



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church January Newsletter

January 2023



...Pr. Matthew P. Johnson

9141 County Road 101,
Corcoran, MN 55340
763-420-2426



Worship Schedule

Sundays:

8:00 am Divine Service
(live-streamed on our web-site: stj.lutheran.org)

9:30 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Divine Service

Address Updates:

Help us keep our files up-to-date. E-mail: secretary@stjlutheran.org or call 763-420-2426, ext. 10

Special points of interest:

- January Birthdays
- Monthly Calendar
- Pastoral Inspiration
- Minutes of the Deacon Council Meeting
- Financial Updates
- History Committee notes



Please remember...

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, it is up to YOU to find someone who will take over for you.

At this time last year *Roe V. Wade* was in place as a tortuously-argued Supreme Court decision from 1973 (decided in that year on January 22). It never was “the law of the land,” but many states are now attempting to pass legislative protections for abortion via their state legislatures and gubernatorial signatures. It is certain that Minnesota will follow such a trajectory. As Christians our church bells pealed last June when the Supreme Court issued its *Dobbs* decision that the Constitution does not recognize in a federal way the right to practice abortion. As Christians we must recognize that the argument has shifted and our efforts to persuade outsiders need to adjust to terrain much different (and much more difficult) than that encountered over the last fifty years.

As Christians our efforts to catechize our youth and all members continue in the exact same way as before, since the central texts of Scripture and Creed have not altered. Both texts start in the same way by heavily underscoring the truth that God is the Creator of all things. This, for Christians, is non-negotiable and completely sets the table for all that follows in Scripture and the Creed and our whole faith. After all, both in regard to sacred or theological texts, and in regard to human life, the beginning is excellent in its importance. The meaning to the first article in the Small Catechism famously personalizes the confession of God as the Creator of all things: “I believe that God has made ME...” This confession extends itself further and recognizes also others, all others, all other people, and all other things: “I believe that God has made me...and ALL CREATURES.” In fact, the German word translated “and” doesn’t merely place two realities side-by-side but indicates an ordered relationship in the sense of “together with.” Thus, the Christian confession states: “I believe that God has made me together with all creatures.” In applying this to the topic of abortion we could think not only of “mother and child” but “mother together with child” or “child together with mother...and father.”

In this newsletter article I would like to refer to some news reports and government statutes to make a sensible case for part of an argument that those who are pro-life can consider. It was reported that after *Dobbs* shook up the status quo a woman was celebrated who legally challenged traffic tickets she had received for driving in the Carpool Lane. She argued that since she was pregnant, she should be counted as two people, and the fact that she was being penalized could be construed as meaning that the law was confused at this point and perhaps (in her mind or that of her lawyers) either her tickets should be removed or babies in the womb are not to be counted as persons. Though this has the look more of a political stunt, notice how the terms of this discussion involve the mother in a.) using her infant, b.) for her own benefit, c.) in a pretty mundane matter, rather than seeing the infant *in utero* as the primary beneficiary and the mother as the primary provider for a nine-month period that could—and is designed to—bless many other lives in a lifetime of love. These things are neither mundane nor self-centered.

Before returning to legal realities, I would like to note that there is much evidence that the *primary* relationship of mother as provider and child in the womb as beneficiary is not an entirely one-way street. There are ways in which the mother’s health is improved while pregnant, including the infant providing his or her own white blood cells as additional disease fighters for mommy. That is, the two fight disease (including cancer) found in mom together as a team.

The political stunt involving the carpool lane is dwarfed by the legal reality that does (finally and importantly) take notice of children within the womb and does count them as a second person. As of May 2018, the website for the National Conference of State Legislatures noted that 38 states (including MN) had fetal homicide laws on the books that would



bring legal charge against a person (varying from manslaughter to homicide, with the last sometimes given in degrees like third-degree, second-degree, or first-degree) who ended the life of an unborn child. Of these 38 states, 29 had laws that reached to the earliest stages of pregnancy (again, this includes MN). Indeed, a national law that provides an umbrella echoing these state concerns will likewise face severe attack—namely, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act from 2004, a bill first sponsored by Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina at the time.

