

Salem Lutheran
Church and School

Jacksonville, IL 62650 | 217-243-3419
salemjax.net | salemjaxschool.net

JANUARY, 2025

Newsletter

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From: Pastor Schultz

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article January 2025

Repenting of “Feasts that Know No Fast”

Fresh off the Christmas season and the retail frenzy that accompanies it, January brings a shot of frigid air into the lives of the people we know and love. This is not a meteorological statement either. While it is true that January is one of the colder months for those in North America, the cold front blast that hits us is the full force of credit card spending that fueled the retail frenzy. The bills for the gifts, the parties, the food and the travel have now come due. The credit card makes things convenient, but it also requires more discipline than many can muster. When the bills come in January for December’s celebration, it really puts a damper on things.

Congregations often make the same mistake in stewardship. We often charge forward in doing what we always do or starting new endeavors without counting the cost. But at the end of the month, or the end of year, when the bill comes due, the red ink on the congregational balance sheet smacks the people in the face like a stiff north wind in January. We hunkered down. We circle the wagons. We start to panic. The work of the Gospel suffers.

The fifth verse of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) addresses this January situation. The words penned by William Watkins Reid are very needful for us to hear as we start a new year, while dealing with the bills of past efforts and expense. “Forgive us, Lord for feast that knows not fast ...” This hits us hard, doesn’t it? We love when the money is flowing, the parties are going, and things are getting bigger and better. But there is a time in life, and most especially in our spiritual disciplines, that we need to fast. The purpose of a fast is to step back, lay something aside for a time, and replace it with meditation on Scripture and prayer. This is designed to keep us from turning something that may well be good into an idol that separates us from the God who loves us in Christ.

“For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul ...” In “The Parable of the Sower,” we hear Jesus talk about how the worries and cares of life choke out the growth of the seed of the Word that was planted. We know how this happens in our lives. Professional and youth sports do this. Materialism does this. Travel and leisure and do this. There is a list of things that we enjoy that starve the soul.

But it also happens in our congregations. When corporate stewardship is not managed in a responsible way, it can and does destroy individual stewardship. Is it good individual stewardship to support a ministry that doesn’t take its corporate responsibility seriously?

“For walls and wars that hide your mercies vast and blur our vision of the Kingdom goal.” This is the ultimate end of the idolatry of failed stewardship. We build walls between believers within the church and hamper those who are outside from coming to the Light of Life that is Jesus. The wars we fight over money and its impact on ministry do the same. It eventually blurs our vision of what we are here to do: share the Good News of Jesus. When the wintry blast of January hits us in this fashion, we are called to repent.

When the Holy Spirit uses the cold front of the call to repentance, we meet the God who forgives and restores. That is what He does for individual and corporate stewards. When the bills hit, they call us back to Jesus. He is the One who indeed forgives us our shallow thankfulness and leads us into the bounty of His mercy yet again.

Greetings in Christ,

Thank you to the volunteers who assisted with the December shopping day. We had another good turnout. We assisted 17 families, with 36 children being

assisted. We gave away 30 packages of diapers, 29 packages of wipes, and 9 baby hygiene items. We gave away 1 can of formula. We gave away multiple clothing items, shoes, underwear, socks, sippy cups, pacifiers, blankets, stuffed animals, spoons, sheets, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bottles, and books. One woman asked about our church services because her daughter was interested and asking questions about God. She was given information about our services, and 3 Jesus coloring books for her children. We completed and submitted the final report for the LCMS Million Dollar Life Matching Grant for this grant cycle. We received notification from the LWML that our grant request through the LWML CID Mission Grant was denied. We did submit a pre-application for the Tracy Family Foundation Grant for their next grant cycle. We did receive \$250.00 from the Jacksonville Rotary Club Foundation from their grant that was applied for in May. Currently we do not have a grant to support Swaddling Clothes. If you would like to make a monetary donation to Swaddling Clothes, you may contact the church office or place the donation in the offering plate. I have submitted a letter to Jacksonville Kiwanis requesting funding. If you are aware of any other grants that we can apply for, please contact me. Please continue to keep Swaddling Clothes in your prayers. Thank you for your support, Deaconess Linda Strubbe

SCOBIE, Lauren K.	11-Jan
GLOSSOP, Lorri L.	12-Jan
HADDEN, Paul W.	12-Jan
HASCHEMEYER, Jennifer C.	12-Jan
BAKER, Roger L.	14-Jan
BUMGARNER, Cheryl L.	15-Jan
GERMAN, Aileen	16-Jan
BEZLER, Jack W.	17-Jan
BEZLER, Samuel Q.	17-Jan
IRLAM, August J.	17-Jan
IRLAM, Carsyn R.	17-Jan
OLIVER, Marjorie A. (Marj)	17-Jan
HADDEN, Lisa D.	19-Jan
GANT, William T. (Willie)	20-Jan
POCKLINGTON, Mary E.	20-Jan
RUNYON, Jeffrey D.	21-Jan
CHAPPELL, Alicia R.	23-Jan
SALCIDO, Henry M.	23-Jan
ALEXANDER, Stephanie D.	25-Jan
SHORT, Kelcy S.	25-Jan
ZIMMER, Dennis M.	25-Jan
DAVIDSMEYER, Darcy E.	26-Jan
BAKER, Rhonda J.	27-Jan
SMITH, Tahni L.	27-Jan
SHEELEY, Rose M.	29-Jan
TOMHAVE, Philip W.	31-Jan

