



ST. JOHN'S JOURNAL

The monthly newsletter for
St. John Lutheran Church
Loogootee, IN

LIFE TOGETHER

BY PASTOR TIMOTHY FLEACE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have been looking at geographical locations in scripture to see how importantly they factor in teaching the faith. Locations sometimes carry memory and meaning for a given culture. For example, if we hear someone mention Pearl Harbour our first thought is likely not of a pleasant harbour in Hawaii where people vacation and enjoy the beach. We are more likely to remember the attack on American Naval forces on 7 December 1941, which led our nation into World War II. Pearl Harbour is a location that has memory and meaning in our culture.

Because it is October, the month of Halloween, I thought we would look at a location that has a sinister memory and meaning in the history of Israel and the Church. Last month I mentioned the Prophet Jeremiah and his condemnation of the worship of Baal and Moloch and the unconscionable practice of child sacrifice. These

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horrifying rituals took place in the Valley of Hinnom, just outside Jerusalem, at a place called the Tophet which means burning, possibly indicating how the sacrifice was conducted. Such practices as these led to God turning away from his people and allowing them to be overrun by the Babylonians. This, in spite of the fact that King Josiah (7th century B.C.) swept away these practices, destroyed the Tophet and its idols and desecrated the area in the Valley of Hinnom so that it could no longer be used for any type of worship and sacrifice. It became a garbage dump where the refuse of the city was taken to be burned or left to rot.

In the New Testament, the Valley of Hinnom becomes known as Gehenna and is frequently mentioned by Jesus as a place of destruction and condemnation. For example, in Matthew 5:29, he tells his followers that it is better to lose an eye or a hand than for the entire person to perish in Gehenna. If you remember your King James Bible, you will recall this verse as saying that the entire person is in danger of perishing in Hell. That is because the King James Version translates Gehenna as Hell. It does the same with the terms Sheol and Hades.

Considering the evil past of Gehenna, it seems the King James Version is not too far off the mark in its translation of it as Hell. If any place on earth deserves such a moniker it is Gehenna. But, may the Lord have mercy on us, Gehenna is not the only place that has seen such evil. The Nazi death camps, the Gulag of Soviet Russia,

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Prayer Concerns

Please be praying for these friends and church family members.

Those with health concerns:

*Brian Wininger (church member)
 *Bryan Adams (church member)
 Chris Haag (brother to T. Haag, cousin to J. Love)
 David Welch (brother-in-law of Doug & Rita Denson)
 Dick McCloskey (friend of Goldman family)
 Donna McCloskey (friend of the Goldman family)
 Helen Bauer (wife of Augie Bauer)
 Jane Person (friend of Duane Mann)
 Jentry Pace (great grandson of Mary Hudson)
 Ladema Welton (friend of Julinda Adams)
 Lee Sipes (brother of Tammy Wininger)
 Marg Otto (friend of Barbara Prince)
 Pam Bullock (friend of Linda Goldman and others)
 Sissy Woody (friend of Julinda Adams)
 Steve Deckard (friend of Hilbert Fuhrman)
 *Tyler Love (church member)
 *Verneeda Roach (church member)

Those in the nursing home and homebound:

*Glenn Crim (Parkview Village, Odon)
 *Phyllis Lynch (Gentry Park Center, Bloomington)
 *Verneeda Roach (Ketcham Memorial Center, Odon)

Our College/Graduate Students:

*Alex Adams, Ivy Tech, Bloomington
 *Carson Shaw, University of Evansville
 *Isaac Eagle, University of Southern Indiana
 *Kenley Shaw, University of Southern Indiana
 *Olivia Harker, University of Southern Indiana

Our Military Personnel:

*Kody Neukam-Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota

Other concerns:

The spiritual state of our nation and churches
 The leaders in our nation and world
 Our church and leaders of our church
 Our sister church in Dubois and leaders
 Our own individual spiritual state
 Those experiencing war, unrest, and persecution
 Those who suffer depression & mental illness
 Staff and students at our local schools

** denotes church member*

(Life Together, continued from page 2)

child trafficking rings are also a part of the history of this world. St. Gregory Palamas, an Orthodox theologian, once referred to the devil as the patron of evil. A patron is someone who supports through finances and social connections a particular field. We hear of someone being referred to as a patron of the arts, for example. The devil was certainly a patron of Gehenna and all that is evil. Praise be to Jesus Christ, our Savior, who has come to destroy the power of the devil! Halloween, and all its spooky goofiness and sometimes more sinister side, gives way to All Saints Day and the memory and meaning of salvation.

