

Familiarity, efficiency, and the demands for “effectiveness” caused the purpose to be avoided while the structure remained. There were no problems in pulling an ox from the ditch, but to do good for a neighbor was considered work.

Instead of the Sabbath being a respite from the weekly grind, it became one more chore in the week. Rather than taking the time to rest, the Sabbath became, at the least, a burden to be borne and at the worst something to be dreaded. It is sad how what God creates for one purpose can be transformed by mankind into a very different thing. Jesus was frustrated by this kind of approach in all manner of Jewish tradition. Mark 2 gives the story of the healing of the crippled man, an act of kindness on the Sabbath that was questioned by the religious folk of the day. Mark 3 begins with another story of kindness in the healing of the man with the withered right hand, again frustrating those who already had their way of keeping the Sabbath.

Before we move to condemnation or lament about the shortsightedness of the Jews of Jesus’ day, we need to question our own behaviors. Surely we can see the desire to make everything fit in a one hour “worship service” has modified the early church’s observance of the communion experience? Our use of “break away” crackers and individual serving sized grape juice is hardly the same thing as their sharing a meal and using the most common elements of the meal to recall a special event. It doesn’t become a problem until the demands of familiarity, efficiency, and effectiveness rob the observance from its purpose. We have to guard ourselves from these places Satan might rob us of the blessing God intended.

*Grace and Peace,  
Carl*



**St John Church of Christ**  
**A Family of God**      **September 11, 2016**

Janet and I get in ruts, familiar behavior patterns that function to allow us to get the necessary things done. Familiar, efficient, effective, but still a rut. It isn’t evil, it isn’t forced upon us by others, instead it is our pattern of work.

This week we broke it up a bit, picking Janet up from work and traveling down to stay in our 5<sup>th</sup> wheel at Oxford for a bluegrass festival. We were rained in for much of the night, but both of us noticed how breaking the pattern of weekly behavior was refreshing.

I think most of us are creatures of habit in one form or the other. From putting the same sock on first each time to which chair we sit in when we enter a familiar room, we fall into patterns. God knows a little about this.

When Moses descended from the mountain with the 10 Commandments, the Sabbath was “one of the rules”. It was a reminder of God’s creation of the world in 6 days, as well as a directive for us to take some time to observe the Sabbath.

Fast forward just a bit of time and observance of the Sabbath became just another one of the “rules to live by”.

*St John Church of Christ  
609 N Pearl  
P. O. Box 241  
St John, KS 67576*

*Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.*

**SUNDAY:** Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am  
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am  
Worship Service—10:45 am  
Afternoon Service—1:15 pm

**WEDNESDAY:** Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm  
Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)

**ELDERS:** Richard Breensing, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,  
Terry Sallee, George Shelton

**DEACONS:** Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

**TREASURER:** Richard Breensing

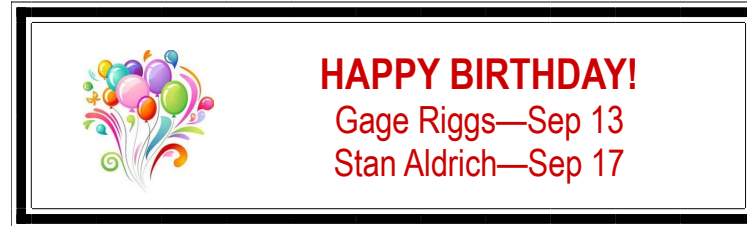
### WORSHIP ORDER FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

SONG LEADER: Stan Aldrich  
GATHERING SONG: No. 66—Doxology  
WELCOME: Tom Turner  
SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 41:10 (Garland Mansel)  
SONGS: No. 461—Be Not Dismayed Whate'er Betide  
No. 414—Anywhere with Jesus  
No. 508—A Wonderful Savior (vs 1, 2)  
No. 800—What a Friend We Have in Jesus  
PRAYER: Richard Breensing  
SONG: No. 315—When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
COMMUNION: Orrin Feril  
Chris Mansel  
Fred Johnson  
Jeff Scott  
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril  
SONG: No. 406—Just a Closer Walk with Thee  
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)  
SONG: No. 940—Only a Step (vs 1)  
PRAYER: Clint Kinnamon

(CCLI #2440129)

### WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship and hope that you will come again! Please stay for our potluck lunch today.



### COOKOUT AT LYONS'

You are invited to a cookout at the home of Chet & Marla Lyons on Saturday, September 24th, at 12:30pm. Bring a lawn chair and a side dish. Hope to see you there!

### LADIES RETREAT AT SILVER MAPLE CAMP

Please make note of the 2016 SMC Ladies Retreat, planned for September 23-24. The Salina Church of Christ is hosting this event; cost is \$40 and registration forms are available in the foyer, or online at [www.silvermaplecamp.org](http://www.silvermaplecamp.org).

### MEN'S RETREAT

**Men's Retreat @ Silver Maple Camp—October 16-18.**

### COLLEGE ADDRESS

You are encouraged to send notes throughout the semester to Kade Kinnamon at this address:

827 Thurston  
Manhattan, KS 66502

Please submit other addresses for sharing, so we can encourage our college students!

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**Glennys Sallabedra** (Tom's mother) - had shoulder surgery at Hutchinson Regional last Thursday  
**Noah Witt** (Chet & Marla's grandson) - still not feeling well  
**Stan Aldrich**—doing better  
**Jill Morphew** (Janet's sister-in-law in Pueblo, Colorado) - recovery from her cancer surgery  
**Michael Mitchell** (Betty Chlumsky's son) - recent spine surgery  
**Gladys Hornbaker**—marble size tumor in her lung  
**Alex Garcia** (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) - recent surgery  
**Annie Kent** (Lupe Hudson's niece) - cancer  
**Eldon Ivy** (Marilyn's brother) - in hospice care, and his wife, Sheryl  
**David Ivy** (Marilyn's brother) and his wife, Kathy  
**Marilyn Sprawka** (Don Rugan's sister) - cancer  
**Jenny Walker** (Carol's sister)  
**Sharon Goode Ames**—lung cancer  
**Roger Dick**—ongoing cancer treatments  
**Jonathan Batten** – cancer  
**Theo Birkett** (Tara's mother)  
**Jim Soukup** (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])  
**Bonnie Guthrie** (Kay's mother) – now on Hospice Care at Leisure Homestead in Stafford  
**Myron Breensing** (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead  
**Laura Wyatt**—Kenwood Plaza  
**Vic & Phyllis Staub** – Kenwood Plaza

Church website: [www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org](http://www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org)