



# The Messenger

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## FROM YOUR PASTOR...

As we approach November this year we give thanks to God for the many blessings He has given us. We also take a few moments on All Saints Day to pause and to remember our dear sister Sharon and all the little things she did with a smile and often silently so as not to draw attention to herself when serving her Lord. It also marks the close of the church year. It marks the celebration of Thanksgiving. Our emphasis for November is the giving of thanks and the counting of the Lord's Blessings to you his children, his bride and his servants. I encourage each of you to take a few moments each day to give thanks for the many blessings that you have. Bless those around you and give thanks for them.

Particularly on Thanksgiving Day give thanks for those around you and in your lives. Share a few words with each person about why and what you are thankful for in regards to each one that your blessed to have placed in your life by Christ. Make it a time of thankfulness and healing of past wounds and release one another from any burdens of sin as you give thanks and praise to God. Give thanks in all things no matter the circumstances.

In keeping with the spirit of giving thanks A brief devotional from Philippians & 1 Thessalonians:

### Philippians 1: 3-6

"I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup>being confident of this, that he

who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:18

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray continually, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Jesus.

The Apostle Paul endured many adversities in his ministry as he worked endlessly to advance the gospel even in the harshest of circumstances. Today, things are no different. There are harsh circumstances all around us. There are also many things for which to give thanks to God. We rejoice with you and do pray continually for the growth of your faith and the continuing of our partnership in advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are truly confident that Christ Jesus will bring it to completion in the day of Christ. Amen.

In Christ's service to you his beloved Children,

Pastor Joe

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Off

Tuesday-8:30-5:00

Wednesday-8:30-5:00

Thursday-8:30-5:00

Friday-By Appointment

Saturday-9:00-3:00

Sunday-8:00-12:00

Pastor will be available for emergencies as needed.

## LWML



Thank you to all who contributed to the LWML mission for the third quarter; with all the donations, we were able to reach our goal of

\$500. Thanks to an anonymous donor who matched the \$500 we will be able to send a \$1,000 check to the SELC district LWML. This donation along with other mites contributed to SELC LWML will enable them to fund their budgeted projects. St. John's congregation will be the second grant to be funded for our Bible project. It is good to see how everyone cooperated to help reach this goal.

God's blessings to all the donors and all who will be receiving the benefits of LWML mission grants. Mites have done great things for missions over the past 75 years. To God be the Glory.

- Karen Ann Kowalczyk

## YOUTH NEWS

*Another successful fundraiser for our youth was held on Saturday, October 13. The Craft and Vendor Show brought us 21 local crafters/vendors who came out on a rainy/chilly day to sell their goods. Each one had a unique variety of items. Some also gave us new fundraising ideas. All of them are also interested in coming and doing another show.*

*Thank you to Sylvia for staying at the church and cooking the food and helping with cleanup. Thank you to the families for their donations of time, food, tricky tray baskets and to church members for baking and coming out to support us. Profit from the sale was approximately \$700.*

***The youth group is going to continue with fundraising with the jewelry fundraiser which ends November 4. Please have all orders and money in that Sunday.***

*Be on the lookout for more fundraisers next year!*

*Thank You and God Bless!*

- Carrie Drasher

## VOTERS' MEETING

Voters' Meeting will be held on November 18, 2018 immediately following service. Agenda items will include: Election of Officers, 2019 Budget Approval, Wish list items, Service times. A light luncheon will follow the meeting.

Volunteers are needed to fill vacancies as Counters and Altar Guild. If you are interested, please see Nancy Trovitch.

## COMMUNITY LUNCHEONS

Community Luncheons are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month. A short worship service is held at 10:30 AM followed by the luncheon from 11:00 AM to Noon. We are very fortunate to be able to host these luncheons at no cost to St. John's. Thrivent Grants in the amount of \$250 are obtained to cover the expenses. If you are a member of Thrivent and are willing to apply for a Grant, please see Nancy Trovitch. Volunteers are always needed to help prepare, serve and cleanup for the luncheons. Everyone is invited to stop by and enjoy the worship, food and fellowship.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mark your calendars – **The Sunday School children will begin practicing for the Christmas Eve Program.** Those of us that have been members of St. John's for many years may even remember participating in these programs. Even though we are down to a few children, they put their heart and soul into spreading the Gospel of Jesus' birth through song and acts. Remember, Jesus said in Matthew 19:14 "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."



## DISASTER UPDATE—Karen Ann Kowalczyk

As a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, you have a lot to be proud of. LCMS Disaster Response has been on the ground as soon as they are able in the recent Hurricane disasters. While Paul & I attended the LCMS Disaster Conference at the Seminary in St. Louis October 16-18, we learned how our synod responds to disasters.

