St. James News

CHRIST AT THE CENTER. TRUTH IN ALL THINGS

Volume 72 Issue 10 November 2026

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From The Desk Of *Pastor Mark Loder*

November Spiritual Discipline: Mutual Conversation and Consolation

The Church is a body made up of many members. We are the children of God, heirs of His promises. We are the adopted of the Lord who together call God "Our Father." That makes the people of God a family. St. Paul writes in Ephesians 2, "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."

What does this mean? The Church, which is spread throughout time and space, shares in a familial life. Because we cannot be in two places at once, this existence is lived out in local church communities. I can pray for my brother Christian in some far-off place, whom I have never met, and it is good for me to do so, but I do not have the opportunity to hear from him or serve him on a weekly basis. The localized household of God helps us to narrow our focus to the neighbor whom I am called to serve.

One of the things healthy families do is converse. They talk to one another. They dine at the table and share thoughts, ideas, joys, and sorrows. The members of a congregation are to do the same with one another. It doesn't have to be over a meal, but food has a way of eliciting community and conversation.

OUR NOVEMBER SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE IS TO SHARE IN THE MUTUAL CONVERSATION AND CONSOLATION of the brethren over a meal. Invite a fellow member, preferably one you do not know so well, to your home or out for a meal.

Part two of the discipline is to be intentional about a portion of the conversation you share. Find ways to discuss the Scriptures together. Discuss how this year of intentional spiritual discipline building has gone. The family is strengthened through such a conversation that is centered in Christ.

Dr. Luther reminds us of our need to do this with one another: "Even if one's heart is well grounded by the Holy Spirit, it remains a great advantage to have a brother with whom one can converse about religion and from whom one can hear words of comfort.

When Abraham is deprived of his nephew, with whom he has lived in exile among the heathen for so long, and loses one who has shared so many trials and dangers, who would not consider this a heavy cross and a great evil? I for my part consider the loss of all my possessions less important than that of a faithful friend.

When Christ was wrestling with temptation in the garden (Matt. 26:37 ff.), we see Him seeking comfort among His three disciples. When Paul, in Acts 28:15, saw the brethren coming to meet him, he took courage from the sight and experienced comfort. Loneliness distresses a person who is solitary and deprived of his intimate friends. He can exert himself and struggle against it, but he does not overcome it without great difficulty.

Everything is less burdensome if you have a brother with you; for then the promise applies (Matt. 18:20): "Where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I in the midst of them." Therefore solitude should be shunned and the companionship of familiar people sought, especially in spiritual perils." (LW 2:335)

We are members of the same body. God grant us the willingness to actively share in this life with one another.

Our Church Records

Church Attendance

Sunday, October 4	80
Sunday, October 11	135
Sunday, October 18	107
Sunday, October 25	109

Communion Attendance

Sunday, October 4	128
Sunday, October 11	135
Sunday, October 18	160
Sunday, October 25	109

Funerals

Gerald Burau on October 10, 2026. He was called to his eternal rest on October 1, 2026, at the age of 84 years, 21 days.

Transfer Out

Maggie Krause to St. Johns Lutheran Church, Buffalo, Minnesota.

Michael Halverson to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Weston, Florida.

Steve & Jan Comstock to St. Johns Lutheran Church, Winsted, Minnesota.

✝ *Bible Trivia* ✝

See answers below

1. Who allowed her husband to escape by putting an image or statue in his bed and telling others he was sick?
2. Which prophetic book's final verse begins: "And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers."?
3. When Jesus told the parable of the sower, where was Jesus standing?
4. What line follows the statement of Scripture: "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away"?
5. Where did Jesus cause a shekel to miraculously appear?

Answers: 1. Michal (I Samuel 19:12-14.) **2.** Malachi 4:6. **3.** In a boat (Matthew 13:2). **4.** Blessed be the name of the Lord (Job 1:21.) **5.** In the mouth of a fish (Matthew 17:24-27.



