

# THE VISITOR

CHRIST Evangelical Lutheran Church | 500 Park Street - West Salem, WI

☎ 608-786-1250     facebook.com/CSJWS     christlutheranwestsalem.com

**AGUST**  
august  
**2 0 1 8**

## What good is God?

All he does is make rules...right?

It's easy to think that all God does is make rules. We learned all about the Ten Commandments when we were kids. We learned a little bit about authority too.

Did your mother ever say, "Wait until your father gets home"? And when dad got home, we got it! We learned to obey or else.

We also learned that if we did certain things, we could earn rewards. Eat your lima beans, earn TV time. Do yard work, earn money or privileges. These are simple, important principles. Without the principles of reward and punishment, our society would not honor those who contribute great things to our world, or sentence criminals to prison.

We're used to working hard to earn money or achieve success. Yet God chose not to work that way. He knew that we could never do enough to earn his love and forgiveness.

We might be able to earn a promotion with hard work, but we can't earn what only God can give—forgiveness and eternal life.

**God's love is a free gift to every person on earth.** But many people don't want God's gift.

They work to earn his love and heaven. But what they don't realize is, earning these things is impossible.

If they don't want God's gift, God will give them what they work for—a good job, a nice home, a happy retirement. But because heaven cannot be earned, they won't go to heaven or receive God's forgiveness because the free gift God gave them was rejected.

**And regarding God's rules?** God gave them to us so we would know how to show him our gratitude for his gift.



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# BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Before you know it, our many opportunities to gather around the Word will begin again!  
**WHAT A BLESSING!!**

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAY MORNINGS — 6AM

RESUMES SEPT 4<sup>th</sup>

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY EVENINGS — 6:15PM

RESUMES SEPT 6<sup>th</sup>

## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAY MORNINGS — 9:15AM

RESUMES SEPT 9<sup>th</sup>

## BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS

TBA



As summer's end approaches, we have a chance to plan for all the opportunities to gather again around the Word of our Lord. September marks the start of many opportunities to grow in faith!

**TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S STUDY:** Join us in the fall as we continue to work through the gospel of Matthew. Haven't joined us yet? No problem! Come and grow along with us.

**THURSDAY EVENING LADIES STUDY:** We just finished our study of the book of Hebrews. Watch the Weekly Update to see what comes next!

**BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS:** This class is a wonderful review for anyone wanting to brush up on the basic teachings of God's Word. It's also the class designed for those interested in membership in our congregation. A NEW CLASS IS STARTING SOON! Contact the pastor for upcoming classes.

## CHRIST-ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL & LUTHER HIGH SCHOOL

What a privilege to gather around the Word of God every day, in every subject! Many of our families already see the importance of that strong, Biblical foundation, as they prepare their children for a life of learning and living. If your child isn't enrolled, and you have questions about these two schools, contact either school or your pastors!

**May our GOD bless our time in his Word.**

## Special Bible Study/Fellowship Opportunities



### AUG 8<sup>TH</sup> BIBLE STUDY PICNIC AT VET'S PARK; Shelter #2

Bring your family and maybe a salad or dessert to share and join us for a pleasant evening with our Lord and each other! Picnic begins at 5:30PM.

## WELS Coulee Women's Retreat @ St Paul's - Tomah

This is a collaboration between the St Paul-Tomah Women in God's Service & Holy Hen House

☀ We will discuss how women can mentor and be a resource for each other, and how we can support our congregations.

August 10 Amish Country Tour (optional event)

August 11 Working Together in Christ Seminar

August 12 Worship & Bible Study @ St. Paul's

**REGISTRATION:** \$35 through July 1<sup>st</sup> | \$40 after July 1<sup>st</sup>

For schedule, hotel information, online registration, etc; please **visit the Facebook event at [stpaultomah/events](https://www.facebook.com/stpaultomah/events)** or find a registration form on the narthex bulletin board. Questions contact Laura King; 608.855.0185, [trainerlaurak@gmail.com](mailto:trainerlaurak@gmail.com) or Becca Backhaus (414.539.2357, [becca6jo@gmail.com](mailto:becca6jo@gmail.com))



