

The Messenger



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

ST. JOHN'S EMBARKS ON NEW JOURNEY

Whenever you need to make a trip, there is always some excitement that builds before you are ready to begin your travels. You will be seeing new places, making new acquaintances, and encountering many other things that will not be the same old everyday experience. And so it is for St. John's; we are about to embark on a journey with our new Vicar and his wife. We pray that this will be a fruitful journey that we can look back on with much pride and happiness when it is completed.

For St. John's, the excitement is a little different than for Vicar Matthew and Adrienne. Much of what we are doing is work to make sure that the parsonage is ready for their move, filling out paperwork to make sure that their medical insurance will continue without any gaps and other similar things. The excitement for Vicar Matthew and Adrienne focuses around planning for the move, coming to live in a new place, meeting new people, and starting a new phase of their life.

While Matthew was involved in a vacancy at a congregation near the seminary as part of his "field" training, this is his first time where he will be serving a congregation without still being involved on a day-to-day basis with the seminary. To be sure, those seminary contacts are still there and the long umbilical cord that goes back to the seminary is still in place but it is certainly somewhat less of a factor than it was in previous church involvements. This is where the local supervision role comes into play. This will be provided by Pastor Malec of Concordia, Bethlehem and while he will be with us on alternating Sundays to lead our worship during July and August, and there will be regular meetings between him and the Vicar, Pastor Malec is still physically approximately 40 miles away. We also hope that a relationship with Pastor Fink can develop as well so that the Vicar can take advantage of his many years of practical experience that can be so helpful. With all of that in place, Vicar Matthew and Adrienne are still, for much of the time going to be pretty much on

their own, just as though he is the pastor for this church.

This is where St. John's can make the transition much easier and have some fun doing it. Sharon and I had the privilege of meeting and enjoying dinner together with Vicar Matthew and Adrienne during our trip to Chicago last week for the SELC District LWML convention held at Concordia University, River Forest, IL. After they have successfully made the move to Hazleton (week of 6/21), it would be a good thing to have them over for dinner as their schedule permits and welcome them to our congregation. We think you'll have a very enjoyable time getting to know them.

Vicar Matthew's installation will take place on June 27th during the regular 9 AM service that day. Please try and attend. There will be a potluck Luncheon following the service where everyone can meet and welcome our new family. The Lydia will provide the main course items. The congregation is invited to bring salads and side dishes. We will also say "Farewell" to Pastor Fink and Millie for the summer.

With God's guidance, we hope and trust that this journey will be a very positive one, for St. John's and for Vicar Matthew and Adrienne as well. As Paul says in Ephesians 4:15-16 "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." We pray that the new experiences that we encounter will be ones that will grow our congregation in the love of Christ and help our Vicar mature into a full fledged pastor in whom we can all take great pride.

Don Roegge

ANNA STERANKA MEMORIAL

Some twenty church members and friends came together on May 26, 2010 for comfort and celebration of God's Grace for Anna Steranka. Pastor Gary Scharrer conducted the memorial service and talked of Anna's love for her Lord. Pastor Scharrer had visited with Anna since he has been serving as our vacancy pastor. We thank Pastor for his words of love and joy in visiting her. This helped many of us to find closure in her passing. Anna Steranka died on Feb. 15th at the age of 84.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To **Aubrey Cool** who will receive her home school diploma at a ceremony at St. John's on June 4.

To **Krista Marie Mandak** who graduated May 22 from Harrisburg Community College. She will be a phlebotomist.

To **Brett Pontry** who will graduate from Hazleton Area High School. He will attend Penn State Hazleton Campus.

To **Kyle Rang** on his graduation from Mahanoy Area High School.

LYDIA SOCIETY

Because Sherry and Tina have been so faithful in helping with Lydia's hoagie sales, Lydia did a sale in May for "Relay for Life". Sherry and Tina are both involved with Hershey's "Relay for Life" events. The profit for the sale was \$1,000. Thank you Sherry and Tina for all the help you give to Lydia's Hoagie Sales and to the "Relay for Life".

NEWS FROM THRIVENT FINANCIAL

Has your life changed?