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 November, you will hear the following topics:

November 1, 2026
"What We Will Be"
What we will be has not yet appeared. But even now, we are God's adopted children, through faith in Christ. 1 John 3:2

November 8, 2026
"The Survivor Tree"
Trees play a prominent role in the Bible. Hear how the tree of Christ's cross leads us back to the Tree of Life. Luke 13:6

November 15, 2026
"Fruitful Trees"
The tree of Christ's cross bore life-giving fruit. Genesis 1:11-12; 1 Peter 2:24

November 22, 2026
"Trees in Winter"
Christ's followers are like trees in winter–seemingly barren now, but rooted in God's Word and living in the promise of Christ's resurrection and the renewal of all things. Revelation 22:2

November 29, 2026
"Advent Hopes and Dreams"
The season of Advent is a time for hopes and dreams, but it is also about living through an ongoing letdown. Matthew 24:36-44



November: Calvin Diers (1), Alexia Lemke (1), Cameron Cardinal (3), Taylor Esping (3), Jonathon Gueningsman (3), Donovan Jensen (3), Carly Stoll (3), LaNette Thorson (3), Carl Eckhoff (4), Mary Nikko (4), Rosalie Wurm (4), Linda Hoese (5), Jan Cardinal (6), Judith Eckhoff (6), Jed Zander (8), Jillian Koch (9), Katie Thorson (9), Ross Anderson (10), Pete Zimmerman (10), Alex Baumann (11), Emma Cardianl (11), Ralph Diers (11), Gary Klugow (11), Lucas Trobiani (12), Ezekiel Harkemeyer (13), Shirley Cloose (16), Vernon Lemke (16), Teija Hendrickson (17), Michael Kittock (18), Mark Leaf (18), Brian Burau (19), Craig Brose (20), Bruce Dahlin Jr. (20), Bryce Koosman (20), Daniel Zander (20), Leah Eklof (21), Kane Holmquist (22), David Gruenhagen (23), Cathy Birkholz (24), Noah Burau (24), Joshua Kleve (26), Gina Koch (26), Jordan Brose (27), Jessica Reich (27), Lily Bobrowske (28), Dennis Glessing (28), Lisa Ogle (28), Jamie Love (29), Brian Yager (29), Garrett Zander (29), Wyatt Glessing (30), Aubrey Hendrickson (30), Gabrielle Wurm (30).

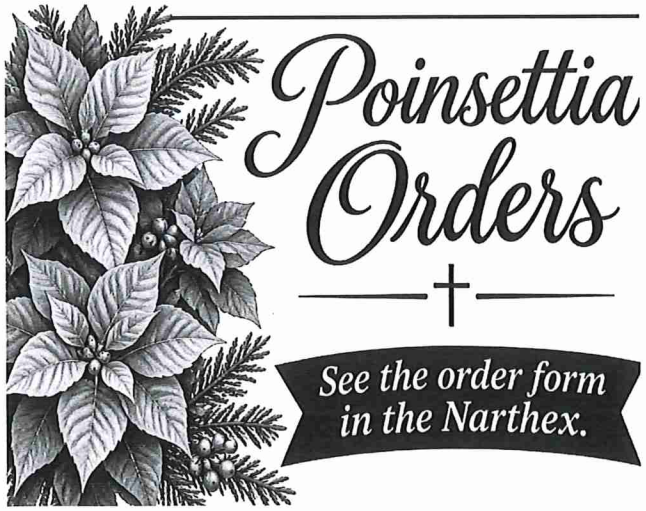


11/5 Ralph & Nancy Diers
11/5 Jonathon & Maggie Gueningsman
11/8 Alan & Viann Montgomery
11/12 Charles & Bonnie Kobow
11/13 Mark & Patty Diers
11/15 Keith & Jeanne Brose

LWML
Lutheran Women *in* Mission

We held our monthly meeting at the welcoming home of LWML member Norma Koosman. Cathy began with devotions on "A Season of Change". Finalization plans for our Chicken Dinner October 11th and hosting the LWML Zone Fall Rally on October 17th were discussed. Marge stated that an alternate delegate is needed for the Biennial Convention to be held in Oklahoma City next July if anyone would be interested. October birthdays were recognized followed by the Birthday song, Table and Mite Prayers. We enjoyed refreshments and visiting and Norma closed our gathering with devotions based on the 23rd Psalm. Our next meeting will be Monday, November 2nd and Pastor Loder will lead us in Quarterly Bible Study. All ladies are welcome- Come Join Us!!

