

September  
2013

# St. John Lutheran Church

## Mission Statement

*St. John is a living witness to the love of God as shown in Jesus Christ.*

*We gather faithfully in His name to worship and praise Him; and we go forth in peace to share the Good News and to serve the world around us.*

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## My sisters and brothers in Christ,

The theme for this year in our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is "Always Made New". This is chosen because this year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our denomination and because God is always making us new. Jesus declares to the church in Revelation 21:5 "Behold, I am making all things new."

The church is continually remade in God's image, as God gets rid of the 'old things': oppression, prejudice, anger, sin and death, all of the human ways that are a part of the world and promises us that we will be remade in his image – that all will be new.

September is a time of new beginnings. A hundred years ago, for many of our ancestors it was often harvest time, bringing in the crops for the year's work. While we have some in our congregation who still farm, for most of us, September is a time of new beginnings because schools – Sunday School and regular schools, begin anew.

Here at St. John we are beginning a number of 'new' things this fall. Our Sunday School kick off is September 8<sup>th</sup> (Rally Day). Our Brown Bag Bible Study will restart on September 10<sup>th</sup>, our Adult Bible Study (on the Bible miniseries from the History Channel) will continue. Confirmation starts up too!

God is making all things new!

## Doors for the Church

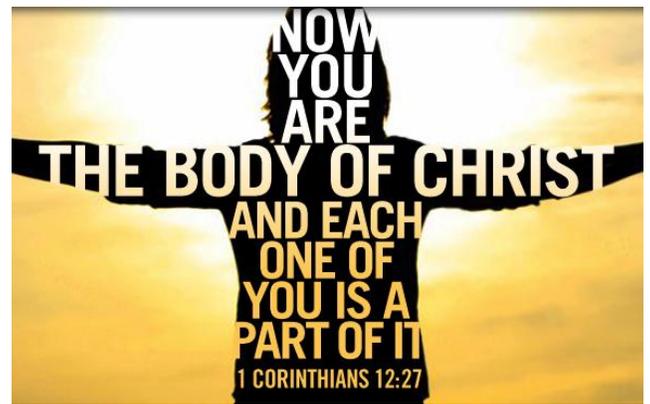
As of the writing of this newsletter, we have received a total of \$11,288 for the doors. The doors are ordered and have been for some time. They will be coming in September – so you should be seeing them this month. Thank you for all your help with us getting new doors. **Also, the Mission Endowment Fund will be covering the remainder of the cost for the doors – so at this point they are paid for!** Thank you everyone.

## Quilts

On Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup>, Sunday September 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> you can see some of the lovely quilts ladies from this church made for Lutheran World Relief displayed in our sanctuary

## **Movie Night – September 14<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 p.m.**

On September 14<sup>th</sup> we will be having a movie night at St. John. We always pick films that are appropriate to all ages. We will meet at 4:30 at St. John, talk a little bit about what we will watch (connecting it for the Bible), start the movie (with popcorn), order pizza and have a nice night. Please sign up on the bulletin board!



## **NEW MEMBERS CLASS**

Pastor Mark will be having classes on September 16<sup>th</sup>, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> following late church (and any church events) for New Members. **New Member Sunday** will be on **October 13th**



## **Cookies Thank You!**

A quick THANK YOU for all wonderful bakers that contributed cookies to the World Wide Synod. The cookies were well received! So Merci, Danke, Gracias, however you wish to say it. A heartfelt Thank you for your assistance and donations.

## **And a Cookie Request..**

Not to be greedy or taxing of your time, but can I ask for help again? As a way to reach out to the community, we will be having a bake sale table at Applefest. Each of us has a favorite dessert that we make are excellent at preparing. Can I exploit your talents and ask that if you are excellent at making Cinnamon Rolls, Apple Pie, Pumpkin Rolls, Cookies, Brownies or whatever your specialty is --- to please find it in your heart to use the sign-up sheet and donate either a dessert or your time helping to man the table. We will have a Cookie baking day on September 29<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon to prepare for Applefest.

