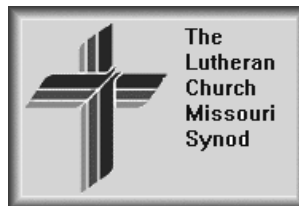


The Messenger



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

FROM YOUR PASTOR

For many people, this May will be the season of allergies. Others call it the season of Spring and rightly so based upon the sciences. However, for all of creation, this May will be the season of Easter. In the season of Easter, we celebrate new life. The new life is given to us by the atoning work of Jesus who has risen from the grave to give you life everlasting in him and in him alone. The Psalms recount in several places that all the earth sings praises to God. I refer you to Psalms 66, 94 – 102, and 146 – 150 for a few examples of creation singing praises to God. Psalm 66:4 NIV reads as follows. “All the earth worships you and sings praises to you, they sing praises to your name.” So, when you see the flowers and the trees blooming and bringing forth new life, just remember its creation’s way of singing praises to God. Be encouraged and strengthened in your faith that all of the earth praises its creator. In doing so it testifies to the fact that there is a living God who cares for all of His creation from the smallest of things to His divine children He has created in his image.

Take a cue from creation and worship our Lord and Savior and bring your mothers and grandmothers, daughters and sisters to worship with you this May. Bring them so they can hear the words of love from our Creator. Worship

with them and share the words of forgiveness, new life, and salvation. And Join the rest of creation in singing praises to our God and King. Sing praises to our Lord and Savior.

Just as we dropped the nails in the bucket on Good Friday symbolizing the nailing of our sins to the cross. As well as it being our sins that nailed Jesus to the cross bring your joyful praises to your God and King and let all the heavens hear your shouts of praise to Jesus your God and King. Fill His house with the praises of our God and King. Fill the homes and vehicles he has given you with praises to Him.

Please bring your bibles to worship and Adult Bible Study along with a notebook and pen so that you can take notes and make notes in your Bibles.

In Christ’s service to you his beloved Children,

Pastor Joe

LWML

Praise God, the LWML 2017/2019 Mite's Goal was met. They received \$2,172,373.76 with \$97,373.76 over the goal. This makes sure all the projects are funded. When we voted in Albuquerque 2017, President Patti Ross said we would go out in faith and pray that God would bless our efforts. Our prayers were answered. Thank you to all who supported the last minute mite drive.

This summer in Mobile, Alabama, Lutheran women in Mission will have an opportunity to praise and thank our God for all these blessings. As the Eastern Zone delegate to the national LWML convention, I will be walking in the LWML mission walk. If you feel so inclined, I will accept any donations for the walk. There is no donation too small. We must remember the widow's mite, Mark 12:42. hence the name of the mite boxes.

If anyone is interested in filling mite boxes, please let me know I have mite boxes that are looking for a home.

Praising the Lord for the great things He hath done through the work of the LWML for more than 75 years.

Serve the Lord with Gladness,
Karen Ann Kowalczyk

TRUSTEE NEWS

Some upcoming projects the Trustees are looking at:

*Getting estimates for sidewalk along 6th St. If you know a contractor who is able to do the job, please let Kevin know. If you would like to donate toward this, mark your envelope "new sidewalk". Some donations are coming in, but more will be needed.

*New lighting in fellowship hall. We are looking at new L.E.D. lights. The ballasts are going in the old fixture. Approximate cost is \$60/light.

*The church lawn is being mowed by a member and his family. A big thank you for taking on this task.

*The parish house brick wall that holds the grass back is leaning. Kevin is looking for Saturday helpers to remove it. Are you able to help?

If there are any other jobs or things the Trustees should look at, please talk to one of them. If you have free time, they greatly appreciate your help.

—Kevin Kowalczyk

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

The Youth will be holding a Craft and Carry in our fellowship hall on May 11 from 2-5pm. You will be able to make an adult or a child craft. For those of you who need child care, babysitting will be available.



Please see any youth or leader to register for this event. Support our youth!

DISASTER UPDATE—Karen Ann Kowalczyk

On Tuesday, April 9th, Paul, and Rich Klepps from the New England branch of OGT picked up the 55 boxes, plus hospital bed rails, and chairs that were in the fellowship hall and loaded them on a truck bound for North Carolina. After a stop at the Maryland OGT warehouse, Rich and Paul were on their way to Kenansville, North Carolina.

When they arrived at the warehouse in Kenansville, they were warmly welcomed by Patsy Quinn and her volunteers. Patsy is 80+ years old in a wheel chair and goes for dialysis a couple times a week. Patsy and her husband have poured their time and treasure into two good size warehouses they built for this special purpose of serving those in need. She shows the "love of Christ" in helping the people who have lost a lot from Hurricane Florence last year. There were wheel chairs, hospital beds, and other medical equipment that went out as soon as they were taken off the truck. Some household items were also collected and were very much needed and also went out as soon as it came in.

This brings me to another point. OGT truck #2 for Kenansville, NC will go in the near future. They are in desperate need of household items that are in good condition, i.e. toaster ovens, and other small appliances. So if you have an extra small appliance, please let me know. Let's see if we can help our brothers and sister in NC with these items. If any one is willing to do a Thrivent Action team to purchase these items, please let me know. I will work with you so this project can be accomplished. One person has already stepped up and volunteered to help with an Action team.

Serving the Lord with Gladness,
Karen Ann Kowalczyk
Orphan Grain Train Maryland
Disaster Relief Coordinator
570-459-0501
karenannkow@hotmail.com

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, Bill and Lorraine (Onder) Ray, Megan Crume's mother, Patti, Elaine and John Belko** 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.

St. John's Evangelical
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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."

AMAZON SMILES

When customers sign up for AmazonSmile, they're asked to select one of over a million charities to support. When customers click on your unique link, they skip this charity selection process. Instead, they're taken to smile.amazon.com and are automatically asked if they want to support Saint John Lutheran Church.

Your unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-6413352>

Share your unique link in your email, social media and on your website.

COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

A Community Luncheon will be held on **Saturday, May 25**. It will begin with worship at 10:30 followed by the meal at 11am. Thank you to Thrivent, Weis Markets and the volunteers who make these monthly meals possible. Approximately 50-60 folks have enjoyed the food and fellowship at these monthly meals.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER—Daniel Starry

Christ is risen! Alleluia! How awesome it is to know that we are saved thanks to Jesus' resurrection on Easter morning. I hope that everyone was able to spend time with family and friends while thanking and praising our Lord for him paying the ultimate sacrifice in order for our sins to be forgiven. This month we also give thanks and remember our nation's veterans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy our freedom here on this earth. (*John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."*) In honor of these brave men and women, we will once again be supporting the Military BibleStick for our second quarter mission project. A formal announcement will follow, but you can also find out more information about the project online.

I would also like to take this time to address an important issue that has been brought to the attention of council. It appears that there are some rumors circulating regarding the reasoning behind the increased fundraising efforts. These efforts are not a direct result of the church's finances, and St. John's is not closing its doors. As was discussed at last November's Voter's Meeting, there are several projects coming up around St. John's, such as the replacement of the 6th Street Sidewalk and the 100th anniversary celebration. These are significant expenses, and we do not want to have to pull money from savings. Additionally, the Parish House continues to bring in revenue to the church each month through the rent received. This does not mean that we can idly sit by, but I do not want any members to be afraid for the future of the church due to bad rumors. As a result, Council has agreed at our last meeting to include a new section in the bulletin entitled "Health of the Church" in order to hopefully facilitate better communication to the congregation. As always, if anyone ever has any questions please reach out and ask myself or any other member of Council.

1 Thessalonians 5:11: "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."