



St. James News

Equipping and Empowering Families and Students through Christ

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“I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.”

Taken at face value, C.S. Lewis’ words here are difficult to bear. For who among us gives more than they have to spare? Who among us is willing to part with any and all possessions for charity’s sake? Who among us can claim a truly open heart towards those in need? I know with absolute certainty that I cannot, and I doubt that I go too far when I presume the same about most others. Even in our most charitable moments, moments which are often too few and too far apart, we cling to that which we have given.

How can you cling to something that is no longer yours? By its very nature, giving demands a relinquishment of control over that which is given. The money that you offer to someone in need, the time that you lend to a neighbor, the effort you exert for another, these things are only truly given when you no longer desire control over them. To give something of yourself while attempting to retain some level of control over it is not true charity but instead calculated charity. Dale Ahlquist sums up the difference between these types of giving when he describes how G.K. Chesterton approached charity in his life.

He [Chesterton] seems so frivolous and so careless, but he gives money to beggars, not

frivolously or carelessly, but because he believes in giving money to beggars, and giving it to them “where they stand”.

He says he knows perfectly well all the arguments against giving money to beggars. But he finds those to be precisely the arguments for giving money to them. If beggars are lazy or deceptive or wanting a drink, he knows only too well his own lack of motivation, his own dishonesty, his own thirst.

He doesn’t believe in “scientific charity” because that is too easy, as easy as writing a check. He believes in “promiscuous charity” because that is really difficult.

For some, the idea of giving money to a beggar on the street is simply a step too far. For Chesterton, though, it is precisely this type of charity that meets the threshold of true giving. This type of giving demands that you relinquish your control over what is given and simply give for the sake of charity and out of love for your neighbor. Yes, the beggar that you give money to might abuse that gift and use it to make poor choices, but those choices are out of your control and outside the scope of your giving. Where giving is concerned, we need to spend more time

focusing on the act of giving and less time on the results.

Our Lord says “Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back” (Luke 6:30). Elsewhere He says “Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you” (Matthew 5:42). Christ’s words here are pointed and get down to the matter directly. He does not say “give when you deem it’s appropriate” or “give when you know that what is given will be used in a God-pleasing way”, but simply “give”.

For our giving is not the creation of something new but instead the continuation of what has already been so graciously given. As John declares in his first epistle, our giving is nothing else but a declaration of God’s love for us (1 John 3). When we give of ourselves freely, we are in a very small way extending to others the love that God has already shown to us. “Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all” (1 Chronicles 29:12). To do otherwise is to stop the cycle of giving started by God and reap the benefits for ourselves alone.

So how much are we to give? Does Lewis’ concern about how much we need to give have a solution? Yes and no. There is no black and white answer about how much we need to give or what level of charity we need to surpass. However, we do have the perfect model of giving that we should try to emulate. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). Truly, God gave to us all He had

in order that we might be saved. Likewise, Christ gave everything that He had in order that our sins would be forgiven and we would stand justified before God our Father. It is this type of self-sacrificial giving, the type of giving that does not expect a return on investment, that we must seek in our daily lives.

I leave you with the inspired words of St. Paul. “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:5-8). What Christ did for us we are unable to do for others, for man cannot even atone for his own sins, let alone the sins of others. What we can do, though, is give of ourselves in every way possible, always searching for ways to continue the cycle of love and giving begun by God our Father and perfected by Christ on the cross. It is only when we give in this manner that we have truly given enough, regardless of how much it is that we gave.

Vicar Speckhard

Our Church Records

Church Attendance

Sunday, May 28	183 & 68
Sunday, June 4	86 & 96
Sunday, June 11	76 & 68
Sunday, June 18	70 & 72
Sunday, June 25	71 & 106
Sunday, July 2	76 & 69
Sunday, July 9	91 & 82
Sunday, July 16	105 & 54
Sunday, July 23	67 & 89

Communion Attendance

Sunday, June 4	160
Sunday, June 11	110
Sunday, June 18	119
Sunday, June 25	64
Sunday, July 2	115
Sunday, July 9	135
Sunday, July 23	137

Funerals

Marie Kliche on July 24, 2023. She was called to her eternal rest on July 18, 2023 at the age of 94 years, 5 months, and 8 days.

Baptism

Lincoln Terrence Ortiz infant son of Jose & Danielle (Workman) Ortiz on June 30, 2023 by Pastor Loder. He was born on October 9, 2022. His sponsors are Nadeen Fiedler & Benjamin Workman.

Transfer Out

Keith Koosman to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Litchfield, Minnesota on July 12, 2023.

✠ **Bible Trivia** ✠

See answers below

1. Who was noted for a lot of body hair?
2. Whose clothes did not wear out for 40 years?
3. Hearing of his wisdom who visited Solomon?
4. In what book of the Bible is the word "Christian" first used (if we read it cover to cover)?
5. What is the rocky hill which was the site of the Athenian lawcourt at which Paul spoke?