Christian citizens need to know that these kinds of laws are under direct assault by the pro-choice establishment as a vestige friendly to pro-life views that needs to be erased. This is especially true when it is considered that some of the most grotesque abortion legislation (like in Michigan or Illinois) intends to permit abortion up until the very latest stages of pregnancy. Pro-life arguments have long asked that if abortion is permissible at one point in a pregnancy, why not at another—“where is the limit?” Killing an infant outside the womb seems permissible based on the underlying pro-abortion arguments. We may go from having laws counting the infant in utero as a person regarding purposeful harm and loss of life, to current legislation that pushes abortion into the latest stages of pregnancy, to eventually having to argue about the personhood of an infant outside the womb. This last practice of killing an infant outside the womb (infanticide) was quite common in the ancient world before Christianity arrived on the scene.

To see how Christianity shaped not only cultural practice and legal norms this newsletter article will conclude in these last paragraphs by noting the long-established history of pro-life influence. In the ancient world the Greeks regularly practiced the exposure of infants (something likewise true for many of their “gods” born out of lewd circumstances—like Zeus, Poseidon, etc). The Romans—despite their mythic origin (the twins Romulus and Remus were abandoned to the elements and suckled by a she-wolf, with the one twin later killing the other and thereby establishing the city of Rome)—were more direct in their ending of infant life, either throwing those born and unwanted into rivers and sewers or terminating the life already in the womb. In both societies, these practices were motivated by economic concerns or deformity in the child (something that in those days could only be known once the child was outside the womb).

Even unbelieving pagans can recognize that depopulation is a threat to the future stability and success of an empire. In our own nation there were stunned statements this last fall from the establishment expressing concern for the unbalanced population and declining birthrate. After Dobbs I heard many citizens expressing the need for teaching men greater responsibility and the avoidance of casual or extra-marital sex—all things taught to our catechumens and young couples in premarital instruction within the Christian Church. These types of things were recognized by societies long ago. The story is told of how Augustus gathered his troops in Rome and separated them into two camps, the married and the unmarried. In front of all, Caesar praised the former and rebuked the latter (who were more numerous) because they were jeopardizing the future of the Romans and fighting for empty nothingness. His concerns were embodied in Roman law in 9 A.D.—laying heavy disabilities on unmarried men and extending special political privileges to fathers of three children.

Non-Christian emperors over the next three hundred years did express concerns about depopulation and attempted some intermittent regulation of infanticide. The first Christian emperor, Constantine, tried to check infanticide head-on in 315 A.D. in the city of Rome by stating that the children of those too poor to support them were to be cared for at public expense. He extended this law to other parts of the empire by 322 A.D. However, the resultant drain on the treasury was so massive that the policy had to be discontinued. In 329 Constantine re-established an ancient Roman law that said that a man had the right to sell a child he did not wish to raise. Exposure of infants was made a capital crime in 374 A.D. and codified by emperor Justinian a century and a half later (Chapters 3 & 4, Codex Justinian VIII 52).

Long before any legal sanction, Christians already acted strangely in comparison to the prevailing pagan cultural practices. They adopted children left in the garbage heap or dung hill. They gave burial to those whose bodies had been mangled in the elements. In fact, one of the catacombs has 2/3 of its places for burial of smaller size (to fit infants) and more than half of these have no inscription or name attached. Even MN state law (for the moment) recognizes that the unborn can have the crime of murder committed against them (though, according to the stipulations and definition of the law, this cannot be committed by a mother). MN State Statute 609.266 gives the definitions that apply, while MN State Statute 609.2661 gives the specific cases that are covered by the law as criminal. This vestige of Christian influence and the legal precedent enacted by Christian emperors over 1700 years ago is likely to face withering onslaught and scorn in the coming years. Nevertheless, our Christian love of God's gift of life and of His divine Scriptures will continue to be expressed in our formative catechetical instruction in the darkening decades ahead.

