

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Periodicals

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We hope everyone enjoys the 71st Annual Sweet Corn Festival — August 9th to 12th!

Find us on Facebook!

Search for "St. John's Lutheran Church" and join our page.



August Birthdays, Anniversaries, Special Days, Upcoming Events

God's blessings to...

75th+ Birthday

Aug. 3 Pearl Merritt  
Aug. 4 Joyce Dinges  
Aug. 6 Daniel Randecker  
Aug. 9 Leslie Althaus  
Aug. 10 Mildred Stamberger  
Aug. 15 David Schroeder  
Aug. 17 Carl Kerchner  
Aug. 26 Marcia Engels  
Aug. 29 Ed Bock  
Aug. 31 Allan (Tim) Munson

Happy 50th+ Anniversary!

Dale & Georgia Mathesius  
August 3rd — 50 years  
Roger & Barbara Anderson  
August 5th — 57 years  
David & Melanie Schroeder  
August 17th — 55 years  
J. Leonard & Marilyn Schaller  
August 22nd — 59 years  
Dennis & Connie Pohl  
August 26th — 51 years

Upcoming Events

August

2 Sarah Circle at 1pm  
2 Executive Board meeting at 6:30pm  
2 All Teams meeting at 7pm  
4 Highway Clean-up at 9am  
5 Youth Event—Links for Leukemia following worship  
16 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm  
20 Newsletter Deadline  
23 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am  
28 Mission Quilt Day at 9am

September

3 Office Closed — Labor Day  
6 All Teams meeting at 7pm  
9 Sunday School resumes at 10:10am  
20 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm

Congratulations!

Matthew & Jamie Kreiser  
August 16th — 15 years  
Gregory & Judy Forney  
August 30th — 15 years



Welcome Home, Team Benton Harbor!

St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

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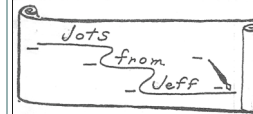
Special items of interest:

- We hope you will join us for worship!  
Saturday worship - 5pm  
Sunday worship - 9am  
Fellowship - 10am
- The hospital does not contact the church when you are hospitalized. Please have a family member call the office and we will arrange to have Pastor Jeff or Pastor Kim contact you. If you have an emergency outside of office hours, please contact Pastor Jeff at (815) 931-8324.
- St. John's offers Electronic Giving. If you are interested please contact Susan in the office.
- Volunteers are needed in August to host Fellowship Time. Sign up in Kitchen.
- The Conflict Resolution Workshop has been canceled due to low registration.

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Off-the-Wall Advice



I'm certain you've all seen sayings posted on outdoor church signs. All are meant to be clever; some are a bit humorous; most are trite, and have little to do with any Biblical truth. I tend to ignore them. That being said, I did find a group of sayings on a wall plaque in, of all places, a hair salon a few weeks ago, that I found to be not only truthful about life, but also worth reading periodically and sharing with others. It's literally "off-the-wall" advice, and although it had no title, it could easily have been called, "A Healthy Way for the Christian to Live." Here's what it said:


This is your life. Find a passion and pursue it. Fall in love. Dream big. Drink wine, eat good food and spend quality time with good friends. Laugh every day. Believe in magic. Tell stories. Reminisce about the good old days but look with optimism to the future. Travel often. Learn more. Be creative. Spend time with people you admire. Seize opportunities when they reveal themselves. Love with all your heart. Never give up. Do what you love. Be true to who you are. Make time to enjoy the simple things in life. Spend time with family. Forgive even when it's hard. Smile often. Be grateful. Be the change you wish to see in the world. Follow your dreams. Try new things. Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. Work hard. Don't count the minutes, count the laughs. Embrace change. Trust in yourself. Be thankful. Be nice to everyone. Be happy. Live for today. And above all... make every moment count.

When I first read these words, my thoughts drifted to the words of Jesus in John 10:10. "I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly." Jesus isn't talking about eternal life here, he's talking about life as we live it in the here and now. Jesus' goal is to enable us to live life to its fullest. How do we do that? By becoming his faithful disciples: learn his teachings; submit our lives to his authority; and follow him wherever he leads us. Do that, and we will experience the abundant life—all that our Lord intends for us. I can actually visualize a situation in which Jesus' has been teaching his disciples, and Peter, or James, or John, perhaps ask him, "What shall we do?" And Jesus, with a wry smile on his face, says the words on that wall plaque (or something similar).

I wish I knew who this author was, because I'd love to say thank-you for these little pearls of wisdom. Incorporating even just a handful of them into our daily routines could certainly help move us closer to the abundant living Jesus has in mind for us. Imagine how much better life might become if we added two handful or even more. Yes, I'm sure that every one of us could add something to the list. I'm also sure that the author didn't mean for his list to be all-inclusive. So maybe he meant to get us thinking about such ideas so that we'd finish the list for ourselves. Whatever the case may be, I think both the author and Jesus would agree that we all need to lead better lives. Both seem to be saying, "Life is precious; don't waste it!"

