



St. John's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

1165 County Road D, Almond, WI 54909

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<http://www.stjohnsalmond.com>

PASTOR RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW

His Mercy Monthly

NOVEMBER 2024

Our Mission

To celebrate the Gospel in Word and Sacrament which challenges us to cultivate ourselves and our community for Christ.

Deadline for the

December Newsletter is 8:00 pm on Monday, November 25th.

Do you have something for the December edition of the Newsletter?

If so, there is a box located on the bookcase by the church office door. Simply place your announcement in the file folder labeled "Bulletin/Newsletter Announcements" or send an email to the church with NEWSLETTER in the subject box. stjohnsalmond@gmail.com

What's Happening?

- **Advent Services** are approaching! We start out the season with our Trim-the-Tree service on Wednesday, December 4th. Watch for the annual Advent postcard in your mailbox.
- **Packer Party** – Invite a friend to join us for the noon kickoff on Sunday, November 17th. Details will be available in the church bulletin.
- **Election of Officers** – The following offices are up for election: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Administrative Secretary, one Elder and one Steward. If you are interested or want to nominate someone, contact one of the elders.

In Service to our Lord

Elders: James Johnson, David Marr, Jim Cesar and Alan Pagel

Communion Set Up, Greet and Usher:

Please consider volunteering for any of the above positions for services by contacting Betty Daberkow at (715) 335-4176. Thank you!

Altar Flowers

If you have flowers to donate or wish to purchase flowers for the altar, please notify Dianne Schultz by phone (715) 366-8077 or drop a note in the church mailbox located in the fellowship hall.



Heart Warmers

Giving, like planted seed, produces much fruit.

Give, and it will be given to you.

~Luke 6:38



November Birthdays and Anniversaries

11/1 Rita Walkowicz	11/16 Bonnie Warzynski	11/23 Trina Warzynski	11/15 Brittney and Dave Johnson
11/4 Jewell Schleizer	11/19 Brady McIntee	11/26 Pat Hall	
11/11 Scott Boelter	11/20 John Roesener	11/27 Carol Melk	
11/12 Anthony Warzynski	11/20 Cole Warzynski	11/28 Kameron Fenske	
11/13 Gary Otto	11/22 Mike Cole	11/29 Carter Newby	
11/14 Carl Schmidt	11/22 Lucas Footit		
11/15 Douglas Footit	11/23 Kaden Fenske		

If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed or is printed wrong please let us know. Put a note in the folder labeled, "Bulletin/Newsletter Announcements" outside the Church office.



The Consequences of Shallow Thankfulness

Can you imagine a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving — they just don't go together!

This month, as we continue to walk through the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788), we turn our attention to verse three. Here, William Watkins Reid, Sr., the man who penned this text, draws attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship.

Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ...

We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grandparent's hand, savagely destroy the wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, "Tell grandma thank you." This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chocolate chews. It isn't really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs.

We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: "Look at me! Aren't I special?" No thought at all is given to the fact that the Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

For words that speak at variance with deeds ...

What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord.

Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or

following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn't funny — it obscures the Gospel!

Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways unmindful of a broken brother's need ...

Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets. Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel.

When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as freeloaders. We admonish them to get a job. We insist that they learn our language, learn our customs, and make them their own. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created.

In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties. In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel.

Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this month of Thanksgiving, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus!



Ladies Aid Tidbits:

We hope you had a chance to see some of our beautiful quilts on display for LWML Sunday. So far, 118 quilts have been made this year!

If you received a Mite Box, please fill it with coins and return. There is no deadline for your generous donations to support our LWML mission grants. Feel free to grab a new box when yours is full! May our mites' offerings be blessed for our Lord's kingdom.



Six ladies attended the Orphan Gran Train Annual Business Meeting in Westfield. The main speakers were from Liberia. What an interesting life they live with so little resources and transportation. Their strong faith gets them through the hardships. We also delivered the hygiene supplies that are greatly needed and appreciated.

Joseph Hope Food Pantry blessed us with a large donation of apples for our fall pie sale.



God answered our prayers!
A dedicated group continues to help at the Plainfield pantry with food packaging and distribution for the needy families in our community.

Recycled Thanksgiving cards are available in the fellowship hall display rack. Free-will donations are accepted.



United Way Diaper Drive Distribution

Portage County Library – Almond Branch
Tuesday 10:00 - 1:30 and 2:00 - 6:00; and
Wednesday through Friday 2:00 – 6:00.
Free diapers for low-income Portage County families. Contact the library for more information.

Order your Thanksgiving pies from our
TAKE ORDER



November 1st through November 20.

New pie price is \$15.

Your choice of apple (baked or frozen), pumpkin, or lemon meringue. The pies will be baked on Wednesday, November 27th and can be picked up that afternoon from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm.