August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Taylor Korstanje
August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jerry Beyer, Joel Lewis, Bill Rommel, III
August 3 <sup>d</sup>	Brian Asmus, Vern Rowan, Avery Jordan
August 4 <sup>th</sup>	Donna Lueck
August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Nathan Jordan
August 6 <sup>th</sup>	Haylee Gilster, Liz Karbula, Ryan Ostrem, Brad Stoll
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	Barb Mellor
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Kathryn Braaten
August 9 <sup>th</sup>	Liz Knobloch, Tim Kendall, Clayton Dale
August 10 <sup>th</sup>	Denise Severson, Kim Lueck
August 11 <sup>th</sup>	Wade Willinger
August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Muriel Sandman
August 14 <sup>th</sup>	Sylvia Uber, Sydney Rowan, Makenna Olson
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Amanda Eckelberg, Renee Pickar, Ethan Rixe
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	Emily Hemker, Mitchell Burfeind, Adam Buisman
August 17 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Bright, Jared Hauser, Amy Cook, Keturah Horstman Hudson Coenen, Walker Coenen
August 19 <sup>th</sup>	Marilyn Lueck, Gary Osgood, Gabriella Jordan
August 20 <sup>th</sup>	Mark C Miller
August 21 <sup>st</sup>	Judy Munson, Destinee Coenen
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Vonnie Gilster, Lacey Severson
August 23 <sup>d</sup>	Bob Martell, Athemia Horstman
August 24 <sup>th</sup>	Brittany Clements, Connie Garbers, Anita Osgood, Joseph Kendall
August 25 <sup>th</sup>	Ada Hage, Sofiya Ascher, Beau Baganz
August 26 <sup>th</sup>	Brandon Kindt
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	Ernie Hoffman
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	Ron Black
August 29 <sup>th</sup>	Don Buisman, Hayli Reeck-Mathe
August 30 <sup>th</sup>	Brent Ostrem
August 31 <sup>st</sup>	Jay Justin, Sadie Miller

Remember our website!  
[christlutheranwestsalem.com](http://christlutheranwestsalem.com)



If you have recently moved, please remember to inform the Pastor or church secretary of your new address information and phone number so that we may keep contact with you. Thank You.

### SUMMER SCHEDULE



<b>Sunday Morning</b>	8:00 am 9:30 am
<b>Monday Evening</b>	6:30 pm

### FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<b>Sunday Morning</b>	8:00 am 10:30 am
<b>Monday Evening</b>	6:30 pm
Begins September 9 <sup>th</sup>	

### HEADED FOR THE HOSPITAL? ATTENDING ANOTHER CHURCH? MOVING?

Your pastors are here to serve in all of these areas, so please let us know when changes take place! We'd love to take you to God's grace; a grace that doesn't change even when our life situations do!



# NOTES & NEWS



Our next **WELS Grief Support Meeting** will be **Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 7PM** at St. John's – Barre Mills. Please feel welcome to for spiritual comfort and encouragement in Christ.



The WOC has **greeting cards available** in the Multi-purpose Room @ \$.50 each with various themes. Place payments in the envelope on top of the card rack.



If you struggle with **MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES**, join us for help, hope and healing. We meet August 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 - 7:30PM at First Lutheran | 400 West Ave S - LAX. God meant us to share burdens that we might find strength, hope and healing with those who care. *(Supportive friends & family are encouraged to attend.)*



The **COULEE REGION OWLS** meets Aug 9<sup>th</sup> at First, 400 West Ave S, LAX at noon with a Potluck Lunch. Bring a dish to pass/table service. Coffee provided. Men & women age 55 or older are welcome. Free will offering collected.



**"A Huge Thank You"** to those who contributed backpacks and school supplies for our giveaway at the WELS fair booth this week. We had approximately 45 back-packs with supplies for kids to 'Spin-to-Win'



Our Building & Grounds committee is **REQUESTING DONATIONS TOWARD LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS** to be completed Summer 2018. We would be removing overgrown shrubs and getting some new plantings in preparation for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in September. If you'd like to donate, please use the envelope labeled "B&G – Landscaping" (found on the Usher's Cabinet) and place with your offering. Donations collected through August 5<sup>th</sup>.

CHRIST and St. John's has decided to extend a **JOINT CALL** for a pastor to serve our youth and their families. A **PRECALL MEETING** is scheduled August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM in the CSJ Multipurpose Rm.



**Ladies Aid will not meet in August.** Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> we meet and enjoy a potluck luncheon at the church in the Multi-Purpose Room @ 1PM.



**COLLEGE STUDENTS AND PARENTS**  
The WELS campus ministry would like to keep in contact with your son/daughter during their college years away from their home church. Contact the church 786-1250, x114; or visit wels.net



St. John's Lutheran in Barre Mills invite you to their annual **Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 4PM.** There will be food, pie, music, fellowship, and of course, ice cream. Call Pastor Schultz with questions at 786-1742. Hope to see you there!



**Enjoy receiving encouragement and prayer requests by participating in our Prayer Chain!**  
Submit prayer requests by:

**EMAIL** prayers@christlutheranwestsalem.com  
**DROP** them in the prayer box in the narthex  
**CALL** the pastor (608-786-1250 x113)

**August Altar Guild Servers**

Sharon Fuller  
Pat Gums  
Joyce Wehrenberg  
Carol Thompson

**August Women of CHRIST**

**GROUP 1**  
Last Names: A - Ch

We celebrate **Christian Education Sunday & 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of our building on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30AM service. If you have pictures, bulletins or other items of interest, please consider sharina them. We'd also like to hear about your church home memories. Share by emailing secretary@christlutheranwestsalem.com | Subject: CHRIST Anniversary Memories

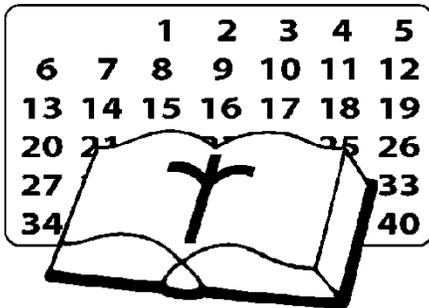


**A BIG THANK YOU** Thanks to our youth helpers, our teachers, snack servers, and everyone who assisted in making our VBS program a huge success! Your time and talents are appreciated ☺

## Monthly Bible Readings

The Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan offers special features that will help you in your journey through the bible. By reading from four separate places in the Scripture every day, you should be able to better grasp the unity of the Scriptures, as well as enjoy the variety of seeing four different viewpoints.

Don't become frustrated if you fall behind. Each month lists only twenty-five readings. That offers several "free days" each month for catch up if they are needed. Here are the passages for AUGUST.



NEW TESTAMENT			OLD TESTAMENT	
	LUKE	1 TIMOTHY	PROVERBS	EZRA
1	13:1-9	1:1-11	1	1-2
2	13:10-21	1:12-20	2	3
3	13:22-35	2	3	4-5
4	14:1-14	3:1-10	4	6
5	14:15-24	3:11-16	5	7
6	14:25-35	4	6	8
7	15:1-10	5:1-15	7	9
8	15:11-32	5:16-25	8	10
				NEHEMIAH
9	16:1-9	6:1-10	9	1-2
10	16:10-18	6:11-21	10:1-16	3
		2 TIMOTHY		
11	16:19-31	1:1-7	10:17-32	4-5
12	17:1-10	1:8-18	11:1-15	6
13	17:11-19	2:1-13	11:16-31	7
14	17:20-37	2:14-26	12:1-14	8
15	18:1-8	3:1-9	12:15-28	9
16	18:9-17	3:10-17	13:1-12	10
17	18:18-30	4	13:13-25	11
		TITUS		
18	18:31-43	1:1-9	14:1-18	12
19	19:1-10	1:10-17	14:19-35	13
				ESTHER
20	19:11-27	2:1-10	15:1-17	1
21	19:28-38	2:11-15	15:18-33	2
22	19:39-48	3:1-8	16:1-16	3-4
23	20:1-8	3:9-15	16:17-33	5-6
		PHILEMON		
24	20:9-19	1-11	17:1-14	7-8
25	20:20-26	12-25	17:15-28	9-10

*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.*

*(Malachi 3:10)*



## July Financial Summary

Needed Monthly to meet budget	\$ 43,295
May Income Received	\$ 29,944
May Expenses	\$ 35,761
Income (vs) Expense	- \$ 5,817
<b>Outstanding Debts</b>	
Church Mortgage	\$ 178,551
Church line of credit*	\$ 11,954
Church Commitments	\$ 5,254

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CONTACTS

### Pastor Galen Riediger

Ph: (608) 786-1250, Ext. 113  
 Ph: (608) 512-0028 (Home)  
 E: griediger@christlutheranwestsalem.com

### Church Secretary – Ruth Hage

Ph: (608) 786-1250, Ext. 114  
 E: secretary@christlutheranwestsalem.com

### President – Randy Mathe

Ph: (608) 787-8373  
 E: durand.mathe@gmail.com

### Vice President – Dean Buchanan

Ph: (608) 386-7222  
 E: busybs@charter.net

### Christ-St. John's Lutheran School

Ph: (608) 786-1250  
 Web: www.christstjohns.org

### Principal – Stephen Berg

Ph: (608) 786-1250  
 E: sberg@christstjohns.org

### LHS Principal – Paul Wichmann

Ph: (608) 799-2083

# Christ-St. John's Lutheran School

Serving: Christ Ev. Lutheran Church, West Salem & St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Barre Mills

## *Teaching Christ's Love.*

**Pre-Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade.**

*The academics are challenging. The teachers are nurturing.  
The lessons learned are for a lifetime.*

Perhaps you've been told that as a Christian you must learn to "trust in the Lord with all your heart." This famous passage from Proverbs contains more than just a general statement about living. Here are some important steps you need each day to truly walk with God.

**Don't Depend on You.** We live in a world where trust must be earned and seems to be in short supply. Solomon, who wrote Proverbs, knew that trust is exactly where we must start: **Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding** (Proverbs 3:5) Trusting Him completely can be difficult. The world has taught us lessons contrary to trusting so fully. So, each day we must consciously lay aside our own plans and expectations—and surrender to His plans. When trusting is hard, we then...

**Cry out to God.** Surrendering to God begins with our lips and our thoughts. We need more than a commitment to depend on Him; we need to cry out to Him to show that dependence. "in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:6) When we pray, we admit that His ways are higher than ours. We show that we're leaving our troubles and burdens and dreams in His capable hands. The Bible promises that when we reach out to Him in prayer, He hears us.

**Put God First in Your Life.** It's easiest to put ourselves first. When something good happens, we want to congratulate ourselves. When something bad happens, we want to console ourselves or find someone to blame. Trusting God means we bring everything, good and bad, to Him who loves us.

**Check Yourself by God's Word.** We aren't so good at evaluating ourselves. We will go to great lengths to excuse our behavior, our actions, and our sins. Who needs a defense attorney when we can pretty much find a reason for any bad thing we do! If we're ever going to truly trust in God, we have to know exactly where we stand. We have to find an objective measure that tells us the truth. And that truth comes from God's Word.

**Listen to the Holy Spirit.** When Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to the church, He told His disciples that this Counselor would be their spiritual compass. As we go through our day, this same Holy Spirit guides us, too. That means we don't have to go it alone or hope we're getting it right. No, the Holy Spirit leads us into all truth and protects us:

**Rest in God's Love.** When we face a difficult world each day, we can sometimes wonder if God even cares. Why do bad things happen? Where is God when I need Him? Solomon reminds us (Prov 3:12) that God never takes a break or leaves us to fend for ourselves. Even in the midst of turmoil, God sticks with us and uses those challenges to shape us. When we understand that, our perspective completely flips. No longer do we see our setbacks as failures; we see them as moments when God, as our loving Father, works on us.

We have chosen Proverbs 3:5 as the school theme this year: **"Trust in the LORD with all your heart"**

## **School Calendar for August**

- 20 Faculty In-service; CSJ – 9AM
- 21 Back to School picnic @ 5:00 PM  
School Pictures 5 – 7PM
- 27 First Day. Opening Service @ 8:30AM



### **SCHOOL CLEAN-UP**

Tues, Aug 7<sup>th</sup> from 6-9PM  
Please bring garden tools and come help us shape things up for the year.

**Thanks for remembering  
to save your box tops  
& milk caps!**



Buy CSJ SCRIP cards for stores you already shop – spend them like gift cards - help fundraise for the school! Call Lisa Black with questions; 786-1250 x100 | lblack@christstjohns.org

**SURROUND CARE BROCHURES** are available to those seeking before/after school care. If interested in participating in this CSJ program, please pick up a form to complete and return to the school secretary.



## **GYM FLOOR REFINISHING**

The gym will be unavailable from July 27 - August 3

## **CSJ FLOOR REFINISHING**

The school is closed August 3-4 so the hallways can be re-waxed.