

The Messenger



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

FROM YOUR PASTOR

If you were in attendance at the annual church picnic you were presented with the opportunity to hear our youth explain to the congregation what it meant to them to be able to attend the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. They shared how their faith was strengthened, how their bonds with God and one another were also strengthened. They also gave their thanks to their older brothers and sisters in Christ who helped fund their trip to Minneapolis and made it possible for them to go. It was also announced that they will be doing a give back service on Reformation Sunday, October 27.

In September we will resume our Sunday School program the week after Labor Day. For the first semester, we will view all three parts of the series on Martin Luther as a part of our preparation and study of the Reformation. After each session, we will have a discussion. I will also provide a timeline of several of the key major events of the Reformation.

In your individual preparation for Bible Study, I encourage you to review your catechism particularly the section entitled Table of Duties. You may also want to review the various questions after each of the Ten Commandments about "What does this mean?" in order to help you gain more benefit from the Luther series we will be viewing.

We will also bless the backpacks, students and educational staff the Sunday after Labor Day as our annual kickoff to bible study and a new school year. Another note of

significance in the life of Saint John's, we will receive our third new member in recent times. The Sunday after Labor Day, Tyler's friend Michael will be received into membership as a result of his completing the new members class. Additionally, women's bible studies will resume their fall schedule. They will meet after the school day has ended each Wednesday.

We will continue our baby bottle boomerang fundraiser to help families in crisis and to save the lives of unborn children. Through the month of September. Please consider taking one of the bottles and filling it with your loose change and return it by the last Sunday of September.

In Christ's service to you his beloved Children,
Pastor Joe

LWML CONVENTION THOUGHTS

It has been a few months since I attended the national LWML convention in Mobile, Alabama. The convention theme was, "In Praise to the Lord". Every so often I think of the experience I had while at the convention. I think of the start of each day with the singing that was led by the Rev. Dien Taylor. Every so often the songs we sang pop into my mind and I start singing them. Although LWML isn't as big as the LCMS National Youth Gathering, the experiences are just as meaningful.

There was the opening and closing services with fellow Lutherans lifting their voices in praise to our Lord. Some of the break out sessions were learning experiences of how some of our different missions are progressing. One learns to see how conditions are around the world and how thankful we are that we are the ones praying for and using our "mites" to send the Pastors, teachers, and medical personal to help in those countries and be the "hands and feet" of Jesus. The exhibit hall was very busy with different exhibits showing what is being done around our LCMS congregations and Recognized Service Organizations (RSO). I spoke with the Rev. Brett Smith from Mission Central in Iowa and he asked me and our congregations to pray for our missionaries in the field. One person that is brought to mind is Jamielynn Tinkey who is a nurse serving in the Dominican Republic, also a cousin to my son-in-law. Please add Jamielynn to your prayers.

The Lord willing, I look forward to traveling to Lexington, Kentucky for the 2021 convention; if there is anyone interested in the convention, please don't hesitate to ask me.

Serving the Lord through LWML

Karen Ann Kowalczyk

YOUTH NEWS

It's back to school time, which also means the start up of Sunday School and Youth Group at St. John's. We are looking forward to continuing to guide our little ones in the words of Scripture, as well as watching our youth grow in their faith together. We will be having Sunday School every Sunday after service. Youth group will be meeting once a month based on what works best for all the youth.

The youth and adults who attended the LCMS National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis are inviting the congregation to join us on **October 27th**.

We will be hosting a **Youth Give Back Breakfast** to say thank you to the congregation for all your



support. The support from the congregation is what really helped us to get to the NYG. Each youth will be speaking about the impact that the gathering had on them and how they brought it home with them. Please join us!

Jolene Evancho

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN—Karen Ann Kowalczyk

At the present moment, Maryland Orphan Grain Train is busy getting several containers ready for overseas. Orphan Grain Train is one organization that is driven by volunteers. Only 1.7 cents of every dollar goes to administration expenses. The other 98.3 cents goes into providing for people in need here in the US when disasters strike and the midwest has had their share this year, and providing for our brothers and sisters in need around the world.

One container will have school supplies, desks and other educational items requested by the recipient. The other container will have medical supplies including hospital beds, over the bed tables and other big medical equipment. The container will have items that were headed to the landfill, but people heard about OGT and these items will help in third world countries. OGT only ships to known Christian organizations that have been thoroughly checked out. These items show the "Love" of Christ that is carried in those containers.

Please pray for these containers as they are loaded and transported to the dock, loaded on ships for their destinations, and then the transport to the recipients which some times takes time because of the terrible road conditions.

I will be attending the Orphan Grain Train convention in Norfolk, Nebraska in September and will have some exciting information in next month's newsletter.

Serving Christ,
Karen Ann Kowalczyk
Maryland Orphan Grain Train
Disaster Relief Coordinator

LYDIA SOCIETY NEWS

Finally one of the goals of the Lydia Society will soon be accomplished! We will be paying to have the sanctuary carpet replaced before our 100th anniversary. The original carpeting is beautiful, but becoming threadbare in places and faded from years of service. Bonomo's Carpeting will be doing the job. Our next hoagie sale will be on Thursday, September 26.

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, 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
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.”

AED DONATION



Recently an automated external defibrillator (AED) was presented to St. John's by Don Roegge and family in memory of his wife, Sharon. The medical device was paid for by funds given in her memory by family and friends.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER—Daniel Starry

Summer is quickly fading by as Fall approaches, bringing with it cooler temperatures and a new school year for students and teachers. Likewise, Sunday School and Adult Bible Study will also be starting back up after the Summer break. We've had the privilege of hosting several visitors in the past few weeks, and inviting friends and family to Sunday School or Bible Study is a great way to bring in some new faces in a more laid back setting.

Another sign of the end of summer is our annual Church Picnic at Wargo's Grove. As always, a great time was had by all who attended, and there was no shortage of great food or laughter. Perhaps the highlight of this year's picnic though was the presentation by the Youth Group of their trip to Minneapolis for the 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering. While off to a quiet start, they soon opened up telling story after story as the congregation listened intently. They no doubt had an awesome experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives, and it was also clear that in just one short week, these three young adults (Stephen, Tyler, and Paige), in a sea of thousands of people, made a great impact in the lives of others halfway across our county. We are truly blessed to have such remarkable young adults as part of our congregation, as well as great youth advisors to guide them.

As you may have noticed, and more importantly heard, Dave has installed the new speakers in the Sanctuary, as well as a new speaker downstairs in the Fellowship Hall which marks the completion of the sound system upgrades. The remainder of the grant money will be used to purchase security cameras for the church. There are also numerous other ongoing projects to be completed before the end of the year. Please see Kevin or any other member of council to get involved.