I see it every day. A person who has never felt the need for financial guidance walks through my door right after a significant life event – maybe the birth of a child, a marriage or even an unexpected inheritance. Life events such as these turn financial advice from a nice-to-have into a need-to-have.

Marriage. About two-thirds of married people say they disagree with their spouse about money. A good way to lessen the stress is to discuss your values, goals and needs with a financial professional and make decisions together.

Birth or adoption of a child. Making room in your budget for the new addition is important. It's also important to evaluate your need for additional disability income and life insurance coverage. Many new parents start looking at college funding options as well.

Inheritance. Many people devote time and attention to what will happen if they die, but often overlook the fact that they might receive a loved one's legacy. A financial professional can help you responsibly steward and invest the money in ways that align with your values, goals and needs.

Retirement. Both financially preparing for retirement and appropriately tapping one's financial assets in retirement are key needs in our changing society.

If you need financial guidance because of a life event or would like to discuss how Thrivent Financial can help you achieve your financial goals, contact Torie J. Yoder, Financial Associate at (570) 558-2224 or torie.yoder@thrivent.com today, or visit thrivent.com.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

The last day of Sunday school for the 2009-2010 school year will be on 5/30/10. I would like to thank all who participated in the program and wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. With summer in mind, the Christian Education Committee is working with members of the Easton congregation in hopes of presenting a Vacation Bible School this summer. The program is being scheduled for August 9-12 in the mornings with the closing program Sunday, August 15 in conjunction with church services. Several members of the Easton congregation will be volun-

teering daily and housing may be a factor to be considered. If anyone can accommodate one or more individuals during this time frame please inform any member of the Christian Education Committee. Announcements will be made in the weekly bulletin as more definite details become available. I am encouraging even a few members to volunteer for what would be minimal time and effort, if for no other reason than to show the Easton Church that we do have a vested interest in this outreach program. Let's make this happen together,
 Dave DeMelfi
 Chairman of the Board of Christian Education



JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays		6/23	Tyler Dice
6/01	Anne Goranitis	6/24	Thomas Wargo
6/04	Anna Belko	6/27	Lynette Trovitch
6/05	Mauro DeCocinis		
6/12	Kathleen Brown	Anniversaries	
6/12	Barbara Chladon	6/12	Joe and Ruth Beishline
6/21	Kelly Kowalczyk	6/14	Frank and MaryAnne Gilham
6/23	Stephanie Dice	6/19	Chris and Krista Mashack
		6/28	Bob and Joan Denesvich



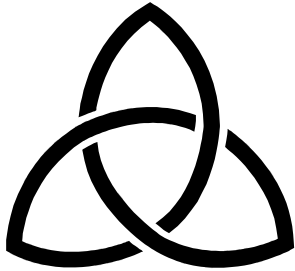
PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

We pray Jesus' hand would rest on Alan Vayda, Dave Trovitch, Helen Wargo, Bobby Drummond (Bob's nephew), Lil Junas, Janice Johnson, Bob Mandak, Michael Mandak, Jr., Samantha Schwantes (Beth PaVon's niece), Dick Daniel, Jennifer Bass and all in need of His physical, emotional and spiritual care.



If you are in need of pastoral care, please call Don Roegge (443-9250) or Bob Mandak (455-7248) and they will make the necessary arrangements.

JUNE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



ACOLYTES

06/06 Brianna Mandak
 06/13 Tyler Dice
 06/20 Denae Starry
 06/27 Daniel Starry

ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Trovitch & Pauline Onder

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

06/06 Bob Mandak

06/13 Bob Junas
 06/20 Bob Junas
 06/27 Dave Trovitch

COUNTERS

06/06 Nancy Trovitch & MaryAnne
 Gilham
 06/13 Bob Junas & Frank Gilham
 06/20 Dave Trovitch & Tom Wargo
 06/27 Sharon Roegge

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning on Sunday, June 20, St. John's will move to its Summer Worship Time of 9 a.m. In July, Vicar Rasmussen will begin leading our Worship Services, alternating with Pastor Malec, Concordia, Bethlehem. Communion will be celebrated on those Sundays when Pastor Malec is officiating. A more specific schedule will be available later.

ST. JOHN'S SAYS GOOD-BYE TO PASTOR SCHARRER

Following the Worship Service on June 6th, there will be a Thank You Luncheon for Pastor Scharrer. He has been our official Vacancy Pastor during our vacancy and has served us faithfully and well. In addition to leading a number of our Worship Services during our vacancy, he also conducted Shut-In visits and officiated at several funerals as well. Please join us and Pastor Scharrer and his family for some cake and a light lunch including barbecue and hot dogs, chips, and fruit.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

On Friday, May 7th, the truckload of our shoes that were collected as well as Medical supplies that were donated from the organization "Through These Hands" were delivered to the Maryland division of Orphan Grain Train and loaded on to the container. After loading 834 pieces (including hospital equipment which is a piece) that container was on its way to Haiti.

As we can see, OGT has been at the fore front of recycling since its inception in 1992 when Pastor Wilke returned from Latvia. He saw the needs of these people and promised to help them. Most of the material on the container is recycled items that still have life in them. All the items that have been saved from the land fill help people who really need help, plus the Gospel message comes out in all that is done.

During the next few months there will be another container for Haiti and a container to Cameroon. We will still be collecting sneakers, flops, sandals, as well as good clean summer clothes, and wheel chairs, walkers, canes, and crutches. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Ann Kowalczyk 459-0501

Thanks again for helping to reach out to "the least of these my brethren".

In Christ's Service,
 Karen Ann Kowalczyk
 Orphan Grain Train Volunteer

MITES-JUNE 2010

A ministry component of LCMS World Relief and Human Care (WR-HC), LCMS Prison Ministry, has provided resources for the LCMS congregations, districts, and individuals to be involved in prison ministry. "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." Hebrews 13:3. Materials and successful training programs for prison ministry have been helpful but congregations and volunteers have asked for additional and new materials. To enhance the church's mission outreach to those incarcerated, the \$50,000 will provide 5,000 copies of Lutheran materials to reach U.S. prison inmates desiring to know their Lord and Savior.

The SELC District LWML 12th Convention was held May 14-16 at Zion in Norridge, Illinois and Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, Illinois. Around 40 women and men met under the theme "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord". Pastor Luther Bajus led the Friday evening worship service with Pastor Luke Jacob doing the sermon. The ladies at Zion provided our meal prior to the service. From there we traveled to CUC for our lodging.

Saturday morning those who were willing and able took a "Walk for Missions" around the campus. The walkers' pledges amounted to \$555.00 which will go towards our 2010-2012 Mission Grants. (Thank you to those who pledged the \$60 for me). Pastor Jon Bender of St. John in Cudahy, Wisconsin lead a Bible study "Let's Get Personal!" based on Joshua 24:15. We also heard from LWML Treasurer Helen Miller, Pastor Carl Krueger, Robin Paris, Deaconess Kris Blackwell and Pauline Brunke. We also were interrupted by Christian Humorist Jan Struck who keep us all in stitches. (Ask Don or I how we supplied her with new material) The guest speaker at our banquet Saturday evening was Shari LeMonnier a Christian Artist who had at least 35 paintings that she had done depicting stories from the Bible.

Sunday events included a report of "The 10 things I learned at the LWML Convention" of Faith Dzurovcik presented by her father, Pastor Andy Dzurovcik. After the kudos and closing of the meeting, we attended worship service at the CUC Chapel with Pastor Gary Bertels. All those who attended seem to enjoy the Christian fellowship with their sisters and brothers in Christ. Our next district convention will be in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in the spring of 2012. Hopefully many of you will be able to attend.

Reelected, for a second two year term, were: Sharon Roegge, President; Leah Socrates, Secretary; Kathleen Vollrath, Treasurer; and Pastor George Hansell Pastoral Counselor. There was no candidate for Vice President.

Look for the LWML display downstairs, there are items that are for sale (see the price sheet). Please see Sharon Roegge, if interested.

