



St. James News

Equipping and Empowering Families and Students through Christ

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You are what You Eat

“You are what you eat.” We’ve heard that phrase numerous times, no doubt. And to some degree, it holds true. If you consume a regular diet of unhealthy nutrition, most likely your body will have issues. That being said, as we live in this world knocked off kilter by sin, even the seemingly healthiest folks get sick. But, yes, what we consume has a major impact on the condition of our health. So, what do we consume? And how do we know what we consume is good?

These are two good questions as we speed further and further down the technological highway of advancement and full exposure. At any given time, you can strap into the social media roller coaster and find a vast array of adrenaline igniting, puke producing, and loss of consciousness causing twists and turns. All of it coming at you so fast and unfiltered, it’s easy to be sucked in to the rhetorical stickiness of whatever message is hoped to be received.

What you consume does well to be informed by truth. Sadly, much of what we read in today’s headlines only contain bits of truth mixed in with a cocktail of agenda inducing liquors of thought and provocation. So, it’s up to you to be well informed and educated. But where does one find such truth? You know the answer. God’s Word. We must be a people who are willing to set all we hear, ingest, learn, and digest against the truth that surpasses all understanding. And as such, there’s a large amount of faith in what God’s Word has to say. For as a truth that surpasses all understanding, it will not always appease our minds of reason and logic. In fact, more times than not, what God’s Word lays before us goes against our rational minds. For good reason! For our minds are tainted with foolish pride, the original sowing of sinful seed by the devil.

So, what we are to consume is the truth, and that truth is God’s Word. Now, how do we know what we consume is good? Because it tells us so. You all this. You learned it as a child, right? “For the Bible... tells me so!” John 8:32 gives us this truth, “You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.” That truth? Jesus. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:6) We do well to hear what the woman at the well heard as to what is good. (John 4:1-42) Jesus gives us sustenance of which to consume that no other desire in this world will offer. Feasting upon the empty calories of the world will merely leave us hungry for more in no time. But that which the Lord offers is sustaining. Upon this sustenance rests the true satisfaction of all hungers thrown before us by temptation. No, it doesn’t always taste as good at first, but we grow to appreciate the flavor of healthy over junk.

In a world where we have everything we can imagine at our fingertips, we are witnessing an ever-increasing slide into isolation. What we are consuming and how we consuming it is pulling us into isolated pockets of self-indulgence, pity, and despair in many cases. This has an eerie similarity to how Satan isolated Eve, convinced her that she could be like God, and got her to commit suicide by rejecting the authority of God through disobedience of His command. Her consumption of what she believed to be good through her misguided reason led to the entrance of death in the human race.

The truth of God’s Word however, has a peace that surpasses all understanding that promises to deliver us from all despair. For in Christ, there’s a consumable feast of Word and Sacrament that will not be denied. It will and does produce that which it promises. That promise? The forgiveness of sin and eternal life. You are encouraged and maybe even challenged this day to take a step back, unplug if you will, and free your mind from the onslaught of stuff flying at you. Take time to plug in to the source of life – to God’s Word. Look forward to the blessing

that is our time of worship together when we are enriched with the truth of Word and Sacrament. You are what you eat stands true for us Christians, for as we consume the truth of God's gift of life and salvation, we embody that very reality. You are a child of God, and as such, you are forgiven for all your sins.

Pastor Loder

Our Church Records

Church Attendance

Sunday, October 2	82 & 58
Sunday, October 9	96 & 107
Sunday, October 16	142 & 128
Sunday, October 23	62 & 100
Sunday, October 30	85 & 124
Sunday, November 6	91 & 112
Sunday, November 13	92 & 118
Sunday, November 20	146 & 78

Communion Attendance

Sunday, October 2	115
Sunday, October 9	81
Sunday, October 16	86
Sunday, October 23	73
Sunday, October 30	151
Sunday, November 6	143
Sunday, November 13	82
Sunday, November 20	99

Funerals

Karen Staub on October 16, 2022. She was called to her eternal rest on October 10, 2022 at the age of 70 years, 7 months, and 16 days.

Karen Blanchette on October 26, 2022. She was called to her eternal rest on October 19, 2022 at the age of 80 years, 1 month, and 15 days.

Request of Release

Stephanie Graczyk and family to Riverside Church, Big Lake, MN on October 19, 2022.

Luke Goepfert to Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cokato, MN on November 1, 2022.

Richard Goepfert to Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cokato, MN on November 1, 2022.

Odilia Lindstrom to Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cokato, MN on November 1, 2022.

John Lindstrom to Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cokato, MN on November 1, 2022.

Judy Goepfert to Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cokato, MN on November 18, 2022.

Transfer Out

Gwen Larson to Trinity Lutheran Church, Waconia, MN on November 2, 2022.

✝ ***Bible Trivia*** ✝

See answers below

1. What action of Zacharias caused his speech to return?
2. Who "kept all these things and pondered them in her heart"?
3. Complete the following verse from the angel's announcement to the shepherds: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you..."
4. Who said the following quotation: "Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also."?
5. Name the three gifts brought to Jesus by the wise men?