In Christ,
Pr. Fleace

Operation Christmas Child

We are once again collecting boxes for Operation Christmas Child to send to children around the world who need to know that they are loved and remembered at Christmas! This is an incredible way to show God's love and teach children about Jesus. Each gift is packed with an invitation to a Bible study where children can learn about "The Greatest Adventure." Since 1993 when OCC was started more than 244 million children in more than 175 countries and territories have received a shoebox of gifts and the love of God. So we hope you will pick up your box and brochure at church, fill it up with gifts and **return it on or before 15 November**, which is dedication day for our boxes.

CELEBRATION SINGERS

The Celebration Singers are well underway in their 25th year. The singers and musicians hail from all over Southern Indiana, including Dubois, Spencer, Pike, Martin, Vanderburgh and Monroe Counties. Three members from St. John Lutheran Church, Dubois, have been singing with them from the beginning. You are invited to join them at one of more of the 2026 performances:

- Nov. 11 - William Tell Center, Tell City, IN 12 PM (EST), 11 AM (CST), Perry County Council on Aging
- Dec. 5 - St. Ferdinand Catholic, 7 PM, Christmas Concert
- Dec. 13 - Precious Blood Catholic Church, Jasper, 3 PM, Christmas Concert
- Dec. 20 - St. Paul UCC, Holland, 3 PM, Christmas Concert

All programs are open to the public and more will be added soon. Check out their website at www.celebrationsingers.org.



Abraham

Commemoration Day October 9

"Abraham (known early in his life as Abram) was called by God to become the father of a great nation (Genesis 12). At age seventy-five and in obedience to God's command, he, his wife, Sarah, and his nephew Lot moved southwest from the town of Haran to the land of Canaan. There God established a covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15:18), promising the land of

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St. Luke, Evangelist

Feast Day October 18

St. Luke, the beloved physician referred to by Paul in Colossians 4:14, penned both the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, according to scholars. Luke presents us with a Jesus whose blood provides the medicine of immortality. Luke traveled with Paul during the second missionary journey, joining him after Paul received his Macedonian call to bring the Gospel to Europe (Acts 16:10-17). Most likely, Luke stayed behind in Philippi for seven years, rejoining Paul at the end of the third missionary journey in Macedonia. Luke also accompanied Paul on his journey to Rome (Acts 27:1-28:16). Luke's Gospel provides for us some parables and miracles that the other Gospels do not, such as: the good Samaritan, the prodigal son, the persistent widow, the rich man and Lazarus, the cleansing of the ten lepers, the raising of the widow's son, and the healing of Malchus' ear, among others. Only Luke provides us with a detailed account of the birth of Jesus, as well as the canticles of Mary, Zechariah and Simeon. In the Acts of the Apostles he shows us the work of the early church and the apostles.



Philip the Deacon

Commemoration Day October 11

Philip was one of the seven men appointed by the apostles to help with the distribution of food to the poor (Acts 6:1-7). He was known as a man of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom.

He is also known as an evangelist (Acts 21:8) as is evidenced by him leading Simon the Sorcerer to become a believer (Acts 8:4-13) and his witness to the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. By witnessing to the eunuch and then baptizing him, Philip was indirectly responsible for taking the Gospel to the continent of Africa. At his home in the town of Caesarea, he was host for several days to the apostle Paul, who visited there on his last journey to Jerusalem (Acts 21:8-15).



Henry M. Muhlenberg, Pastor

Commemoration Day October 7

"Moving from the Old World to the New, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg established the shape of Lutheran parishes for North America during a forty-five-year ministry in Pennsylvania. Born at Einbeck, Germany, in 1711, he came to the American colonies in 1742. A tireless traveler, Muhlenberg helped to found many Lutheran congregations and was the guiding force behind the first Lutheran synod in North America, the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, founded in 1748. He valued the role of music in Lutheran worship (often serving as his own organist) and was also the guiding force in preparing the first American Lutheran liturgy (also in 1748). Muhlenberg is remembered as a church leader, a journalist, a liturgist, and -- above all -- a pastor to the congregation in his charge. He died in 1787, leaving behind a large extended family and a lasting heritage: American Lutheranism."

