



St. James News

CHRIST AT THE CENTER. TRUTH IN ALL THINGS

Volume 71 Issue 8

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From The Desk Of *Pastor Mark Loder*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We live in days when evil seems bold, troubles multiply, and the heart is tempted to grow faint. Our Lord Jesus warned us of such times: “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved” (Matthew 24:12–13, NKJV). Yet He has not left us defenseless or without comfort. He has given His Word and His holy Sacraments, which are the sure anchors of our faith, the very means by which His Spirit strengthens and sustains us in this fallen world.

When the psalmist cried, “This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life” (Psalm 119:50, NKJV), he confessed the eternal truth that the Word of God is not mere information but the living voice of God Himself. In Scripture we hear Christ speaking forgiveness, life, and salvation. St. Peter confessed, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68, NKJV). In the midst of confusion, shifting opinions, and false hopes, God’s Word is certain, unchanging, and filled with His promises that do not fail.

Alongside His Word, our Lord has given us His Sacraments, which are not empty symbols but His gracious acts toward us. In Holy Baptism, He clothed us with Christ and delivered us from the dominion of darkness (Romans 6:3–5; Colossians 1:13). In the Holy Supper, He sets before us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, strengthening of faith, and the pledge of eternal life (Matthew 26:26–28; 1 Corinthians 10:16). Through these means, Christ Himself is present with us, giving what He has promised.

As Luther writes in the Large Catechism, “For where God’s Word is, there is also the Sacrament; and where the Sacrament is, there is also salvation.” This is our firm ground when the earth beneath us shakes.

In our daily struggles, the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh would have us despair. Yet here Christ enters with His gifts. When guilt troubles the conscience, His absolution declares, “Be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you” (Matthew 9:2, NKJV). When sorrow weighs us down, His Word promises, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5, NKJV). When death threatens, His Supper assures us that He has conquered the grave and gives us a foretaste of the heavenly feast.

Therefore, dear Christians, do not lose heart. Though outwardly the world seems full of chaos, inwardly we are renewed day by day through the means of grace (2 Corinthians 4:16). Cling to Christ where He has promised to be found—in His Word preached and His Sacraments administered. There He gives peace that the world cannot give, and hope that no trouble can extinguish.

Let us continue steadfastly in worship, prayer, and mutual encouragement. As we gather around Word and Altar, we are not alone but joined to Christ and to His whole Church on earth and in heaven. Truly here we taste already the victory that shall be revealed in full when our Lord returns in glory.

Our Church Records

Church Attendance

Sunday, August 31	87 & 59
Sunday, September 7	110 & 108
Sunday, September 14	164 & 85
Sunday, September 21	101 & 201

Communion Attendance

Sunday, August 31	92
Sunday, September 7	142
Sunday, September 14	139
Sunday, September 21	154

Transfer Out

Dorothy Anderson to St. Johns Lutheran Church, Merrill, WI.

Baptism

Rayne Gruenhagen on September 21, 2025, by Pastor Loder. Rayne is the daughter of Riley and Brooke Gruenhagen.

✠ ***Bible Trivia*** ✠

See answers below

1. In the origin of the expression, who was the apple of whose eye?
2. How many generations were there from Rebekah to Joseph, ruler of Egypt?
3. Which book of the Bible immediately follows Haggai?
4. What, according to Psalm 8:5, did God make a little lower than the angels?
5. Who raised Dorcas from the dead?