~Pr. Johnson

Websites consulted for this article are listed below:

National Conference of State Legislatures (ncls.org/research/health/fetal-homicide-state-laws.aspx) accessed 12/09/22

Office of the Revisor of Statutes, State of Minnesota (revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/609.266) accessed 12/09/22 provides definitions to be applied in the statutes on this topic

Office of the Revisor of Statutes, State of Minnesota (revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/609.2661) accessed 12/09/22 provides the statute referred to above in the newsletter article

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School
Council of Deacon Meeting Minutes - November 10, 2022

Present	First Name	Last Name	Present	First Name	Last Name
X	Rob	Borcherding		Russ	Reznecheck
X	Leif	Briel	X	Dennis	Schwecke
X	Todd	Haag	X	Ted	Schmidt
X	Andrew	Heinen			
X	David	Kiesow	X	Gretchen	Dolan
X	Scott	Kulberg		Pastor	Johnson
	Jesse	Mathwig	X	Pastor	Moss
X	Ross	Meyer	X	Steve	Kruse
X	Cory	Olson	X	Sam	Kuphal

Call to Order:

By Chairman Ross Meyer at: 7:00 pm

Opening Prayer:

By Pastor Moss

Theological Study:

Book: **Why I Am a Lutheran** given to Deacon Council for future reading assignments.

Membership Renewal, Proposed Plan

What constitutes "Active" Membership in our roster?

What constitutes "Inactive" Membership in our roster?

Deacon Minutes:

10/13/22 Deacon Meeting Minutes- M/S Approved.

Deacon Board Reports:

Pastors Report:

Written report submitted.

NEW MEMBER(s): None

Transfer out:

Sydney (Kappel) Tesh to River of Life, St. Peter, MN

Cheryl Finke to Glory of Christ, Plymouth, MN

Jacob, Kristina, Edwin Kothrade to Spirit of Christ, Ham Lake, MN

Doug & Julie Winsor to Zion, Alexandria, MN

Mike & Lisa McFerrin to Glory of Christ, Plymouth, MN

M/S approved Transfers

Removals and Record-Keeping:

Steve & Rebecca Tobin

Luke Radniecki

Meghan Tillmann

Bessie Batten

Katie Winsor

Carla Bebeau

Lori Kruger

Vicki & Jaclyn Essig

Kristin (Foggia) Miller

Derek Goerke

Jason Schmitz

Nicholas Tillmann

Mary Banaszak

Baptisms:

Caden Titus Sandliuzza

Marriage:

Chris Anderson to Krista Mellum October 13, 2022

Noah Walton to Alyssa Walberg October 22, 2022

Board of Spiritual Life:

Written report submitted.

Dennis Schwecke agreed to serve as Chairman and Cory Olson agreed to serve as Secretary.

Business Manager's Report:

Written report submitted.

Projected Fiscal Year Deficit: (-\$178K) compared to (-\$74K) Budget

Total revenue projected at \$1,787K compared to \$1,914K budget (-\$127K)

Board of Administration:

No meeting in October.

Principal's Report:

Written report submitted.

- Teachers attended the National Lutheran Education Association Convocation in Milwaukee.
- Students' year-long chapel project in support of the Loeslie family has raised \$787.40 to date.
- Faculty working on accreditation documents.
- Department of Human Services conducted an unannounced inspection Oct. 26. Of the 400 checklist items St Johns preschool scored a 100%.

Board of Education:

Written report submitted.

- New St. John's School logo.
- Marketing and promotion – may spend up to \$5,000 for production of 3 videos for St. John's School.

Resolutions:

From BOE-Call Committee

- Be it so moved to convene a call committee reporting to the Council of Deacons for the purpose of calling commissioned minister(s) of religion to fill open and upcoming vacancies for the 2023-2024 school year. Committee membership will consist of Brenna Koehler, Gretchen Dolan, Tori Kuehne, Russ Reznecheck, Scott Say and Susan Johnson.

M/S Motion passed.

