

November
2017

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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Dear friends in Christ,

As I write this we are preparing for Reformation Sunday and celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on October 31st, the day supposedly Martin Luther nailed his 95 Thesis on the Wittenberg church door and the Reformation began. You might say in churchy circles this 500th anniversary is a "big deal," there have been commemorations and joint worship services this past year between Lutherans and our Roman and Orthodox brothers and sisters - including one over the summer at St. Killian. On Tuesday, Oct. 31 our ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, will co-host an all day event at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

The title of the event is "Looking Back & Called Forward."

Celebrating significant anniversaries is a wonderful thing. It allows a time to look back and rejoice, but it also is an opportunity to look ahead to where you are headed. In her October article in "Living Lutheran" Bishop Eaton commented that "this is our year" but added - "October 32nd. Now What?" (*Living Lutheran*, October 2017, pg. 50) Of course there is no "32nd", but there is always the day after any party. Now what?

The promise of the gospel is that nothing, even hardships and tragedy, can separate us from God in Christ. (Romans 8:39) The promise of our baptism into Christ is that each day in a new day as we are continually made new (2 Corinthians 5.17) and God makes all things new. (Rev. 21:5)

I recently was looking through the history of the congregation produced for the 100th anniversary of St. John in 1997, and the dedication of the new church in 1953. In both of those commemorations there was information on the past, but also there was a hope-filled anticipation of what will come. 120 years ago, in 1897, fewer people than we have in worship today came together in faith and built the church we worship in today in hopeful confidence in the "what now?" of the future.

500 years ago, or 120: Anniversaries are not so much about the past perhaps than about how in looking back we can be reminded of the call to the new that is ahead. Trusting in the sure and certain gospel promise we can be hope-filled even in the midst of uncertainty.

"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word." (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman

First We Give of Ourselves A Three Year Discipleship Journey 2017: Giving In Grace

This fall St. John has embarked on a three-year discipleship journey that we are calling ***“First, We Give of Ourselves.”***



The Apostle Paul, in 2 Corinthians 8:5 describes the spiritual center of our giving. In describing the generosity of the Macedonian Christians, he says:

“...they first gave themselves to the Lord.”

Our giving, in whatever form, is the giving of ourselves as a response to God’s grace in Christ. “Giving in Grace” is the joyful sharing of what has been given to us through God’s abundant generosity.

There are two foundational reasons why we give. The first reason is that our giving in grace is a response to God’s gift of grace in Christ. It is a joyful and thankful response of delight for God’s rich gift to us. The second reason for our giving is that our ministries of St. John can continue to boldly grow in the proclamation of this gift of grace. “Giving in Grace” is sharing gifts in order that lives can be touched with the love and grace of God in Christ that we have received.

The first few weeks of this month we continue the weekly faith talks in worship, a sermon series, and the accompanying bible studies during Sunday School and Wednesday mornings. We will then wrap up this year’s emphasis on November 19th with a *combined Celebration Worship service at 10:00 am* and luncheon following in the Fellowship Hall.

Continued prayerful discernment of how faithful stewardship is an essential part of living our baptismal call to discipleship.



It is with great joy that we announce that St. John has employed a new Director of Music Ministries and Organist.

Maizy Fisher is a talented musician with master degrees from Duquesne University in both Organ Performance and Piano Performance, and experience playing for Lutheran congregations. We look forward to her sharing her gifts with St. John.

Please join us in welcoming Maizy Fisher to St. John!



Weekly Spoken Morning Prayer Wednesdays – 11:30 am

Currently, Pastor Zimmerman leads a liturgy of Morning Prayer in the sanctuary at 11:30 am on Wednesdays before the brown bag bible study. A feature of this contemplative time of worship is an opportunity to weekly pray together the entire prayer list as found in the bulletin each week, along with other prayer requests.

All are invited to come and participate, whether or not you stay for lunch and bible study. If you have joys or concerns you wish lifted up in prayer, but are unable to attend, please email them to pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org.

Brown Bag Bible Study

Join Pastor Zimmerman on **Wednesdays at noon** for the lunchtime Bible Study. Bring your own lunch. We will meet in the fellowship hall so children can play in the nursery.



Confirmed in Christ November 5, 2017 – 10:30 am Worship Service

The following candidates will be confirmed and welcomed into the church at the 10:30 am service on **Sunday, November 5.**

**Danielle Dishong
Laura Greb
Gianna Julio**

A cake reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Fellowship Breakfast Sunday, November 5

Between services

Join us as we come together for good food and good company.
All are welcome!

Food Bank Sunday – Second Sunday of each month.

Generosity Grows from Gratitude

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances! -- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Would you like to be a more generous person, possessing a generous heart? Then try embracing gratitude as a spiritual practice. Since Thanksgiving is on the 23rd of this month, November is a great time to give it a try.

Gratitude and generosity go together naturally. Whether you're a millionaire or just middle-class, when you are grateful for what you have, you'll likely be happier and more satisfied with your life. You will tend to see the world through the eyes of abundance and be more likely to give of yourself. And it has nothing to do with wealth. Some of the most generous people you meet are poor, and some of the wealthiest people in the world are stingy. But generous people, rich or poor, tend to look at their lives with gratitude.

