



# The Messenger

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## FROM YOUR PASTOR...

As we move into the month of October, fall will have arrived and we celebrate the 501<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Last year at this time I encouraged you to work your way through Paul's Epistles of Romans, and Galatians. Because Luther was an ardent student of St. Paul. Ephesians 2:8-10 are also critical to our understanding of who we are as God's children and how we become one of his chosen ones.

<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Indeed, we are saved by the grace of God through Christ's atoning work on the cross. This is one of the many gifts that we receive from our loving heavenly Father. As a part of God's handiwork and His workmanship created in Christ Jesus, we are to do good works. The purpose of those good works is for His glory and our good. By engaging in them we also strengthen our faith. We bless others with them by doing good works for our neighbor. We are blessed as well. These works are already prepared for us to do by God's grace. The works that Christ has prepared for us are our mission focus for October. There is much to celebrate here at St. John's and much to be thankful for. Come and be a part of the spreading the love of Christ as he has loved us.

Our mission focus for October takes two forms. First, hurricane relief for those impacted by Florence. St. John's will be a drop off point to receive supplies as soon as Council works out the details of days and times to receive supplies. Those supplies will be

gathered here and taken to Orphan Grain Train in MD and shipped to the places those supplies are needed.

The secondary focus will be to have an outreach event on Halloween. We will give out free candy, and Children's Bible stories in both Spanish and English. We also may have hot chocolate and, or other goodies either for free or for sale.

If you would like to contribute to either of these please let a council member or me know of your availability or how you are able to support these efforts. Let's exercise our hands and feet of Christ to make a positive impact on our neighbors. Both those in North Carolina and those here in Hazleton. They need to be fed and clothed both in body and soul.

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.

## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE



On Wednesday, September 19 Orphan Grain Train delivered a load of disaster relief supplies to North Carolina which were donated and loaded by The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) in St. Louis. This is just the beginning for OGT to help families devastated by hurricane Florence. This will be another very costly disaster to help hundreds of families in desperate need. OGT needs your help to be able to transport and purchase needed supplies and Thrivent wants to double your contribution. (Photo courtesy of LCMS in St. Louis)

**Thrivent will match up to \$1 million** in personal donations made online through [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com). (Click Hurricane Florence) The matching opportunity will run through December 31, 2018, or until the \$1 million goal is met, whichever comes first. Thrivent will also help pay processing fees, so 100 percent of your donation goes to help those in need. To find out more, visit [Thrivent.com/disasterresponse](http://Thrivent.com/disasterresponse).



Orphan Grain Train MD is now collecting to help the people affected by Hurricane Florence. Please consider donating any of the following items:

- 5 Gallon Buckets
- Gallon of Bleach
- Pair of Work Gloves & Heavy Duty Plastic Gloves
- Scouring Pads
- Scrub Brushes
- Powdered Cleanser (Comet)
- Liquid Cleaner (Lysol)
- Old CLEAN Towels
- Paper Towels
- Hand sanitizer or Baby Wipes
- Band Aids
- Mops
- Brooms

Gift Cards for Lowe's, Home Depot, Walmart & Target

Smaller sized items are better than bulk sizes.

If you have any questions, please email [karenankow@hotmail.com](mailto:karenankow@hotmail.com) or call 570-459-0501.

## YOUTH NEWS

Our Youth Group officially has two youth and two adults who have put in their online registration for the 2019 NYG. We will send in our official registration and partner in mid October. Please keep Stephen and Tyler, as well as Jolene and Pastor in your prayers as we begin to get everything in order for this amazing event.

Upcoming events....

**Chubby Chico Jewelry fundraiser:** Please see any youth member to view a book or you can order online. See Carrie for more info.

**Fall Craft and Vendor Sale:** Saturday, October 13, 10am-2pm at Holy Family. See Carrie. Come out and support local crafters and vendors, as well as St. John's youth. We will be selling food and tricky trays.

## ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN—DISASTER UPDATE—Karen Ann Kowalczyk

After a stop at SAMS club in St. Louis to purchase supplies not available at Lowes, an Orphan Grain Train tractor trailer was loaded at the Lowe's warehouse in St. Louis with needed supplies to take to Wake Forest, NC to stage distribution for the Hurricane. Wake Forest is one of the staging areas for this disaster. This happened on September 19, the truck arrived the next day and was ready for unloading of emergency supplies, like generators, water, baby diapers, and other urgently need items. Synod was able to do this so quickly because the OGT truck was in St. Louis and it had donations that were donated to the Disaster fund that were not designated to a specific disaster.

Right now there are volunteers on the ground "mucking" out houses and helping the residents of many different areas where the unwelcomed visitor of Florence hit. We at St. John's will be collecting needed supplies for a while, because this disaster is like no other I have worked with over the past 30 years. If anyone wants to donate gift cards for Lowe's that would be great.

Volunteers from Orphan Grain Train, Maryland have driven a truck with recently collected supplies down to North Carolina. As I write this newsletter item, I am waiting for a first hand account of what is happening there. We have several church buildings not effected that are serving as distribution centers

for all the items that are needed there.

The list of items is in another article of the newsletter, please check the Sunday bulletin, as needs change and other items will be added.

The people of North Carolina need our prayer for there are many spiritual needs as well as physical needs that need to be met and with God's help and the wonderful volunteers of Orphan Grain Train, the people of the LERT teams of Synod this will happen.

Thank you to all who have responded.  
Karen Ann Kowalczyk,  
Orphan Grain Train, Maryland  
Disaster Coordinator

"GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH A VERY  
PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE"

## 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** 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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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.

COMMUNITY LUNCHEONS

The next luncheon will be held on Saturday, October 27 from 11am to 12 noon. Sponsors are



the Thrivent Action Teams. Thank you to all volunteers!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER—Paul Kowalczyk

As we move into Fall and we start to feel a chill in the air we also have the opportunity to see the fall colors that our Lord and Savior paints for us to enjoy. For some of the people on the East coast the color of Fall is muddy brown polluted water. North and South Carolina are in need of help to recover from the severe flooding as well as our prayers. Orphan Grain Train is one of the organizations leading the recovery effort. Recently they sent over 11,000 N-95 respirator masks thanks to the generosity of the medical mission group Through These Hands located in Slatington. Many people and organizations are stepping up to the task of helping out the effected states. St. Johns is a collection point for the cleaning supplies. Please remember those in need with our prayers and material support.

October is also the time that Church Council begins to prepare for the Voters Meeting on November 18. The 2019 Budget preparation is one area that takes several weeks to complete. The nomination of Council officers is another important area especially this year with several positions being vacated by the incumbents. If you are interested in serving on Council please contact Daniel Starry and Dave Trovitch serving as the nominating committee.

Our monthly Community Luncheons continue to serve around 60 people. Pastor's church service preceding the luncheon continues draw a group of people interested in hearing about our Lord and Savior and His saving grace.

Support for St Johns' comes from various sources. In fact a church in Arizona, Crown of Life Lutheran Church that adopted Pastor Leech during his time at the seminary provided us with a grant. The grant totaled \$5000 and will be used to make improvements to the church sanctuary. A Thank You letter signed by Council has been sent to Crown of Life acknowledging their generous support and faith of St. Johns' ministry.

Enjoy the Fall with God's Blessing

Church Council recently approved the use of a donated wheelchair at the church. The wheelchair is located in the Fellowship Hall and can be used to transport members and visitors to and from their vehicles and for use during church services and other activities.