"Don't worry about anything, instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done." Philippians 4:6



LCMS Family Ministry

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever" (1 Chronicles 16:34). Thanksgiving is a time of year when we praise God for the gifts that we have been given. One tradition that many families have is that at Thanksgiving dinner, they will go around the table, and each person will say something for which they are thankful. Taking time to do this is a good thing; however, as you and your family talk about what you are grateful for and the blessings that you have been given, it is important to remember where all of those blessings come from. Everything that you have is a gift from God. As you talk about what you are thankful for and the blessings that you have been given as a family, also take the time to give thanks to God for those blessings and all that He has done.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Originally Published November 2023

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.



St. James Lutheran Church
Monthly Financial Summary
September 2026

	Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget
Receipts		
Offerings & Donations	107,533	117,283
Tuition & Other Receipts	46,027	58,024
Mission Receipts	661	1,750
Total Receipts	154,221	177,057
Expenses		
Salaries-Church & School	91,534	101,397
Benefits/Payroll/Taxes/Mileage	24,482	26,182
Administration & Program Expenses	18,367	12,939
Utilities/Maintenance & Repair	46,255	38,530
Mission Disbursements	-	292
Total Expenses	180,638	179,339
Net Receipts/Expenses	(26,418)	(2,281)



We have welcomed four new families this school year. Joshua and Hannah Alaniz and children, Jacob and Oliver; Terri Brown and granddaughter, Jessica; Shayna Erickson and children, Easton, Eloise, and Eddie; Cody and Lauren Radde and children, Archer and Victor. We are blessed to have these partners in education.

At this time our school population is:
Preschool- 4 students
Grades 1&2 – 16 students
Grade 3 – 14 students
Grade 4 – 8 students
Grades 5& 6 – 21 students
Grades 7& 8 – 16 students

On September 21 grades 1-8 enjoyed a day at Baker Outdoor Learning Center. Grades 1&2 did a pond study and learned about insects. Grade 3 did rock climbing and learned about mammals in our region. The 4th graders-built shelters and tried archery. Grades 5&6 had a survival challenge. The 7th -8th graders did some geocaching and campfire cooking. It was great to have so many parents that were able to make time in their schedules to join us that day. Our 5th & 6th grade girls volleyball team has had a very successful season. It's wonderful to have so many parents, grandparents and aunts and uncles attend the home games we have had. Coaches Ashley Nowak and Kelly Salmela lead the girls through practice and encourage not only skill improvement, but good sportsmanship.

Team members are Hadley Diers, Reagan Merges, Mya Morrissette, Hannah Pink, Mya Zillmer, Kaitlyn King, Averi Nowak, Harper Salmela, Natalie Eckhoff, and Aurora Moorhouse.

Students invited VIPs to join them on Oct. 2. Many guests joined us for lunch and then tagged along to recess and/or classroom time with their special student. Everyone gathered in the church for chapel time at 1:15. The advanced band and each of the school choirs shared music after chapel ending with the whole student body singing "Children of the Heavenly Father".

Monday, October 5, the Howard Lake Fire Department sent representatives to share information on fire safety with the Preschool through second grades. The boys and girls also had a chance to see the fire truck up close and the gear that firefighters use.

The PTL sponsored Pizza and Puzzles night for the middle schoolers provided a fun way to spend an evening together. Students were randomly divided into groups, each group receiving a 300-piece puzzle to put together as quickly as they could.

