



The St. John's Communicator

July 3, 2020

Roser's Reflection . . .

Dear Friends,

On the Day of Pentecost (the fiftieth day after Passover) around the year 33 AD, there were 120 Christians. That day, as the Holy Spirit filled the hearts of those believers, the Church grew by 3,000 souls (see Acts 2). Today, there are 2.3 billion Christians living in our world. The good news that Christ Jesus has died in the place of sinners and answered for their sins so that everyone who believes this message will have forgiveness and receive eternal life is what we call the "Gospel." The history of Christianity is the story of how the Gospel has spread throughout the world during the course of the last 2,000+ years.

During her history, the Church's gatherings have taken place in a variety of settings. In the book of Acts, we find the Church meeting in the Temple area and in homes. Later on, during the Roman persecution of Christianity, the Church gathered in secret - including among the tombs of the dead. Following the legalization of Christianity in the Roman Empire during the 300s, the Church cautiously returned to gatherings of a more public nature. Over the course of many centuries in Europe, majestic cathedrals would be built and believers would gather together by the thousands. When Christianity made its way to the US, the wood-framed building that would characterize the Church's gathering places for generations emerged. These were augmented by Cathedral-style buildings, auditorium-style worship centers, and storefront churches. The forms of the gathering spaces for the Church have been diverse, but the nature of the Church has never changed. The Church has always been, is now, and will be until our Lord Jesus comes again the assembly of believers gathered by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Gospel message.

Consequently, St. John's was never closed! We needed to discontinue in-person worship for a time - but we were never closed. The gathering of believers around God's Word never stopped. Additionally, those who are not yet ready to return to in-person worship continue to be gathered with us through Youtube, Facebook, podcasts, telephone conversations, blogs, etc. What's more, when the assembly of believers went online people whom we did not know before became a part of our gatherings. We continue to see the Gospel spread from person to person as the Holy Spirit works among us.

In the late 70s and early 80s, St. John's had an evangelism group called LEO (Lay Evangelism Organization). This layperson-led group went house to house throughout Beloit each week sharing Jesus with their neighbors. The Holy Spirit worked mightily through the people of St. John's in those days, and I believe that the Holy Spirit is starting a new work among us today. My fear is that we are going to miss the Spirit's work among us, because it doesn't seem important to us. What do I mean by this? This new work is the sharing of the Gospel online, but many people will not consider the "clicking of a mouse" important enough to do. And yet, in our current setting, sharing our messages and online content with others digitally is more effective than going over and knocking on their front doors. If we are going to continue in the Spirit's work of spreading the Gospel, we must make the shift in our thinking so that we recognize that our efforts to share Jesus online is a holy work of God that is every bit as important as knocking on people's houses.

I invite you to take up your calling to spread the Gospel. We need you to start sharing our social media posts on your newsfeeds and to forward the emails that I send to you with links to our content on to others. We are working hard to create solid content, but if people don't see our posts not a lot is going to happen. Think people on the internet don't want to see content that speaks about God - think again. Yesterday, Kanye West released his new music video "Wash Us in the Blood" (an explicitly Christian song) and it has already had 4.4 million views on Youtube. That's right - 4.4 million views in one day - I think that some people are open to internet content about God. Do I think that 4.4 million people are going to start to view our content? I suspect that it will take us about a year to work up to it - just kidding. However, our calling may not be to reach 4.4 million people, but I am sure that we are called to reach the hundreds of people that we are connected with online. The Gospel, by its very nature, has always been viral - in the best sense of that word - spreading from person to person.

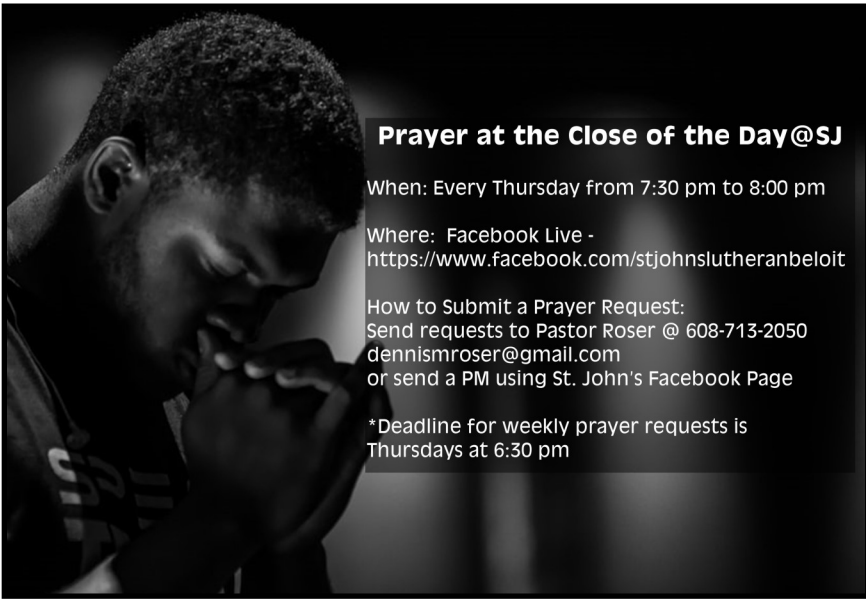
Looking for content to share, please begin here <https://tinyurl.com/stjohnsbeloit> May God bless your service!