We heard from the Manager of LCMS Disaster Response, Rev Michael Meyers who had just returned the afternoon before his presentation from Panama City area of Florida. He showed pictures of the devastation in Mexico Beach. One church in Mexico Beach has been leveled by the Hurricane Michael. One pastor's home is gone and one congregation has lost its roof. In the picture shown to us you could see the sky from the sanctuary area with all kinds of wires hanging from the where the roof was. One congregation has minor damage and will serve as the center of LCMS relief efforts for the congregation members as well as those of the community. There is a long road ahead for our brothers and sisters in the Panhandle of Florida, but with God's help they will overcome these problems. The Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) teams of Synod are arriving to help cut up the downed trees and clear them away. The LERT teams are volunteers who are specially trained to do tree removal and help with that part of the disaster. Right now they need funding to help with some of the immediate needs for the congregations involved.

North Carolina has done the tree removal and are now assessing the damage to see what needs to be done in the rebuilding area. They are also working to bring in volunteer villages to serve as dormitories, shower facilities, bathrooms, and cooking facilities to serve the volunteers who come to help with the rebuilding. For now any volunteer must be self contained i.e. have a camper and be able to cook for themselves shower, and sleep in the camper. I have been on a conference call and they are trying to put these things into place early in November.

The Maryland branch of OGT sent their truck two times with volunteers driving to NC to deliver supplies of cleaning buckets, N95 masks and other materials that are used for muck out the flooded homes. There were also health kits and school supplies on the truck to help those who lost these items.

Paul & I also heard Pastor Charles St. Onge's report, he is responsible for development in Puerto Rico and other places. He is looking for volunteers help to put roofs on houses from the damage of Hurricane Maria. Pastor St. Onge is in need of funding like Lowe's and Home Depot gift cards. There are several congregations that have been started after Maria. Pray that the spirit will grow the congregations that have been planted in Puerto Rico.

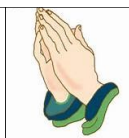
There is also rebuilding going on in Texas. They are also in need of volunteers to help with the rebuilding. Several Pastors gave some interesting reports to show "How God was in the Disaster". The help they have received from LCMS Disaster Response, OGT, and LERT teams. They were also the recipients of \$100,000 from Al Roker on the TV show when Al presented the Pastor with the check and Lowes had set up a store for the victims to pick out what they needed, as well as a truck load of food supplies from Orphan Grain Train. The Pastors told of how they saw God's hand providing for the needs of their people as well as their communities.

Fortunately, as bad as the hurricanes were, there is a great opportunity for church planting. Churches are seeing an increased attendance. They definitely need our prayers. God is our refuge and strength a very present help in trouble. There are many ways of the church as a whole to respond and help in these times of need.

"The fields are white and harvest waiting, 'Here am I send me, send me'?"

Karen Ann Kowalczyk  
Maryland Orphan Grain Train, Disaster Coordinator

## PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



We pray Jesus' hand would rest on **Peter Panco, Anna Belko, Bob Gould, Jack Ross, MaryAnne and Frank Gilham, Alma Yale, Anne Goranitis, Gertie and Bob Mandak, Bob Onder, Pauline Onder, Meralea Oberto, Bill and Lorraine (Onder) Ray** and all in need of His physical, emotional and spiritual care. If you have a prayer chain request, please call Gertie Ann Mandak, (570) 497-9361.

If Pastoral Care is required, please call Pastor Joe (570-459-6423) and the necessary arrangements will be made.

### CUSTODIAN NEEDED

At the August Council meeting, a decision was made to hire a new Custodian. This position will pay \$9.00 per hour with the number of hours per month to be determined. Some of the duties are: vacuuming the fellowship hall, steps, quiet room and sanctuary; dusting windows and under pews; washing kitchen floor; cleaning bathrooms. Other duties will be assigned on an as needed basis.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please contact Head Trustee Kevin Kowalczyk or Council President Paul Kowalczyk by Sunday, September 9, 2018.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

\*We are looking for volunteers to be on **Altar Guild**.

There are several options available:

1. One month at a time, three times a year—you would set up the altar before church and remove communion ware after service.
2. You can **EITHER** set up the altar before church **OR** remove the communion ware after church.
3. You can be on a substitution list where you would fill in on an as-need basis if one of the regular Altar Guild members cannot be here on a day they are scheduled.

\*We are looking for volunteers to be **Counters**.

This commitment is one Sunday after Church every fourth or fifth Sunday. Again, if you would only want to be on the substitution list where you would fill in on an as-need basis if one of the regular Counters cannot be here on a day they are scheduled.

\*If you would like to become a member of **Council**, please see Vice President Daniel Starry or any member of Council. We have several positions open for 2019.

Remember—Many hands make light work!!! If we all do our part, no one person will be overwhelmed.

The old apple tree stood in the orchard with the other trees, and all summer long it had stretched out its branches wide to catch the rain and the sun to make its apples grow round and ripe. Now it was fall, and on the old apple tree were three great apples as yellow as gold and larger than any other apples in the whole orchard. The apple tree stretched and reached as far as it could, until the branch on which the three gold apples grew hung over the orchard wall. There were the three great apples, waiting for some one to pick them, and as the wind blew through the leaves of the apple tree it seemed to sing:

"Here in the orchard are apples three,  
Who uses one well shall a treasure see."

And one morning Gerald came down the lane that passed by the orchard wall. He looked longingly at the three gold apples, wishing, wishing that he might have one. Just then the wind sang its song again in the leaves of the apple tree and, plump, down to the ground, right at Gerald's feet, fell one of the three gold apples.