## **Theology on Tap**

**Third Wednesday of the Month at 8:00  
– Starting on September 18th**

Men from Lutheran churches in our area will be gathering on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September for conversation and fellowship with pastors from a few area Lutheran churches (St. Peter's, Hope, Oak Grove and St. John). Place is still to be determined, but we will be meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, 20<sup>th</sup> of November and we invite you to join us.

### Our Worship Schedule - 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Starting on September 8<sup>th</sup> we have two worship services – one at 8:00 a.m. and the other at 10:30 a.m. The services are identical, other than the time they begin (and end) and the folks who attend (there are a couple of people who go to both, namely Pastor Mark and our organist John Thickey). Otherwise our service times are identical. We will keep to this worship



### Rally Day - September 8<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 a.m.

Our Sunday School year will start on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Because it is rally day and everyone likes ice cream we will start with ice cream Sundays – because God is good and we will be celebrating some of the sweet gifts that God gives us. Children will be beginning Sunday School and adults will be starting “The Bible” miniseries in Pastor’s office.

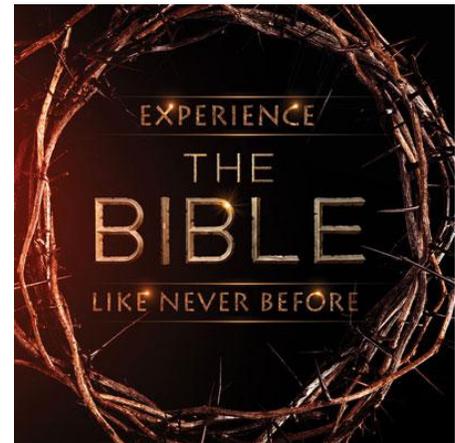
### Worship Planners and Hymns - September 8<sup>th</sup> after late church

Worship Planners group – a group of folks that meet to plan out hymns and service themes will be meeting on Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>. Anyone is welcome to join us – we invite you to make that a part of your day.

### “The Bible”

Sundays at 9:15 in Pastor Mark’s office

One of the resolutions in the recent churchwide assembly was to continue connecting with the book of our faith, the Bible. We will be watching “The Bible” miniseries to start. As a part of that, our Adult Discussion Group will be meeting in Pastor Mark’s office on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. We will have donuts, coffee and we invite you to join us!



## Brown Bag Bible Study - Tuesdays – eat at 12:00 p.m., Bible Study at 12:30

Our brown bag bible study group is (like the Adult Discussion group above), a no experience needed bible study. We gather on Tuesdays at noon bringing out lunch – that’s where the brown bag part comes in.

After eating and fellowshiping together

for a while, we open up the Bible. In past year’s we’ve covered Christmas, the gospel of Luke and Isaiah.

This year our group is going to begin by looking at the book of Galatians, one of the shorter letters of Paul, after that we will continue as folks in the group desire.

Our first day of meeting is Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> – we invite you to join us. We’re a friendly group of folks and we want you to be a part!



This past August 12<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup> the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America held our national churchwide assembly in Pittsburgh. Besides the cookie table, here were some things that happened...

The 952 voting members:

+ Elected the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, bishop of the ELCA Northeastern Ohio Synod, as ELCA presiding bishop. She will be installed Oct. 5 in Chicago and will begin her six-year term Nov. 1.

+ Elected the Rev. Wm Chris Boerger as ELCA secretary. Boerger, currently on leave from call, was installed during the assembly's closing worship Aug. 16 and will begin his six-year term Nov. 1.

+ Adopted "The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries" -- a social statement on criminal justice -- and its supporting implementing resolutions. The statement calls ELCA members to ministry and compassion through practices including: hearing the cries of those affected, accompaniment, hospitality and advocacy. It asks members of this church to recommit themselves to visiting the prisoner; correct the flawed criminal justice system and participate in God's work with hands and hearts.

+ Approved a proposal for the ELCA's first major fundraising campaign. The five-year campaign, to begin in 2014, is designed to increase this church's capacity to renew and start new congregations, educate and develop its leaders, bolster its global mission efforts and expand the impact of its relief and development work. Voting members approved two more campaign initiatives -- encouraging and forming lay youth and young adult leaders and support for disability ministry.