Answers: 1. Jacob of God's (Deuteronomy 32:10) 2. Two 3. Zechariah 4. Man or men (Psalm 8:5) 5 .Peter (Acts 9:37-42)



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 October, you will hear the following topics:

October 5

"Every Age Has a Stage"

Every age has a stage, not just a stage of life, but also a stage on which to perform and to serve. (Numbers 8:23-26)

October 12

"When a Cakewalk Becomes a Crucible"

Forgiveness isn't a formality with God. Forgiveness is formative. It changes us. (Numbers 14:30-31)

October 19

"God's Help Dwells in Us"

The Holy Spirit is the Helper who comes to dwell in and with us, to encourage and empower us. (Numbers 11:29)

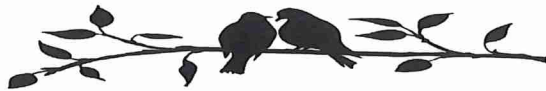
October 26

"Worn In"

Are you feeling worn down or worn out? Through faith, God conforms us to the pattern of Christ. (Numbers 20:13)



October: David Buttenhoff (1), Mitch Diers (1), Sandra Diers (1), Nickolus Teske-Holmgard (1), Alexander Workman (1), Ruth Young (1), Caden Zillmer (1), Marisa Graham (2), Doris Jakes (2), Olivia Cardinal (3), Harper Salmela (3), Jessica Glessing (4), Sonia Lee (4), James Ittel (5), Everett Painschab (5), Martin Latzig (6), Jacob Gruenhagen (7), Isaiah Reich (7), Robin Oestreich (8), Rebecca Leaf (9), Tammi Probst (9), Oliver Nikko (10), Paul Wackler (10), Mark Diers (11), Suzanne Koosman (12), Marissa Woolhouse (12), Adelynn Wurm (12), Barbara Bickmann (13), Andrew Koosman (13), Alysha Monson (13), Jacob Young (13), Leah Bobrowske (14), Richard Diers (14), Aurora Moorhouse (14), Alex Zimmerman (14), Brian Diers (15), Brian Stueven (15), Mark Stueven (16), Mark Wackler (16), Jacob Johnson (17), Cody Painschab (18), Nancy Butterfass (19), Steven Morrisette (19), Allsion Brady (20), Daniel Koosman (20), Justyn Love (21), John Stueven (23), Caitlyn Brose (25), Dillon Skiles (25), Jodi Utne (26), Mallory Whitton (26), Diane Borg (27), Andrew Pehl (27), Bradley Dickens (28), Jodie Bobrowske (30), Julie Burau (30), Lance Luchsinger (30), Jonathan Yukel (30), Jacob Barth (31), Audrey Ogle (31).



10/1 John & Jane Kothrade
 10/1 Steven & Jessica Morrisette
 10/3 Michael & Stacey Sparkman
 10/5 Dennis & Vicky Glessing
 10/5 Donald & Tammy Oestreich
 10/5 Brian & Kiaysa Burau
 10/8 Dean & Shirley Cloose
 10/9 Terry & Larae Ostgulen
 10/10 Martin & Ruth Latzig
 10/11 Ryan & Lisa Ogle
 10/12 Brian & Yvonne Currey

10/15 Jeffrey & Maria Kilpela
 10/16 Scott & Kelly Salmela
 10/18 Peter & Catherine Radintz
 10/18 Pete & Heather Zimmerman
 10/19 Gary & Becky Hagemann
 10/20 Donovan & Marlene Jensen
 10/20 Robert & Deborah Workman
 10/22 Derek & Mary Nikko
 10/26 Jeremy & Michelle Peterson
 10/26 Scott & Jennifer Schmidt
 10/29 Justin & Christine Hassa

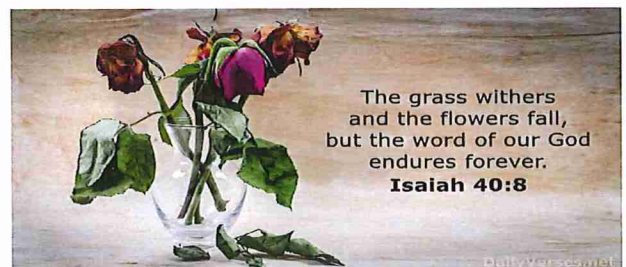


Members and Guests gathered at the home of Viann and Alan Montgomery for our September meeting. We enjoyed walking through their gardens, bountiful vegetables gardens and beautiful flower gardens which we all enjoy at our church services.

Pastor Loder led us in a bible study focusing on the church and school motto for this year; "Christ at the Center-Truth In All Things".

