

OCTOBER 12, 2025

THE WEEKLY WORD

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



MEDITATION

Luke 17:11-19

One of the most surprising things I discovered when we moved to Arizona was how every backyard was enclosed with a six foot tall cinder block wall. That and the focus on the back yard created a neighborhood that often felt less like a community and more like a series of adjacent properties. In neighborhoods like this, not knowing your neighbors was incredibly common. People had a tendency of living in their backyards, and driving everywhere else they wanted to go. In other words, even in a neighborhood made up of hundreds of homes, it is easy to feel alone, especially in the middle of the day.

We sometimes look at isolation as physical only and if we simply are around others then we won't be alone. But isolation can happen even in the company of others. We can feel isolated when we are excluded from a family, a group, or even at a place of work. We feel alone when an illness stands between us and everything we once loved. And that is where we meet the men with leprosy this day. In just about every way they were isolated. They physically were isolated, living among themselves, separated from their families, homes, and communities. There was a spiritual isolation as well, as they were far from anything approaching hope.

But then Jesus comes to them in their isolation and hopelessness and does what He alone is able to do, to bring about restoration not only of body, but of spirit, at least in the life of one of these men. As we look today at a world that is filled with so much isolation and pain, we look even more to the one who came into this world and even our lives to bring deep connection. We find that with Jesus we are deeply connected to His grace and mercy, and the hope that He alone gives to us.

PRAYER

Almighty God, in the midst of isolation, You are there. In the midst of hopelessness, You are there. In the midst of pain, You are there. We thank You for invading our isolation with Your presence. Fill us with the hope and peace that comes through being with You. And lead us Lord, to bring this presence into the lives of those who need it most. Amen.

Pastor Barry

THIS WEEK

Monday - October 13

Men's Bible Study 6:30am

Monday Night Meal 5:15pm

AA 7:00pm

Tuesday - October 14

Elders Meeting 6:30pm

Mary Martha Guild Meeting 6:30pm

Wednesday - October 15

Moms in the Word 9:30am

MOP Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm

Thursday - October 16

Women's LifeLight Bible Study 9:30am

CAP Food Distribution (offsite) 12:00pm

Trail Life Troop Meeting 6:30pm

Friday - October 17

AA 6:30pm

Sunday - October 19

Worship 8:00/9:30/10:45am

Education Hour 9:30am



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300 E. 4TH ST. CHASKA, MN 55318
952-448-2433

WWW.STJOHNSCHASKA.ORG

Construction Update



The new windows have been fabricated and the units that are going into the Nursery have been delivered to the site for installation this week. All of the 1961 addition classrooms will be getting new windows installed over the next 2-3 weeks.



The new condensing boilers have been placed, along with the expansion tank and air separator for the hot water heating system. In the background, a brick layer is framing a new opening in the existing brick wall for the one of the large air ducts that will pass through the boiler room.



Workers are vacuuming the contaminated insulation from the church attic. The insulation is being collected in very large filter bags inside this dumpster.

Welcome New Members!



Tyler and Hailee Achtenberg
Corbin, Collins



Garrett and Courtney Engelhardt
Theodore (Teddy), Charlotte (Charley)



Andrew and Jocelyn Polley
Elouise, Carter, Oliver

Steven Hirsch



Phillip Mann and Kathryn Dederichs
Elizabeth (Lizzie)

Job Opening - Receptionist/Staff Assistant (Non-Exempt)

The receptionist/staff assistant is responsible for the prompt and courteous answering of incoming calls, greeting and directing visitors, managing the master facility scheduling system and operation of the door security system. The position will also provide administrative support to staff. Hours are typically Monday - Friday from 8:30 - 3:30 pm and could be job shared. Benefits, including a generous tuition discount may be offered based on the number of hours worked. For more information and to apply, contact Gordon Thomas (gordon.thomas@stjohns-chaska.org).

All Saints' Day Cross Signing

As is our tradition in preparation for St. John's All Saints' Day celebration, you will have the opportunity to sign a cross with the name of a loved one who died in the faith in this past year. On Sunday, October 19th and 26th, tables will be set up both in the Lower Commons and at the back of the Gym with crosses to sign.

Join the Men's Choir for All Saints' Sunday

All men are invited to join the Men's Choir for rehearsals on 10/22 and 10/29 at 7:00pm. The Men's Choir will sing for worship on All Saints' Sunday, 11/2. For more information, contact Katie Rolf, kathryn.rolf@stjohns-chaska.org.

Trunk or Treat Candy and Volunteers Needed!

St. John's is preparing for the annual Trunk or Treat event on October 25th from 2-5pm. This event is an opportunity for St. John's to introduce or reintroduce ourselves to a community that is growing and changing, connecting them to who we are in the love of Jesus. We need your help! Please consider donating candy by picking up an extra bag while shopping. To volunteer, please contact Pastor Barry at pastor.barry@stjohns-chaska.org.

LovelNC Winterwear Clothing Drive

St. John's is again participating in the LovelNC Winterwear Clothing Drive. They are requesting new and gently used winter coats, snow pants, warm boots, hats, and waterproof mittens and gloves for adults and children. You may drop off your donations in the box outside the church office until October 31st. Thank you for your generosity.

Join Us for the Annual Fall Bazaar on November 8th!

Save the date! The annual Fall Bazaar is Saturday, November 8th, from 9 AM–3 PM in the gym. Enjoy 50+ vendors, concessions, and prize drawings throughout the day. Sponsored by St. John's LWML/Mary Martha Guild. Questions? Email mmg@stjohns-chaska.org



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays at 8:00/9:30/10:45am in the Gymnasium
(Livestream at the 8:00am Service)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:00am-4:30pm



PRAYER LIST

Please continue to share your prayer requests by filling out the back of a Connect Card located on the information desks in the upper gathering and main level common areas or by going to www.stjohns-chaska.org and clicking on "How can we pray for you?" You can also contact the church office: email: churchoffice@stjohns-chaska.org or by phone 952-448-2433

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10/12		10/16
Doug Davis		Madison Sutherland
Cole Dutcher	10/14	Mac Colehour
Fran Lopic	Heidi Millard	10/17
Myles Dubbe	Jon Thom	Jeremy Zabel
Sara Buesgens	Brad Hennen	Dave Lindberg
10/13	Rachel Hilk	10/18
Brooke Bachmann	10/15	Megan Ische
Emma Ewing	Teresa Crognali	



EXPECTANT MOMS

Nicole Stockey
Kourtney Vipond
Jessica Lewis
Nicole Thuente
Anna Jeurissen
Katelyn Olson
Amy Peterson

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

10/12 Jacob and Ashley Lenz	10/16 Luke and Maddy Leaton
10/13 Nick and Lacy Atkinson	10/17 Orville and Loretta Folkerts
10/14 Chad and Misty Reisner	10/17 Ronald and Judy Fuller
10/14 Gordon and Susan Thomas	10/17 Jeff and Nancy Rasmussen
10/15 Bruce and Sue Wolf	10/18 Christina and Tanner Luebke
10/16 Nicole and Paul Lainhart	

FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

Westlee Koepsell	Angeline Rannow
Lisa Neitzel	Doris Rossow
Bernie Gnan	Joann Mueller
Marilyn Lenzen	Gary Anderson
John Gates	Jack Boman
Jolene Berg	

ONGOING PRAYERS

Carol Affeldt	Bob DeMaris	Carol Jones	Val Schlefsky
John Barney	Anita Doss	Len Kallsen	Cliff Waller
Angel Benes	Sid & Merna Fjelstad	Gretchen Laubach	Ruth Ziegler
Jimann Campbell	Dennis Gaarder	Melinda Meuwissen	Merlin Bentz - brother of Linda Knox
Julie Carver	Bernie Gnan	Gina Niesche	Ruth Harms - sister-in-law of Marilyn Lenzen
Marguerite Craighead	Hilde Grev	Steve Pond	
Sunnie Deis	Eugene Henke	Austin Rannow	