkholz (27), Eloise Doster (28), Linda Drusch (28), Erland Hoese (28), Lynn Burbank (31). **August:** Keith Bobrowske (1), Jeremy Cardinal (1), Morgan Niesen (1), Ann Birkholz (2), Daniel Workman (2), Linda Bakeberg (3), Angela Cardinal (3), Clayton Hendrickson (3), Joyce Heuer (3), Marjorie Stueven (3), Keith Brose (5), Amy Burau (5), Michaela Reich (5), Elizabeth Anderson (6), Justin Gabbert (7), Justin Niesen (7), Sofianna Hendrickson (8), Wesley Hendrickson (10), Thomas Johnson (10), Pastor Loder (10), Lila Hennen (11), Fischer Eckhoff (12), Darlene Lind (13), Cass Cardinal (14), Bonnie Jones (14), Karen Kirchenwitz (14), Waverly Stueven (14), Joseph Pehl (17), Timothy Zander (17), Marlene George (19), Hathaway Stueven (19), Mark Burau (20), Dan Glessing (20), Shari Zander (22), Kennedy Sparkman (23), Barbara Schmieg (25), Vivian Nikko (27), Rena Gruenhagen (28), Benjamin Koosman (29), Anna Baumann (30), Jeffrey Kilpela (30), Brooke Whitton (30).

Happy Anniversary

7/8 Bernard & Margaret Marketon
7/8 Timothy & Jamie Zander
7/9 Brad & Jenna Davis
7/12 Adam & Beth Koch
7/13 Justin & Angela Gabbert
7/19 Steve & Kim Koosman

7/19 Terry & LaNette Thorson
7/20 Zachary & Kiera Koosman
7/22 Jed & Tami Zander
7/25 John & Darlene Lind
7/26 Dave & Samantha Zillmer
8/2 Adam & April Stueven
8/4 Jared & Cassey Glessing
8/10 Ray & Jan Cardinal
8/11 Dennis & Nancy Butterfass
8/12 Luke & Kelcey Fleck
8/15 Pastor & Molly Loder
8/17 Jeff & Leisha Diers
8/18 Jake & Gabby Wurm
8/19 Nick & Taylor Esping



Vicar Hallock opened our June meeting with devotions on Galatians 6, Let us not be weary doing good to our neighbors and especially to our church body. Vicar then gave us an informative background of his first two years in seminary which included the courses he took, family life at the Seminary and his involvement at a local church. He also talked about serving this year at St. James, especially enjoying the day school experiences and the support of our congregation.

Marge led the business meeting. Reports were read. Dian reported on our annual July outing which will be going to see "Newsies" put on by Fungus Amongus Players at the DC High School Performing Arts Center on July 19th, 2 PM.

Carmen Hanson was present and as our LWML Zone President stated that she is available for any concerns or questions we may have.

Our August 3rd meeting will be a presentation by Bill Wickesberg with highlights from his trip to Italy. June/July Birthdays were recognized, LWML Pledge read, followed with a table prayer, root beer floats and fellowship.

Another Day In The Lord Is A Good Day!! Let us rejoice today and be glad. PSALM 118:24

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

LCMS Stewardship

Go ... Sell All You Have?

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?" asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, "You know the commandments." And he replied, "All these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me" (Luke 18:18-22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, "No!" But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth

into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the Means of Grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What's more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

July

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 Women's Bible Study	2 9:00 Bible Study	3	4
5 Fifth Sunday of Trinity 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Bible Study 5:00 Trustees Meeting	6 1:00 Naomi Guild	7	8 7:00 Women's Bible Study	9 9:00 Bible Study	10 Church office Closed	11 Independence Day 7:30 Iron Sharpening Irons Breakfast 9:00 Elders Meeting
12 Sixth Sunday of Trinity 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Bible Study	13 7:00 School Board	14	15 7:00 Women's Bible Study	16 9:00 Bible Study	17	18
19 Seventh Sunday of Trinity 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Bible Study	20 7:00 Leadership Council	21	22 7:00 Women's Bible Study	23 9:00 Bible Study	24	25 9:00-12:00 Private Confession/ Absolution
Pastor out of the office- Synod Convention						
26 Eighth Sunday of Trinity 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Bible Study	27	28	29	30	31	