~ Pastor Jeff





### St. John's Youth invites you into Mission with us!

**“LINKS For LEUKEMIA because we believe in Benny.”**

Ben Bokus is a nephew of Sarah Coss, a dear family friend of the Beetz family, and a classmate/peer of our high school students. He has been recently diagnosed with leukemia and is at St. Jude's beginning his healing journey with intensive treatment. His family has been separated between there and here. We'd like to support Ben's healing by praying intentionally for him as well as his family through a 3 DAY **AROUND-THE-CLOCK** prayer chain beginning 6am Monday, Aug.13 through 6am Thursday, Aug. 16, as well as provide him and his family with a “shower” of encouragement through cards and notes that they can open and read, and read, and read. We are going to assemble two identical paper chains – each link with a praying person's name written on it – to be delivered both to St. Jude's for Ben and to the Bokus house for the family to hang up. It will be a visual representation of the prayers and encouragement we are surrounding them with in hopes of promoting healing, hope, and encouragement.

Here are ways you can join us:

- 1) Please consider signing up for one or more ½ hour time slots in which you will pray for that time from wherever you are in whatever way you are most comfortable by going to <https://tinyurl.com/BlessingsForBen> and filling your name in the time slot(s) you desire to cover. **Sign-up goes through Aug. 4.** If you need help you can contact Karen Goy 815-228-2391 or someone will be available after church on July 29 to help sign you up.
- 2) Please tell others about the sign up and encourage them to consider joining us.
- 3) Please consider writing a card or note to Ben or his family to be delivered. You can drop them off in the box outside the church office OR place them in the collection tote on the Landgraf porch at 1012 Michigan Avenue.

***"When a believing person prays, great things happen."*** (James 5:1)

### Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the July 19, 2018 Church Council meeting.

- Council approved the Ministry Site Profile submitted by the Call Committee;
- Council approved continuing with 9am worship (alternating between traditional and contemporary styles) and 10:10am to 11:10am Sunday School this fall;
- Council approved the *Kids Against Hunger* food pack event on Saturday, October 13th; and
- Council accepted the resignations of Bill Garthe and Shylah Ward from the Council and approved the appointments of Roberta Wendel and Carol Wheeler to the Council.

Finance Report Year To Date thru June 2018:

Budgeted Income \$179,010  
Actual Income \$167,594  
Budgeted Expense \$191,895  
Actual Expense \$177,832  
Behind Budget on Regular Offerings by -\$13,182  
Special Offerings: \$311 (Shoe Drive)

**Well done, Team Benton Harbor!**



**Can you believe it is almost time for the new school year?** School supply lists are ready and the stores have all the supplies on their shelves. This is a reminder that we at St. John's continue to support **Lutheran World Relief**. In addition to making quilts, we also assemble school kits. A total of 8 items are needed for each kit. LWR is very specific about items that are allowed in the school kits, so please refer to the list shown below. When you are shopping, would you consider purchasing and donating any of these items for our **LWR School Kit Project**. There is a box marked "School Supplies" in the Fellowship Hall for these items. Thank you for your continued support of LWR.



**Notebook**  
(spiral 70 pgs)



**Ruler**



**Sharpener**



**Scissors**  
(blunt)



**#2 Pencils**  
(unsharpened)



**Ink Pens**  
(no gel)



**16-24 Crayons**



**Eraser**



## St. John's Youth News

*"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"*





**The 2018-2019 Sunday School year** will resume on Sunday, September 9th following 9am worship. Sunday School begins at 10:10am and dismisses at 11:10am. Registration forms and more information will be mailed to homes in August. Please watch for more information in the weekly bulletins and the September *Eagle* newsletter.

**Backpack Blessing**



Students of all ages (and teachers, too) are invited to bring your backpack to worship with you on Sunday School Rally Day, September 9th for a special "back to school" prayer. You will be called forward to have your backpack blessed and a gift will be attached to it for you to carry God's Love with you throughout your entire school year. We're looking forward to seeing you on September 9th for the Backpack Blessing and Rally Day!

**Junior High & High School Students**



Following worship on Sunday, August 5th, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast while we work to decorate and assemble the "Links for Leukemia" prayer chains for Ben Bokus and his family. We will also have a computer available to assist people from the congregation who would like to sign-up for the 3 Day Around-The-Clock prayer chain. Please contact Karen if you would like to contribute something for breakfast.



**We say "Thank You!!"** to our junior high students, friends, and adult helpers who met recently to do some weeding at the parsonage. After their hard work, they enjoyed a picnic lunch, hiking, and loads of fun at Matthiesen Park.



**"We are many parts, but one body..."**  
**THANKS for teaching us how to be "the church!!"**

WOW! My heart is so FULL this month as I reflect on the ways our youth have been blessed to be a HUGE part of "being the church," and all that they have learned about how to "be family" and "the church" from all of you!

At the end of June five of our confirmation students went to camp supported by parents, 2 drivers/chaperones, 12 specific prayer partners, and 2 in-kind offering donors.

On July 6<sup>th</sup> we hosted Lunch in the Park. We were blessed by having 37 workers, 27 donors, and all kinds of you that came to enjoy lunch that day (and brought friends with you)!

Later in July, 14 of our young people headed out to Benton Harbor in mission, supported by parents, 4 adult leaders, 35 specific prayer partners, 29 financial sponsors, and 5 in-kind offering donors.

All of these events had also been supported through your participation in our various fundraisers throughout the year!

"We are many parts, but one body..." **THANK YOU!** for the part that you are in this body of St. John's and the ways that you inspire and encourage our young people to discover their part in it too. **THANK YOU!** to our young people for the many ways you offer us the opportunity to join you. How amazing to part of a church family that so beautifully reflects Christ's love to each other!

~ Karen Goy, Youth Director