Answers: 1. Esau (Genesis 25:25) 2. Those worn by the Israelites during their desert wanderings (Deuteronomy 8:2-4) 3. The Queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10:1-13) 4. Acts (Acts 11:26) 5. Areopagus (or Mars Hill) (Acts 17:19 and 22)



August 6

"Who is Jesus?"

Jesus never needed to take a poll to figure out who He was or what He should do.
(Matthew 16:13b-16)

August 13

"How Well Does Jesus Know Me?"

The God who knows everything about you is also the God of grace who forgives on account of Christ.
(John 1: 48-51)

August 20

"The Latest Polls"

What people think about something--that's a poll. What that something actually is--that's the truth.
(Matthew 21:8-11 and Luke 23:23-25)

August 27

"Raising the Praise"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes

Every day and everywhere they go, the followers of Jesus bring the "echo" of Easter with them.
(1 Peter 1:3).

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry –
lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter Article –
August 2023

Define Your Life by How You Give

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others,” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we do not become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the

bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).



at
**St. James
Sunday**

September 10

Join Us!



Friday Night Fun!!
BEAN BAGS AND BBQ
Friday, August 11 @
6:00 PM

Missionary League

Our June 5th meeting was opened with devotions by Vicar Scofield from the Lutheran Hour worship based on the hymn Holy, Holy, Holy. Vicar Scofield was our guest speaker sharing his journey through his school years leading up to his vicarage and his time and experiences at St. James.

President Barb opened the business meeting. A motion was approved to give 4- \$50 donations to the 2023-2024 LWML Mission goals; Call to Care, Wolf River Lutheran High School Scholarships and Milwaukee Area Crisis Pregnancy Centers along with member purchased gift cards to the National LWML Convention in Milwaukee June 22-25, 2023. Towel Kits were assembled to send on the Orphan Grain Train.

The annual outing was held on July 12th to the Wright County Historical Society Museum in Buffalo. The ladies especially enjoyed seeing items from the area that brought back many memories. Lunch and Fellowship followed at Mill Creek Inn.

Our August 7th meeting will be a Quarterly Bible Study along with Show and Tell of a crafted item maybe by or given to you.

The September 11th meeting guest speaker Beth Hauth will share her experiences with the Peace Corp. Show and tell will be to share a school memory or school item. Join us for any of our monthly meeting, we would love to have you.

God's Garden; Lettuce Praise Him, Squash The Gossip, Turnip At Church.
Let the SON Shine!!



August: Kayla Bobrowske (1), Keith Bobrowske (1), Jeremy Cardinal (1), Sergei Edwards (1), Coleton Main (1), Morgan Niesen (1), Ann Birkholz (2), Daniel Workman (2), Gayle Yager (2), Linda Bakeberg (3), Angela Cardinal (3), Joyce Hauer (3), Jeanne Lindstrom (3), Marjorie Stueven (3), Ashley Main (4), Russell Schlagel (4), Keith Brose (5), Amy Burau (5), Madison Marschel (5), Michael Marschel (5), Elizabeth Anderson (6), Justin Gabbert (7), Kyle Johnson (7), Justin Niesen (7), Alexa Probst (8), Thomas Johnson (10), Pastor Loder (10), Marvin Miller (10), Gayle Ristow (10), Bradley Smith (10), Thomas Diers (11), Lila Hennen (11), Marvel Engel (12), Darlene Lind (13), Cass Cardinal (14), Bonnie Jones (14), Karen Kirchenwitz (14), Waverly Stueven (14), Doug Bergquist (15), Mary Kay Bergquist (15), Emily Schmidt (15), Donald Drusch (16), Casey Stueven (16), Wyatt Gueningsman (17), Joseph Pehl (17), Jaime Zander (17), Timothy Zander (17), Chris Menk (18), Marlene George (19), Riley Gruenhagen (19), Shane Heber (19), Hathaway Stueven (19), Mark Burau (20), Dan Glessing (20), Elijah (22), Shari Zander (22), Kennedy Sparkman (23), Michael Luhman (24), Laikyn Schmiege (24), Darren Jones (25), Barbara Schmiege (25), Mindy Stoll (25), Jeremy Birkholz (26), Joel Hirsch (26), Vivian Nikko (27), Dennis Reek (27), Emma Diers (28), Rena Gruenhagen (28), Elise Linder (28), Carol Borg (29), Benjamin Koosman (29), Anna Baumann (30), Jeffrey Kilpela (30), Kathleen Koethe-Miller (30), Brooke Whitton (30), Taylor Drusch (31), Brittney Jones (31), Alexa Olson (31), **September:** Jane Diers (1), Edward Estrem (1), Andrew Gueningsman (1), Michelle Koosman (1), Hallie Heller (3), Micah Reich (3), John Horsch (4), Warren Anderson (5), Kirk Jensen (5), Cassandra Butcher (6), Emily Linder (6), Derek Nikko (6), Kamryn Stueven (6), Denise Stoll (7), Jack Schaal (8), Amanda Stoll (8), Madilynn Yager (8), Christine Yukel (8), Gerald Burau (9), Jenna Davis (9), Jill Eckhoff-King (9), Jeanne Glessing (9), Robert Gruenhagen (9), Kirsten Heber (9), Greta Van Meeteren (9), Jacqueline Decker (10), Jody Menk (10), Alicia Rehmann (10), Susan Schlagel (10), Gwen Butcher (11), Dolores Tyson (11), Jared