Upcoming events:
Nov. 1 10:30 a.m. Grades 5-8 choir
Nov. 2 NO SCHOOL
Nov. 5 Book fair/craft night sponsored by the PTL
Nov. 5 Spirit Wear Day
Nov. 8 8:00 Grades 3-4 Choir
Nov. 13 Picture Retake Day
Nov. 15 10:30 Grades 1-2 Choir
Nov. 22 8:00 Preschool and K Choir
Nov. 23/24 Parent Teacher Conferences
Nov. 25 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Worship/Advanced Band
Nov. 25-29 Thanksgiving Break

Service Planner

SEASON	DATE	LITURGY	PREACHER	ORGANIST	HYMNS	COMMUNION
	Oct. 29	Chapel	John 8:31-36 or Matt. 11:12-19			
		Prayer and Preaching	Pastor		744, 656, 578	
ALL SAINTS' DAY	Nov. 1	All Saints' Day (observed)	Rev. 7:(2–8) 9–17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1–3	Matt. 5:1–12
		DS I	Pastor	Luke	676, 677, 672	678, 680, 673
	Nov. 4	Chapel	Matt. 5:1-12			
		Prayer and Preaching	Pastor		729, 677, 725	
	Nov. 8	Twenty-third S. after Trinity	Prov. 8:11–22	Psalm 111	Phil. 3:17–21	Matt. 22:15–22
		DS I	Pastor	Molly	908, 714, 782	781, 783, 617
	Nov. 11	Chapel	Matt. 22:15-22			
		Prayer and Preaching	Pastor		411, 782, 729	
	Nov. 15	Twenty-fourth S. after Trinity	Is. 51:9–16	Psalm 126	Col. 1:9–14	Matt. 9:18–26
		DS I	Pastor	Nancy	703,755,	623,849,750
	Nov. 18	Chapel	Matt. 9:18-26			
		Prayer and Preaching	Pastor		849,552vs. 1,5,4,	
	Nov. 22	Last S. of the Church Year	Is. 65:17–25	Psalm 149	1 Thess. 5:1–11	Matt. 25:1–13
		DS I	Pastor	Molly	515, 516, 680	626, 663, 641,
	Nov. 23	Chapel	Matt. 25:1-13			
		Prayer and Preaching	Pastor		605, 516, 588	
THANKSGIVING	Nov. 25 7 pm	Thanksgiving Day	Deut. 8:1–10	Psalm 67	Phil. 4:6–20 *or* 1Tim. 2:1–4	Luke 17:11–19
		DS I	Pastor	Nancy	895,785,790	806,809,782
ADVENT	Nov. 29	First S. in Advent (Ad Te Levai)	Jer. 23:5–8	Psalm 24	Rom. 13:11–14	Matt. 21:1–9
		DS I	Pastor	Molly	340, 332, 343	334, 335, 349

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	2 2:00 LWML 7:30 Trustees Meeting	3	4 8:20 Chapel 6:00 Catechesis Check-In 7:00 Women's Bible Study	5 9:00 Bible Study	6	7
8 Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	9 1:00 Naomi Guild	10	11 8:20 Chapel 6:00 Catechesis Check-In 7:00 Women's Bible Study Veterans Day	12 9:00 Bible Study	13	14 9:00 Board of Elders Meeting
15 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service 11-1:00 LWML Chicken Dinner	16 7:00 Board of Ed Meeting	17 7:00 Leadership Council	18 8:20 Chapel 6:00 Catechesis Check-In 7:00 Women's Bible Study	19 9:00 Bible Study **Newsletter Articles Due**	20	21
22 Last Day of the Church Year 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	23	24	25 7:00 Women's Bible Study	26  Church Office Closed Thanksgiving Day	27 Church Office Closed	28
29 First Sunday in Advent 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	30					

St. James Lutheran Church and School
1000 Seventh Avenue – PO Box 680
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Thanksgiving Blessings To: