

WHATEVER IS *true,*
 WHATEVER IS *honorable,*
 WHATEVER IS *just,*
 WHATEVER IS *pure...*
 IF THERE IS ANYTHING
worthy of praise,
 THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8, NRSV

Directory

Congregational Items

Birthdays/Anniversaries pg 2
 Upcoming events Cover

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Bible Quiz pg 3
 Scripture Reading pg 2
 Patriot Day pg 3
 Portals of Prayer pg 4
 Letter -St. John's president Pg 6
 Those attending services Pg 4

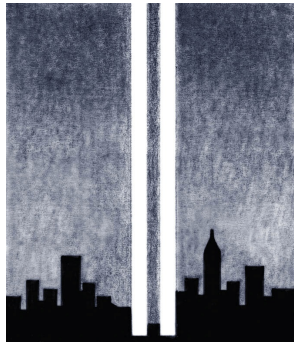
Reports

Stewardship pg 5

Pastor's E-mail address:
 pastor@revrwl.com

Ushers for Sept.: Bill Hacker,
 Thomas Hacker, Bill Younger

Sept. Elder:



IN REMEMBRANCE OF

SEPTEMBER 11

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
 SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER**

614 Pecan St. - Wharton, Texas 77488

Church office: 532-4522

St. John's Schedule of Events and Important Dates.....

(Cut and keep for your use)

The following are the dates & designations which would take place if we opened our doors: please remember those designated offerings for certain Sundays.

Sept. 1 - 2:pm

Ladies Aid meeting

Sept. 2 - 6:pm

Ergonians

Sept. 6 -

Mite Sunday

Sept. 8 - 9:am

Morning Bible Study

Sept. 13

"Katie" Sunday

Sept. 15 - 7:pm

Elders

Sept. 20

SHARE Sunday

Sept. 22 - 7:pm

Church Council

Sept. 27 (following service)

Fall Mission Festival

Fellowship Luncheon

Sept. 29 - 11:am

Ladies Aid - Sr. Citizen's dinner

Sept. 29 - 9:am

Newsletter Deadline

Special Dates:

Labor Day - September 7

Patriots' Day - Sept. 11

First Day of Autumn - 9/22

**BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES.....**

Sept. 1	Camille Johse
Sept. 3	Mary Ave-Lallemant
Sept. 3	Sheryl Joost
Sept. 3	Kenneth Wittig
Sept. 3	Bill Younger
Sept. 4	Gerard Joost
Sept. 6	Owen Sharp
Sept. 7	Alyssa Thonsgaard
Sept. 8	Keith Wittig
Sept. 10	Blaire Zahn
Sept. 13	Ann Wuthrich *
Sept. 14	Sandra Krpec
Sept. 14	Matthew Zahn
Sept. 17	Earl Hudson
Sept. 20	Bea Kuretsch
Sept. 21	Diane Copeland
Sept. 21	Darius Gray
Sept. 22	Stephen Horak
Sept. 23	Leah Wittig
Sept. 24	Eric Richter
Sept. 24	Ricky Clements
Sept. 25	Sharon Zahn
Sept. 26	Hunter Richter
Sept. 26	Ryan Wuthrich
Sept. 28	Beverly Ullmann *
Sept. 29	Kay Bollom



Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Braun were married on September 30, 1995 here at St. John's Lutheran, Wharton. They are celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

**SUNDAY MORNING
SCRIPTURE READING**

Sunday, September 6, 2020

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Epistle Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Epistle Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Epistle Reading: Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4; 25-32

Epistle Reading: Phil. 2:1-4, 14-18

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-27

* Notes the "Milestoners" - those who have reached or passed their 75th birthday and/or their 20th Anniversary.

Birthdays....

Beverly Ullmann was born September 28, 1936 in Taft, Texas. She became a member of St. John's in 1956. She is celebrating her 84th birthday.

Ann Wuthrich was born September 13, 1926 in El Campo, Texas. She became a member of St. John's in 1947. She is celebrating her 94th birthday.

ANNIVERSARIES....

Sept. 4	Dennis & Betty Jerkins *
Sept. 27	Durwin & Gay Thonsgaard *
Sept. 30	Darrell & Karen Braun

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Jerkins were married on Sept. 4, 1965 at St. Paul Lutheran, Edna, Texas. They are celebrating their 55th Wedding Anniversary.

Mr. & Mrs. Durwin Thonsgaard were married on Sept. 27, 1975 here at St. John's, Wharton, by Rev. Walter Bielefeldt. They are celebrating their 45th Wedding anniversary.

LADIES AID NEWS.....

The Ladies Aid will begin to meet soon and have one notable upcoming event which is the LWML Fall Rally, at Zion Lutheran Church at Mission Valley, Texas.

Bible Quiz ?????

Proverbs 6:6 tells of a certain insect and suggest that lazy people ought to observe it. "Go to the _____ you lazybones," says the writer, "consider its ways, and be wise."

Which insect is it?

- A. Ant
- B. Fly
- C. Cockroach
- D. Mosquito



REMEMBER 9/11

Dear Lord, loving Creator of us all, we remember with great sadness those whose lives were taken on September 11. We hold up to you the victims' families that they may know, despite their pain, that they can find solace in your loving presence. Help them bring their hurting hearts to you, realizing that your everlasting arms can bear them up and that they cannot be separated from your abiding love.