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Your masks and other safety items ARE NOT recyclable. They should NEVER be placed in the "PAPER ONLY" recycling bin.



Prayer at the Close of the Day@SJ

When: Every Thursday from 7:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: Facebook Live - <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranbeloit>

How to Submit a Prayer Request:
Send requests to Pastor Roser @ 608-713-2050
dennismroser@gmail.com
or send a PM using St. John's Facebook Page

*Deadline for weekly prayer requests is Thursdays at 6:30 pm



Altar flowers are a special way to mark important events and remember those we love. St. John's members and friends are invited to bring in flowers for placement behind the altar. They can be fresh-cut or purchased. If you would like to have a notice placed in the bulletin regarding your flowers, please let Berta know at least one week prior to their placement. You can also feel welcome to bring in flowers for no particular reason, and we will be delighted to place them behind the altar. We have a number of flower stands available and so space is not necessarily limited. We invite you to take your flowers with you after the service as we do not have a place to keep them. In former times, altar flowers were a more common thing and florists would have standing orders for these arrangements and deliver them each week right to the chancel - as each congregation would give them a building key. As you can imagine, like many things, this has changed over the years. Many thanks to Doris Rindfleisch for her work over the years in taking vases to the florist and delivering the flowers to St. John's! One final note: while Pastor really cannot tell the difference between silk flowers and those which are real - we may only present real flowers before our God in worship. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Pastor.

Prayers for those in need of physical or spiritual healing:

The family and friends of Lester Nyborg, the family and friends of Jeremy Pearson (Bill and Betty Pearson's grandson,) all those whom we have named on our prayer list, and those we now name in the thoughts of our hearts, Pastor Bill Wagner, Darlene Willing, Lee Stewart, Beverly Bottoms, Carol Lowry, Roger Nelson, Ruth Peterson, Karen Nohr, Brad Carter, Paula Devlin, Keith Stowers, Ed Spsychalski, Jon Turner, Bobbie Reynolds, Mike Papini, Tom Wulf, Doris Rindfleisch, Carl Colby, Joaquin, Sandy Smith, Marcie Moore, Laura Jo Pearson, Cayden Krueger, Janice Hemerley, Lauren Mae, and all of our members who are homebound, those who serve in the military (particularly Pastor Keith GeRue, Kyle Summers and Logan Davies), emergency services, and all who work for the common good.

Regarding 2020 Easter flowers...

Our Easter service did not occur in the fashion that anyone could have anticipated. Consequently, members ordered Easter flowers that were not able to be purchased. If you would like to have your flower money refunded to you, please let Monica know. Any Easter flower monies that are not refunded will be added to that person's giving statement for 2020.

This week's worship service bulletin is available for you on our website on the Digital church page.



The CD ministry this week is sponsored by Jeanne Ludeman in remembrance of her wedding anniversary.



Win Delicious Culver's Food!

We have several avenues we use to keep you apprised of the opportunities and events here at St. John's: The monthly Messenger, the weekly Communicator, the Facebook page, the Web page, the Sunday Bulletin, and (first and foremost) the Worship service. Many times we will repeat the information in more than one of the venues in an effort to make sure the information is reaching everyone. We'd like to know if the announcements we're providing are getting through and being remembered.

And so, the last weekend of the month, we'll have a list of four questions whose answers can be found in the one or more of the Messenger, Communicator, Sunday Bulletin, Facebook page, Web page, or during the Worship Service during the previous month. Submit the answers either in writing or by email to the church's Administrative Assistant by noon the following Friday, and a winner will be drawn from the entries with the correct answers. The winner gets a gift card for some delicious Culver's food!

officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS!

1.) List two of our in-person health guidelines.

Seating is in every third pew; wear a mask; those who are unwell are asked to stay home; Communion will be served in continuous fashion; limited seating at each service; no singing; utilize the electronic bulletin if possible; use hand sanitizer

2.) What has Pastor Roser asked us to contemplate during Wednesday fasts?

We are fasting and praying on behalf of our nation.

3.) On what date did St. John's resume limited in-person worship?

Sunday, June 21, 2020

4.) There were three worship services available on Sundays. What times were they offered?

9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 1:00p.m., (but the 1:00 p.m. service has been dropped)

This month's winner: David Carter

Thank you to everyone who sent in entries/answers. Please watch for the next round in the July 31, Communicator.

Registration for St. John's 2020-2021 School Year

It is my privilege to serve as the principal of St. John's Lutheran School.

We are in preparation for the 20-21 school year, and we're adding a grade! Seats are still open in grades 4K-5th grade. Please consider following our facebook page and sharing information with families looking for a Christian education. The WI choice program enrollment has ended but we are still accepting families that are interested through scholarships. For more information please contact our school office at 608-713-1400 or email me, Isiah King, at king@luminschools.org.

Mark your calendars!!

Women's Bible Study resumes **IN PERSON**
1:00 pm Monday, September 14, 2020.