From BLS – Verbal Announcements at Close of Divine Service

- Resolved that the Pastors not make verbal announcements at the end of Divine Services, except when required by the Constitution Bylaws (announcing regular and special Congregational Assemblies, deacon nominations, calls extended, received, accepted), or Service dates/times that didn't make the bulletin deadline).

M/S Motion withdrawn.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

St. John's Lutheran Church & School Monthly Financial Reporting – November 2022

November Summary:

- Strong November performance fueled primarily by offerings coming in **\$14K** over budget, helping to cover some of the shortfall of previous months
- November deficit of **\$11K** compared to **\$25K** budgeted deficit (total Revenue – total Expenses)
 - Total revenue favorable **\$13K** of budget
 - Offerings favorable **\$14K** above budget; school tuition/fees short **\$1K** of budget
 - Total expenses flat to budget
 - Salaries/Wages/Benefits under budget by **\$7K** (mainly fewer staff than budgeted)
 - Maintenance over budget by **\$4K** (some HVAC issues in Nov and sprinkler/fire systems inspection fees)

Cash and Investment Balance Details:

Operating Fund – Funded primarily by offerings and school tuition/fees. Pays for operating expenses and critical for short-term viability.

Gifting Fund – Primarily funded by member gifts and fundraisers. Pays for capital improvements/repairs and flow-thru giving to mercy/kindness.

School endowment fund – Funded primarily by member gifts and fundraisers with goal to ensure the long-term viability of affordable Lutheran education.

Cash and Investment Balances As of November 30, 2022

	TOTAL		
	AS OF NOV 30, 2022	AS OF NOV 30, 2021 (PY)	CHANGE
▶ A) Operating Fund	287,579	374,910	-87,331
▶ B) Gifting Fund	337,222	468,599	-131,376
▶ C) School Endowment Fund	347,293	350,567	-3,273

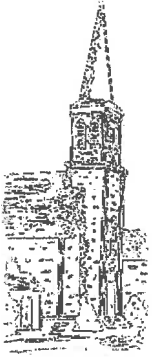
Last Month Operating Details:

Budget vs Actuals-Last Month November 2022

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
▼ Revenue				
4010 General Fund Offerings	62,774	48,400	14,374	130.00 %
4020 Tuition	91,734	94,883	-3,149	97.00 %
4030 Other School Income	7,790	5,804	1,986	134.00 %
4400 Other Income	320	180	140	178.00 %
Total Revenue	\$162,618	\$149,267	\$13,351	109.00 %
▼ Expenditures				
6200 Salaries & Wages	114,696	119,037	-4,341	96.00 %
6400 Benefits	22,476	25,238	-2,762	89.00 %
6500 Other Staff Expenses	1,856	1,629	227	114.00 %
6510 Church Programs	1,693	1,342	351	126.00 %
6560 Operating/Misc Expenses	5,512	4,673	839	118.00 %
6570 Utilities and Maintenance	16,035	11,839	4,196	135.00 %
7100 School Academic Expenses	9,312	8,336	976	112.00 %
7300 School Bus Service	1,176	950	226	124.00 %
7900 Other School Expenses	1,296	1,405	-110	92.00 %
Total Expenditures	\$174,052	\$174,449	\$ -397	100.00 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -11,434	\$ -25,182	\$13,748	45.00 %

Reporting Callouts

- 1) Fund balances do not include the Cemetery, Church Worker Scholarship Funds, Hot Lunch or PTL.
- 2) Year-To-Date and more detailed ins/outs for Gifting/Endowment funds will be reported quarterly
- 3) Full Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss reporting available via request to sam.kuphal@stjlutheran.org



St. John's History Committee

Did you Know:

- Following closure of the school during the 1955-56 year due to the lack of a teacher, enrollment for the 1956-57 year was 45 students. This was the last year of the one room school. See the photo below.
- Do you know any of the students in the photo? The History Committee would love your help in identifying as many of the students as we can. Please contact Caroline Schaefer at (763) 425-2279.
- Based on available records, school enrollment varied from 3 to 7 students from 1909-1919. The highest enrollment for PreK-Eighth grade was 245 students in 2002.