+ Approved the ELCA churchwide organization budget for fiscal years 2014-2016. The budget includes current fund spending of \$70,541,740 for 2014, \$68,552,280 for 2015, and \$67,920,675 for 2016. It also approved ELCA World Hunger income proposals of \$19,000,000 for each year 2014-2016, and authorized the ELCA Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

+ Elected ELCA members to serve on the following: Church Council, Portico Benefit Services, Mission Investment Fund, Augsburg Fortress, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline, Nominating Committee.

+ Adopted a series of amendments to the ELCA Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions.

+ Moved to continue the Book of Faith initiative that invites the 4-million-member ELCA to become fluent in the first language of our faith -- the language of Scripture -- and to be renewed for lives of witness and service.

### Save the Date

- October 5<sup>th</sup> – women of faith convention in Pittsburgh – contact Denise Hager for details
- October 13<sup>th</sup> – we have our annual harvest dinner

## Mission Emphasis

**Lutherlyn** - A year-round Christian camp and a ministry of the ELCA, Lutherlyn offers opportunities for God's people of all ages and groups. Lutherlyn serves over 15,000 people each year through a variety of programs and

activities, including summer camp, retreats and rentals, adventure programs and environmental education. During the third quarter of the year, your offerings designated for mission emphasis will be sent to this ELCA sponsored organization.



## Men's Night Out

**Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30**

**The Beacon – 231 Renfrew Road, Butler PA**

The men are going to the shrimp and crawdad boil at the Beacon on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. We enjoy sitting around, eating great food and listening to music. If you have any questions, please speak to Jim Hager or Jamie Weaver.



## Pastor Mark Away

August 28<sup>th</sup> – September 6<sup>th</sup> and September 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>

Pastor Mark will be camping those dates. During this time **Pastor Dave Saylor** is 'on call' for any pastoral concerns or emergencies. His phone number is (724) 799 374. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, **Pastor Ralph Storm** will be leading worship.

**Our Annual Harvest Dinner – October 13<sup>th</sup> 4:00 – 7:00**

**Ticket \$10**

Mark your calendars for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Harvest Dinner at St. John and it is going to be delicious! Invite family, friends and neighbors for a fantastic spread: a whole pig, coleslaw, desserts, halushki, sauerkraut and hot dogs (for the kids who come).

### Food Donations are requested...

- |  |                              |   |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| 12 jars applesauce                       | 1 can regular coffee         | 5 bags of pierogies from Sam's Club or Costco |
| 15 bags wide egg noodles                 | 8 lb. butter                 | monetary donations for paper products         |
| 2 cans lemonade mix                      | 10 bags of sauerkraut        | 3 (3 lb.) packages of kielbasa                |
| 2 cans <i>Crystal Light</i> Iced tea mix | 3 pkg. beef hot dogs         |   |
| 1 can <i>decaf</i> coffee                | <u>desserts of all kinds</u> |   |

## **Pew Pads**

In an effort to get more visitors to use pew pads, to be more welcoming and to focus evangelism, as well as to make use of them for our annual reports, etc. the ushers will be distributing pew pads today and in the coming weeks, during the announcements. Please sign the pads and pass them to your neighbors.

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

<http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org>

## **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

9/2 Amy Evans  
9/2 Jacqueline Black  
9/4 Larry Werner  
9/6 Nicholas Claus  
9/9 Sally Foster  
9/9 Angelina Passione  
9/10 Winifred Stefko  
9/11 Paula Cole  
9/13 Clarence Strabel  
9/14 Jamie Weaver  
9/17 Kelly Greb  
9/18 Mary Waibel  
9/18 Josh Zimmerman  
9/20 Ardyce Rigg  
9/22 Kate Nicholas  
9/27 Susan Fritz  
9/27 Roy Werner  
9/29 Danielle Dishong  
9/30 Matt Claus

## **Worship Helpers for September**

Please look in the Greeting area for worship helper sign up sheets for acolyte, usher or acolyte for any Sunday in September or October.

Here are the folks signed up so far...

### **Ushers**

8:00 am	Dave Knauff
10:30 am	Frieda Carbo

### **Assisting Minister**

8:00 am	Laurie Passione
10:30 am	MarthaWard

Address service requested

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