Barb opened the business meeting, and reports were read and accepted. October 5th is LWML Sunday, and we will serve donuts after and before services. Our annual Chicken Dinner will be held on October 12th. The Crow River conference is on October 18th at Green Isle.

September birthdays were recognized followed by prayer, lunch and fellowship. Our next meeting is on October 6th. Darlene Lind will speak on Women's Health and we will be putting together Charcuterie Boards. Come Join Us!!



Monthly Financial Report



St. James Lutheran Church
Monthly Financial Summary
August 2024- July 2025

	Prior Year '24-'25	
	Actual	Budget
Receipts		
Offerings & Donations	613,977	652,750
Tuition & Other Receipts	430,637	358,145
Mission Receipts	14,445	10,000
Total Receipts	1,059,059	1,020,895
Expenses		
Salaries-Church & School	621,281	630,871
Benefits/Payroll/Taxes/Mileage	166,510	179,683
Administration & Program Expenses	107,359	96,350
Utilities/Maintenance & Repair	264,579	193,640
Mission Disbursements	4,735	1,150
Total Expenses	1,164,464	1,101,694
Net Receipts/Expenses	(105,405)	(80,799)

St. James Lutheran Church
Monthly Financial Summary
August 2025

	Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget
Receipts		
Offerings & Donations	73,810	51,183
Tuition & Other Receipts	13,399	28,033
Mission Receipts	823	1,208
Total Receipts	88,032	80,425
Expenses		
Salaries-Church & School	45,095	50,972
Benefits/Payroll/Taxes/Mileage	3,762	13,886
Administration & Program Expenses	10,190	6,282
Utilities/Maintenance & Repair	22,225	17,430
Mission Disbursements	-	146
Total Expenses	81,272	88,716
Net Receipts/Expenses	6,760	(8,291)



Harmonious Stewardship

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Romans 12:4-5).

One of the most forgotten concepts in stewardship is the interdependent nature that makes up the Body of Christ and the way that body supports the shared work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is experienced in the local congregation, as well as in broader mission and ministry efforts at the district and Synod levels. Yet in these words, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that we are indeed members of one another. This is true in our worship. It is also true in our stewardship of the Gospel. Stewards of all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities, affluence and influence are all assembled around Word and Sacrament in the local congregation with no one being more important than the other.

Part of this forgetting lies in what the eyes see and how our human mind operates. Our eyes and our minds are quick to come to the erroneous conclusion that the person who writes the biggest check is the more important steward. Human logic, flawed by sin as it is, could make a claim that the youngest child or the most infirm, aged member of the congregation would certainly be considered something less than important when it comes to the stewardship of the Gospel.

Paul makes it clear in these words that this is not how stewardship of the Gospel is measured in the Body of Christ. Rather, it would be better to view local stewardship like the lost art of harmony in congregational singing. This has been lost not only due to the performative nature of the lead singers of the local praise team, but also because modern hymnals are written to almost force the novice hymn-singer into unison voice. Creative harmonization by talented organists is beautiful to listen to, but does not always support the people in the pews in singing in parts. This is a loss in demonstrating a very practical aspect of whole-body stewardship.

The sound that builds when choral and congregational singers settle into their voice parts is nothing short of heavenly! Yet when altos, tenors and bass sing their individual parts without any concept of how they fit together, the music doesn't sound as powerful. The

narrow range of the typical alto line almost sounds monotonous. The tenor line can get painfully high, and the baseline can get uncomfortably low. But, when interdependently entwined, along with the melody that is so often carried by the sopranos, the music becomes a tremendously powerful tool in communicating the Gospel.

The same is true of individual stewards. Certainly, stewards with more financial means are in a unique place to “carry the tune” for ministry in a local congregation. But that doesn't rule out the faithful stewardship of the saint-like 94-year-old Hulda, who prayed for her young pastor in German every night while the aches and pains of arthritis and the grief of losing a daughter to cancer kept her awake. This does not rule out Jimmy, the profoundly developmentally disabled confirmand whose basic but dramatically eloquent confession of the faith left an impression on a congregation long after he went to be with Jesus. It doesn't rule out the single parent, the recovering addict, the family coming out of bankruptcy, the elderly widow and everyone in between.

