

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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~ Altar Guild News ~

We extend a "Thank You!" to Joyce Dinges and Jean Schwingle for their many years of dedicated service to St. John's through their involvement in the Altar Guild. If you are interested in serving on the Altar Guild, please speak to Myrna Simon or contact the church office.

Find us on Facebook!

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



Periodicals

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July Birthdays, Anniversaries,
Special Days, Upcoming Events

God's blessings to...

75th+ Birthday

July 3 Harold Meisel
July 25 Wilbert Kerchner
Janet Piller

Happy Anniversary!

Gerald & Sandra Eich
July 6th — 60 years

Harold & Darlene Meisel
July 6th — 72 years

Ron & Deb Rose
July 21st — 45 years

Upcoming Events

July

- 1 Confirmation Camp Report at worship
- 2 Office Closing at 1:30pm
- 3 Office Closing at 1:30pm
- 4 Office Closed — Independence Day
- 5 Sarah Circle at 1:30pm
- 5 Executive Team meeting at 6:30pm
- 5 All Teams meeting at 7pm
- 6 Lunch In The Park — 11am to 1:30pm
- 9 Rebecca Circle at 7pm
- 13 LifeLine Screening here all day
- 15 Mission Trip blessing & departure
- 19 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm
- 22 Mission Trip Team leads worship
- 22 Maud Powell Concert at 3pm
- 23 Newsletter Deadline
- 24 Mission Quilt Day at 9am
- 26 Newsletter Assembly at 10:30am

August

- 2 All Teams meeting at 7pm
- 4 Highway Clean-up at 9am
- 16 Church Council meeting at 6:30pm
- 28 Mission Quilt Day at 9am



School Supplies
Supplies will be filling the shelves of area stores soon! When you are doing your back-to-school shopping, would you consider picking up some extras for the Lutheran World Relief school kits? More information will be shared in the August *Eagle* newsletter.



St. John's Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

Volume 48, Issue 7

July 2018

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.
- **Please note that St. John's Office will close at 1:30pm on Monday, July 2nd and Tuesday, July 3rd.** We will also be closed on July 4th for Independence Day.
- St. John's offers **Electronic Giving.** If you are interested please contact Susan in the office.
- **Volunteers are needed** in July to host Fellowship Time. Sign up in Kitchen.

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The Power of Faith

"I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there!' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." — Matthew 17:20

In an article entitled, "Scientists Still Measuring Gravity," I read a statement which caused me to do some reflecting about things that seem impossible. It said, "when a magnet picks up a paper clip, it defeats the gravitational pull of the entire earth." We all know this is true, yet when the power of a little magnet is put this way we are impressed.

Just think — a tiny magnet out-pulling the earth itself. The earth, is of course, tremendous in size and weight. Yet a magnet will remove a paper clip from the surface of this huge force. When I read this, I thought of what Jesus said about how faith can move mountains, and that even the smallest amount of faith is sufficient to do those things that seem impossible.

All of us come upon mountains in our lives that need to be moved. There are obstructions in the way of serving God. There are mountains of physical handicaps and illnesses. There are people inside and outside the church who fight the gospel. Worst of all, there are mountains of sin which stand in our way. But Jesus said that with even the smallest faith, a believer can "move mountains."

Of course the power is not in the faith itself, but in our God who gives us the faith. And yet there is no doubt that God chooses people of faith to accomplish God's purposes in the world. Sometimes "little" people, with little reputation, education or political clout, through faith and persistence turn the course of history. A woman named Rahab, simply by believing God's messengers, saved her whole family, and was honored to be in the genealogy of Christ Jesus (Hebrews 11:31).

Dealing with obstacles that seem too large to overcome? Don't be discouraged! Be like the magnet. Trust God and God's promises and see what a powerful force for good you can be.

~ Pastor Jeff Chubb



Our 8th grade Confirmation Campers, Matt Miller, Garret Zinke, Laurel Politsch, Gracie Zinke, and Alayna Nosalik and their adult leaders, Karen Goy and Shirley Pierson, are enjoying a week at Lutherdale Bible Camp. And, they took *Flat Jesus* along with them! They will share about their experiences with the congregation during worship on Sunday, July 1st. Please plan to join us!

Conflict in the Church: Entrusted with the Message of Reconciliation Workshop

Friday, August 3rd — 7pm to 9:30pm and
Saturday, August 4th — 9am to 4pm

A program of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, sponsored by St. John's, and held in our fellowship hall. No cost for members. Lunch & workshop manuals included!

This workshop will help participants understand...

- That conflict need not be bad, but is an opportunity for growth.
- The Biblical basis for conflict transformation.
- Your own style of responding to conflict.
- The communication skills necessary to resolve conflict peacefully.
- Strategies for preventing destructive conflict in the church family.
- A model for working at congregational decision-making in a win-win manner.

This workshop teaches some basic skills that will help participants manage conflicts with their congregations in a healthier manner. We encourage as many members as possible to attend this important event, especially those in leadership positions. Stop in the church office to pick up a more detailed brochure, and register for the event. You will also need to pick up the "Friendly Style Profile" along with instructions on filling it out and reporting the results to the church office. This event is also open to non-members for a nominal fee.

