



Some Godly Common Sense

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." ~ Proverbs 9:10

Of the many books I've read, one of my favorites is C.S. Lewis's The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. (Were you expecting something more than a children's novel?) The second book in Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia, it's a story of four siblings who experience a fantastical land filled with drama and action...and it even includes a parallel message regarding the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. In my opinion, it's a great read for children and adults alike.

One of the many reasons I love this book is because, in the midst of those pages, are a number of "not so subtle" messages that Lewis conveys through the characters. In fact, one of these messages is found in a comment made by the Professor whose responsibility is to oversee and take care of the children. It occurs after the two youngest children return from Narnia by way of a wardrobe. Lucy (the youngest) and her brother, Edmond, have just experienced this new land...but from completely opposing views. And because Lucy has had such a wonderful experience (in contrast to Edmond's encounter with the Witch), she can't wait to tell the others. This, however, presents a dilemma for the oldest siblings after hearing what Lucy has to say about what they think is an imaginary land. Should they or shouldn't they believe her?

"Common sense" would tell them that their little sister has to be lying, but the Professor seems to be convinced otherwise. In fact, after pointing out that Lucy has never been one to tell lies, the Professor says something that has become one of my favorite quotes within this novel: *"Logic! Why don't they teach logic at these schools?"*

No doubt, it's a question that could be asked today. While we tend to refer to it as "common sense" rather than logic, it doesn't appear that

much is being used these days. In fact, much like what the Professor was trying to point out, "common sense" really doesn't appear to be all that common. For those who follow Jesus, rather than "common sense", the term that might be better used is "Godly wisdom"; and, if you Google the words "Godly Wisdom", you're sure to find a number of Bible Verses on the subject.

Some of these verses will speak of wisdom being connected to righteousness, while others will connect it to teaching and knowledge. Either way, there are plenty of verses on the topic of "Godly wisdom", and one in particular makes clear that true wisdom...**"Godly Wisdom"** (real "common sense")...begins with a fear of the Lord. (Proverbs 9:10)

Unfortunately, this kind of wisdom isn't taught in many schools these days, nor is it taught in many homes. In fact, a simple discussion on what it means to fear, love, and trust in God is a rare thing these days – which has evidenced itself in our society, our homes, our churches, and our day to day lives. And, yet, while this lack of true "common sense" can cause concern, we're not without hope. In fact, we still have every reason to give thanks to God – even while we are surrounded by such a lack of "Godly wisdom".

We thank God that, despite our failure to fear, trust, and submit to Him and His Word, it's never too late for another new start in our lives. In fact, as long as we are here on this side of eternity, it's never too late to return to Him and call upon Him to open our hearts so that we can continue to grow in His Word. After all, if we want to see more "common sense" in our world, it has to start with us by being in His Word on a daily basis – especially at home.

It's never too late to grow in Godly wisdom and knowledge, and it's never too late to return to living out the new lives we've been given in Jesus; because truly knowing and understanding

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what God has done for us in Christ Jesus is a foundational game changer.

That's why I pray that you continue to dive into God's Word at home on a daily basis. And, as you do, I pray that the Holy Spirit readies you for what we are about to dive into as a congregation in September. (How's that for a "teaser"? ☺)

For now, God's peace to you from a person who (like you) has more room to grow in Godly wisdom!

~ Pastor Kurt

FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

Total Baptized members: 579 Total Communicant members: 477

Deaths

06/27/2017 **Trevor VanVoorst**, son of **Chris & Jennifer VanVoorst**; brother of **Justin VanVoorst**, grandson of **Al & Cathy Lutz**

Received via Transfer

Michael & Stephanie Heyn, sons **Tyler** and **Trenton Fase**, daughters, **Tiffanie Fase**, and **Rebekah** and **Kali Heyn** from Grace Lutheran Church, Coopersville, MI

Removed via Transfer

Richard & Beverly Schultz to Grace Lutheran Church, Henderson, NV

Celebrate Your Marriage Conference

Don't miss the Celebrate Your Marriage conference at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, October 8-9. Thrivent Financial is sponsoring this 2-day event hosted by Jay & Laura Laffoon.