Answers: 1. Writing the name "John" (Luke 1:63-64) 2. Mary, mother of Jesus (Luke 3:19) 3. "good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." (Luke 2:10) 4. Herod (Matthew 2:8) 5. Gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11)

Awaiting the Coming One

Just as the Church year ends with a theme of repentance and anticipation of the second coming and the Day of Judgment, the new year begins very much along the same lines. The four Sundays of Advent call for preparation for the Lord's coming again, much like John cried out in the wilderness "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Mark 1:13) and the people came to him for the baptism of repentance.

Each of the four Sundays has its own name derived from the traditional Latin introits for each day. *Ad Te Levavi* (a short-form of what is translated as "To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul") brings us the Palm Sunday procession as Jesus enters into Jerusalem, humble and mounted on a donkey; the Messiah coming in order to be lifted up and glorified on the cross, dying for the sin of the whole world.

The Second Sunday, *Populus Zion* ("People of Zion, behold, the Lord shall come to save the nations"), brings us to Christ Himself explaining that last day when there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, great distress on earth and a roaring sea and waves as the very powers of the heavens are shaken. And as certainly as the trees growing back their leaves means that Summer is approaching, when these things come to pass, the Kingdom of God will be near. He urges us to be watchful and not to fall asleep like the virgins awaiting the bridegroom.

The Third Sunday, *Gaudete* ("Rejoice"), temporarily softens the penitential and preparatory tone of the season in favor of a rejoicing. We rejoice as our Lord confirms what we've been preparing for: He is the One who is to come, the one restores sight to the blind and makes the lame walk, cleanses the lepers and brings hearing to deaf, raises the dead and proclaims the Gospel to us. John prepared the way, and now Christ is present and our long-awaited salvation is here!

The Fourth and final Sunday is *Rorate Coeli* ("Rain down, O heavens"). Here, John answered the messengers of the Pharisees and identified himself as the one crying out "Make straight the way of the Lord." But the greater confession, the greater news, is what comes next: the One who is greater than he –

the One for whom he is preparing the way – is there and standing among them! John's ministry was one of pointing forward to the long-expected Christ, preparing the people with his call to repentance. And now it had been fulfilled. The Savior of the whole world, the Incarnate Son of God, was about to begin His ministry, His three-and-a-half-year journey that would be consummated the week He entered humbly into Jerusalem to die for us.

And so, we who dwell in this world today, prepare for and await that last day when Christ returns and ushers in the new heavens and the new earth, the day of the resurrection of all the saints, when we will all be with Him in our perfect and restored bodies, glorifying His name eternally. And when this Advent season draws to a close and we enter Christmas, we celebrate the birth of the One who came into the flesh to die, the One who came to give us life, and the One who rose again and proved His victory of death and assures us that our salvation has been won!

-Vicar Scofield

Lutheran *Women's* *Missionary* League

Vicar Scofield opened the November 7th LWML meeting with devotions from Matthew 6:7-13. The will of God is carried out in the Lord's Prayer. We wrap ourselves in God's Word as we forgive and are forgiven, are delivered from evil, and put our trust in God for all our needs.

Guest speaker for the evening was Mandy Busse from Wright County Community Action. Four major programs are provided to encourage self-sufficiency among clients.

1. Education and the Head Start classes
2. Housing, which includes energy assistance, senior transportation, insurance and tax preparations
3. Nutrition, providing the food shelf and thrift store in Waverly
4. WIC, with a major emphasis on securing formula for infants.

Volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

The Fall dinner was attended by 375 guests. Fall Rally cancellation was necessary to COVID illness among several committee members. Rescheduling may take place in the spring. Newly elected officers are: Vice President, Viann, Recording Secretary, Becky, Executive board members, Teresa and Marge.

Motions were passed to give monetary gifts to the Lyle Doster family, Pastor Loeslie and family, St. James staff members, and Wright County Community Action. Volunteers will assist the Howard Lake Lions in serving the Christmas breakfast on December 4th, from 8:00 to 1:00. The annual LWML Christmas party will begin at 3:00 p.m. on December 5th, with a pot luck meal and entertainment.

“Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thes. 5:17



December: Matty Lanars (2), Mary Jo Painschab (2), Allan Uecker (3), Jaime Diers (4), Christina Gruenhagen (4), Mary Marschel (4), Bernard Marketon (5), Carol Zander (5), Steve Bonnicks (6), Keenan Zillmer (6), Tyler Miller (7), Ethan Peterson (7), Christopher Main (8), Ashley Nowak (8), Cora Glessing (10), Barrett Kirchenwitz (10), Kathryn Main (10), Holly Zillmer (10), Kathryn Lutter (11), Ruth Oestreich (12), Kurt Bobrowske (15), Cody Jones (16), Ruth Latzig (16), Loren Stueven (17), Ben Halverson (18), Bonnie Kobow (18), Marie Longfors (19), Jesse Cardinal (20), Joey Drusch (20), Joshua Stillwell (20), Connie Gruenhagen (21), Darrin Blanchette, Sr (22), Amy Fredricks (23), Justin Yager (23), Nicole Bobrowske (24), Travis Kotila (24), Brian Barth (25), Henley Bobrowske (25), Jacob Boss (26), David Doster (26), Grace Marketon (26), Amanda Skiles (26), Xander Loch (27), Nickolas Main (27), Donna Munson (27), Alexander Ogle (27), Jody Strohschein (27), Dorothy Anderson (28), Daniel Doster (28), DuWayne Latzig (29), David Oestreich (30), Bridey Boese (31), Josiah Hagemann (31), Scott Salmela

