

GOOD NEWS FROM ST JOHN

May
2017

NEWS FOR ALL

Pastor's Ponderings

What a joy it was to celebrate our Lord's resurrection! Beautiful music, bright flowers, and the fellowship of those whose lives are "hidden with Christ" (Colossians 3:3) for all eternity! (We had a whopping 330 people present for the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter services!) Together we are the church. We are the body of Christ. We are the communion of saints. Thanks be to God!

Even as we rejoice over the presence of so many faithful, we anticipate the "summer doldrums" to come. In an effort to accommodate summer schedules with week-ends away, we're going to offer an evening service during the week, either Wednesday or Thursday, at 6:00, 6:30, or 7:00, possibly rotating between St. John and St. Stephen. If this is something you would attend, please let us know your preferences.

Wednesday or Thursday? 6:00 or 6:30 or 7:00?
St. John or St. Stephen?

In the middle of typing the above paragraphs, I had one of those "aha!" moments that sometimes stir my faith. I'd been having trouble with the desktop computer in my office at St. John, and this morning it completely died. So I unplugged it (being careful to turn off all the cords connected with it and the printer) and set it out to take to Best Buy, to see if they can back up all the stuff that's in there. All of a sudden, neither Rose nor I was able to send printing jobs to our copier in the work room. Rose spent half an hour on the phone with the copier people, who suggested this and that, and nothing worked; and I couldn't print from my laptop either. We knew it had to be related to the demise of my desktop but couldn't figure out how. *(continued...)*

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 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

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Items for print MUST be submitted by the 24th of the preceding month.

Mission Statement: *Getting to know Jesus and making Him known through our Worship and Serving.*

Pastor's Ponderings (Continued...)

Then I realized that in turning off the power to the desktop, I had also shut off the power to our inter-office communication with the copier/printer. One quick flip of the switch, and the problem was solved.

What does that have to do with faith? Isn't that what we sometimes do with our relationship with God? Think of the "power switch" of faith as *prayer*, or *reading the Bible*, or *worshiping regularly*. Think of how often we "turn off" that nourishing, strengthening, comforting life-line to our heavenly Father—and then we wonder why our faith isn't more satisfying, why God doesn't feel present or active in our lives.

With that "disconnect" in mind, I urge you even more strongly to find a way to worship regularly this summer. If Sundays don't work for you, tell us when you'd like a mid-week evening worship. Don't disconnect God from your life!

—Pastor Gail

St. John Family News

93 attended the Palm Sunday service



The children were welcomed to worship as the congregation held their palms arching over the path of the children as they processed waving their palms.

After the service, there was a warm time of fellowship and delicious food as the Youth served a delicious **Brunch** to around 80 attendees. Many thanks to the congregation for their generous donations of food, money, and time. Also to the YOUTH and adults who prepared, decorated, served, and cleaned up after the meal. Money received will be donated back to church, but the specific designation has yet to be determined.



So much GOOD HELP!

Turn the page for more...



→
Thanks to *Niaomi Treanakler*
for sharing the photos!

TEAMWORK



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How
SWEET

The RESULTS !



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BRUNCH

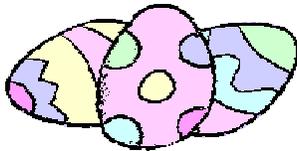


The sanctuary of St. John was beautifully arrayed with spring flowers placed in honor/ memory of loved ones when 137 worshippers gathered to celebrate the resurrection of our victorious Lord on Easter Sunday.

The service resonated with special music from the organ, the Choir, and the Children who sang "One, Two, Three". There was an Easter Egg hunt downstairs after the service. It was a wonderful time of worship and celebration. 137 were in attendance!

Resurrection Joy !

Easter Egg Hunt



The Youth Highway clean-up originally scheduled for Sunday, April 23rd was postponed until further notice due to above average amounts of rainfall with excessive amounts of standing water. *We'll keep you posted, thanks for your patience!*

St. John Family JOY !

We REJOICE with Rick & Marianne Mueller and family at the birth of their 5th grandson, **Emerick Linden Mueller** who was born on Thursday, April 27th to their son Matt and his wife Andrea. Emerick joins big brother Oakley, who is 2. God's blessings to all !

We were also delighted to welcome **Frederick Scott Borchardt** to St. John on Easter and on April 30th. He is Scott & Heidi Borchardt's newest grandchild, born to their son Jared and his wife in March. Frederick is Gerald & Barb's GREAT grandchild! So glad to have them with us, blessings and congratulations to all!

The Sunday School term draws to a close with the end of the year **Sunday School party** on **May 14th**. On that Sunday we will also be celebrating **Mother's Day** with our moms, and will acknowledge our dads and **Father's day** at the same time (*before everyone's coming and going for the summer*). We want to show a bit of our appreciation to our **Sunday School teachers** that day too! It will be a joyful time you won't want to miss.

JOIN US!

Joyful celebrations will continue as we recognize our **High School Graduates** during the service on **May 21st** and honor them with a special cake and coffee hour after worship. This year's graduates are *Sam Bauman* and *Brianna Hoppenworth*.



Speaking of celebrations...Pastor Gail has a MILESTONE birthday coming up on May 27th.



What ELSE is coming up?