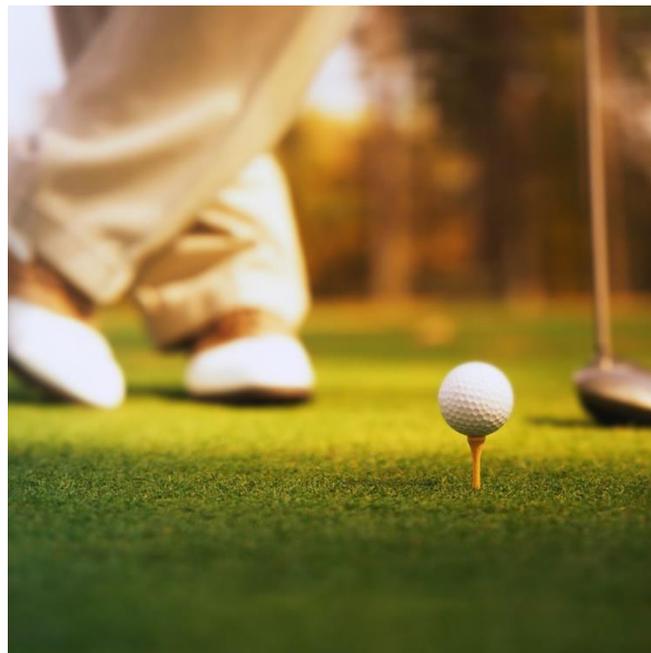
What you'll experience at the conference:

- Fun—you'll laugh until your sides hurt!
- The very best in entertainment, Biblical teaching and instruction.
- Opportunities to apply what you're learning.
- An uplifting and encouraging atmosphere.

Special Guests: Bill and Pam Farrel, authors of the best-selling book, Men are Like Waffles, Women are Like Spaghetti and Red Hot Monogamy.

Register today!

Thrivent members receive a \$20 discount per person, an exclusive lunch with Jay and Laura, a book and DVD package, and a special gift. Visit jayandlaura.com/upcoming-marriage-conferences to see the schedule and buy tickets. Contact Diana Butler at (989) 399-0337 or diana.butler@thrivent.com for more info.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 Arnie Redeker Memorial

Golf Outing to Benefit St. John's Lutheran School

On behalf of St. John's Lutheran School, we would like to invite you to sponsor and play in the second annual Arnie Redeker Memorial Golf Outing. Mr. Redeker helped create the school more than 70 years ago and was a life-long supporter of St. John's Lutheran School. He was also an avid golfer. We hope to memorialize his efforts with this annual golf fundraiser for the school.



- **2 pm Shotgun Start**
- **6:00 Pig Roast Dinner**
- **4-Person Scramble**
- **18 holes**

Pigeon Creek Golf Course, West Olive, MI

\$60 per person, \$220 per team, includes golf, cart, and dinner for all players. Get your foursome together or let us pair you up with a team.

Contact David Turner to secure a sponsorship at (616) 293-5646 or turner@johnnyadvertising.com.

CLASSIFIED AD SECTION OF YOUR LOCAL ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

MUSIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebration Choir: It's not too soon to think about Celebration Choir! Our first practice will be Wednesday, October 4, at 7:00pm. We'd love to welcome some new singers! No experience necessary!

JuBELLation Ringers need a few more dedicated members. We would love to have a full 11 member choir! We meet on Wednesdays from 5:45-6:45pm beginning on October 4. Our fall season is October - December. Our Spring season will be March -May.

Men's Choir: Men of all ages are invited to join this month long choir. We will meet on Wednesdays at 7:00pm beginning on September 6. A fun way to fellowship with your brothers in Christ and also to sing praises to our great God.

Contact Tracy Wood at twood@sjlcs.org or (616) 402-5099 for more info.

There is an opening for Sunday School Superintendent for this fall and we'd also like a staffed nursery. For more info, please contact Ben Bosch at benjamin.bosch1983@gmail.com or (616) 638-2020 or Craig Kaschube at (616) 842-4510 or ckaschube@sjlcs.org.

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet again on Monday, September 11 at 9:00am in the Social Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to St John's Congregation for their most generous donation of 1,521 diapers of various sizes and 720 Baby Wipes!! In addition, 13 beautifully hand knitted with love, newborn items, hats and mittens were donated to Lakeshore Pregnancy Center. Your support of this caring ministry is greatly appreciated. Thank You Again.

