

Handclasp

Monthly Newsletter | First Lutheran Church | September 2018
302 S. 10th St. | St. Joseph, MO 64501 | 816-232-8378 | flcsj.org

September Sermon Series

Having a hard time obeying God's command to love the world as God loves it? How about your city? Still having a tough time? In this sermon series, **Love Your City: Change the World**, we will learn from the book of James on how to live outwardly with hearts and minds changed by the Spirit of God and choose actions that reflect the love of Christ in and for the world. In a world broken by rage, hear how Christ raises the church to provide a witness the way of the Cross that changes the world.

Sept. 2	James 1:17-27	Anger Management
Sept. 9	James 2:1-17	Shed Entitlement
Sept. 16	James 2:1-12	Tongue Lashing
Sept. 23	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	Harvest of Righteousness
Sept. 30	James 5:13-20	Living Inside Out

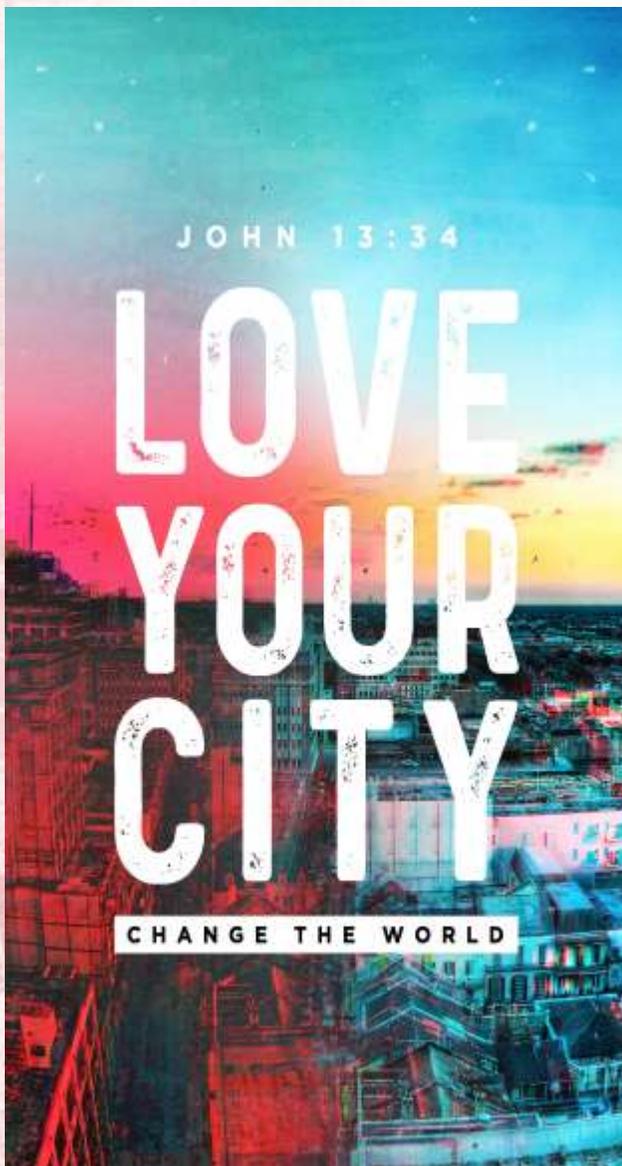
Open Door Food Kitchen

The Open Door Food Kitchen has been feeding the hungry in our community for 35 years. First Lutheran church has been a part of this project since its beginning. Two groups from our church are still preparing and serving a meal (11:00am -1:00pm) on the first Saturday of the even numbered months.

The Resounders group will serve Saturday, February 2, 2019 and the Koinonia group will serve Saturday December 1, 2018.

Cooks, Servers & donations are always welcome. The following contacts are Jeff Langdon-(Resounders) and Gay Anderson-(Koinonia) if you would like to be involved.

-Nadine Burns



Thomas, Roberta	9/1
Kunz, Paul	9/2
Luthans, Angie	9/4
Starks, Ronald	9/5
Gann, Linda	9/6
Chladek, Dan	9/9
Christian, Kaitlyn	9/9
Dunning, Alan	9/9
Bufkin, Caleb	9/10
Eyberg, Mel	9/10
Hunter, Shanya	9/13
Johns, Mary Anna	9/13
Schmidt, Stephen	9/13



Lynch, Robert	9/14
Nelson, Jane	9/15
Viselli, Trisha	9/15
Schneider, Nila	9/18
Kirschner, Verna	9/19
Goforth, Laurel	9/21
Pearl, Carolyn	9/21
Perry, Linda	9/21
O'Mara, Janell	9/22
Edwards, Chester	9/25
Gilmore, Carrie	9/25
Mistek, Joe	9/26
Chladek, Nathan	9/27

Sonny & Jane Thompson	9/2/1989	29 years
James & Carol Bunge	9/3/1977	41 years
Terry & Sarah Cotton	9/4/1976	42 years
Roger & Randi Lenander	9/9/1978	40 years
Mindy & Brandin Erickson	9/13/2008	10 years

Treasurer's Report July 2018

Cyndee Simpson, Treasurer

July Income	\$17, 410.83
July Expenses	\$17, 790.74
Year to Date Income	\$119, 851.00
Year to Date Expenses	\$121, 868.77

See Through the Scriptures

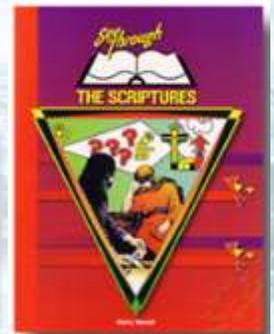
Sundays, September 9 – October 21 (no class September 23), 10:30 – 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

Teacher: Pastor Roger Lenander

The Bible can be daunting. How does the average person make sense of it all? See Through The Scriptures makes the Bible more accessible by taking readers step-by-step through the entire biblical narrative from Genesis to Revelation, putting everything in clear context. With 44 full-color teaching graphics designed to help people grasp and remember the key events and concepts of the Bible, students gain a new appreciation for everything that preceded Jesus in order to more fully understand the deeper meaning of His ministry and message of love and servanthood.

Cost: Free

Optional: Student handbook with graphics and workbook can be purchased for \$17.00



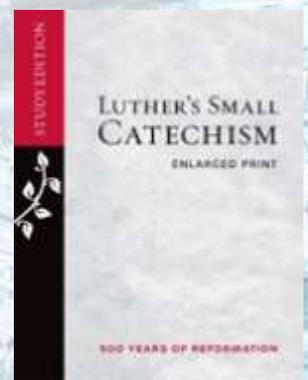
Online Bible Study: Luther's Small Catechism

Tuesdays, 6:30 -7:15 pm, September 11 – November 13

Teacher: Pastor Roger Lenander

Join in the discovery of the teachings of Luther's Small Catechism for this online Bible Study series. You can connect to the video through computer, laptop, I-Pad or I-Phone. You can also join in audio by telephone. We use www.zoom.us for the online connection. Contact Pastor Lenander on instructions to log in to the study group.

Make it a group event...we have one group of participants joining in from the dining room of Living Community. Others join from the comfort of their homes. Check it out this fall to study God's Word.



Roundtable

Dwelling in the Word

Phoebe Circle - Tuesday, Sept. 11th, 7:00 pm,
Pam Farrell - Hostess / Janice Harmsen - Dessert /
Ann Newman - Lesson

Thursday Morning Bible Study - Thursdays at 10 am
at church

Online Bible Study - Tuesdays at 6:30 pm
starting Sept. 11th

Confirmation - Mondays at 4:00 pm starting Sept. 10th

Women's Retreat - Woman At the Well based on
John 4:13-14, Sept. 14th - 15th @ Heartland Center
16965 MO-45, Parkville, MO 64152

What to bring: bedding (sleeping bag or sheets, blanket,
pillow), toiletries, towel, comfortable shoes, bible, flashlight,
and an old or new mug to exchange.

Supper will be at 5pm on Friday night. The retreat will con-
clude at 3pm on Saturday.

Registration and \$45.00 due by August 19th to Carol Bunge
or Kris Langdon

Fellowship

Early Morning Breakfast - Tuesday, Sept. 18th,
6:30 am, at Le Peep

Wednesday With Friends - Wednesday, Sept. 12th,
12:00 pm, at TBA

Service

Rally Sunday - Sunday, Sept. 9th

Chancel Choir - Wednesdays, at 7:00 pm

Archive Committee - Wednesdays, at 9:00 am

Leadership

Church Council - Thursday, Sept. 13th, 6:30 pm

Altar Guild - Thursday, Sept. 13th, 10:00 am,
Janell O'Mara - Hostess

Ellen Starks: 2018 John Rhodes Award Winner

Ellen Starks, a member of First Lutheran, is the recipient of the 2018 John Rhodes Award of the Missouri Animal Control Association that will be awarded in September. Ellen has been a member of First Lutheran and works for St. Joseph Animal Control and Rescue.

This award is the most prestigious of awards and is presented to the animal care and control/welfare professional who consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty and sets the example for his or her peers. Those who are awarded the John Rhodes Award exemplify the animal care and control profession through years of dedicated, professional service to their community and the profession; or have made great changes which impact and better our profession state-wide or beyond. Many past recipients of the John Rhodes Award earned the award after a life-time of dedication and service to their community, to the Missouri Animal Control Association or to the animals of our state.



Rainbow Trail Lutheran Retreat Center in Colorado offers a Men's Fly Fishing Retreat September 20-23 in the Rockies. For beginners and advanced the weekend includes instruction, fishing, worship, and fellowship activities. For information go to <http://www.rainbowtrail.org/retreats/fly-fishing/>

Marvin McNabb, who has started attending First Lutheran, is going and went 3 years ago as a novice. Caught his first fish last year! He would love to talk with anyone interested in going. Contact the church office and we will connect you with Marvin.

Building Fund Update

On April 29th, the congregation voted to transfer all of the funds, \$61,609, from the old Parsonage Sale Fund into the Building Fund to be used to reduce the principal on our church mortgage. While authorizing the transfer of these funds, the resolution did not specify exactly how those funds would be applied once transferred.

At the meeting, Building Fund Treasurer Bruce Taylor explained that there were two options:

Make a \$61,609 principal payment, or

Make a smaller principal payment and reserve the remainder for either a future principal payment or to assure that the Building Fund maintains the necessary balance to meet scheduled loan payment obligations.

In explaining the second option, Bruce reported that pledges to the building fund at the start of the year were lower than anticipated and income is not sufficient to make scheduled loan payments. This makes it important to maintain a reserve in the building fund. He also reported that the Church Council was planning a new building fund pledge drive.

Bruce clarified that while a principal payment will reduce the total loan balance, it will not reduce the length of the loan. It will **still be a 15 year loan, but with a lower amount to be repaid over the balance of the loan's life. At the next "loan reset" the monthly payment will be adjusted based on this lower principal at the future interest rate.**

The Church Council advised that Bruce make a \$30,000 payment on principal and place the remainder of the transferred funds in reserve pending a long-term review of income to the fund. In doing so, the council noted that the option always remains to make an additional principal payment if Building Fund income exceeds **pledges. This payment significantly reduced the loan balance, while extending the Building Fund's reserve** — the amount kept on hand so regular loan payments can be made even if future income to the fund decreases.

The Council also launched a new three-year Building Fund pledge drive which resulted in an increase in pledges from \$20,580 to \$27,900 per year. At the August Church Council meeting Bruce reported that year to date income is in line with the new pledges. Monthly loan payments are \$3,150 while monthly pledged income is \$2,325. The gap demonstrates the importance of the Building Fund reserve. Before the transfer of Parsonage Sale funds and increase in pledges, the fund would have been down to a six month reserve in November of this year. Now, assuming current pledges continue past the three year mark, in July 2022 the fund would still have a six month reserve on hand.

First Lutheran Church Council

Online Offering
Scan to give!

Executive Committee

Pastor	Rev. Roger Lenander
President	Jim Farrell
Vice President	Jim Pierce
Secretary	Debbie Taylor
Treasurer	Cyndee Simpson
Financial Secretary	Joy Winters

Council Members

Carol Bunge	David Newman
Laurel Goforth	Jim Perry
Sylvester Heeler	Phil Hornbostel
Kris Langdon	Brenda Bass



Support Staff

Office Administrator	Misty Coyle
Associate Director of Music	Sharon Gray
Sudanese Worship Director	Phillip Alier Deng

Custodian	Debbie & Larry Stafford
Director of Music	Sharmyn Thompson
Central States Synod	Bishop Roger Gustafson