Lectionary Readings for September

Please find below the daily lectionary readings for this month. Reading the Bible every day will increase your spiritual health in the same way that exercise helps you physically to stay well. We encourage you to make time in your day for the care of your soul.

- 1 Deuteronomy 2:16-37; Matthew 6:16-34
- 2 Deuteronomy 3:1-29; Matthew 7:1-12
- 3 Deuteronomy 4:1-20; Matthew 7:13-29
- 4 Deuteronomy 4:21-40; Matthew 8:1-17
- 5 Deuteronomy 5:1-21; Matthew 8:18-34
- 6 Deuteronomy 5:22-6:9; Matthew 9:1-17
- 7 Deuteronomy 6:10-25; Matthew 9:18-38
- 8 Deuteronomy 7:1-19; Matthew 10:1-23
- 9 Deuteronomy 8:1-20; Matthew 10:24-42
- 10 Deuteronomy 9:1-22; Matthew 11:1-19
- 11 Deuteronomy 9:23-10:22; Matthew 11:20-30
- 12 Deuteronomy 11:1-25; Matthew 12:1-21
- 13 Deuteronomy 11:26-12:12; Matthew 12:22-37
- 14 Deuteronomy 12:13-32; Matthew 12:38-50
- 15 Deuteronomy 13:1-18; Matthew 13:1-23
- 16 Deuteronomy 14:1-2, 22-23, ; Matthew 13:24-43
- 17 Deuteronomy 15:19-16:22; Matthew 13:44-58
- 18 Deuteronomy 17:1-20; Matthew 14:1-21
- 19 Deuteronomy 18:1-22; Matthew 14:22-36
- 20 Deuteronomy 19:1-20; Matthew 15:1-20
- 21 Deuteronomy 20:1-20; Matthew 15:21-39
- 22 Deuteronomy 21:1-23; Matthew 16:1-12
- 23 Deuteronomy 24:10-25:10; Matthew 16:13-28
- 24 Deuteronomy 25:17-26:19; Matthew 17:1-13
- 25 Deuteronomy 27:1-26; Matthew 17:14-27
- 26 Deuteronomy 28:1-22; Matthew 18:1-20
- 27 Deuteronomy 29:1-29; Matthew 18:21-35
- 28 Deuteronomy 30:1-20; Matthew 19:1-15
- 29 Deuteronomy 31:1-29; Matthew 19:16-30
- 30 Deuteronomy 31:30-32:27; Matthew 20:1-16
- 31 Deuteronomy 32:28-52; Matthew 20:17-34

Worship Service Times

September - December 2026 - 9 AM

January - April 2027 - 11 AM

May - August 2027 - 9 AM

Servers for September

4 October Pentecost 19

Lector/Communion Asst: **Ross Adams**

Acolyte: **Ross Adams**

Communion Helper: **Sarah Adams**

Greeters: **Dick & Kay Barber**

Nursery: **Drew or Hannah Davis**

Color: **Green**

11 October Pentecost 20

Lector: **Hannah Davis**

Acolyte: **Hannah Davis**

Greeters: **Duane & Karen Mann**

Nursery: **Tammy Wininger**

Color: **Green**

18 October Pentecost 21

Lector/Acolyte: **Duane Mann**

Worship Leader: **Tammy Wininger**

Greeters: **Bill & Karen Whorrall**

Nursery: **Sarah Adams**

Color: **Green**

25 October Reformation Sunday

Lector: **Leanne Love**

Acolyte: **Leanne Love**

Greeters: **Wanda Smith, Mary Ann Divine**

Nursery: **Barbara Prince**

Color: **Red**

Financial Assistant: **Wininger**

Church Cleaning: **Wininger**

JOINT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a joint meeting of the church councils for both churches at the Dubois church on 13 October at 6:30 PM to assess how the merger is going for the two churches. If you have any thoughts, let a church council member know!

The Church Mouse

Did you guys go to the Hill Church Homecoming? It was pretty good! They had great food after the service....(is that all I ever think about?)



