

The Messenger



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

FROM YOUR PASTOR

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. **2**And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3**And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. **4**And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. **6**And at this sound, the multitude came together, and they were bewildered because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. **7** And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8**And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?

This June we celebrate the day of Pentecost. The first time that the Holy Spirit is released in mass. He is released upon all nations on all those who call upon the name of Jesus in faith. A bit later in this second Chapter of Acts, the Apostle Paul delivers his famous Pentecost sermon in which thousands come to faith upon hearing the word of God that day. People from every language group heard the Word of God in their native language even though only Galileans were speaking.

Faith comes by hearing and that is also the name of the ministry that delivers the military Bible Sticks that we are fundraising for at this time. Let the word of God go forth from this place to the ends of the earth as it did on that first day of Pentecost. So that all may hear the Word of God and receive Jesus by faith.

In June we give thanks for all the men who

have served as fathers, brothers, and mentors to all of us. Most importantly we honor our Heavenly Father who has called us to himself. We give thanks to God our creator who sent us His son to restore our relationship with the Triune God.

As we celebrate two full years together it's my prayer that you have been and continue to be blessed by our mutual partnership and ministry here at St. John's. What a year it has been! Continued monthly community meals and much activity with Lydia and monthly hoagie sales. Another military Bible stick campaign is underway, Spanish Bibles, Hurricane



and flood relief supplies, Angel tree to the underprivileged youth in our area. God truly is in this place. Be assured that the elders and I are working diligently to ensure the next year is equally meaningful to you and to God's Kingdom.

We are working to define what makes us unique and special. This includes preparation for our 100th anniversary and an updated mission and vision statement. As a church of immigrants from the Old World, we are asking what makes us unique? Why should people come and see all that is happening here at St. John's? We are also asking how do we reach the next generation of immigrants with the Gospel? We welcome your input, as we continue to seek to grow God's kingdom here in this corner of his creation.

In Christ's service to you his beloved Children,

Pastor Joe

LWML

The LWML national biennial convention, "In Praise to the Lord", will kick off on Thursday evening June 20 with a Communion Service in Mobile, Alabama. It is something to see, and for those attending the youth gathering, it is the same except most of the participants are women with some men who have joined their wives. If you are interested in donating to my mite walk, please see me at church. Any donation is appreciated. That is how the mite project started 77 years ago with women saving their pennies, nickels, and dimes and those "mites" have been blessed and have done great work to bring the Gospel message to many.

I am the Eastern SELC District delegate, and will be voting on the next President of LWML as well as other officers and the funding for the mission projects for the next two years.

Please pray for the delegates as they travel, and as they vote that God's will be done.

Serving the Lord with Gladness
Karen Ann Kowalczyk



DINNER FUNDRAISER

We will be having a meeting on June 9, 2019 immediately after church to begin planning a dinner fundraiser for the church. Anyone wishing to help out with this fundraiser, please join us for the meeting. If you have any questions or cannot make the meeting but still wish to help out, please let Nancy Trovitch know (455-0296).

100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We will be meeting in the near future to set a date for our 100th Anniversary Celebration. Even though it isn't until 2021, we need to set the date so we can notify past Pastors so they can get it on their calendar if they are interested in attending. If you would like to help us in this planning, please let Council President Daniel Starry know.



ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN—Karen Ann Kowalczyk

During the week of June 3rd a truck will start in Connecticut from the New England branch of OGT, stop in Hazleton, and pick up in Maryland before arriving in North Carolina with a truck full of needed supplies.

If you have any small appliances, toaster ovens, microwaves etc. that are in good condition and still work, they can be used in NC. These people are poor and have lost everything in their houses and are starting to rebuild the insides of their houses and can use these items. If you are so inclined, and want to donate towards a refrigerator that would be very much appreciated. The deadline for the small appliances is June 2nd.

Patsy, the woman, who ran Word of Faith Ministries, was called to her eternal home on Maundy Thursday, she was in her 80's, on dialysis, and in a motorized wheel chair. She gave it her all for over 30 years serving as a volunteer who ran this operation. Her grandson

is taking over where his grandmother left off. We pray for this family and organization that God will be with them in their sorrow.

Blessings to all who pray for these people in NC as they recover from Hurricane Florence.

Karen Ann Kowalczyk
Maryland Orphan Grain Train
Volunteer Disaster Relief 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, Bill and Lorraine (Onder) Ray, Megan Crume's mother, Patti, Elaine and John Belko, Bob Kenst (Pastor's brother-in-law)** 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.”

COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

June's Community Luncheon will be held on June 22, 2019. If anyone is interested in helping cook, serve or clean up afterwards, we are at the church from 8:00am until around 1:00pm. Stop by and join us. If you can't help out, that's ok too, just come and enjoy the food we prepare and the fellowship we engage in. It is a rewarding experience.



Happy Father's Day

PRESIDENT'S CORNER—Daniel Starry

I'm sure that everyone is glad that summer is almost here. It seems like just last week we were shoveling snow and bundling up from the cold, and now we're mowing grass and getting ready for the beach or other summer activities. We are truly lucky to live in an area where we are able to experience God's creation of all four seasons.

As has been discussed previously, Council is working on having a dinner as a fundraiser for some of the upcoming projects we have. It would also be a good outreach event to let members of the public know about St. John's. The biggest key to this event being successful is our volunteers. St. John's has been blessed with a congregation of selfless members who have continued to donate their time, talents, and treasures throughout the years. I have no doubt that we all will rally together to make this event a success as well. Thank you to everyone who has already put their name down on the sign-up sheet at the bottom of the stairs, and if you haven't yet, it's not too late. Please keep your eyes and ears open for future announcements regarding this fundraiser. Our next step will be to have a brief meeting to begin planning the fundraiser and to work out some of the details. We will also be holding a meeting very soon to begin planning our 100th anniversary celebration. There is much going on at St. John's, and we would love for you to be a part of it all.

I am also happy to announce that St. John's now has a Facebook page. This will allow us to better inform and connect with our members and the general public. If you are on Facebook and have not yet "liked" the page, please do so, and feel free to share the page with your friends. This Facebook page costs nothing, and once fully implemented could be the largest source of advertisement for the church. You can find it by searching "St. John's Hazleton". In addition, we also have our website (www.stjohnshazleton.org), and announcements will continue to be printed in the bulletin and read aloud at the beginning of the service.

I hope everyone has a great start to their summer, and safe travels to anyone who may be vacationing this month.