Interested in church history? Please join us for our next meeting on January 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.





2022 MISSION PROGRAMS: St. John's currently supports the following mission programs: Synod, Soldiers of the Cross, and that of Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram and Rev. P.A. Charles Richard-Wokoma. Please note: Any contributions to missions other than these four options at this time will be divided between these currently supported programs. May God bless you for your generosity!

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT: *The mission of St. John's Lutheran School is to nurture young people through God's Word, sound Lutheran doctrine and worship, and a strong academic foundation. Our goal is to equip students to lead their lives as God's baptized children in this world and to carry out Christ's command to "make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19)*

ST. JOHN'S GALA: HUGE thank you to the Gala Committee team members, volunteers, donors and attendees at the Gala, "Give Joyfully". We pray that God will be glorified through this event, and all thanks to Him! We are ecstatic to announce that the event raised more than \$75,000! Please reach out to Liz Glock with questions related to this year's event.

Fellowship Committee:

EPIPHANY EVENT: You are invited to join us for the Epiphany Wine & Cheese Reception following the 7pm Divine Service on Friday, January 6th. A special door offering will be taken in support of St. John's Altar Guild acknowledging the vital services they provide.

CHILI COOKOFF: January 22nd following the 10:30 Divine Service

OFFERING ENVELOPES: The boxes of offering envelopes for 2023 have been placed in the church mailboxes. Be aware the renumbering is year-specific, so please stop using and discard your 2022 envelopes *after* December 25th, and kindly begin using your new envelopes effective January 1st and thereafter. 2022 Statements will be distributed in mid-January. Contact church secretary Ruth if you need assistance.

YOUTH EVENT: Tubing at Elm Creek Saturday, January 21st ... watch for details in the weekly bulletins.

A PRO-LIFE ARTICLE FROM WOMEN'S CARE CENTER ANOKA

"I had an abortion scheduled...

all the paperwork filled out, the money sorted out, too," says Alexa.

Alexa came "just for the free ultrasound" to see how far along she was. She never planned to fall in love with her baby.

Because of you, baby Violet caught her mom's heart, when she saw her on the ultrasound screen.

Alexa says, "You could see her arms, her legs, her heart beating. She already looked like a human, even at 6 weeks!"

And after the ultrasound, Alexa is so grateful for the 36 visits to help her "feel so prepared."

When the day came for her abortion appointment, Alexa didn't go. She says, "I knew I couldn't do it. When I look back, I feel bad about what I almost did. But of course, I am happy!"

Alexa is now a doting mom.

"Violet is growing so fast; she's hit every milestone early. Seeing her develop, that's what I love the most."

Hundreds of women like Alexa have come to Women's Care Center Anoka in 2022. Over 450 free ultrasounds have been provided in 2022! The center is now open full-time hours with full-time free ultrasound, free pregnancy tests, and free counseling. Thank you for your prayers and support of Women's Care Center Anoka. *Thank you on behalf of the hundreds of women who will come in 2023.*
~God bless, Nyla Middleton, Outreach Director 612-709-4100

SCHEDULING CHURCH AND SCHOOL EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

Please remember to check with the church/school secretary about scheduling any event.

The Secretary keeps a main calendar and all church and school events need to be coordinated through this main calendar!



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

January



Phone: 763-420-2426
 Fax: 763-420-7198

Web Portal:
www.stjlutheran.org

E-mail:
secretary@stjlutheran.org
secretary2@stjlutheran.org

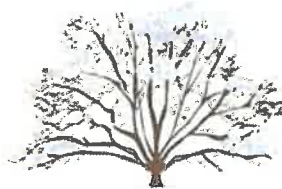
EDUCATING A NEW GENERATION OF LUTHERANS...

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. Listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org.