(Abraham, continued from page 3)

Canaan to his descendants. When Abraham was one hundred and Sarah was ninety, they were blessed with Isaac, the son long promised to them by God. Abraham demonstrated supreme obedience when God commanded him to offer Isaac as a burnt offering. God spared the young man's life only at the last moment and provided a ram as a substitute offering (Genesis 22:1-19). Abraham died at age 175 and was buried in the Cave of Machpelah, which he had purchased earlier as a burial site for Sarah. He is especially honored as the first of the three great Old Testament patriarchs -- and for his righteousness before God through faith (Romans 4:1-12)."



Our joint Thanksgiving service with our sister church, St. John Dubois Crossroads, will be at our church on Sunday, 22 November at 10 AM with dinner afterward. We will provide turkeys, mashed potatoes, bread and drinks. We ask that you bring side dishes and desserts. What a great opportunity to worship and fellowship together with St. John Dubois!

a little lutheran levity!

Q: Why is it so easy to trick a leaf in October?

A: They fall for anything.



Daylight Savings
Time ends on Sunday,
1 November.
Don't forget to set
your clocks back one
hour on
Saturday night!



Chili Day is Wednesday, 4 November.

During the next month we will be prepping by cooking chickens and signing up for desserts. See Duane Mann for more details. Please plan to help in whatever way you are able! Thank you very much!!!



Highlights from St. John's Lutheran Church Council Meeting September 2026

The St. John's Lutheran Church Council met on Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the church social room. Members present were Deron Steiner, Barbara Prince, Pastor Tim Fleace, Duane Mann, Angie Steiner, and Tammy Wining. Absent: Karen Mann. Chairman Deron Steiner called the meeting to order. Pastor Tim led the council in prayer. The minutes from the July meeting were approved as printed in the St. John's Journal, per a motion made by Barbara Prince, seconded by Duane Mann. The motion carried. Treasurer Duane Mann reported that for the past four months, our balance has remained fairly consistent. He reported that our electric bill for the church in August was higher than usual, which is likely due to the high temperatures. Chairman Steiner noted that it may also depend on the number of days calculated each month. Otherwise, income and expenses are in line. The ending balance on August 31, 2026, was \$41,807.05.

Financial Trustee Report – no report

Property Trustee – vacant

Worship Deacon – Tammy reported that she has decorated the sanctuary and narthex for fall. The basement will be decorated after a bridal shower in October.

Youth Deacon – Barbara shared that Hannah Davis is offering a "Little Disciples" class each Monday for home-schooled children ages 3 – 7. Hannah and Barbara will evaluate the participation each semester to determine the classes' future.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Tim combines activities for both churches in his report for July/August: 12 pastoral calls, 3 meetings, met with the Purdue Fraternity at Stoll's Lakeview for a communion service and breakfast. (They gave a generous donation to the church.)

Pastor taught 4 VBS classes, enjoyed vacation time over the summer and will be on vacation 18 October. (Augie Bauer will fill in.) The annual picnic on 30 August went very well. St. John's Loogootee was well-represented. Pastor represented both churches at the funeral of Rev. Larry Gadgerowicz in August at St. Luke's in Newburgh. He will be assisting at the annual Hill Church reunion service on 20 September. He will be on retreat on 1-2 October at Lutheran Hills Camp for the annual conference Advent retreat. Bible study and confirmation have resumed at Dubois. There are five confirmation students this year. Classes will run until the Wednesday before Ash Wednesday.

OLD BUSINESS

The signage on the north side of the church has been repaired.

The joint church picnic held on Sunday, August 30th at the Dubois Ruritan Park was well-attended by both congregations.

NEW BUSINESS

Our congregation is invited to attend a Reformation Day service and potluck at Dubois on October 25th at 11am (service followed by meal). Pastor Tim will share this on Sunday during announcements and ask that everyone consider if they still want a 9:00am service here that morning or if we all are going to attend the 11:00am service at Dubois.

The Annual Joint Council meeting will be held on October 13, 2026, at 6:30pm at Dubois.

Duane will work with the other congregation's treasurer to look at the budget, benefits, etc...