The Lord has entrusted all the baptized with stewardship of the one thing needful: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one member of any congregation is more important than another when it comes to this stewardship. The biggest check isn't always the best way to communicate the Gospel. In fact, it is almost always better communicated with the widow's mite, the tenacious stewardship of the talents and so much more.

In the local congregation and beyond, our corporate stewardship of the Gospel needs each other to fill out our great confession. It is not about equal amount. It is about interdependence that only the Holy Spirit can work! Each of us has a role to play, a harmony to sing. The standard for that role is faithfulness. We do not have the same function, but we have the same Jesus! As we sing the parts entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, the sweet music of the Gospel goes out!

"O sorrow dread! Our God is dead, upon the cross extended." These words are quite provocative to read. This comes from the hymn "O Darkest Woe," which is associated with Good Friday. Many of us have probably sung these very words. These words, however, might strike our ears as strange, especially given that we know God cannot die. God is unchanging, he certainly cannot experience suffering or death. If God could die, would that make him any different than any human being? He clearly would not be superior to us, right? Yet we do confess that Jesus is both God and man. But how can we say that God died on the cross if only humans can die? Scripture gives the answers to these very questions, but, like we discussed last time, it requires putting together the pieces of the puzzle. We will look carefully at Scripture to see how we can say "O sorrow dread! Our God is dead, upon the cross extended."

Scripture itself uses the kind of provocative language that we see in our hymn. Saint Paul himself spoke about the rulers and people who put Christ to death, saying, "which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (1 Corinthians 2:8). Here Paul attributes something humans experience to the Lord of glory himself. On the other hand, Paul again makes a provocative statement stating "concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh" (Romans 1:3). Again, Paul claims that the Son of God was born. So how do we reconcile these strange statements? The key lies in the phrase Paul uses in Romans, "according to." It is important to note that Christ is one person who is both divine and human. He does not do things according to his human or divine nature apart from the other because "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Otherwise he would be two separate persons. Natures do not do things, but people do things according to nature. For example, we each have characteristics that belong to our nature as humans. We have a will that belongs to our nature or another way to put it, it belongs to who we are in our very being. However, our being, who we are, our nature, does not exercise that will, but we do as persons according to who we are by nature. The same is said for Christ who has two natures. We can say that God died because Christ, who is God and man, died on the cross. There is never a time that he is not both human and divine. It is not like he shuts off one of his natures. Rather, they are always working together. Even though Christ is one person, there are still characteristics that are proper to each nature. The key to understanding how God can die lies in the words

"according to." This is Scripture's way of distinguishing which nature has a particular characteristic. So Paul's point in Romans 1:3 is that Christ was born according to the flesh, meaning that Christ's birth is a characteristic of the human nature, not the divine nature. This is also repeated in the book of Acts "Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne" (Acts 2:30). God cannot be born because he has always existed. Yet because God took on human flesh, he was born into the world. So we can say that the person in the womb of Mary was God. In fact, we do call her the Mother of God. This does not mean she gave birth to the divine as if he did not exist before, but rather this means that the two natures are not separated. The Word (Christ) was born according to the human nature, yet the divine nature was not separated from the human nature. Likewise, Christ dies according to the human nature. Yet the human nature does not die alone because it is in a union with the divine nature. The person of Christ dies, the one who is both God and man. This is how we can say God died on the cross.