GET CHURCH EMAIL COMMUNICATION: If you are not already on our church email distribution list for notices such as upcoming church events, funerals, weather closures, etc. and wish to be included, please provide your email address to: secretary@stjlutheran.org

~LIFE NOTES~

"[Jesus] will care for you until you stand before His throne. Trust Him. Seek Him. Serve Him. Love Him. He's your King. He suffered and died for you. He rose for you. He only has words of love and promise to speak to you. So, when all is equal for you on your deathbed, you can rejoice and say, 'Come quickly, my King,' because He has given you the promise, 'You will be with me in paradise.'" Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life www.lutheransforlife.org



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 JoAnn Manthel Marissa Radintz Danny Schilling	2 Harvey Chase Larry Daltchow	3 Erika Beck Noelle Diers	4 Isalah Beck Cathy Bezel Sawyer Dolan Karen MacMillan	5	6 Lorinda Ims Micah Sumstad	7
8 Joel Johnson	9 Emmy Haag	10 Louls Thomford	11	12 Rocky Johnson Bob Radintz	13 Tristan Provo Scott Say	14
15 David Lindblad Thomas Schutte	16 Jack Ashland Joseph Radintz Megan Stewart	17 Theodore Huth Cory Olson	18 Reece Fish Thomas Wood	19	20 James Gaden Reinhold Meyer Cilla Nadeau Brian Prubs Peggy Purdes	21 Madelyn Schmidt
22 Anita Cornelius	23 Everett Chase	24	25 Mason Brastad	26	27 Ryan Fish	28 Thomas Cook Maddy Gangelhoff Suzanne Haag Stephanie Thompson
29 Tanya Brown Megan Brownliffson Emily Singfield	30 Al Berge Randy Goerke	31				





January 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Year's Day 8:00 am Divine Svc [indv gls] 9:15 am NO Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Svc [cm cup] (Baptisms-Lane)	2 No School / No ESP ~ Christmas Break	3 School Resumes 9:00 am Adult Bible Study	4 6:00 pm Wed Catechism (Public School Students)	5 12pm Deacon Reports Due	6 8:10 am Chapel 7:00 pm Epiphany Div Svc 8:00 pm Epiphany Wine & Cheese Reception	7
8 8:00 am Divine Svc [cm cup] 9:15 am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Svc [indv gls]	9 5:30 pm Fellowship Committee Meeting 6:30 pm History Committee Meeting	10 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm PTL Meeting	11 6:00 pm Wed Catechism (Public School Students)	12 9:30 am Pastors Circuit Winkel 7:00 pm Deacons Council Meeting	13 8:10 am Chapel	14
15 8:00 am Divine Svc [indv gls] 9:15 am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Svc [cm cup]	16 No School - MLK Day	17 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm Board Meetings	18 6:00 pm Wed Catechism (Public School Students)	19 FEB NWSLTR DEADLINE	20 8:10 am Chapel	21 Youth Tubing at Elm Creek
22 All-School Choir Sings at Both Divine Services 8:00 am Divine Svc [cm cup] 9:15 am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Svc [indv gls] 11:30 am Fellowship Event- Chill Cookoff	23 National Lutheran Schools Week	24 National Lutheran Schools Week 9:00 am Adult Bible Study	25 National Lutheran Schools Week 6:00 pm Wed Catechism (Public School Students)	26 National Lutheran Schools Week	27 National Lutheran Schools Week 7:00 am PTL Pancake Breakfast	28
29 8:00 am Divine Svc [indv gls] 9:15 am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Svc [cm cup]	30 9:00 am Adult Bible Study	31	6:00 pm Wed Catechism (Public School Students)			31

*Monthly events are subject to change

January 2023



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
9141 County Road 101
Corcoran, MN 55340

Divine Services Live-Streamed on Sundays at 8:00 am
Sunday Divine Service 10:30 am



THE SERVICE OF INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION
is available this month by appointment only. Take advantage of this opportunity to hear
God's Word of forgiveness spoken to you individually in Jesus' Name.

“If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us
from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

LAST ONE OUT, PLEASE REMEMBER TO LOCK THE DOORS, PICK UP AFTER YOURSELVES.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!