

The Messenger



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

FROM YOUR PASTOR

We are firmly into the season of Pentecost. The season in which the Holy Spirit is poured out on all believers. In the Church year, this is the time of the year that many people focus on the growth of the church. Often this is done through a variety of events and programs such as Vacation Bible School, kids day camps, marriage retreats, and other things such as our National Youth Gathering. Our youth are our future. Therefore, it is important to raise them up as Godly leaders. The National Gathering is an opportunity for our youth to be fed, to serve and to grow their faith. It's also an opportunity for the family of St. Johns to pray for our youth. When the youth return, they will have an opportunity to lead a service and share what going to the gathering has meant to them. They will also have a service project of thanks to giving back to the family of St. John's. More details will follow upon their return from the gathering.

To that end, it gives us older folk an opportunity to be like the Apostle Paul towards Timothy, one of his spiritual sons. To encourage strengthen and aid them in the growth and development of their faith. In 1 Timothy Chapter 6:11 - 21 you will find The Apostle's charge to Timothy his spiritual son. Paul encourages Timothy to continue living a life of faith and to fight the good fight of living a faith-filled life to which both Timothy and you were called when you made your confession of faith. Let's encourage one another to fight the good fight and live a faith-filled life as examples to our youth and to our community.

Summer is also the time many of us take vacations to get away from the daily routines and grinds that many of us go through. I pray that when you are away from St. John's you will still make time to worship with other saints. And as you do that you will find and experience the presence of the Holy

Spirit. Most of you know that Gayle and I recently returned from a working vacation in which I performed the wedding ceremony of my youngest sister in Sarasota, Florida, followed by a few days of camping in the Adirondacks. We have taken some time to unplug, unwind, and explore God's creation. We also visited Lake Placid the site of the 1932 & 1980 Olympics on the one day that it rained. This place is worth the drive to visit and see the sites of the surrounding area.

This summer we also send off Don Roegge back to New England to be with his children and grandchildren. We wish him much joy and peace as he seeks to be a light in one of the most unchurched regions in our country. Please remember him in your thoughts and prayers. This also gives us an opportunity to support him in a new mission. It also leaves a void in the family of St. John's. Don has been and will continue to be a faithful servant of Jesus. Both to his local congregation (s) and to the SELC District. So, with words of love and prayers for blessings, we wish Don the best. We also seek to find a few new faithful followers who are willing to step up and be trained up in the mission of Jesus to fulfill the void that is left by Don.

We resume our Sunday School program the week after Labor Day.

In Christ's service to you his beloved Children,

Pastor Joe

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

A second 26 foot truck filled with hospital beds, furniture, mattresses, and other misc. household items left from Connecticut and stopped at St. Johns' picking up additional mattresses and furniture. A Thrivent Action Team purchased a new micro wave, frying pan, and other misc. household items; hygiene supplies, and non perishable food. After loading in Hazleton, the next stop was the OGT Maryland warehouse and then on to NC. Once it arrived in NC on June 5 it was unloaded and the volunteers with Word of Faith Ministry were thrilled to receive our truck load of supplies. There were wheel chairs on the truck and there were 3 people on a list needing those items. It is wonderful how our Heavenly Father provides for everything we need to support this body and life. We learned that in the meaning to the first article of the Creed, but here it shows how it plays out in real life. God blessings to all who helped with this shipment to NC.

Karen Ann Kowalczyk
MD Orphan Grain Train Disaster Relief
Coordinator

COMMUNITY MEALS

July 27 and August 24 are the dates for the summer Community Meals. If you wish to volunteer a few hours of your time, see Nancy or Sylvia for details. We serve about 50 meals every month.



Thanks to the Thrivent Grants and donations from Weis Foods, this project has been going on for four (4) years at no cost to St. John's. We are looking for a few members to apply for Thrivent Grants for the remainder of the year. Please see Nancy if you can help out by applying for a Grant.

YOUTH NEWS

The youth are so excited for the month of July!! Our three youth as well as Jolene and Pastor board a plane on July 10th to head to Minneapolis for the NYG. We have spent years fundraising and the time has finally come! This trip would not have been possible without the help of St. John's congregation. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for the never-ending support you have shown the youth group. Thank you for opening your hearts and lifting us up in prayer, as well as the financial support you gave us. I ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers as the last minute details fall into place. We ask for your prayers for the week that we will be gone as well. There will live streaming from the gathering, but we are unsure at this time what the website will be for that. Please see Jolene for updated info.

The end of the school year has come and we would like to congratulate our graduates for this year. **Maci Evancho**, **Stephen Adamoyurka**, and **Marcus Moppin** have finished their first year in school and have graduated Kindergarten! Congratulations to them. We also have three high school graduates this year! Congratulations to **Shaylin Panco**, **Bethany Mulderig**, and **Brianna Mandak**!! Best of luck with your future plans!! Congratulations!!

To celebrate the end of school this year the youth and Sunday school enjoyed an afternoon at pastors, enjoying the lake and roasting hot dogs over the fire. Please continue to keep all the children of St John's in your thoughts and prayers.