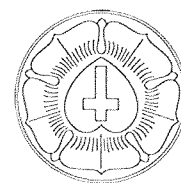
August

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Ninth Sunday of Trinity 9:00 Divine Service Voters Meeting 10:15 Bible Study 5:00 Trustees Meeting	3 2:00 LWML	4	5 7:00 Women's Bible Study	6 9:00 Bible Study	7	1 9:00 Elders Meeting 8
	VBS WEEK- Emerald Crossing and Irish Adventure					
9 Tenth Sunday of Trinity 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Bible Study	10 1:00 Naomi Guild	11	12 7:00 Women's Bible Study	13 9:00 Bible Study	14	15
16 Eleventh Sunday of Trinity 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Bible Study	17 7:00 School Board	18 7:00 Leadership Council	19 7:00 Women's Bible Study	20 9:00 Bible Study	21	22 7:30 Iron Sharpening Irons Breakfast 9:00 Elders Meeting
	Pastor out of the Office					
23 Twelfth Sunday of Trinity 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Bible Study	24	25	26 7:00 Women's Bible Study	27 9:00 Bible Study	28	29
30 Thirteenth Sunday of Trinity 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Bible Study	31					

Service Planner

SEASON	DATE	LITURGY	PREACHER	ORGANIST	HYMNS	COMMUNION
	July 5	Fifth Sunday after Trinity	1 Kings 19:11–21	Psalms 16	1 Cor. 1:18–25 or 1 Peter 3:8–15	Luke 5:1–11
		DS IV Pg. 203	Pastor	Luke	904, 688, 964	633, 632
	July 12	Sixth Sunday after Trinity	Ex. 20:1–17	Psalms 19	Rom. 6:(1–2) 3–11	Matt. 5:(17–19) 20–26
	Rev. Preus	DS IV Pg. 203	Guest (Pastor out of town)	Molly	601, 562, 865	563, 829, 843
	July 19	Seventh Sunday after Trinity	Gen. 2:7–17	Psalms 33:1–11	Rom. 6:19–23	Mark 8:1–9
Vicar's Last Day	Rev. Queck	DS IV Pg. 203	Guest (Pastor at Convention)	Nancy	563, 565, 707	605, 579, 631
	July 26	Eighth Sunday after Trinity	Jer. 23:16–29	Psalms 26	Acts 20:27–38 or Rom. 8:12–17	Matt. 7:15–23
		DS IV Pg. 203	Pastor	Molly	578, 691, 577	725, 745, 663
	Aug. 2	Ninth Sunday after Trinity	2 Sam. 22:26–34	Psalms 51:1–12	1 Cor. 10:6–13	Luke 16:1–9 (10–13)
		DS IV Pg. 203	Pastor	Luke	907, 730, 917	626, 636
	Aug. 9	Tenth Sunday after Trinity	Jer. 7:1–11 or Jer. 8:4–12	Psalms 92	1 Cor. 12:1–11 or Rom. 9:30–10:4	Luke 19:41–48
		DS IV Pg. 203	Pastor	Nancy	873, 644, 834	637, 540, 728
	Aug. 16	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	Gen. 4:1–15	Psalms 50:7–23	Eph. 2:1–10 or 1 Cor. 15:1–10	Luke 18:9–14
		DS IV	Pastor	Molly		
	Aug. 23	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	Is. 29:17–24	Psalms 146	2 Cor. 3:4–11 or Rom. 10:9–17	Mark 7:31–37
		DS IV	Pastor	Nancy	686, 846, 849	545, 704, 627
	Aug. 30	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	2 Chron. 28:8–15	Psalms 32	Gal. 3:15–22	Luke 10:23–37
		DS IV	Pastor	Molly	683, 716, 763	851, 566, 844
	Sept. 6	Fourteenth S. after Trinity	Prov. 4:10–23	Psalms 119:9–16	Gal. 5:16–24	Luke 17:11–19
		DS IV	Pastor			
	Sept. 8	Chapel (Opening)	Col. 2:6–7			
		Prayer and Preaching	Pastor	(Thorson Liturgist)		
	Sept. 13	Fifteenth S. after Trinity	1 Kings 17:8–16	Psalms 146	Gal. 5:25–6:10	Matt. 6:24–34



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Summer Blessings To: