

GOOD NEWS FROM ST JOHN



June
2020

SUMMER

Sunday Worship
8:30 am

Sunday School
9:15am—10:00am
(during the school year)

Holy Communion
1st & 4th Sunday

PASTOR

Gail Sowell
Office Hours: 9am-1pm
Tuesday-Friday
(And by appointment)

SECRETARY'S HOURS

Monday-Friday
9:00-1:00

ADDRESS

120500 County Road N
Edgar, WI 54426

PHONE/EMAIL

715-352-2524

EMERGENCY PHONE

715-352-2492

stjohnelca@gmail.com

WEBSITE

www.stjohnelcaedgar.org

Items for print MUST be submitted by the 20th of the preceding month.

Pastor's Ponderings



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

May 14, 2020

Pastoral Message regarding the WI Supreme Court Ruling Safer at Home Ruling from Six Bishops

Bishop Jim Arends, Bishop Paul Erickson, Bishop Katherine Finegan, Bishop Gerald Mansholt, Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson, Bishop Peter Rogness

Dear friends in Christ,

On May 13, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court lifted the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Safer at Home extension. However, nothing has changed in our level of concern about contracting and spreading the coronavirus via worship and other gatherings in our churches.

The court decision was based on a contested legal point, and not on any change of the need for caution and safety that the pandemic has brought upon us. Counsel from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a wide range of additional medical experts, the ELCA's guidelines, and other government entities continue to stress the need for restricting all gatherings to under ten people and attendant safeguards such as distancing, masks, etc.

In the midst of confusion after the court's ruling, we ask that you remain steadfast in taking precautions to not contract or spread the virus. Please follow the counsel and recommendations stated in the May 12, 2020 ELCA document, Considerations for Returning to In-person Worship.

We in the Church need to continue to be guided by scripture, our theology, and the best scientific knowledge we can gather. As our state is divided, we stand in unity to prioritize the safety and the well-being of all of our members as we continue in community.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop James Arends
La Crosse Area Synod

Bishop Gerald Mansholt
East Central Synod of Wisconsin

Bishop Paul Erickson
Greater Milwaukee Synod

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Bishop Katherine Finegan
Northern Great Lakes Synod

Bishop Peter Rogness
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

This letter came to me on May 15 from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson. I share it with you in its entirety (partly because I haven't yet learned how to cut and paste items I have to scan!), because it defines our approach to proceeding as "church" for the next several-to-many months. (*Ponderings* continue...)

We've been "fasting" from communion since March 17th (St. Stephen) and March 3rd (St. John). For those who feel a need to receive that concrete presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I'll be glad to offer communion opportunities in limited groups. One of the "zoom" conferences I listened in on suggested "driveway communion," where people will be outside and the "droplets" or "aerosols" can disperse in the wind. We can also use the sanctuary and/or basement of each congregation. Masks will be required, and at least 6' distancing! To make this work, we'll need prior registration.

Here are my suggestions—if these times don't work for you, let me know.

Note: **both congregations can participate in both locations!**



Sunday, June 7th

St. John sanctuary (enter from front parking lot) 8:30

St. John basement (enter from front parking lot) 9:00

St. Stephen sanctuary (main entrance) 10:00

St. Stephen basement (main entrance) 10:30

Pastor's Ponderings

These will be brief services, with confession (silent) and forgiveness (spoken). As an "older than 60-year-old" I am at high risk; I ask you to not speak, since "droplets" caused by your voices could penetrate our cloth masks. I will be more than 6' from you except when I bring the Lord's Supper to you.

Please email your desired time/place to me: liag47gps@yahoo.com; if you don't have email, please call: **(715) 352-2492 (9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.)**



There's one more thing I want to share with you this week. It's a reflection by Bob Benson, co-author of my daily devotional *Disciplines for the Inner Life*. He writes of a conversation with a close friend who had a very serious heart attack; after he recovered, they had a conversation that went something like this:

"How did you like your heart attack?" "It scared me to death, almost." "Would you like to do it again?" "No!" "Would you recommend it?" "Definitely not." "Does your life mean more to you than it did before?" "Well, yes." "You and your wife have always had a beautiful marriage, but now are you closer than ever?" "Yes." "How about that new granddaughter?" "Yes. Did I show you her picture?" "Do you have a new compassion for people—a deep understanding and sympathy?" "Yes." "Do you know the Lord in a richer, deeper fellowship than you had ever realized could be possible?" "Yes." "How'd you like your heart attack?" Silence was his answer.

Could we say the same sort of thing about our COVID-19 experience?

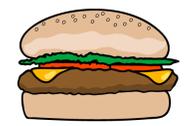
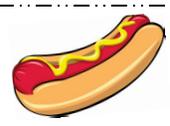
—Pastor Gail



The **June 5th Brat Fry has been CANCELLED**. However, we do have a date reserved for **July 31st**. We also hope to book another date for later in the summer. **Volunteers** will be needed to do the following:

- (1) bake cookies - 2 per baggie if large, 3 per baggie if small
- (2) set up tent(s) the day of at 07:00am
- (3) cooking brats/hamburgers the day of starting at 8:15.am ish
- (4) serving food, taking money starting at 9:00am ish
- (5) clean up and tent disassembly at 3:30 ish

Please contact Shirley Rosien at:
715-574-3277
If you are able to assist.



Clipart.com

**St. John ELCA, BRAT & HAMBURGER FRY, ProVision (CWC) Gas Station Parking Lot
Friday, July 31st, Stratford, 8am—?**

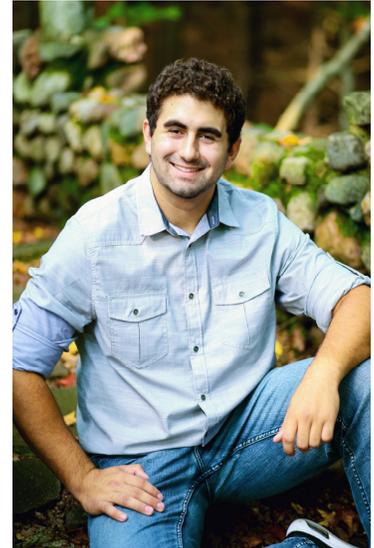
St. John Family News



We are pleased to turn the spotlight on our honored high school graduate,
Garrison Treankler



Congratulations!



2020

Garrison is a 2020 graduate of Marathon High School. His parents are *Shannon & Niaomi*. After graduation, he plans to attend UW Eau Claire, (his major is currently undecided). He will be involved in the Track & Field program.



Garrison was confirmed by Pastor Gail on Sunday, October 30, 2016. His chosen Confirmation verse was Psalm 25: 1-2 *"To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me."*

We rejoice with you over the accomplishments you have made, and we look forward with you in bright hope to your tomorrows. We would challenge you to look to God to direct you with his loving guidance as you begin the next part of your journey.

Whatever you do...do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
Colossians 3: 17

The St. John Women of the ELCA offer their congratulations, and wish to honor Garrison's accomplishment by giving him a special handmade quilt. The timing of our in-person celebration is yet to be determined.

A message from our highly-esteemed graduate! *(Thanks Niaomi for passing along the photos & info.)*

I, Garrison Jon Treankler, will be graduating from Marathon High School along with the class of 2020 on August 8th.

I will be spending this summer working at Marathon Cheese Trucking and hoping to have some fun attending a concert or two, fishing, boating, and purchasing a new vehicle.

In the fall, I will be attending UW-Eau Claire. My major is undecided but I'm leaning toward Economics or Pre-Chiropractic. I will also be participating with their Track and Field team as a thrower.

My favorite memory of Sunday School at St. John ELCA was all the wonderful snacks that Gerald and Barb Borchardt used to make and having a really fun week at Camp Luther that was made possible through the support of the church / Youth Group.

Thank you St. John church family for all the love and support and helping me make the man I am today!

Thank YOU, Garrison for the blessing you have been here, at St. John. Your support in YOUTH and Church events in many aspects of serving was truly appreciated! Soup suppers, pancake brunches, steam show ice cream stands, and lawn mowing to name just a few. Your upbeat, positive presence was always appreciated! CONGRATULATIONS! We're proud of you.



St. John's 2019-2020 Sunday School term has come to a close. We want to express our appreciation for our Sunday School teachers. *We thank God for these dedicated individuals who give of their time and energy to help our children grow in their understanding of God and teach them how to live out the truth of his "Good News" in their every day lives.*

Much Appreciation

May God bless each of you with good health & much refreshing during the summer break!



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 Message from the Synod
 Women's Organization

*From President,
 Lori Wells*

Update for the St. John Women of the ELCA

Greetings all,

I pray this finds you and your loved ones healthy. These are strange times for sure. Times filled with uncertainty, fear, anger, concern as well as peace, compassion, empathy, etc. Honestly, I have felt them all as I'm sure you have too.

While we may struggle with this mixed bag of emotions, we must continue to ask the question – What does God want us to do? I'm confident that He wants us to continue our discipleship; to continue to grow in our faith; to continue our ministry and our action; and most certainly, to continue to promote healing and wholeness in the church, in our society and the world. Since our traditional way of doing these things is not an option at present, it's up to each of us to figure out ways to do this work in times of disruption and change.

And of course, there is still business to take care of. As I told you in an earlier message, all WELCA functions scheduled during the month of April were cancelled. This memo will outline the impacts COVID-19 pandemic continues to have on the functioning of WELCA.

Specifically:

- Triennial convention and gathering
- Work of synodical organizations
- Work of local units

Triennial convention and gathering: The Triennial has been postponed to August 2021. The convention will be held August 3 – 5, 2021; the Gathering August 5 – 8, 2021. Both will take place in Phoenix, AZ. Per our Executive Director, Linda Post Bushkofsky, *"We hope that everyone who is currently registered will come next year. And if they aren't able to come, they could gift their registration to someone else."*

Staff will be working out the final arrangements with the vendors in Phoenix and will communicate directly to the voting members-elect for the convention and those registered for the gathering. *(Continued)*

Those who served this Sunday School term are:

Lana Strasser, and Assistant (4-K, 5-K)
 Michelle Hollatz & Assistant (Grades 1 & 2)
 Vicky Finke, and Naomi Treankler (Grade 4)
 Bonnie Bargender (Grade 5)
 Marianne Mueller (Grades 6,7 & 8)
 Pastor Gail (Grade 9/Freshmen)
 FLOATS/SUBS: Morgan Mueller
 (Alternating 4K/5K and 1st/2nd)
 Shae Wiesman
 Lana Strasser (Music Director)

Words to the St. John Women of WELCA (Continued)

Work of synodical organizations: Following guidance received from the executive committee, a decision has been made to cancel all SWO events for the balance of 2020. This includes all fall retreats scheduled at the conference level. Discussions are underway regarding the possibility of a one day synodical business meeting in September 2020 to hold synod elections; however, there are many variables to work through before any decision can be made. Our gathering will be postponed until sometime in 2021.

Unfortunately our constitution does not permit voting via email or mail or other means for a convention. The officers and board members currently serving will continue their service to the synodical organization until elections occur. This is true even if someone has tapped out the seven-year service rule in 2020.

Work of local units: Local leaders should follow the protocols set by their respective church councils. Once your church opens again, work with your council and/or pastor for any face-to-face gatherings (i.e. bible study, quilting, mission work, etc.)

I will share additional information as it becomes available, but until then, I'll close with the words from the hymn 'God Will Make a Way' -

"God will make a way where there seems to be no way. He works in ways we cannot see; He will make a way for me. He will be my guide, hold me closely to His side. With love and strength for each new day; He will make a way, He will make a way."

Remember to be kind.

Sincerely,

Lori Wells, President SWO NW



Reflections from Rose

I was invited to go to "Blades & Boards" as part of my granddaughter's 21st birthday celebration. A group of "us girls" went and had a BLAST!

For those of you who may not be familiar, it's a place where you go to throw axes at wooden bull's-eyes. It's very safe and a lot of FUN! Hannah (*the person of honor for the day*) ended up being quite skilled at planting the ax in the bulls-eye. Who knew?

Anyway, Hannah works at the Humane Society of Marathon County in Wausau. We decided to stop in there to visit on our way home. I wanted to meet one of the boarders they had at the time. The dog of interest wasn't available in his kennel, as he was in a "visitation room" with another family. There was another dog up for adoption that caught my eye. She was a cute black Labrador/Boxer cross...1 yr. old. Her name was **Raven**. I asked if we could take her into a visitation room and play with her for a bit, and of course we did. She was SO sweet.



RAVEN

Now, when we lost both our dogs in less than a year's time last year, I had said it would be good to remain "dogless" because then we would be more free to travel on a whim if we would so choose. Also there would be less commitments, vet bills, and no cost for food.

Well, we've been married 44 years, and have always had a dog. "But now we have 'grand-dogs' " I said, "we can visit them, that will keep us content". . .long story short, RAVEN has come to live with us, her forever home. They asked if we were going to keep her name RAVEN, I replied "absolutely! I love her name". You see it made me think of a Biblical reference in 1 Kings 17: 4-6.

The prophet Elijah was a fugitive in the wilderness, and God supplied his basic needs by sending ravens with food. A raven was the tool God used to care for Elijah in his time of need. In the New testament as well, ravens are used by Jesus as an illustration of God's provision in Luke 12:24.

Anyway, Raven has filled a "hole" we didn't know was there, and continues to make us laugh with her playfulness, and melt with her sweetness. God knew, and apparently He still uses Ravens!

Reminders

NO PUBLIC SERVICE – Edgar American Legion Post 393 and the Edgar Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10187 will not have a public Memorial Day service because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We can still express our gratitude by displaying our flags, pausing to give thanks, and offering words of appreciation to those who have served, or are presently serving to protect and preserve our country today!



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BABY CARE KITS (Layettes) is the Women’s Stewardship Project for April, May, and June. The collection tote remains in the narthex for your donations.

In July, when all the “Back to School” sales start, we will turn attention to SCHOOL KITS. Thanks for your faithful caring & sharing!

Adventures of the Church Mice . . .

Note: The Church Mice are under quarantine because their masks don't cover their faces properly.



They should be back next month.

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We are seeking **VOLUNTEERS for MOWING** the Church and Parsonage property. *PLEASE figure in some time this summer that you would be able to help out with this important ministry. A sign up sheet is posted by the offering drop box inside the northeast entrance.*

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Save the Date !



THE Antique Steam & Gas Engine Show is August 28, 29, 30 this year. St. John and St. Stephen will be serving food from the Corn Dog Stand and the Ice Cream Stand. Plan now to roll up your sleeves and be part of the team!