He picked it up and turned it round and round in his hands. How sweet it smelled, and how mellow and juicy it was! Gerald could think of nothing so good to do with such a beautiful ripe apple as to eat it. He put it to his mouth and took a great bite of it, then another bite, and another. Soon there was nothing left of the apple but the core, which Gerald threw away. He smacked his lips and went on his way, but the wind in the apple trees sang, sorrowfully, after him:

"Here in the orchard are apples two,  
But gone is the treasure that fell for you."

And after a while Hilda came down the lane that passed by the orchard wall. She looked up at the two beautiful gold apples that hung on the branch of the old apple tree, and she listened to the wind as it sang in the branches to her:

"Here in the orchard are apples two,  
A treasure they hold for a child like you."

Then the wind blew harder and, plump, an apple fell in the lane right in front of Hilda.

She picked it up joyfully. She had never seen so large and so golden an apple. She held it carefully in her clasped hands and thought what a pity it would be to eat it, because then it would be gone.

"I will keep this gold apple always," Hilda said, and she wrapped it up in the clean handkerchief that was in her pocket. Then Hilda went home, and there she laid away in a drawer the gold apple that the old apple tree had given her, closing the drawer tightly. The apple lay inside, in the dark, and all wrapped up, for many days, until it spoiled. And when Hilda next went down the lane and past the orchard, the wind in the apple tree sang to her:

"Only one apple where once there were two,  
Gone is the treasure I gave to you."

Last of all, Rudolph went down the lane one fine fall morning when the sun was shining warm and the wind was out. There, hanging over the orchard wall, he saw just one great gold apple that seemed to him the most beautiful apple that he had ever seen. As he stood looking up at it, the wind in the apple tree sang to him, and it said:

"Round and gold on the apple tree,  
A wonderful treasure, hanging, see!"

Then the wind blew harder, and down fell the last gold apple of the three into Rudolph's waiting hands.

He held it a long time and looked at it as Gerald and Hilda had, thinking how good it would be to eat, and how pretty it would be to look at if he were to save it. Then he decided not to do either of these things. He took his jack-knife out of his pocket and cut the gold apple in half, straight across, and exactly in the middle between the blossom and the stem.

Oh, the surprise that waited for Rudolph inside the apple! There was a star, and in each point of the star lay a small black seed. Rudolph carefully took out all the seeds and climbed over the orchard wall, holding them in his hand. The earth in the orchard was still soft, for the frost had not yet come. Rudolph made holes in the earth and in each hole he dropped an apple seed. Then he covered up the seeds and climbed back over the wall to eat his apple, and then go on his way.

But as Rudolph walked down the lane, the orchard wind followed him, singing to him from every tree and bush,

"A planted seed is a treasure won.  
The work of the apple is now well done."



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

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Website: stjohshazleton.org



**Our Mission and Vision Statement:**

“We are to be growing people in our faith and helping others to come to faith and grow in it.”

**CHURCH SECRETARY**

All information to be put in the bulletin must be given to the Church Secretary by Wednesday.

Email to:

Chuck.zschunke@gmail.com,  
stjohnshazleton@gmail.com or  
Chuck's phone number 570-579-4028, text or leave message. Thank you.

**SNOW REMOVAL**

Snow will be here before you know it. It will be a big help to the church if you could help remove snow from the sidewalk. If you know someone with a plow who would come by and “drop the blade” as they pass the church, it would be a great help.

- Kevin Kowalczyk

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER—Paul Kowalczyk**

Happy Fall Season!! God has blessed us with beautiful weather so that we can savor all the Glories He has given us in this life. There is beauty all around us each and every day. We are to love support and care for our fellow neighbor. Every Sunday at the church service we offer each other the handshake and blessing of peace. Let us all not only say these words but put them into action each and every day. Actions speak louder than words.

Speaking of actions I reviewed my President's report from October 2017 and saw a similarity to October 2018. In 2017 I talked about hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose and Maria causing extensive damage in the southern states and Puerto Rico and efforts to recover. Now in 2018 we have had hurricanes Florence and Michael causing widespread damage. Karen Ann and I attended the LCMS National Disaster Response conference in St. Louis last week. We heard from various volunteers and Pastors about the devastation from the recent hurricanes and the recovery efforts being undertaken by our church body. There were also discussions about the ongoing relief efforts from the 2017 hurricanes. There have been significant actions taken by volunteers both within and outside the LCMS church to help their fellow citizens. God has spoken through these disasters and people have been going back to church. God has provided us with organizations to help; Orphan Grain Train, Thrivent, HARP, LERT, LDR, LCC and First Responders. Please support and pray for those in need!

Remember that the annual Congregation Meeting will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup>. It will immediately follow the church service. Important actions will take place at this meeting that support the church ministry in 2019. We will have a budget to approve, an election of council officers, wish list approval, etc.

There are many ways that you can help support the ministry of St. John's. Ask any council member or Pastor where your skills can be put to use.

Enjoy what our Lord has given us. Enjoy November and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