Confusing, right? Consider another example from Scripture to illustrate this point. Saint Peter wrote "For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that He might bring you to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit" (1 Peter 3:18). He experienced death because that is a characteristic of human nature. Every human being experiences death. He was then raised to life which is a characteristic of the divine nature. We as humans do not have the power to resurrect, only God has that power. So according to the human nature Christ dies and according to the divine nature he rises again. Yet it is the one and the same Christ who experiences both of these things. Since Christ is one person, we, like Saint Paul and our hymn, can say that the Lord of glory, God, was crucified. This is not to imply that somehow the divine nature can die, but rather we see in the person of Christ an interaction between these two natures. The key term "according to" is helpful for distinguishing between the characteristics of the respective natures but yet it is the same Christ. It can be a confusing concept, but it is the one Scripture reveals for our salvation and so as Christians we are called to faithfully confess what Scripture states. So let us boldly confess the words of our hymn shaped by Scripture "O sorrow dread! Our God is dead, upon the cross extended."

Christ at the Center Truth in All Things

With the first month of school nearly complete, the St. James teachers and students have settled into the routine of another year of learning. We have a total of 12 children in the preschool program, 10 in kindergarten, 18 in grades one and two, 11 in grade three, 14 in grade four, 25 in grades five and six, and 14 in grades seven and eight.

The highlight of September for grades one through eight may have been the Outdoor Education Day at Baker Park on the 22nd. Grades 7 & 8 thoroughly enjoyed the chance to canoe on the lake there, while the overwhelming favorite part for 5th-6th graders was starting a fire with a magnifying glass. Fourth graders were able to try archery and shelter building with whatever they could find in the woods. Many of the third graders voted for rock climbing as their favorite activity. First and second graders discovered some wild turkeys roaming about and also found toads, centipedes, and other creatures that God has placed in our world. We praise God for granting us a beautiful day to be outside, for safe fun all day long, and for all the parents who were able to join us.

The annual Celebrate St. James Drive has begun. This year's goal is to raise \$40,000.00 for the overall operation of our school. You may be approached by one of the students to make a donation, or you may have received a letter in your church or home mailbox. Either way, with your generosity we will be able to continue to provide the quality education, equipment, and opportunities our families have grown to cherish.

Our 5th and 6th grade girls volleyball team has been practicing diligently and making continued improvements in skills and teamwork. Come cheer them on if you are able. The remaining home games are: Oct 2 at 4:00 p.m., Oct. 7 at 4:00 p.m., and Oct. 13 at 3:45 p.m.

Other events to keep in mind for October:
Oct. 3 is VIP Day starting at lunch time.
Chapel for that week is on the 3rd at 1:15
Oct. 5 Kindergarten choir at 10:30 a.m.
Oct. 10 Two hour late start
Oct. 12 Preschool choir at 8:00 a.m.
Oct. 16-17 No School
Oct. 31 End of First Quarter



WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION –OCTOBER 2025

Elders: 8:00 AM Bill Wickesberg and Harold Blanchette
10:30 AM Tom Johnson and Loren Wegner

Ushers: 8:00 AM
10:30 AM Mark Diers, Jeff Diers, Al Montgomery, Peter Zander, Chris Zander, Jeff Kipela, Mike Sparkman

Altar Guild: Kelly Gruenhagen and Billie Estrem
Video Camera: Jeff Schmieg

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Color: Green
Liturgy: Pg. 203
Lessons: 1 Kings 17:17-24, Eph. 3:13-21, Luke 7:11-17
Hymns: 552, 758, 818
Communion Hymns: 535, 750, 559
Organist: Nancy Butterfass

Sunday, October 12, 2025

Color: Green
Liturgy: Pg. 203
Lessons: Prov. 25:6-14, Eph. 4:1-6, Luke 14:1-11
Hymns: 845, 700, 811
Communion Hymns: 613, 623, 542
Organist: Molly Loder

Sunday, October 19, 2025

Color: Green
Liturgy: Pg. 203
Lessons: Deut. 10:12-21, 1 Cor. 1:(1-3) 4-9, Matt. 22:34-46
Hymns: 708, 694, 919
Communion Hymns: 706, 844, 625
Organist: Nancy Butterfass

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Color: Red
Liturgy: Pg. 184
Lessons: Rev. 14:6-7, Rom. 3:19-28, John 8:31-36
Hymns: 904, 656, 577
Communion Hymns: 7612, 566, 561
Organist: Molly Loder