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June Birthdays



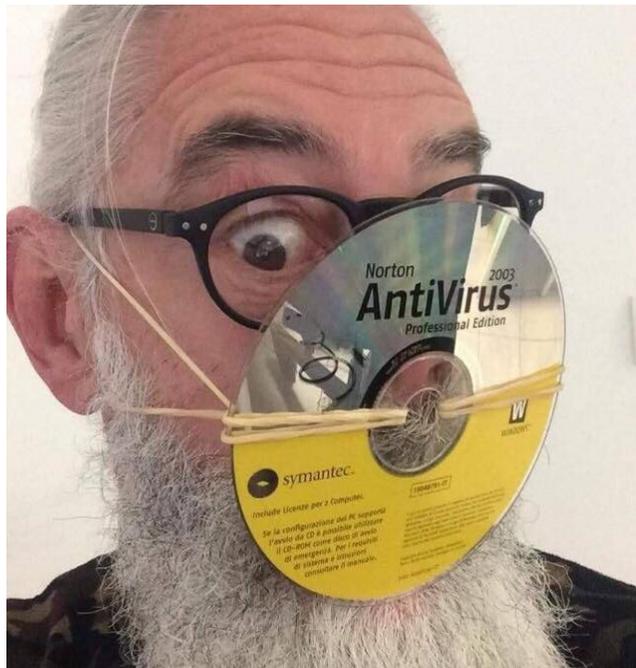
- 5-Ron Runge
- 6-Elaine Mueller
- 15-Clark Bauman,
- 18-Lillian Bauman,
- 21-Gabriela Bargender
- 23-Carlie Stahel
- 25-Barb Borchardt,
- Jamie Sebold
- 26-Elias Heidmann
- 28-William Robers
- 29-Lana Strasser,
- Cheryl Leffel,
- 30-Sharon Schumacker

June Wedding Anniversaries !

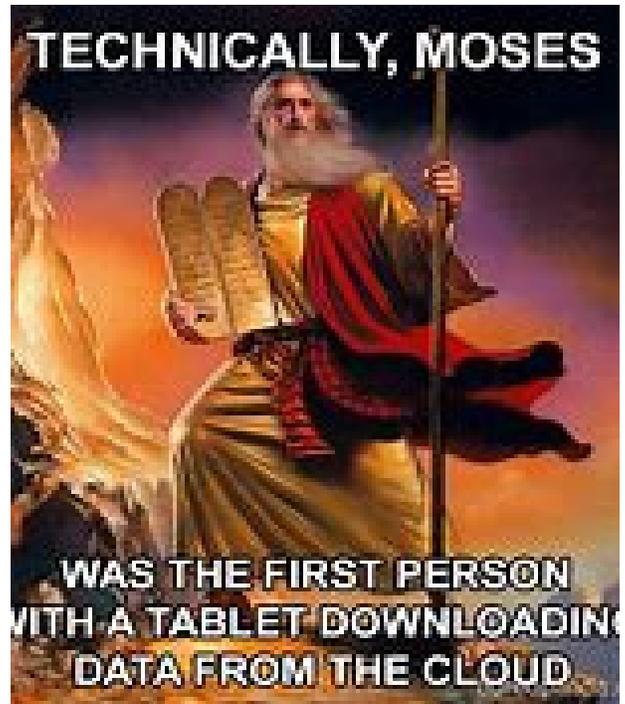
- 8-David & Judy Weber—13 yrs.
- 11-Mark & Bonnie Bargender—43 yrs.
- 12-Dan & Michelle Hollatz—11 yrs.
- 16-Cal & Jayne Tackes—41 yrs
- 18-Jeremy & Pam Stahel—9 yrs.
- 21-Mike & Naomi Sebold—45 yrs.
- 22-Nathan & Jennifer Olmsted—18 yrs.



Couldn't RESIST!



STAY CALM



Have FAITH



MAINTAIN A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR...



Prayer Concerns

Michelle (family member of Louann Miles)—struggling to recover from COVID-19 in Kenosha.

Linda Kovalik—transitioning to independent living again! Thanks for your prayers. New address:
213415 State Hwy. 97, #115, Stratford WI, 54483

GOOD NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church ELCA
120500 County Hwy N
Edgar, WI 54426

We're on the Web
www.stjohnelcaedgar.org

June 2020

Happy
Father's
Day

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Please remember to check your bulletin for updates. If you would like to have us e-mail the Newsletter to you, please let us know.

Deadline for July/August 2020 News



July 13th

St. John/St. Stephen Lutheran Parish, ELCA Joint Mission Statement:

*"Saints united to be the body of Christ in the world, freed by grace
to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully."*