The following Mission Grants were selected:

Zion Lutheran Church in Clark, New Jersey To partially support Mission Developer, Pastor Naveen Nischal who has been called to the Asian-Indian community	\$5,000.00
St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Norton, Ohio To refurbish Communion items and purchase new Altar item as they celebrate 100 years of God's grace	\$3,150.00
Tied for #3 were:	
Peace Lutheran Church in Galloway, New Jersey For two permanent signs for the church and Christian school Requested \$3,000	\$1,925.00
Family of Christ Elementary and Middle School in Tampa, Florida To enhance the Sanctuary by painting walls, upgrading carpet and sound system. Requested \$4,500	<u>\$1,925.00</u>
Total	\$12,000.00

Coming up:

SELC LWML Eastern Zone Fall Rally at St. John's, date to be determined

SELC LWML Eastern Zone Retreat at the Eden in Lancaster County, April 8-9, 2011

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League's 34th Biennial Convention will be held in Peoria, Illinois June 23-26, 2011.

**St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

223 W 6th & Vine Sts
Hazleton PA 18201
Phone: 570-459-6423
Email: stjohshazleton@verizon.net
Website: stjohshazleton.org

We are:
"Faith-Growing Followers of Christ,
Reaching Out in Response to God's
Love"

Ten Things Every Father Needs to Know...And Do!

Spend Time with Your Children

How a father spends his time tells his children what's important to him. If you always seem too busy for your children, they will feel neglected no matter what you say. Treasuring children often means sacrificing other things, but it is essential to spend time with your children. Kids grow up so quickly. Missed opportunities are lost forever.

Earn the Right to be Heard

All too often the only time a father speaks to his children is when they have done something wrong. That's why so many children cringe when their mother says, "Your father wants to talk with you." Begin talking with your kids when they are very young so that difficult subjects will be easier to handle as they get older. Take time and listen to their ideas and problems.

Discipline with Love

All children need guidance and discipline, not as punishment, but to set reasonable limits. Remind your children of the consequences of their actions and provide meaningful rewards for desirable behavior. Fathers who discipline in a calm and fair manner show love for their children.

Be a Role Model

Fathers are role models to their kids, whether they realize it or not. A girl who spends time with a loving

father grows up knowing she deserves to be treated with respect by boys, and what to look for in a husband. Fathers can teach sons what is important in life by demonstrating honesty, humility and responsibility.

Be a Teacher

Too many fathers think teaching is something others do. But a father who teaches his children about right and wrong, and encourages them to do their best, will see his children make good choices. Involved fathers use everyday examples to help their children learn the basic lessons of life.

Eat Together as a Family

Sharing a meal together (breakfast, lunch or dinner) can be an important part of healthy family life. In addition to providing some structure in a busy day, it gives kids the chance to talk about what they are doing and want to do. It is also a good time for fathers to listen and give advice. Most importantly, it is a time for families to be together each day.

Read to Your Children

In a world where television often dominates the lives of children, it is important that fathers make the effort to read to their children. Children learn best by doing and reading, as well as seeing and hearing. Begin reading to your children when they are very young. When they are older, encourage them to read on their own. Instilling your children with a love for reading is one of the best ways to ensure they will have a lifetime of per-

sonal and career growth.

Show Affection

Children need the security that comes from knowing they are wanted, accepted and loved by their family. Parents, especially fathers, need to feel both comfortable and willing to hug their children. Showing affection every day is the best way to let your children know that you love them.

Respect Your Children's Mother

One of the best things a father can do for his children is to respect their mother. If you are married, keep your marriage strong and vital. If you're not married, it is still important to respect and support the mother of your children. A father and mother who respect each other, and let their children know it, provide a secure environment for them. When children see their parents respecting each other, they are more likely to feel that they are also accepted and respected.

Realize That A Father's Job Is Never Done

Even after children are grown and ready to leave home, they will still look to their fathers for wisdom and advice. Whether it's continued schooling, a new job or a wedding, fathers continue to play an essential part in the lives of their children as they grow and, perhaps, marry and build their own families.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY-June 20!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Special thanks to:

Tom Wargo for helping remove the rocks from the "fill" that was put in the hole left by the removal of the oil tank in the church's back yard.

Dave Onder for helping mow the grass. If anyone else would like to help, please contact Paul Kowalczyk.

Some help is needed to help clean the parish house. Please notify John Chladon if you can help.

Aubrey Cool, grand-daughter of Margie Dougherty, will have her Home School Graduation at the church on Friday, June 4th, at 7:00 PM. The congregation is invited. This would be a great time to find out more about the home schooling process and support Aubrey as well.

Don Roegge