School Supplies Needed and are being collected by the Social Ministry for our students at St. John's Lutheran School: especially needed is loose leaf and spiral notebooks of wide-ruled paper; we are also collecting pencils, highlighters and glue sticks. Our ministry board and teachers sincerely appreciate your continued support. A collection box will be located outside the school doors.

Tri-Cities CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday, October 1, at 1:00pm at Spring Lake Christian Reformed (364 S. Lake St.). Please consider walking with us to help combat hunger and poverty. My personal goal is to add 10 more walkers to our St. John's CROP Hunger Walk team. Are you one of them? It's an awesome way to share the love of Christ and the many blessings He has given us. Contact Tracy Wood at twood@sjlcs.org or (616) 402-5099.

We hope you enjoy this condensed version of our usual newsletter. Copies of the August calendar are available in the church narthex.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

West Michigan LCMS Youth Beach Day is Wednesday, August 9, 10:00am-4:00pm at Grand Haven State Park. Junior and Senior Youth – you and your friends are invited to this 4th annual event! Lunch is provided. Bring your favorite beach games. We will offer volleyball, soccer and other beach game tournaments. We will pack up from the beach and travel to the Unity Music Festival in Muskegon to enjoy the free concerts at 4:00pm. Bring some \$\$ for dinner. Contact Sue LaLonde for more info at (616) 847-7876 or suelalonde@charter.net.

Coast Guard Festival Parking Lot Fund Raiser: Don't forget to support our 7th and 8th grade class as they prepare for their trip to Washington D.C.! How, you ask? By parking your car in our church parking lot during the Coast Guard Parade on Saturday, August 5. How simple is that? Suggested Donation: \$5.00

A Big Thank You to everyone who donated to or helped with the Ladies Aid rummage sale. We made \$1,589.75 to help pay for items for the church and school that are not in the budget. In addition to Ladies Aid members, we had help from our pastor, our teachers and our church members. We could not do it without your help and your "treasures". Our next sale will be in October so we have another opportunity to clean out our unused blessings. Thank you again.



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Craig Kaschube, Youth & Family Life Director ckaschube@sjlcs.org
Laura Harvey, School Administrator/Business Manager lharvey@sjlcs.org

Worship Services:

Saturdays: 5:00pm - Traditional/Relaxed

Sundays: 8:15am - Traditional

10:30am - Contemporary

Please check calendar for all worship times!

God's Blessings To:

You and your family!

St. John's Saves The Catwalk (SJSC)

At this time, SJSC has FAR exceeded its original goal of \$2,500 and is now \$7,500! Praise the Lord, and thank you ALL so much for your heroic, outstanding support! We especially recognize the generosity of Michael & Denise Klaus (who offered a dollar-for-dollar match, up to \$2,500) and the kindness of Chris & Jennifer VanVoorst (who asked for donations in their son Trevor's memory). As the fundraising period concluded on July 9, we have submitted our application for THREE 12"x4" bronze plaques which, situated proudly on our beloved catwalk, will serve as St. John's "forever witnesses" to all future visitors! Final details, including the grand total to be donated to the GHACF Save the Catwalk Fund and the text of our personalized plaques, will be featured in the September newsletter. How exciting it is that OUR church members actively support and desire to witness to OUR community!

Yours in Christ,

Alex Montgomery, Craig Kaschube, & Roxana Taylor, the SJSC Leadership Team

Here We Stand

500 years ago, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, making public his call for God's people to center their lives and the church on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and reinforcing the truth that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone.

Thousands of Lutherans and guests will gather on Sunday, October 15, 2017 for a joint Reformation Service. This service will be held at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. Doors to the concourse will open at 2:00pm. Concert begins at 4:00pm. Worship begins at 5:00pm. There will be a large area for children's activities on site.

I remember as a student at Our Redeemer attending joint Reformation Services in Muskegon, Lutherans from all over the area worshipping together. There is nothing like the feeling you receive from worshipping with others from all over the state.

Please join us for this special anniversary service and celebration event.

For free tickets email Debbie Luytjes at: kluytjes@charter.net by August 21.