



Heaven or Hell?

In the preface to his book, "The Great Divorce," C.S. Lewis writes,

"I think earth, if chosen instead of Heaven, will turn out to

have been, all along, only a region in Hell: and earth, if put

second to Heaven, to have been from the beginning a part of Heaven itself."

It seems as though he comes very near to contradicting himself. How could earth be a region in Hell and also a part of Heaven itself, dependent simply on our choosing or prioritizing of it? But if you're willing to live with the paradox for even a little while, you may see the wisdom in his words.

There surely are moments in life – especially those involving incomprehensible tragedy, death and grief, but also times of deep anxiety or stress – during which we feel that we are indeed living in a region of hell. But just as surely, there are moments in life that make it feel like a slice of heaven – when all seems well and beautiful with the world and your relationships. Are these two truths, then, only a matter of our choosing here on earth? No, and I don't think that's what Lewis was driving at anyway. The viewpoint from which his words ring true is that of looking back upon earth after having left it.

For my part, I do sincerely hope that heaven has some things that are very much like those here on earth – sunsets and sunrises; spring; the hush of snowfall in a deep winter night; the glow created by seeing a loved one's face after a long absence. And yes, without question, there are things on earth that I hope are gone forever in heaven – those mentioned in Revelation, of course: mourning and cry-



ing and pain and death; but also hatred, jealousy, and strife. And if the lion is going to eat straw like the ox, I hope the mosquito will have also become a vegetarian.

On the gravestone of an old German was the inscription, "Vielen dank für alles" – "Thank you for everything." May God grant us his grace so that we will sing his praises when the earth feels like a part of heaven itself. But by that same grace, may he help us to thank him for using the regions of hell we endure to place in our hearts a deep longing, not just for a part of heaven, but for the whole thing. That is, after all, what he has promised us, his dearly beloved children.

Pastor Ben Hollingsead

2019 CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

January 8th @6:30 PM
 January 22nd @6:30 PM
 February 5th @ 6:30 PM
 February 19th @6:30 PM
 February 26th @7:00 PM Ash Wednesday
 March 4th @7:00 PM
 March 11th @7:00 PM
 March 18th @ 7:00 PM
 March 25th @7:00 PM
 April 8th @ 6:30 PM
 April 22nd @ 6:30 PM
 May 6th @ 6:30 PM
 May 13th @6:30 PM Last Session of the Year
 May 16th @ 9:00 AM Confirmation Rehearsal with Photos
 Confirmation Sunday May 17th @ 9:30 Service.

WATCH YOUR STEP:

Now that winter is here - please walk carefully on the sidewalk/parking lot. Ice will be with us for the next 3 months (Roughly).

Be careful out there!!



CONGREGATION EGG BAKE:

Egg Bake will continue to be on the first Sunday of every month through the winter months. Anyone willing to help out in providing an Egg Bake, please let Barb Peterson know: 763-670-1533 Thank you.



Do you like to sing or play an instrument? St. John's singers are looking for new members. All ages are welcome!

Contact Lynn Graber at 612-390-2689 or Sue Lein at 651-402-5480



COMMUNITY FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT:

The Mission and Youth groups are hosting a community family movie night on January 31st at 6:30 PM. This is to benefit the MN Food Share. Look for more information in future bulletins and the January Voice.

ACOLYTE LIST FOR JAN - March 2020

January 5th

8:00 Bella Johnson
9:30 Jordan Le Roux

January 12th

8:00 Nicole Robbins
9:30 Broox Gajeski

January 19th

8:00 Jillian Horsfall
9:30 Emily Willing

January 26th

8:00 Grace Johnson
9:30 Drake Siemonsma

February 2nd

8:00 Bella Johnson
9:30 Raechel Abress

February 9th

8:00 Nicole Robbins
9:30 Ariel Potrament

February 16th

8:00 Jillian Horsfall
9:30 Evan Locke

February 23rd

8:00 Grace Johnson
9:30 Raechel Abress

March 1st

8:00 Bella Johnson
9:30 Jordan Le Roux

YOUTH TUBING AT TROLLHAUGEN

St. John's youth group is hosting a tubing outing at Trollhaugen on **Sunday, January**

26th. Youth in grades 6-12 are able to spend the afternoon tubing for just \$5. We will meet at the

church at 2:00 PM and rides will be provided. Prior parental permission is required. Please contact or text Cindy Johnson at (906)396-5696 to sign up and obtain permission slips. Also, online on the website under the Youth tab.



SABBATH SUPPORT GROUP!

Jesus said in Matthew Chapter 11 “²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”. Many of us carry burdens that weigh us down in life that can just fill us with grieve, anger and so many mixed emotions.

The next meeting will be **Monday, January 20th**, with Pastor Ben. At this Sabbath group, we will create a safe community for anyone who is going through hardship to come and lay down their burdens at the feet of Christ. We will have sharing times with scripture, music, prayer and other Christian resources that will hopefully leave all with the Sabbath rest of the Gospel that those with heavy burdens are looking for.

This meeting will take place the third Monday of every month at **4:00 PM**. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ben.

BROTHERS, BREAKFAST and BIBLE

Calling men of St. John's!
Our next morning men's breakfast will be **January 21st at 7:00AM**. It will be a great opportunity to share in fellowship while eating breakfast together at the Village Inn in Wyoming, MN. We will have a devotion to reflect on as a group. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ben 651-323-3293.



ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL MEETING:

St. John's annual meeting will be **January 26th!** It will be at **11 AM after second service**.



St. John's Lutheran Church – LCMC

Church Council Minutes

Date: 11/18/2019

Present: Linda Welch, Sue Lein, Linda Miller, Bethany Hardy, Nicole Anderson, Patha Vue, Vickey Nelson, Paul Dahlstrom, Pastor Ben, Jim Johnson, Derek Fitcher, Hal Satter, Harvey Berg

Absent:

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by Linda Welch.

Pastor Ben opened with devotion regarding infant baptism and prayer.

Minutes Approved: Sue Lein motioned to approve the minutes from 10/21/19, Nicole Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Financial Report was reviewed.

Pastor's Report: As of November 24th we will have had 21 baptisms this year!

Memorial service for Phyllis Hargarten on December 14th.

All Saints Day was a success, both services had good attendance and remembered 37 saints.

The confirmation class, among many others, will be working on decorating for Advent and Christmas.

Advent services will be on December 4th, 11th, and 15th at 11am and 7pm in the form of a Bible study and hymn sing service.

Christmas Eve services will be at 4pm and 10pm.

Organ has been tuned.

Baby is coming in about 2 months!

26 kids attending Sunday School. Although growth is great, we are in need of additional help.

New Business: Youth Room

A concern brought up about the painting in the youth room and the possible similarities the text style and symbolisms have to a gang. Discussion about the painting and possible solutions. Council does not think it was painted with the intention of a gang similarity, but the room could go for a new paint job anyway. Paul Dahlstrom will work with the youth to come up with some ideas for redesigning the room to give it a fresh look.

By-law addition No Word of Mouth Agreements or Contracts and Job Descriptions

We have run into some problems with agreements that have been made verbally. New by-law proposed.

St. John's Lutheran Church
Financial Report November 2019

Budget Offerings (4 Sundays)	\$ 13,350.56
	<small>(\$173,557.28 YTD)</small>
Actual Offerings Received	\$ 8,528.00
	<small>(\$117,324.00 YTD)</small>
Offering Budget Shortage	\$ (4,822.56)
<hr/>	
Office Expense	\$ 612.00
Phone	\$ 81.00
Computer Operations	\$ 125.00
Advertising/Evangelism	\$ 253.00
Payroll service Fees	\$ 29.00
Postage	\$ 300.00
Worship Supplies	\$ 0.00
Administrative Exp.	\$ 1,400.00
Excel Electric	\$ 402.00
Gas	\$ 96.00
City Water & Trash	\$ 251.00
Custodial Supplies, Misc.	\$ 291.00
Building Expenses	\$ 1,040.00
Employee Salaries	\$ 10,755.00
Visiting Pastors	\$ 0.00
Work Comp. Ins.	\$ 0.00
Total Salaries	\$ 10,755.00
Christian Outreach	\$ 96.00
Total Expenses	\$ 13,291.00
End of Month Total	\$ (4,763.00)
	<small>(offerings minus expenses)</small>
<hr/>	
Check Book Balance	\$ 82,446.00
Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Actual Cash Balance	\$ 82,446.00
Dedicated Accts. Balance	\$ 89,004.00
Church Acct. Balance	\$ (6,558.00)
N. Branch School Rental Balance	\$ 5,380.00
Gen. Offering Bal.: Year to Date	(\$ 39,380.12)

If you have any questions regarding this report,
please call Patha Vue Treasurer at (651) 313-3165
Thank you!

FOOD PANTRY

Let us all remember to donate food items into our Food Pantry. Local food shelves are always in need of non-perishable food items to help the less fortunate. Also, don't forget paper needs like baby formula, diapers, soap, toilet paper, etc... are always needed. Buy one item for yourselves, but also buy one for the Pantry. Christian Outreach Committee will see that the items are delivered to the local food shelf.

Not all job descriptions are clear and have not gone through the council. New by-law proposed.

Discussion regarding the proposed by-laws. Pastor Ben will rewrite them and bring them to the next meeting.

Property: Roof Update: Will not be done this year due to weather delays. Some work will be done to help prevent any further damage from occurring.

Ice in parking lots: Some ice accumulated in the parking lot after a light rain a couple of weeks ago. The lot is draining very well, but possibly there was such a light amount of rain and it got cold so quickly that it became icy. We will all be aware of this and keep an eye out.

Youth Room light has been on late at night. Not sure what is causing the light to turn on.

Front Office computer/desk may be being used.

Stewardship: Directory update is going well and getting some Estimate of Gifts forms back as well.

Annual reports due December 20th

Budget Work

Linda Miller motioned to extend the meeting by 30 minutes, Hal Satter seconded, motion carried.

Bethany Hardy motioned to adjourn at 9:35 pm, Vickey Nelson seconded, motion carried.

The meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Ben.

Respectfully submitted by,

Bethany Hardy, Council Secretary

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Youth Jan. 5th, after second service

Little Angel Preschool Board meeting Jan. 7th @ 6:30 PM

Evangelism Jan. 7th, 6:30 PM

Worship & Music Jan. 2nd, 6:30PM

Safety Team Jan. 6th, 7:00 PM

Christian Outreach Jan. 13th, 6:00 PM

Missions Jan. 13th, 7:00 PM

Council Meeting Jan. 20th, 7:00 PM

Sabbath Group Jan. 20th, 4:00 PM

WORK CREW WISH LIST:

Wednesday work crew is in need of a 12' to 16' aluminum extension ladder.

If you can help, contact the office at 651-462-5115.



WE WISH EACH ONE OF YOU A BLESSED DAY AND PRAY THAT GOD WILL BLESS YOU THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

JANUARY WILLING WORKERS FOR CHRIST



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

8 AM SERVICES GREETERS

05
12
19
26

ACOLYTE 8 AM

05 Bella Johnson
12 Nicole Robbins
19 Jillian Horsfall
26 Grace Johnson

LAY SHEPHERD

05
12
19
26

READERS

05
12
19
26

9:30 SERVICES GREETERS

05
12
19
26

ACOLYTE 9:30 AM

05 Jordan Le Roux
12 Broox Gajeski
19 Emily Willing
26 Drake Siemonsma

USHERS

05
12
19
26

READERS

05
12
19
26

FELLOWSHIP HOST

05
12
19
26

LAY SHEPHERD

05
12
19
26

USHERS

05
12
19
26

ALTAR GUILD

Set Up
05 Cindy Johnson
19 Cindy Johnson

Clean Up
Cindy Johnson
Evie Dockham

Set Up
12 Loreen Beckett
26 Cindy Johnson

Clean Up
Sharon Jaworski
Cindy Johnson

St. John's Lutheran Church



2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy New Year Youth - Lock in ending 9 AM	2 Worship and Music 6:30 PM 1st day back for preschool	3	4
5 8 & 9:30 AM Traditional Service Youth meeting after 2nd service Egg Bake	6 Safety meeting 7PM	7 LAP Board 6:30 PM Evangelism 6:30 PM	8 Confirmation 6:30 PM Faith weavers 6:15-7:30 PM	9	10	11
12 8:00 Traditional service 9:30 Contemporary service	13 Outreach 6:00 PM Missions 7:00 PM	14	15 Faith weavers 6:15-7:30 PM	16	17	18
19 8:00 Traditional service 9:30 Contemporary service	20 Sabbath Group 4:00 PM Council Meeting 7:00 PM	21 B-B-B 7:00 AM @ Village Inn	22 Confirmation 6:30 PM Faith weavers 6:15-7:30 PM	23	24	25
26 8:00 & 9:30 Traditional service Annual Meeting after 2nd service Youth trip to Trollhaugen 2:00 PM	27	28	29 Faith weavers 6:15-7:30 PM	30	31 Community Family Movie Night 6:30 PM	

NO SCHOOL REMINDER:

**December 23 through January 1.
Our first day back will be Thursday,
January 2, 2020**

LAP wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**FEELING “BOARD”**

Do you feel you have extra time to give? Please consider being a member of St. John’s Preschool Board. The board typically meets monthly and makes decisions on school curriculum and activities, budget, fundraising, staffing needs, and other ways to make it possible to bring Jesus into the lives of young children. Please contact Bethany Hardy, Chairperson at (218) 831- 2038 or LAPchairperson@gmail.com for more information.

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Church Office: 651-462-5115
Pastor Ben Hollingshead
Cell: 651-323-3293

Return Service Requested

St John’s Lutheran Church
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Stacy, MN 55079

The Voice of St. John’s

Non-Profit Organization
Postage Paid, Permit #3
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