CHURCH FUNDRAISERS

A hoagie sale was held on June 27 to benefit church repairs. We will also be selling Coupons for Boscov's Community Day sale in October. It's an easy fundraiser—you purchase and/or sell a coupon (s) for \$5 and you get 25% off most items you purchase on October 16 at Boscov's. Great way to start your Christmas shopping, save some money and help St. John's all for \$5. The Youth Group and Church will split the profit. Details will be forthcoming in the bulletin. Start asking your family and friends if they wish to purchase a coupon.

LWML CONVENTION—Karen Ann Kowalczyk

Hot off the press from the LWML convention

As this newsletter is being printed, I am at the LWML Convention in Mobile Alabama. The opening communion service was attended by over 3,000 women and men from all over the US, as well as some missionaries from overseas. It was a beautiful site with all the singing and the guest proclaimer the Rev. Dr. Ulmer Marshall, Jr. had a very uplifting message based on the convention theme, "Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day."

The singing leader, The Rev. Dien Ashley Taylor, from the Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bronx, New York has been a very lively musician as we sung hymns during the business meeting. On Friday morning we had a guest banjo player, LCMS President The Rev. Matthew Harrison, playing his banjo accompanying a few spiritual hymns. Pres. Harrison urged us to remember that 35% of the members coming into LCMS are

from mission outreaches by local churches. He pointed out that parents should "love their children and grandchildren" and the most important thing to do is to show them the Love of Jesus so we don't lose them.

The convention adopted a mite budget of \$2,100,000 for the next two years. The votes were taken for the projects, but the results will be announced on Saturday morning.

It has been a few long days, but you can feel the "Love of Jesus" in the air at the convention center.

Serving the "Lord with Gladness",

Karen Ann Kowalczyk
SELC Eastern Zone LWML Delegate

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.”

AmazonSmile

Summertime is a great time to do some shopping from the convenience of your home while you enjoy the cool breezes from your fan or air conditioner. Why not take a journey on the Amazon? AmazonSmile that is. St. John's is participating in the AmazonSmile program which means our church will receive a donation from the Amazon foundation when you make an eligible purchase on AmazonSmile.

Here's how to do it. Enter this link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-6413352> in your internet browser, this is a unique link for St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Then shop as you normally do. If you're an Amazon Prime member, you will still get all the benefits plus you can help St. John's. If you have any questions, see Barry Gangwer at church or call 570-427-4812 or email bgangwer@verizon.net. Happy shopping.

THRIVENT GRANTS

If you are a Thrivent member and have not used your 2019 \$250 Action Grant, please see Nancy or Karen Ann for projects that they can be used for. We are looking for Grants to cover expenses of the Community Lunches and there are many projects in progress for disasters that have occurred in the United States. Please do not let your Grants go unused. This is a great opportunity provided by Thrivent to help out many causes.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER—Daniel Starry

As we enter into the month of July, I would like to first wish the Youth Group a safe and enjoyable trip as they head to Minneapolis for the 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering in just a few short days. The youth and their families have been working hard to prepare for this memorable experience. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

I would also like to take a moment to especially thank Don Roegge for his many years of service to St. John's. Most recently, Don has served as Vice President, where I have been lucky enough to serve alongside of him and call upon him for guidance. He and Sharon have been very involved from the beginning of their membership here at St. John's, and Don was integral in the calling process of Pastor Leech and his predecessors. I ask you to please keep Don and his family in your thoughts and prayers as well, as he moves back to Connecticut to begin this new journey.

As we reach the halfway point of the year, I reflect on what has been accomplished at St. John's over the past six months, as well as what lies ahead for the rest of 2019 and beyond. Some notable accomplishments for 2019 so far are the partial replacement of the sanctuary's sound system, an Amazon Smile account, a church Facebook page, various trustee projects, and numerous mission projects. The update of the sound system has been spearheaded by Dave Trovitch and was funded through a grant which was secured last year from Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Arizona. This project is still ongoing, but I think you will all agree that the upgrades made so far have made a big difference in the ability of our members to better hear the Worship service. The Amazon Smile account is similar to the Boyer's fundraiser in that the church receives a percentage of sales from purchases on Amazon made through the St. John's Smile account. This account was setup and managed by Barry Gangwer, and the church has already received some money as a result. The St. John's Facebook page is also ongoing and will allow us to better advertise events and keep in touch with members and the community. The trustees have also been busy with numerous projects in order to keep our church properties in good condition. They can always use extra hands, so please see Kevin Kowalczyk if you are able to help. St. John's and its members have also supported numerous mission projects so far this year, the most recent being the Military Bible Sticks, which allow American soldiers to safely hear God's word while they are in harm's way.

As you can see, God has truly blessed St. John's so far this year, and I have no doubt that he will continue to bless us all through the end of 2019. We still have much to accomplish, and we would love to have your help. Thank you for your support, and I wish you all a happy and safe summer.