The proceeds will benefit the five missions St. John's supports: AbleLight, Camp Luther, NWD LCMS, Peace Campus Lutheran, and St. John's Local Evangelism. There will be order sheets in the fellowship hall or you can contact Betty Daberkow (715) 330-4176 or Susan Martinson (715) 366-4048 with orders or questions.

Joseph Hope Food Pantry is gearing up and preparing for the "BIG GIVE" Christmas Giveaway! They are working with Tri-County and Almond-Bancroft Schools and will be providing a Christmas meal and gifts for families. Please consider sending a donation to: Joseph Hope Food Pantry, 612 E North Street, Plainfield, WI 54966. Please put "The Big Give" on the memo line of your check. You may also give online at www.newlifepainfield.org – click "Give" then select Joseph's Hope Food Pantry. Thank you for partnering with us to love and serve our neighbors, especially at Christmas time!

Want to shoot the Breeze with Camp Luther?
Don't miss our semi-annual printed newsletter!

We want to keep you in the know of what has happened and what will be happening at Camp Luther. One of the best ways we can do that is by sending *The Breeze*. If you want your family to receive the next volume of *The Breeze*, sent in November, please email your mailing address to info@campluther.com.

“Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”
 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Acts 4:30-31 (NIV)

Heavenly Father, we come to you in praise and prayer for courage, grace, faith, and healing within your will for:

Isabel Urban	Bonnie Wellens	Matt Weiss	Bob Kollock	Sara
Jon Turzinski	Scott Boelter	Betty Zimmerman	Wayne Teske	Judy Daberkow
Brett Lesniak	Helen Hutkowski	John Tess	Dorothy Tess	Pat Hall
Dee Erlandson				

We also pray for the leadership of St. John’s, we pray that someone will come forward and take the positions still vacant (a secretary and custodian) for our church, and for the missionaries serving God’s Kingdom thru the LCMS:

Ashley Lehr in Puerto Rico
 David and Rachel Baker in Central Asia



Please remember our shut-ins throughout the year with a card, note of cheer, or prayers.

Verna Yonke Whispering Pines - #108
 3450 Bridlewood Drive
 Plover, WI 54467

Dorothy Caves Silver Lake Manor
 N2641 17th Lane
 Wautoma, WI 54982

Bonnie Wellens Country Terrace
 8730 Packing Plant Road, #8
 Minocqua, WI 54548

Scott Boelter 1180 County Road D,
 Apt. #5
 Almond, WI 54909

Isabel Urban N5480 Mount Morris Road
 Wild Rose, WI 54984

FOR PRAYER REQUESTS: If you have a request for the prayer chain team please e-mail or call Bonnie Warzynski. She may be reached at 715-966-3995 or mike-bonnie@hotmail.com.



Putting the "Ha" in Hallelujah!

Baseball in Heaven

Two brothers who loved baseball wondered whether they could play the sport when they went to heaven. So, they swore that whoever went to heaven first would find some way to let the living brother know.

The older brother passed away a week later. And, on the night he was buried, he reappeared at the foot of his brother’s bed.

“Is there baseball in heaven?” asked the younger brother.

“Well, I’ve got good and bad news. The good news is that there is baseball in heaven.”

“That’s great!” said the little brother.

“What’s the bad news?”

“The bad news is you’re pitching Sunday.”



Thank you to all who continue to support St. John’s!

The projected yearly expenses for 2024 is \$93,311.75. This figure has been adjusted for our current pastoral expenses as well as church operational expenses.



2024 GIVINGS THERMOMETER PROGRESS

- As of October 20th, our balance is \$69,366.69.
- Our givings need to average \$1,794.46 per week.

November 2024

Sunday

Monday Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

					1 Take Order Pie Sale Starts	2 Altar Guild Convention Beautiful Savior 8:30-3:00
3 Sunday School 8:45 am Classes for Children and Adults Divine Communion Worship 10:00 am Fellowship following Service	4	5	6 Confirmation Class 6:00 pm	7 Bible Study 9:00 am	8	9
10 Sunday School 8:45 am Classes for Children and Adults Divine Worship 10:00 am Fellowship following Service	11	12 Golden Needle Quilters Workshop 9:00 Meeting 1:00	13 Confirmation Class 6:00 pm	14 Bible Study 9:00 am	15	16
17 Sunday School 8:45 am Classes for Children and Adults Divine Communion Worship 10:00 am <i> Voter's Meeting</i> and Fellowship following Service <i>Packer Party</i> at noon	18	19 Quilting 9:00 am	20 Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Take Order Pie Sale Ends	21 Bible Study 9:00 am Ladies Aid Meeting 7:00 pm	22	23
24 Sunday School 8:45 am Classes for Children and Adults Divine Worship 10:00 am Fellowship following Service	25	26	27 Take Order Pie Sale Pick Up 12:00 to 1:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

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Return Service Requested