How can we embrace gratitude as a spiritual practice? Paul gives us a good start in the Scripture verse above. If we reverse his order, things flow pretty well:

Give thanks in all circumstances: It's easy to give thanks when everything is going along swimmingly, but much tougher when we face problems (and we all do). Notice that Paul says give thanks IN all circumstances, not FOR all circumstances. In hard times, we can be grateful for the parts of our life that are going well and for the resources, relationships and faith that will help us get through.

Pray without ceasing: You can communicate with God anytime and anywhere. Pray in the shower, in your car, on the beach, on your lunch break, at a stop light, in a grocery line. God hears your all our prayers, whether spoken, whispered, or just thought. So pray without ceasing.

Rejoice always: Look for everyday celebrations every day. Do you have hot water? A car? Clean socks? High-speed Internet? Enough to eat? Friends? Loving relationships? Then rejoice! For a disciplined approach, keep a journal of your daily thanks, or a "gratitude list" that you can pray over every night and revise as necessary. Or just make it a point every day to enter into a time of thankful prayer.

Commit to a disciplined approach for a period of time – say, from Thanksgiving to Christmas. And it's a good bet that your developing "attitude of gratitude" will result in your developing a generous heart and seeing the world through a lens of abundance.

--Rob Blezard

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Congregational Meeting – December 3

There will be a brief congregational meeting following both worship services on Sunday, December 3. The congregation will be asked to vote on the slate for the 2018 Vestry. The new vestry will meet for a combined meeting on Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 pm.

Sunday School Project November 5 Project – Hospital Stay Basket



We have chosen Light of Life Rescue Mission for our Sunday School offering for this year. Along with the offering, we are going to do a service project on the first Sunday of each month. Light of Life has provided us with a list of things that are needed and we have chosen one for each month. **November 5 project is a Hospital Stay Basket.** We ask that you contribute items and we will make up the basket. Help to provide comfort by providing coffee mugs, tea, instant cocoa, deck of cards, crossword puzzles, or a devotional book.



- November 4** Assist with Bowling at St. John Specialty Care Center – Meet in lobby at 1:45 pm.
November 18 World Vision Service Project - Leave St. John at 8:30 am.
December 3 Assist with Bowling League at St. John Specialty Care Center – meet in lobby at 1:45 pm.

Don't forget Lifelong Learning with Ms. Tully on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am!



Keepsake Christmas

December 2, 2017

10 am and 12:30 pm

at

St. John Lutheran Church

Families will hear a dramatic retelling of the Christmas story from cast members onstage. While listening to the story, each child will make and decorate a manger scene. The story will be followed by cookies and hot chocolate.

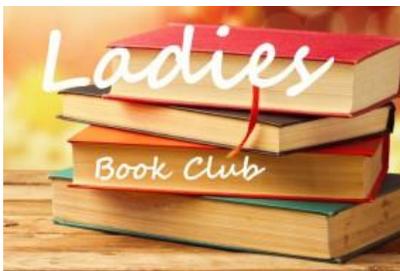
Please register online at: stjohnchurchmars.org.



Kid's Club – November 17
6:30-8:00 pm

Come and join us!

Our Kid's Club program at St. John is for kids age 4-10 (or if they attend Sunday School). We will have music, stories, games, free play, a craft to take home and a snack. Come and join us! If you have any questions, please speak to Tanya Nagel, Sally Foster or Denise Hager.



Ladies Book Group
November 15 – 7:00-8:00 pm

Meetings are in the 'living room' section of the Fellowship Hall if you would like to join us. We will be finishing up our current book this month and we are looking for suggestions to begin a new book. Contact Sally or Denise if you have a suggestion or any questions about the group.

Quilting Group
November 13 – 6:00 pm

Are you interested in quilting or would you like to learn?
Our group meets on the second Monday of each month.
The quilts made by the group are sent to Lutheran World Relief to be distributed. If you are interested or would like to know more, join us!



Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on November 23 & 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.



- 11/02 Ariel 'Buzz' Kelly
- 11/04 Christopher Knauff
- 11/05 Tanya Nagel
- 11/07 Dave Knauff
- 11/14 Katie McClure
- 11/17 Cheryl Davidson
- 11/17 Linda Sabbagh
- 11/19 Shirley Kelly
- 11/22 Brooke Claus
- 11/29 Joseph Baysek

Upcoming Events
Dec. 2 – Keepsake Christmas
Dec. 3 – Bowling @ SJSCC

Communion Bread Schedule
 November & December – Denise Hager
Counters for November
 Katie Niklewicz & Kelly Greb



- 11/01 – Matthew & Jeannette Claus – 31 yrs.
- 11/03 – Keith & Valerie Cardinal – 16 yrs.
- 11/05 – Charles & Cheryl Davidson – 40 yrs.

**November
Worship Helpers**

Assisting Minister
 8:00 am Kelly Greb
 10:30 am Martha Ward

Usher
 8:00 am Matt Claus
 10:30 am Carolyn Jarrett

Communion Assistants
 8:00 am
 10:30 am Jim Ward

November Newsletter

Address service requested

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