2018 Vacation Bible School Wrap-Up

We enjoyed a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School made possible by the generosity of so many of you. Thank you to Norma Peasley, the Piersons, Kreisers, and Zimmermans for providing lunch for our counselors. Appreciation also goes to the Goys, Amblers, Schallers, and Wujeks for providing dinner in your homes and even a wonderful evening enjoying the food and experience of Starved Rock. We sincerely appreciated the daily help of our volunteers, including Alayna, Abby, and Jenah. Thank you to Laurie and Susan in the office who answered our many questions with a smile and offered help with copying and printing documents whenever needed. Karyn ensured that the fellowship hall and grounds were looking their best throughout the week. Appreciation also goes to Roger Anderson for applying for Thrivent monies which were used to purchase any extra supplies we needed. Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who ensured their campers attended each day and came to enjoy our closing ceremony on Thursday afternoon. If we have inadvertently left anyone out, we apologize. We truly enjoyed our first year coordinating VBS and couldn't have done it without all of your support. It truly does take a village! Sincerely, Valerie Kreiser & Deb Rose



Church Council Highlights

The following are some highlights from the June 24, 2018 Church Council meeting. Council approved:

- Approved Budgeted Benevolence Agency Distributions; and
- Approved New Council Appointees Roberta Wendel and Carol Wheeler.

Finance Report Year To Date thru May 2018:

Budgeted Income \$150,066 Actual Income \$144,281
Budgeted Expense \$153,423 Actual Expense \$138,320
Behind Budget on Regular Offerings by -\$8,262

Special Offerings:

\$100 (Shoe Drive), and \$92.10 (VBS Offering)

Call Committee Update

The final tweaks on the Ministry Site Profile are being prepared, and the profile will be going to the Church Council soon for their approval. Once the Church Council approves the Ministry Site Profile, the profile will be uploaded to the synod website. Thank you for your continued prayers for our work on the Call Committee.



St. John's Youth News

"Growing Together in our Faith as we Serve Others"



Our high school mission trip team will be serving in Benton Harbor, Michigan during the week of July 15th. We ask for your prayers as we prepare to do God's work with our hands. The team will be commissioned during 9am worship on Sunday, July 15th. Following worship, we will meet in the courtyard to take a group picture, load the vans, and depart for Michigan. The high school mission trip team will lead worship on Sunday, July 22nd and share our experiences with the congregation. Team Benton Harbor will be stopping for lunch along the way and will enjoy a couple of outings while they are on-site with YouthWorks. We ask the congregation to prayerfully consider supporting a mission tripper by making a financial donation. More information can be found on the Sponsorship Board in the Narthex. Thank you in advance!



High School & Junior High Students and families — Lunch In The Park is set for Friday, July 6th and we need your help with set up, serving, and clean up. We will start setting up in the park around 9am. We will serve from 11am to 1:30pm, and we will clean up and haul tables & chairs back to church afterwards. Your help for however long you are able, will be very much appreciated! Donations of canned soda, bottled water, small bags of chips and individually wrapped desserts are needed. Please see the "Volunteer" and "Donation" sign-up sheets in the Narthex. All proceeds from Lunch in the Park will benefit our youth activities and mission trips.

St. John's Scholarship Fund Recipients

Scholarships in the amount of \$11,000 were awarded to several young church members. Congratulations to:

Grace Brandner (IVCC), Amy Devitt (University of Illinois), Jared Fritz (North Central College), Natalie Landgraf (Western Illinois University), Gabrielle Peasley (Illinois State University), Cameron Schumacher (Bradley University), Brock Sutton (Bradley University), Gillian Sutton (St. Ambrose University), Jacquelyn Wendel (IVCC), Bethany Wohrley (Illinois State University), Melissa Wohrley (North Central College), and Mark Zimmerman (Iowa State University).

ALL I EVER NEEDED TO KNOW I LEARNED WHEN I WATCHED KIDS PAINT KINDNESS ROCKS

This month I had the opportunity to begin getting to know 13 of our High School and 13 Jr. High students a little better while we worked to paint Kindness rocks to be distributed by the Mission: Mendota teams throughout the community. The rocks were painted and embellished in colorful and creative ways and then positive messages were written on each of them. There were kids who came that shared that they weren't "artistic" and there may have been a few that were there although the activity wouldn't have been a first choice - but their choice was to come in support of the group and the idea!

I CAN'T BELIEVE all that I learned or was reminded of while I sat with and allowed the young people, the process, and God to teach me. Here is just some of what I learned:

- * Sometimes the best positive message you send is just "being YOU" right alongside the people you're surrounded by. Never underestimate the power of your choosing to "be" there.
- * A little love and care can change the hardest and roughest things into something bright and meaningful.
- * Sometimes when your plate is covered with what seems like a soupy mess it can end up in the most beautiful way! Trust!!
- * NEVER underestimate the deep and loving thoughts of people despite their age.
- * Some of the most powerful messages are no more than two words.
- * Sometimes putting things in writing influences or refocuses the words you live.
- * Some people have a way of leaving sparkle behind wherever they've been.
- * Rocks don't have spellcheck! (hahaha!)
- * Kindness... ROCKS!!

Our young people can teach us much... they certainly did me! Thanks to all of you - love all that God communicates through you.

~ Karen Goy, Youth Director