Glessing (12), Bernice Pehl (12), Madisen Stillwell (12), Grant Wickesberg (12), Hannah Marschel (13), Samuel Schmiege (13), Dale Engel (14), Jessica Schmidt (14), Samantha Zillmer (14), Mitch Montgomery (16), Jessica Streich (16), Adam Birkholz (18), Max Schlagel (18), Thomas Young (18), Sarah Butterfass (19), Samantha Nordin (19), Madilyn Eckhoff (20), Micah Loder (20), Dean Koosman (21), Lyla Lutter (21), Everett Hennen (22), Bradly Koosman (22), Molly Loder (23), Vayda Gilbert (24), Jeremy Stoll (24), Lillian Baker (25), Mark Schmiege (25), Abigail Jones (26), Benton Miller (26), Bonnie Engel (27), Drew Oestreich (28), Kaylee Lanars (29), Bruce Zander (29), Paul Utne (30).



8/2 Adam & April Stueven
8/4 Warren & Dorothy Anderson
8/8 John & Jane Brown
8/10 Ray & Jan Cardinal
8/11 Dennis & Nancy Butterfass
8/15 Mark & Molly Loder
8/16 Glenn & Michelle Hofer
8/17 Jeffery & Leisha Diers
8/18 Dan & Lynn Barney
8/18 Jake & Gabrielle Wurm
8/21 Jacob & Jamie Diers
9/2 Dale & Julie Burau
9/2 David & Chelsea Buttenhoff
9/3 Marcus & Julie Linder
9/7 John & Shari Zander
9/8 Jesse & Angela Cardinal
9/8 Josh & Nikki Diers
9/9 David & Kelly Gruenhagen
9/11 Don & Stacey Smida
9/12 Randy & Karla Marschel
9/13 Michael & Frances Luhman
9/15 Mark & Barbara Schmiege
9/17 Chad & Kelli Burau
9/18 Eric & Amanda Stoll
9/19 Steven & Janice Comstock
9/21 Edwin & Diane Borg
9/21 Michael & Lisa Goede
9/23 Mark & Alicia Rehmann
9/28 Mike & Heidi Thorson
9/26 Randy & Cindy Hausladen

Our Parish Nurse

GREETINGS,

I Trust this finds you enjoying the rest of the summer and soon into fall. As, usual, it has been a very busy season with all the fairs, family events, gardening and all that goes with the extra warm weather we have had. Sadly, it has been so very dry, which has been difficult on the crops and gardens. Most people with gardens have had to water to allow crops and vegetables to produce. Still, God is good and continues to provide.

CANCER

Cancer continues to be present in so many lives today, Dealing with it is affecting many lives. Fortunately, there are many types of treatments available. Also, the stigma of it is much less than in the past. However, still many people are reluctant to talk about it or reach out to others for help. Many people say they do not know what to say or do to contact someone they have heard has cancer.

The cancer society has many informational resources available for the asking. I have a number of books and pamphlets available, just contact me for these, I will be more than willing to share what I have. As I have said several times in the past, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about any health issues. As support providers, I and other church staff are available for visiting or other means of communication. Please do not hesitate to give us at the church a call, we can not read minds and will certainly contact you if you let us know of any needs you may have. It makes me very sad to hear of someone's health issues long after the initial onset has occurred.

Battling cancer? What are your needs? Drivers for appointments? Friendly visitors? Meals? Other? Do not hesitate to contact the church office. Pastor will visit, so will your Parish Nurse, if you wish. We are here to help, but can't if we do not know what will be of help to you.

UPCOMING EVENT

Attention: women of all ages:

Wednesday, August 23rd, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

WOMEN WALKING IN THE LIGHT, an evening of music, fun, food, short bible study, health and more.

SPEAKER: EILEEN ESGET, DEACONESS-HOLY LAND SLIDES AND WHAT IS A DEACONESS.

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER.

Your Parish Nurse,
Darlene