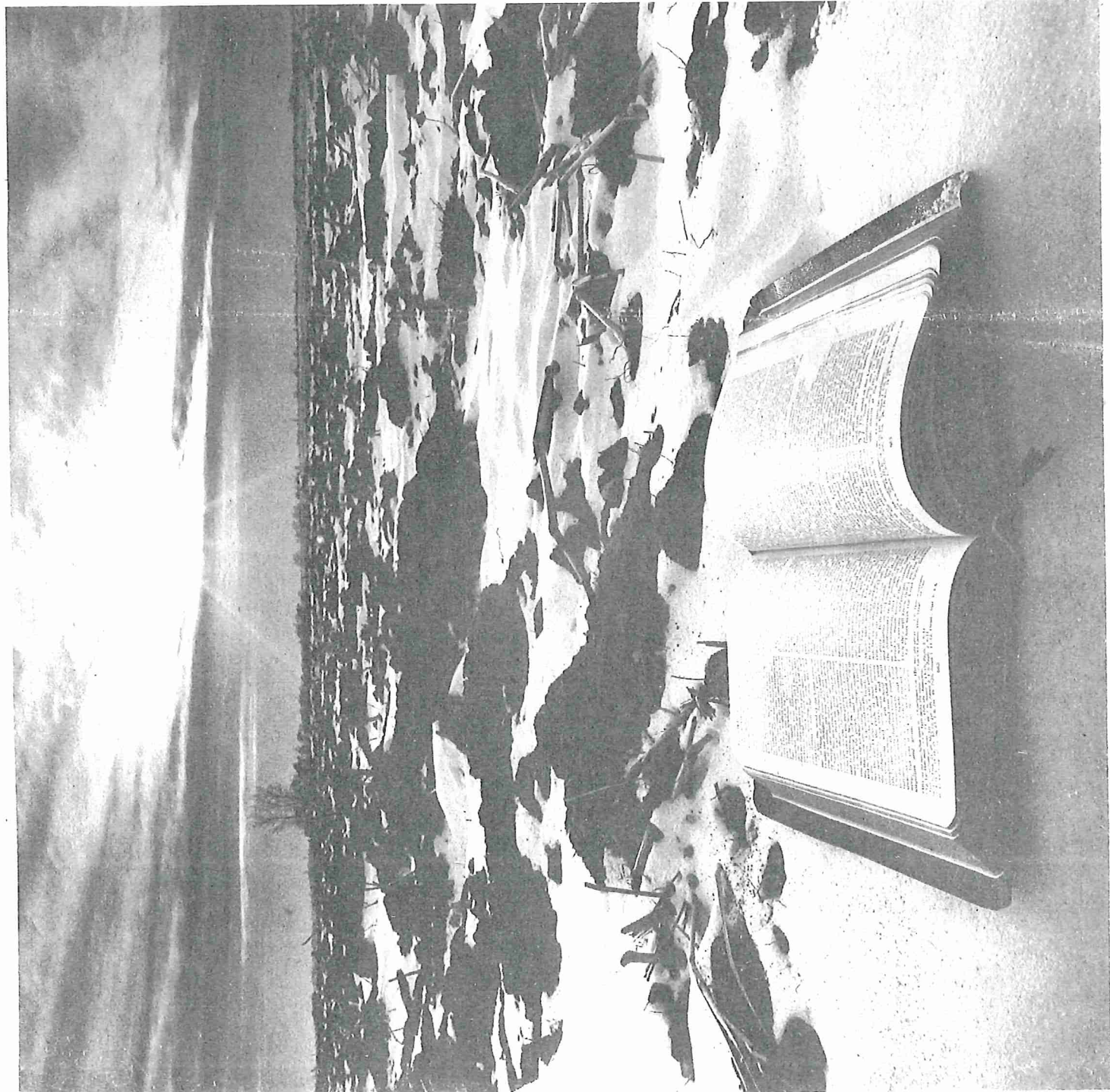


Photo by JACK KENWARD

Ten Commandments Of Agriculture

I. Produce Good Products

Ezekiel 34:20 — "... behold I, even I, will judge between the fat cattle and between the lean cattle."