JANUARY

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

AUSTIN Jr., Marshall H.	1-Jan
ENGBRECHT, Karen A.	1-Jan
ERIXON, Lance K.	1-Jan
HILSABECK, Robin H.	1-Jan
KORDING, Daneita J.	1-Jan
LASHMET, Ronald N. (Ron)	1-Jan
LAWSON, MICHELLE	1-Jan
LEINBERGER, David A.	1-Jan
LEUTZ, Darr W.	1-Jan
NOBIS, Claudine M.	1-Jan
PRATT, Alan S.	1-Jan
RAHE, Alice R.	1-Jan
THRASHER, Tracy S.	1-Jan
WILEY, John	1-Jan
WARCUP, Haylee S.	4-Jan
LAKAMP, Ashlynn E.	5-Jan
STEPHENS, William H.	5-Jan
ROSADO, JR Jr., Paul	7-Jan
Haynes, Ellen	8-Jan
Massey, Adalynn G.	9-Jan
SCHUMACHER, Jone P.	9-Jan
MATHIS, Lydia R.	10-Jan
SALCIDO, Paul W.	11-Jan

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

REMINDERS: DON'T ASSUME that Pastor knows when you are hospitalized. Please call the Office 243-3419 to let us know when you enter the hospital.

GREETERS WANTED: The Evangelism committee is looking for volunteers to be Greeters at the Sunday morning Worship Service. You will need to be here by 8:30 am. If you would be interested, please contact Paul Reither, (217)-248-0550 Thank you.

RADIO OPENING: Salem Lutheran is in search of volunteers that would like to learn how to broadcast our services. If you would be interested in the opportunity to do that or would just like to see if you would enjoy doing this, please see Kevin Eckhoff. He would be willing to let you sit in and check it out. Any volunteers would be greatly appreciated. An opportunity to learn something new and help Salem out. Thank you.

LADIES GUILD: The Ladies Guild expresses its heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated cookies or money to our recent cookie walk, and also to the many who helped before, during, and after. Thank you

LWML CID MISSION GRANT #5: Children's Books for State Fair - \$4,000 The Central Illinois district's Lutheran Laymen League has sponsored a booth at the Illinois State Fair for over 20 years. Bibles, children's Bible storybooks, Lutheran Hour ministry booklets, and water are given away free of charge. These funds would be used to purchase the materials distributed during the Fair.

LIFE SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH: Life Sunday is January 19th and the Illinois Valley Lutheran for Life is sponsoring a signature page in the Source. If you wish to participate, please get a form out in the Narthex and bring it and your check to the office by the 13th of January. Thank you.

ELDER'S NEW OFFICERS FOR 2025: The Elder's met on Tuesday, December 17th and voted on new officers for 2025. They are as follows: John Tomhave, Chairman; Kyle Schumacher, Vice-Chairman; Darin Gehrke, Treasurer; Mike Krause, Secretary. We would like to thank the men going off Elders for their assistance and with wish the new officers a successful year.

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS: The amount that was published in the Journal Courier is for the amount of title insurance purchased to protect our ownership of the lots. JHFH had to pay a minimum for title insurance and the minimum coverage is \$10,000. So, they listed \$10,000 for title insurance for the church. It protects the church, if any claims arise against the title of the lots. If Salem puts improvements on the property, the church may consider increasing the coverage.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE NUTS: If you missed the Lutherans for Life Nuts or in need of more, here is a list of what they have left. Cashews, Mixed Nuts, Pecan Halves, Cinnamon and Chocolate. Please contact Ruth Werries (217) 473-6736.

SPEAKER AT OUR REDEEMER: Pastor Joshua Theilen, director of Camp CILCA, will give a talk on the following topic: "Cellphones, Technology, and Teenagers" on January 25, 2025, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church at 6:00 p.m. There is no cost, but you can reserve a seat by emailing carl.wicklander@gmail.com by Monday, January 20, 2025

SCHOOL NEWS

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL JOY REITSMA: Advent and Christmas. A time to remember why we need a Savior, that He came as a baby, and that He will be back to take us to be with Him in heaven. This month the Middle School helped with Door bell Dinners. What a great way to share God's love! We were able to share the message of Jesus at the third week of Advent Service. *Jesus Means Christmas to Me* was a message about Jesus being the most important part of Christmas, and that without Him, there IS NO Christmas. The students also celebrated with Christmas parties before leaving for Christmas vacation. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, a happy New Year, a blessed Epiphany!

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FROM TEACHERS AND STAFF

WORK PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 8/31/2024 – 07/31/2025

(From 8/31/2022 Treasurer's Report)

CURRENT FINANCIAL

INDEBTEDNESS

8/31/24	7/31/2025
Farmers State Bank Line of Credit	
\$0.00	\$0.00
Internal Loan from Restricted	
\$63,725.00	\$0.00
LEAP	
\$621,483.94	\$473,106.55

**Financial Status Report for
November, 2024**

Our total operating needs monthly:	\$ 63,963.20
Our operating receipts November 2024:	\$ 94,323.14
Our total operating needs YTD:	\$ 266,546.85
Our total operating receipts YTD:	\$ 250,179.90
Our Shortfall or Excess YTD:	(\$ 16,366.95)