Please assure us that even though we cannot understand such horrible deeds, you can bring good out of evil, justice out of injustice and righteousness out of unrighteousness.

Therefore, confessing our human weaknesses, our grief and our struggles to make sense out of this world, we cry out with the psalmist: "Rise up, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; do not forget the oppressed" (Psalm 10:12). Strengthen our hearts, this day and every day. Amen.





PORTALS OF PRAYER.....

The new quarter of Portals of Prayer are now available for those who signed up for 2020. These copies are available in the Resource Room to be picked up - please be sure to look for the one with your name on it. It will soon be time to sign up for Portals of Prayer and Lutheran Witness for 2021. The sign up sheet for both will be available in the Resource Room beginning Sunday, September 13. If you prefer you can contact the church office and let us know if you want to sign up for one or both. Deadline will be Sunday, October 11.

SLATE OF 2021 NOMINEES.....

The 2021 Slate of Nominees (due to not meeting in person during the past month) is not complete and could not be included in this newsletter. This Slate of nominees will be emailed to our members upon competition.

ATTENDING WORSHIP SERVICES.....

As stated in Pastor's email and in Philip's letter included in this newsletter, there are some members who have begun to attend worship services. As stated by Governor Abbott - masks are not mandated for worship services but are recommended. St. John's has opened for Worship - If you are going to attend a service you can either bring your own mask or there will be masks available on the table in the Narthex. If you have any questions or need more information - please contact the church office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.....

St John's has opened Church services but our Sunday School department is still closed. When the Sunday School classes resume there will be an update in future newsletters or in an email to our members.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 COMPARISON OF RECEIPTS
 JANUARY THROUGH AUGUST

FROM THE TREASURER:

Jan-Aug	2020	2019	Difference	Prorated 2020 Budget	receipts over/Under
Home Treasury	\$137,867	\$132,821	\$5,046	\$140,726	(\$2,859)
World Missions	\$ 3,157	\$ 4,445	(\$1,288)	5,333.	(\$2,176)

**NOTE: The 2020 receipts do not include the PPP Loan proceeds.
 Last month's total did not include online giving.**

From Philip Wuthrich
President of St John's Lutheran Congregation

It is with great care and concern for the Congregation and members of St John's Lutheran Church that I write to you today. The same Church that has loved and cared for me and my family for as long as I can remember, that has prayed with me, and for me, that have sent cards, and made prayer afghans when I was hospitalized. I know that many of you could share your own accounts of the genuine love and concern for each other, and our Savior that binds our church family together. If you are a member or friend of this Congregation, this note is for YOU. These are indeed unprecedented times. I feel safe to say few, if any, have seen this type of contagious virus spread so quickly over our whole nation, and impact so many. Our church has also been affected. I don't remember a time in my life when the public was told to "not go to church". I remember telling Pastor in March of this year that I felt like it would be irresponsible to continue services as if nothing was going on.

I want to thank ALL of the Elders and Pastor that have worked so hard and diligently each Sunday to continue to bring God's message to us over the radio. The radio ministry has indeed been a blessing. During this time, this group put Pastor's sermons on the website so that you can listen to them whenever you want, or share them with a friend that might need encouragement. We are indebted to them for their commitment. Their work was often very difficult. Who knows exactly what to do in these cases? When is the right time? Are we putting our members in danger? They have been good and faithful servants, and I am appreciative of them all.

I have also visited with many members and heard them plead "When can we go back to church", "I need to be there, in the house of the Lord with my fellow Christians", "My whole family misses our time of worship at the Church", "It's just not the same at home". If this is you, and you've often thought these things, and you really feel like you need to be there, in God's house, then you need to go.

The Elders have done a remarkable job of "roping off" different pews to make sure that we are socially distanced as recommended. They have placed lightweight masks at the entrance of the church in case you have forgotten yours. They have hand sanitizer in different places so that if you want, or need to use it.... It's there. (I would encourage you to put a small bottle in your pocket or purse. I have one in my truck) All these things make me very confident that we have done what we can do to make our church as safe as we possibly can. But nothing is 100%. I would encourage those of you that are contemplating attending church to be very mindful of your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ that might not feel as confident as you about not getting the virus. Please respect their concerns and refrain from close contact.

I can tell you that in the last 2 weeks, several of our members have decided to attend church services in person. Without exception, they were very mindful of the spacing in church and wearing a mask. It's largely because of their demonstrated love and concern for their fellow Christians, and their willingness to comply with the safety steps out of the very Christian Love that we're trying to model and promote, that I am writing this to you today.

If you must remove your mask while listening, I understand, but masks should be worn while singing. Singing is one of those actions that just naturally spreads more airborne germs.

As always, if your current health situation does not allow you to comfortably attend in person.... then don't. You can still worship along at home on the radio knowing that your Christian brothers and sisters are also longing for the day when you too will be in attendance.

I'm sorry this got so long. I will be happy to discuss any of this with you. If you want, you can call me at home 979-532-8373 or on my cell at 979-533-3138. If I'm not right there, please leave me a message. I would love to visit with you. It is my prayer that those that gather in the church can do so with a loving heart and great respect for each other. I know it can be done.... I've seen you do it for decades.

In Christian Love,
Philip