

August
2018

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.

St. John Lutheran Church
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Dear friends in Christ,

Each month you will find in the margin of this newsletter St. John's mission statement. It states clearly our purpose and could be summed up in three words:

Worship, Share, Serve

The primary reasons for being the church here in this place are to gather for worship, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, and to serve others. How do we live that out in a changing community and culture?

For the past year and a half we have had a small group here at St. John quietly and faithfully engaging in bible study and conversation known as the Mission Planning Task force. Through listening to what God is telling us in scripture, conversation with the vestry, and leaders in our wider community the task force has sought to discern God's mission, and how we can be a part of it, here in this place.

To update you on their progress thus far, their work has zeroed in on three major areas as the prime focus of our mission:

- Build and strengthen relationship between God and ourselves.
- Build and strengthen relationships between the congregation and ourselves.
- Build and strengthen relationships between the Community and ourselves.

The task force is now working on a three-year mission plan to specifically address those areas in realistic ways. Please save the date for your opportunity to add your input on October 7th at a "Brainstorm Breakfast" when during our regular monthly Fellowship Breakfast the Mission Planning Task Force will present their findings and invite you to share your thoughts. Please check out September's newsletter for helpful information on this process as we prayerfully look ahead at our ongoing ministry. I am reminded of one of my favorite prayers:

"O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

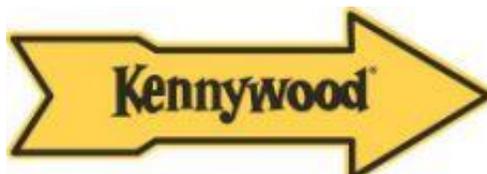
Amen." (ELW pg. 304)

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman

**Brown Bag Lunch & Bible Study Cancelled for August
Morning Prayer – 11:30 am – Wednesdays**

Morning Prayer will meet *on August 1, 15, 22, & 29 at 11:30 am. Please note we will not meet on August 8.*

Brown Bag Lunch & Bible Study will resume in September.



**St. John Kennywood Day
Saturday, August 25, 2018**

We are planning to attend Kennywood as a group the *final Saturday in August – August 25. Tickets need to be purchased individually and can be purchased at a discount at Giant Eagle.* Also note, there are discounted admission prices for young children and seniors 55 and up. Also, check with Valerie Cardinal to see if she has access to discount tickets before purchasing. See www.Kennywood.com for ticket information. Sign-up sheet in the greeting area.

**Blessing of Backpacks
Sunday – August 26 - During Worship**



All children are encouraged to bring their backpacks to worship on this day for a special blessing to begin the new school year.



**Sunday, September 9, 2018
Ice Cream Breakfast**

Join us for our traditional Ice Cream Breakfast on Sunday, September 9 to kick-off the new Sunday School year and show support for our children, teachers and helpers. We look forward to a productive and inspiring year!

Greetings Fellow Congregants, Parents, and Children,

We are quickly approaching the time of year when our Sunday School program begins with what has become one of my favorite events – Rally Day. Face it, when else do we get permission to eat ice-cream for breakfast! This year, **Rally Day will be on Sunday September 9th**. Please join us in helping our Congregation show support for our children as they begin a new Sunday School year by joining us for breakfast and participating in our standard First Day rituals.

Our Teacher Volunteers remain enthused about sharing their love for Christ by teaching our young.....and not so young children! Missy Kramer and I will continue to teach lessons to the younger students. The response and participation from our Sunday School graduates has inspired Ruth Ann Tully to join us for her second year in teaching 6+ Grade students. Katie Niklewicz and Denise Hager will spearhead craft and will now be joined by Tanya Nagel. Pastor Bob will provide a few teaser statements to the children during opening. And in what has become one of the children’s most anticipated portions of our class, Maizy Fisher will continue teaching songs. I find great joy in watching Abigail walk around our house on some random day half-way through the week, singing to herself the song Maizy taught her that previous Sunday.and though he won’t admit it, Dominic does the same thing. 😊 It’s at times like this that my children teach **ME** what it means to walk with Christ!