(31). **January:** Garrett Bickmann (1), Madison Linder (1), Jeremy Major (1), Braxton Gulso (2), Dennis Klammer (2), Aaron Stueven (2), Connie Zander (2), Nancy Diers (3), Crystal Jones (3), Wayne Koosman (5), Bonnie Rasmussen (6), Sharon Westphal (6), Bonnie Gesinger (7), Christine Hassa (7), John Lindstrom (7), Jennifer Wikoff (7), Patrick Barth (8), Dale Burau (8), Lois Strohschein (8), Travis Diers (10), Mark Luschsinger (10), Isabella Wellnitz (10), Diane Birkholz (11), Hannah Bobrowske (11), Amy Kruetter (11), Aleah Lanars (11), Steven Comstock Sr. (12), Erma Hechsel (12), Kayla Hofer (12), Taylor Barth (13), Tanner Koch (13), Keith Koosman (14), Lois Engel (15), Rhonda Frey (15), Noreen Horsch (15), Kelly Marketon (15), Donna Carson (16), Wayne Diers (16), Steve Koosman (16), Christina Kleve (18), Abigail Main (18), Bruce Burau (19), Amanda Reek (19), Terry Thorson (19), Maggie Miller (20), Jessica Morrisette (20), Abby Niesen (20), Jace Butcher (22), Connie Koosman (22), Jade Smith (22), Paula Bergquist (23), Owen Davis (23), Lois Oltmann (23), Kylie Gulso (24), Myra Laway (24), Kelly Wiegand (24), Abbie Bobrowske (25), Christine Cardinal (25), Thomas Glessing (25), Johnny Heber (25), Susan Bonnicks (26), Randy Gruenhagen (26), Carson Hirsch (26), Beth Koch (26), Nathan Marschel (26), Jaime Smith (26), Ken Diers (27), Kylah Zillmer (27), Brian Borg (28), Jeffery Diers (28), Jennifer Power (28), Jenna Brabec (29), Russell Miller (29), Mike Thorson (29), Doris Schendel (30), Bruce Dahlin (31),



12/1 Gary & Michelle Brady
12/1 Benjamin & Christena Dickens
12/6 Robert & Doris Schendel
12/7 Brad & Dellarae
12/13 James & Janet Koch
12/13 Travis & Sara Kotila
12/20 Dan & Seena Glessing
12/27 DuWayne & Lisa Kotila
12/30 Barry & Teresa Schmiege
12/31 Joel & Stacy Hirsch
1/4 Mike & Ruth Young
1/27 Wayne & Connie Koosman



The Lutheran Hour® Program Guide

December 2022

December 4

"Paradise Restored"

If God is love, what are we to make of His wrath?

(Isaiah 11:1-10)

December 11

"Beauty We Can't See"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

We often feel our need for God's presence only when we see what it looks like when He's absent.

(Isaiah 28:5)

December 18

"Gestures of Hope"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Dr. Michael Zeigler shows how even the smallest acts of kindness can go a long way, by God's grace.

(Isaiah 7:14)

December 25

"A Shoot from the Stump"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A shoot springs forth from the stump of Jesse. Is it a sign of hope--or a threat?

(Isaiah 11:1)

**St. James Lutheran Church
Monthly Financial Summary
October 2022**

Year-to-Date	
Actual	Budget

Receipts

Offerings & Donations	\$154,895	\$161,938
Tuition & Other Receipts	\$65,793	\$85,638
Mission Receipts	\$2,276	\$3750
Total Receipts	\$222,963	\$251,325

Expenses

Salaries Church & School	\$142,032	\$148152
Benefits/ Taxes/Mileage	\$43,300	\$41,449
Administration & Program	\$39,343	\$30,765
Utilities/Maintenance Repair	\$46,651	\$39,097
Mission Disbursements	\$3,898	\$4,238
Total Expenses	\$275,224	\$263,700

Net Receipts/Expenses (52,261) (12,375)

Our Parish Nurse

No article for this publication

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry –

Newsletter Article – December 2022

Anxiety vs. Trust

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, teaches those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. Worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and what we're devoted to. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Matt. 6:24).

But you say: “I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell.” Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument: your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds, if He clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you, when you are worth more than they are? (Matt 6:25–33).

Do you know that you are worth more than them? You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No! He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh

and bone of our bone (Gen. 2:23). He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood, through His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserved. He was raised again on the third day overcoming sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about these things and find security in them, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God, is risen from the dead and lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that the God who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son and sanctified you by His Spirit, will not keep His promise to sustain you in this life.