

**Announcements for the week of  
September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
At St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Happy Birthday ELCA**

Our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. 25 years ago the ELCA was formed in Columbus Ohio – when three denominations came together.

It has been a momentous 25 years. Our denomination is organized from the bottom up, rather than the top down. So rather than being dictated to by one, we have synod assemblies and churchwide assemblies where elected leaders throughout our region (for the synod) and the country (for churchwide assemblies). We have given millions of dollars for world hunger, for disaster relief both domestically and internationally, for Malaria, for international relief and domestic relief.

We have produced social statements that reflect what we believe. We have elected a female presiding bishop, supported seminaries and colleges and been a place where God's word is proclaimed in the world. Here's what it says on the national website.

*Always being made new. 25 years together in Christ.*

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

**We are a church that is deeply rooted — and always being made new.**

**If anyone is in Christ...**

We are deeply rooted. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is still comparatively new as a church body, and yet our roots are much deeper than our 25 years together. The taproot of our life extends through the histories of predecessor churches in the United States, through the formative witness of the 16<sup>th</sup> century evangelical reformers and their confessional writings, to the Scriptures and the word of Christ. Our life is in Jesus Christ. We are deeply rooted in his word of forgiveness and the promises of God's steadfast love and mercy. The word of Christ dwells in us richly. God nourishes us as one body in Jesus Christ with companions from around the globe who meet us at Christ's table of grace.

**...there is a new creation**

We are being made new every day. In Jesus Christ we are not unchanged. What God does in Christ is as radical as the death and resurrection of baptism, where new creatures in Christ rise to live "no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them." God is bringing that new creation to life among us in the ministry of reconciliation. In that service we no longer see each other as we did before. We are no longer strangers, competitors or enemies to each other. We are beloved companions in one body, restored to a communion where the rich diversity of our experiences, wisdom and abilities serve the common good in Christ. The new creation in Christ rises to life among us every day.

**Please join us for a fellowship time. As part of this time, you are invited to share one of your memories that has stuck with you in the last 25 years in your time at St. John, in the time that we have together been a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

### **Fall Hayride – Calling All Ages!**

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, St. John's is planning a hayride. A pizza lunch and drinks will be provided after late service. There will be a 15 passenger van available for anyone who does not want to drive. We plan to leave the church parking lot at approximately 12:30 pm. Please use the sign-up sheet or let Pastor Mark know if you plan to attend. Hope you can join us!

### **Cookie Request for Applefest**

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.

- *We are also looking for volunteers to help at the table/booth for Applefest on October 5<sup>th</sup>.*

### **Calling All Singers!**

It would be helpful to have a group who would be willing to serve by leading and teaching the congregation in new liturgies, psalms, and music, as well as having a small ensemble or choir for festivals and special services during the church year. This would be a short-term commitment and rehearsals would be minimal and would be held between the 8:30 and 10:30 am services on Sunday morning, only when necessary. Our first rehearsal for Reformation (October 27) would be Sunday, October 6 and continuing through the month. If you are interested or would like more information, please stop by the console and speak with John Thickey after services or call 724-752-2618 ASAP.

### **Brown Bag Bible Study on Tuesdays**

Our brown bag bible study – which is a no experience bible study – meets on Tuesday, September 17. We meet for lunch from 12:00 to 12:30 pm and then study the bible from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. We will be starting this year off with Galatians – one of the books of the Bible that helped inspire Martin Luther and the Reformation

### **Doors for the Church**

We have raised all the money we need for the doors of the church. Thank you! The doors are custom sizes and the factory has taken a long time to make the doors. We accepted a bid for installation from a contractor who ordered the doors from the factory. As soon as the doors come from the factory they will be installed. The hold up is entirely waiting for the doors to be delivered which we hope will happen soon.

### **News – Children Supporting The Lighthouse Foundation**

Our Sunday School offering emphasis for the remainder of this year will be The Lighthouse Foundation. The Foundation was founded in 1985 by a group of Bakerstown community residents in response to growing needs among local families and communities facing rising unemployment and emergency needs. Originally housed at the former Richland Restaurant in Bakerstown, it was purchased by the First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown to provide a home for The Lighthouse. Within a year, it became a freestanding nonprofit entity and moved its headquarters to Middlesex Twp., Butler County in 1991. It is located at the corner of Route 8 and Cruikshank Road, three miles north of the Allegheny County line.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000 and are confident that with the support and generosity of each of you that we will meet and possibly exceed that goal! We graciously ask that you consider giving a donation to our Sunday School program.

For your convenience, there are envelopes located in the church pews. **Please write your name and the amount of your gift on the Sunday School offering sticker so it can be included in your total giving for the year and place in the offering plate.** If you'd like to see how well we are doing, please check out the bulletin board by the kitchen. We have something cool planned if we exceed our goal!

Today, The Lighthouse:

- Maintains operations at five sites
  - Annually serves more than 6,000 clients
  - Fills identified gaps in basic human services
  - Lone provider of housing to homeless young adults and families in its service region
  - Operates through the private charitable and public support of more than 1,500 individuals, bodies of faith, agencies, foundations, and business and service organizations.
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**Pastor Mark is Away** – Wednesday through Saturday. During this time please call Pastor Nathaniel Christman at (651) 328 1072 (Pastor Nathaniel serves Oak Grove Lutheran Church). The newsletter said Pastor Dave Saylor, however Pastor Saylor is recovering slower than he expected from foot surgery.

\*\*Please note on the yellow Prayer Cards anyone to be “added” or ‘removed from’ the prayer lists.

**This Week at St. John**

- **Sunday – September 15<sup>th</sup>**
  - Worship (Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost) 8:00 a.m.**
  - Sunday School 9:15 a.m.**
  - Worship (Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost) 10:30 a.m.**
  - Happy Birthday ELCA after late church**
- **Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**
  - Pastor Mark Office Hours 10:30 – 12:00 noon**
  - Brown Bag Bible Study 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>** - Pastor Mark Away
- **Sunday – September 22**
  - Worship (Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost) 8:00 a.m.**
  - Sunday School 9:15 a.m.**
  - Worship (Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost) 10:30 a.m.**
  - Worship Planners (after late church)**