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Budget Report for August 2026

General Fund:	Balance on 8/1/26	\$41,710.30
Total Receipts	\$9,766.82.....	\$51,477.12
Disbursements		
Salaries	\$3,341.68	
Worship	\$509.60	
Office	\$194.90	
Utilities	\$1,892.15	
Rep/Main	\$200.00	
Misc.	\$3,531.74	
Total Disbursements.....		\$9,670.07
	Balance on 8/31/26	\$41,807.05

Special Funds:

Building Fund	\$24,208.78
Good Samaritan Fund	\$1,194.04
Synod Mission Support	\$300.00
Memorial Fund	\$9,286.99
Grace LC Legacy Gift	\$1,642.10

Stewardship Report August 2026

Date	Attendance	Offering
Sunday, August 02	29	\$1715.00*
Sunday, August 09	25	\$615.00
Sunday, August 16	24	\$1170.00
Sunday, August 23	31	\$455.00
Sunday, August 30	27	\$515.00

Needed weekly to meet the budget \$1105.00
**300 Mission Support*

(Highlights, continued from page 7)

that are tied to the joint venture finances.

Duane reported that he was notified by Portico that Pastor Tim's insurance will be going up in 2027. Also, Duane is working with a paving company to resurface a portion of our parking lot. Tammy moved to proceed with the work, seconded by Barbara. Motion carried.

DATES TO REMEMBER for 2026

September 20 – Hill Church Homecoming at 2:30pm
 September 27 – Linger Longer
 October 13, 2026 – Joint council meeting (6:30 pm) at Dubois
 November 1 – All Saints Day
 November 4 – Chili Day

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Angie Steiner, church council secretary



This month we have two special birthdays to celebrate (members 80 years old and up). We hope you will help us "shower" Verneeda and Bill with love by sending them a birthday card for their special day on the date listed with their name:

Verneeda Roach
(October 22, 1938)
13871 US Highway 231
Loogootee, IN 47553

Bill Whorrall
(October 24, 1943)
13669 Rama Dye Road
Shoals, IN 47581

Contact the church office if you know someone who is not listed above. We don't want to miss anyone. Thank you!!

November 15 - Operation Christmas Child box dedication
 November 19 - next council meeting (6 pm)
 November 22 - Loogootee hosts Dubois for a worship service and meal; service is at 10 am

October 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 The Divine Service 9 AM Pentecost 19	5	6	7 Commemoration Day for Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Pastor	8	9 Commemoration Day for Abraham	10
11 The Divine Service 9 AM Pentecost 20 Commemoration Day for Philip, the Deacon	12	13 Joint Church Council meeting with Dubois 6:30 PM	14	15	16	17 Commemoration Day for Ignatius of Antioch, Pastor and Martyr
18 The Divine Service 9 AM Pentecost 21 Feast Day of St. Luke, Evangelist	19	20 St. John's Journal Items are due today. Thank you!	21	22	23 Feast Day of St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Jesus and Martyr	24
25 The Divine Service 9 AM Reformation Sunday Linger Longer Commemoration Day for Dorcas, Lydia, & Phoebe	26 Commemoration Day for Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, and Paul Gerhardt, Hymnwriters	27	28 Feast Day of St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles	29	30	31 Set your clocks back one hour tonight! Reformation Day

Celebrations

- 1 Wrenlye Divine
- 2 Pastor Timothy Fleace
- 5 Matthew Fleace
Trenton Winger
- 6 Jack S. Divine
Tony & Teresa Haag (A)
Richard & Kay Barber (A)

- 7 Wyatt Smith
- 8 Owen Jones
- 9 David Whorrall
Neal Whorrall
- 13 Tad Lynch
Deron Steiner

- 19 Eli Fleace
- 20 Jack Divine
- 21 Oliver Mann
- 22 Verneeda Roach
- 24 Bill Whorrall
- 25 Debbie Hawkins
- 26 Larry & Linda Goldman (A)

Church Council

Chairperson - Deron Steiner

Secretary - Angie Steiner

Treasurer - Duane Mann

Financial Trustee - Karen Mann

Property Trustee - vacant

Worship Deacon - Tammy Wininger

Youth Deacon - Barbara Prince

Contact Information

Pastor Timothy Fleace
phone: 812-296-8163
email: fleacetim@gmail.com

church phone: 812-295-2451
church email:
stjohnlutheranloogootee@gmail.com
church website:
<https://loogooteelutheran.org>

Church Secretary
Barbara Prince
812-296-8164

St. John's Lutheran Church
202 NW First Street
PO Box 273
Loogootee, IN 47553