Lest we forget how our efforts also have the ability to touch those outside our immediate church family, I am pleased to announce that we raised nearly \$550 for our tithing focus last year, Light of Life Rescue Mission. This year’s focus is still undecided and I am happy to receive suggestions from you.

In closing, our children are blessed to have the support around them allowing for a vibrant Sunday School program. We continue to average 10 students each Sunday with as many as 20 in attendance at times. As such, I take seriously the obligation I made while participating at each baptism: To teach our children about the Lord; to be an example to them; to guide them. I know every parent, teacher, volunteer (whether active or behind the scenes) and fellow congregants of our wonderful church family joins me in the seriousness of this responsibility. Whether you quietly tithe funds to the Sunday School program, bring snacks, participate in the classroom environment, or simply show your support by joining us in opening every Sunday morning, I appreciate what you do. More importantly, I have faith and trust that God smiles warmly upon us as well.

See you Sunday September 9th. Until then, God bless!

Keith Cardinal

The Second Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday.

Do not forget the Church this summer!

We wait all year for those “lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer” (as the old song goes), and then we fill them with vacations at the beach, camping trips in the woods and flying to far-off places. It’s no wonder that church attendance dips in the summer. But while you are relaxing, your church continues to be busy and the bills continue to roll in.

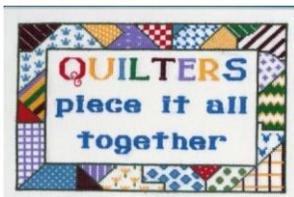
The summer months have shown a decrease in general giving here at St. John. Just a reminder that the expenses of being the church continue during the summer months and your offering is crucial. The weekly regular offering enables us to pay bills and do ministry. We unfortunately do not have a large cushion to work with and the summer months have taken the congregation checking account to an uncomfortably low level.

If you have been on vacation or otherwise unable to attend worship, do not forget to make up your regular weekly offering based on the commitment you made last fall. Perhaps you might consider an automatic giving option. You can use electronic payment through your bank or can sign up for electronic giving by going to our website, www.stjohnchurchmars.org and clicking on the giving tab in the upper right corner to get started.

Your giving is not only a necessity for our ministry, but giving is also a spiritual practice that can enrich our faith with the joy of generosity. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.



Quilting Group – August 13 – 6 pm



Use your talent or learn a new one! Whether you are a beginner or a novice you are welcome to join us as we make quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Ladies Book Group August 15 – 3 pm



We are currently reading “The Dovekeepers” by Alice Hoffman. This is an historical novel that takes place after King Solomon built the second Temple in Jerusalem, and the events as 900 Jews held out against the Roman armies on Masada.



Kid’s Club

No meeting in August, we will resume
on September 28, 2018 – 6:30-8:00 pm



August Birthdays

- 08/02 Emma Niklewicz
- 08/05 Denise Hager
- 08/06 Gabrielle Baysek
- 08/08 Anne Olescyski
- 08/08 Frederick Bielo
- 08/13 Gretchen Baysek
- 08/14 Laura Greb
- 08/14 Ava Niklewicz
- 08/17 Kayla Julio
- 08/17 Todd Niklewicz
- 08/24 Beverly Crislip
- 08/29 Ralph Storm
- 08/29 Paulina Scherrer

Upcoming Events
 Sept. 9 – Rally Day
 Sept. 28 – Kids Club resumes


 8/04 – George & Janmarie Leikauf – 43 yrs.
 8/25 – John & Susan Fritz – 39 yrs.

**August
Worship Helpers**

Assisting Minister
 9:00 am Missy Kramer

Usher
 9:00 am Cardinal Family

**Communion Bread
Schedule**
 August – Sally Foster
 September – Carolyn
 Zimmerman
Counters for August
 Carolyn Jarrett & Denise Hager

August Newsletter

Address service requested

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