II. Prepare Your Land

Jeremiah 4:3 — "For thus saith the Lord to the men of Juda and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns (weeds)."

III. Grow Legumes

Isaiah 28:25 — "When he hath made plain (smooth) the face (of the ground) thereof doth he not cast abroad the fitches (vetch) ... and cast in the principal wheat ..."

IV. Terrace Your Land

Jeremiah 12:11-12 — "The whole land is made desolate, because no man layeth it to heart. The spoilers are come upon all high places through the wilderness ..."

V. Cultivate Your Crops

Proverbs 28:19 — "He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread ..."

VI. Manage Livestock

Proverbs 27:23 — "Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds."

VII. Market Your Products in an Orderly Manner

Genesis 41:56-57 — "... and Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians ... and all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; ..."

VIII. Preserve Fruits and Vegetables

Leviticus 25:20-22 — "And if ye shall say, What shall we eat the seventh year? ... eat yet of old fruit until the ninth year; until her fruits come in ye shall eat of the old store."

IX. Get Clear Title to Land

Jeremiah 32:9-11 — "And I bought the field ... and I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witness ... I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open."

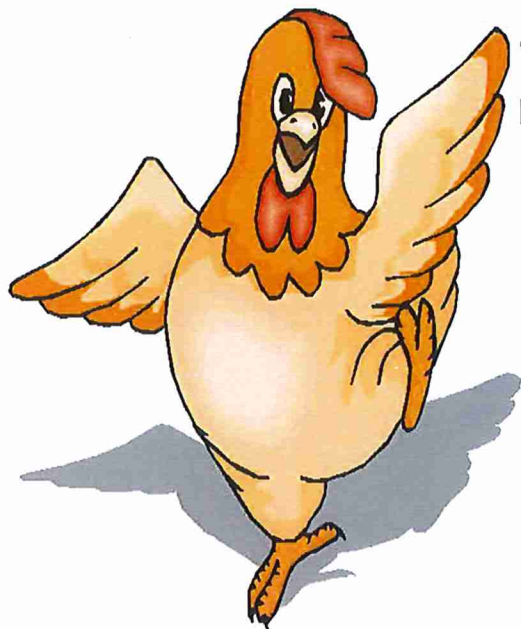
X. Leave Your Children a Sound Inheritance

Numbers 32:19 — "... the children of Israel ... every man his inheritance."

October

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:20 Chapel 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Catechesis Information Meeting 7:00 Women's Bible Study	2 9:30 HL Good Sam. 1:30 Sarah Bible Study 1:30 The Lodge	3	4
5 Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	6 1:00 Naomi Guild 7:00 LWML	7	8 8:20 Chapel 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Catechesis Information Meeting 7:00 Women's Bible Study	9 10:30 Cokato Care Center 5:00 Community Meal	10	11 7:30 Irons Sharpening Irons Breakfast 9:00 Elders Meeting
12 Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service 11:00 LWML Chicken Dinner 6:00 Faith and Blue	13	14	15 8:20 Chapel 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Catechesis Information Meeting 7:00 Women's Bible Study	16 9:30 HL Good Sam. 1:30 Sarah Bible Study 1:30 The Lodge Pastor out of Office	17	18
19 Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	20 7:00 School Board	21 7:00 Leadership Council	22 8:20 Chapel 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Catechesis Information Meeting 7:00 Women's Bible Study	23 10:30 Cokato Care Center	24	25 9-12:00 Private Confession/ Absolution
26 Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	27	28	29	30	31	



Everyone is Welcome

to the LWML

Chicken Dinner

**Sunday
October 12**

**11 AM to 1 PM
in the school**

Dine-in



Take-out



Drive-thru

St. James Lutheran Church and School
1000 Seventh Avenue – PO Box 680
Howard Lake, MN 55349



Fall Blessings To: