

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1: John Wurch, Bryton Roberts, John & Vivian Wurch
- 3: Rod Clabaugh, Geraldine Bisbee
- 4: Linda George
- 5: Charlotte Sherman
- 6: Franklin Mohr, Kim Johnson, Samuel Ebensberger
- 9: Jerry Raether
- 10: Georgene Breiner, Jessica Davis
- 11: Gina Campidilli
- 14: Jim Mitchell
- 16: Henry Hansen
- 18: Laura Weisberg, Cynthia Seagren,

Don & Louanna Lehman

- 19: Lindsay Royster, Braeden Arnold
- 21: Allan Royster, Lynn & Beth Arnold
- 22: Kathy Pagel, Abby Trent, Brandon Westendorf, Rod & CJ Clabaugh
- 23: Amy Kuebler
- 24: Amber Clabaugh
- 26: Jackie Weiss
- 28: Richard & Lorilee Seiser
- 29: Henry Anderson
- 30: Doug Johnson

THOSE SERVING IN November Blessings

Elders/Ushers:

- 2: Dale Blue & Bill Breitenkamp
- 9: Steve Doering, Bill Eggers
- 16: Bill Breitenkamp, Rick George
- 23: Steve Doering, Dale Blue
- 30: Rick George & Bill Breitenkamp

Greeters:

- 2: Harrison & Adalie Hayes
- 9: Jan Reinhardt & Shirley Bowman
- 16: Dale & Arlene Blue
- 23: LoEda Paine & Jan Reinhardt
- 30: Steve & Diane Doering

Audio/Visual:

- 2: Renate Venegas
- 9: Linda George
- 16: Jasmin / Lila Venegas
- 23: Will Breitenkamp
- 30: Renate Venegas

Altar:

Lavonne Breitenkamp

Screens:

- 2: Arlene Blue
- 9: Jo Reaman
- 16: Beth Brandt
- 23: Lorilee Seiser
- 30: Nancy LOng

Organists:

Lavonne Breitenkamp

PAROCHIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER

Baptized: 460 Confirmed: 297



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod 1005 Beach Street Webster City, Iowa 50595 Office Phone: 832-3043 Email: stpaulwebstercity@gmail.com

Worship Times

Sunday School & Bible Class @ 9:00 am
Divine Service @ 10:00 am
Lao Sunday School & Bible Class @ 12
Lao Divine Service @ 1:00 pm

Pastor Joseph Pierson

Office Phone: 515.832.3043 Email: revpierson@gmail.com

Office Hours

Monday thru Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm 832-3043 Office number **Khan Chankhueng** Administrative Assistant



I have a vivid memory of the first strawberry that grew in our strawberry patch when I first planted it. We were given around a dozen plants by my in-laws, and after planting, only one survived through the summer and into the fall. In that first year, there was no fruit, which is typical for newly transplanted berries. The next spring, that one plant put on a few blooms, and over 25 runners, spawning lots of new plants! I waited patiently for the first fruit from that plant, watching the bud turn from a bud, to a bloom, to a small green berry, then gradually turning red until... it was gone. Either a bird or a squirrel got it before I did, because it was bit off all the way to the stem. I was naturally put off by this, and I later built a cage to go over the planter so that future plants would be safe from animal interference. But the runners taking root all around the little planter by the driveway gave me hope for the year to follow, that the Lord would provide more abundance. And provide He did! This spring, we were blessed with an excellent crop of strawberries, and we wanted to do something special with our first real harvest. I had my daughter help me pick them, and she and my wife made homemade ice cream to compliment. We thanked God for giving us these blessings, and we dug in.

I tell that story to highlight the delight we take in God's provision, especially the first fruits of our labor. This special status of first fruits is why God commands the Israelites in Deuteronomy 26 to give their tithe from the first fruits, saying: "When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.' Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God" (Deuteronomy 26:1-4). When we give back to God what He has so richly bestowed on us, we give to Him first. This is contrary to the way the world treats material goods. To the world, self-preservation comes first: you take care of the expenses that directly apply to your needs. Then, worldly wisdom would tell you to put your resources toward your future, your leisure, and maybe if there is a little left over at the end, make a tax-deductible charitable contribution.

(Continue on page 2)

November Events

Tuesdays: **Christians in Action** @ 9:00 am **Food Pantry:** Nov. 4, 11, and 25@ 4-6:00 pm **Mobile Food Pantry** Nov.18 at St. Paul's @ 4:00-6:00 pm

MEETINGS:

Board of Trustees:	Nov.4	@	6:30 pm
Board of Ed:	Nov.5	@	4:30 pm
Board of			
Evangelism & Fellowship:	Nov.5	@	5:30 pm
Board of Elders:	Nov.10	@	6:00 pm
IWMI	Nov 17	(1:30 nm



Contact Phyllis Bisbee if you can help with the **Food Pantry**

food pantry or mobile food bank!

(please let church office know December's schedule by November 20)

(Continued from page 1)

God's design for our stewardship of His gifts truly puts first things first. All that we have rightly belongs to God, and He has entrusted us with the responsibility of stewarding it during our time on His earth. Returning thanks to God by offering him our first fruits is one of the marks of a Chrisitan's life. It is a matter of faith, trusting that God can and will provide. It is a matter of love, providing for the work of the church and her mission. Offering our first fruits is a matter of discipline, as well. When I counsel couples preparing for marriage, we talk about finances and budgeting. We talk about hard costs, things that don't change (mortgage, student loans, insurance, car payments, retirement fund); we also talk about soft costs, things that will differ from month to month (groceries, gas, utilities). I will give you the same advice as I give them: make your designated offering to God a hard cost, make it a nonnegotiable for your household. Set your offering aside from your first fruits, not what's left over at the end of the month. First and foremost because it is the pattern that God has established for us in His Word. Second, give cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7) out of your sincere thankfulness to God for all His many blessings to you. Third, do it because this discipline will embolden your faith in God's provision. Christian discipline is good for us, and we should strive always to live out our faith vigorously. Finally, give because it supplies the necessary earthly means for the work of the church. We are blessed as a congregation to have very generous members. The Lord has truly blessed us. I am tremendously grateful that as your pastor, I get to write about stewardship as an encouragement to faithful living, not pleading desperately so that we can "keep the lights on." That culture of generous and cheerful giving is a precious thing in a congregation. I pray that God would continue to bless you richly in Christ Jesus our Lord, and I pray that with thankful hearts we would give of our first fruits to the Lord who gives us all things.

Pastor Pierson

Reading Plan

November

- □ 1 Ecclesiastes 3-4
- 2 Zephaniah
- □3 Acts 11-12 4 - James 4-5
- □ 5 Deuteronomy 10-12
- ☐ 6 II Chronicles 33-36
- □ 7 Psalms 128-130
- 8 Ecclesiastes 5-6
- 🗆 9 Haggai □ 10 - Acts 13-14
- □ 11 | Peter 1-3
- □ 12 Deuteronomy 13-15
- □ 13 Ezra 1-5
- □ 14 Psalms 131-133
- □ 15 Ecclesiastes 7-8
- □ 16 Zechariah 1-7
- □ 17 Acts 15-16
- □ 18 I Peter 4-5
- □ 19 Deuteronomy 16-19
- □ 20 Ezra 6-10
- □ 21 Psalms 134-136
- 22 Ecclesiastes 9-10 □ 23 - Zechariah 8-14
- 24 Acts 17-18 □ 25 - II Peter
- 26 Deuteronomy 20-22
- 27 Nehemiah 1-4
- □ 28 Psalms 137-139 29 - Ecclesiastes 11-12
- 30 Malachi

Junior Youth Gathering Highlights











337 youth and adults gathered to enjoy spending time in God's Word about Baptism. In addition to keynotes and break out sessions focused on Baptism, youth also had the opportunity to do a service project and enjoy interactive games. The weekend closed with a Sunday morning worship service.