The Women's Salad Supper is Tuesday, May 16, at 6:30pm.

Sign up!



Invite your family and friends for this time of delicious food, friendly fellowship, and BINGO. Please bring a salad comparable to the number of your guests. *We are looking forward to the ladies of St. Stephen joining us!*

The Edgar VFW Honor Guard will be at the **St. John ELCA cemetery** at **9:20am** for a Memorial observance.

Let's plan on joining them to honor our veterans who gave their lives protecting the freedoms that we enjoy.

Monday, May 30.



**The Ultimate Sacrifice:
A Memorial Day Poem**

We set aside Memorial Day
Each and every year
To honor those who gave their lives
Defending what we hold dear.

In all the dark and deadly wars,
Their graves prove and remind us,
Our brave Americans gave their all
To put danger far behind us.

They made the ultimate sacrifice
Fighting for the American way;
We admire them and respect them
On every Memorial Day.

By Joanna Fuchs

Worship in the Park is Thursday, June 1st!

**Breakfast in the Park,
Saturday, June 3, 7-11:30am!**

This takes place during the Edgar Fire Department's Annual Carnival. **Sign-up sheets will be posted soon,** start planning your gift baskets for the RAFFLE!

**Baskets will need to
be at church by
Saturday, May 20th.**



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Our meeting for May was held on Wednesday, the third. With only three members present, we did not review the Constitution and Bylaws. That is tabled until the September meeting.

We have three members signed up for the Spring Rally in Unity on Saturday, May 20. If anyone is interested in attending, please let Bev Umnus know. Early bird deadline is May 11. We begin at 9:00AM with registration half-an-hour before and we end approximately 2:00 PM. I wish we could get more women interested.

We will hold a brief meeting after church on Sunday, May 7, to finalize the plans for the Salad Supper. The chair for the committees has been selected but we do need members to help.

The members voted to make a donation to the Brat Fry committee to help purchase products for the sale.

Our discussion included eliminating the Bible Study for June, July and August. We could attend St Stephen's Bible Study on the second Tuesday of the month. Our attendance is dwindling.

We are collecting items for the Baby Layettes now. Visit the garage sales for good clean used items.

Please remember Rose on her birthday – May 11 and Pastor Gail on her birthday – May 27.



Bev Umnus, President

News worthy Nuggets

- ✠ On Good Friday the parents of 2-year-old Vincent told him that Sunday would be Easter. His response: "That's good! I need some Jesus time!"
- ✠ On Administrative Professionals Day Pastor Gail took Rose out to lunch. (It was Sherry's birthday and she had other plans, so we have a rain check.) Accompanied by Louann, we went to Hu Hot (Mongolian barbeque on Rib Mountain Rd.), where we had a lovely and leisurely buffet. When at last it was time to leave, I asked the server to put the whole meal on one check. To our utter amazement she said she couldn't do that, because our check had already been paid. We have no idea who the gentleman was, or why he chose to treat 3 people to lunch; the bill was over \$30. The server didn't recognize him, but she said if he returns she'll give him our thanks. Meanwhile, all we can do is pay it forward, with joy and thanksgiving.

—Pastor Gail

Adventures of the Church Mice



It's Tully writing today, and I have to tell you what a privilege it is to be a Church Mouse at St. John! (Miri, I hope you feel the same about St. Stephen!) WE had such a lovely Easter service! The choir ("of angels" Pastor Gail calls it) sang 2 songs—I could tell a lot of people in the congregation wanted to sing along on the last one—and there were so many lilies and hyacinths and tulips they almost made me sneeze! (don't worry, mouse sneezes are very quiet and won't disturb worship!) You may not believe this, but Easter was even more beautiful for me and Twink than Palm Sunday, even though so many people shared their breakfast with us that morning! We were really worried for a few weeks because Pastor Gail was so mad at the "house mice" she had, we were afraid she'd want to get rid of us too. But I guess she's okay with Twink and me (and I hope with Miri too). Gosh, there's only a couple of weeks more of Sunday School. I hope all the kids don't disappear for the summer!

Ah, Summertime . . .



As we prepare to S-L-I-D-E into our *Summer Mode* here's a few reminders: **St. John's Sunday Worship time will be 8:30am** for the months of *June, July, and August*. This will enable you to get an earlier start on your other summer Sunday activities. And if you want to sleep in on a Sunday, you may choose to worship at **St. Stephen at 10am**.

Brat Fries!

St. John will be holding a BRAT FRY at ProVision (CENEX) in Stratford on **Friday, June 9** and **Friday, June 16th**. Watch for more details & come join us!



The 44th ANNUAL Antique Steam & Gas Engine Show is being held August 25th—27th. We will be needing YOUR help as we serve from our two food trailers again this year. So please, mark it on your calendar and come get busy with us at the STEAM SHOW! Many hands make for light work and FUN.

We are delighted to announce that we have hired someone to mow the cemetery lawn this summer! *Many thanks to Garrison Treankler and Herbie Werner who will be taking on this important responsibility.*

There still is a need for volunteers to mow the church and Parsonage lawns. A sign-up sheet is posted. It's set up in one-week time frames of responsibility. This is an important ministry that affects the first impression that summer visitors and other guests will get of our church.

Please make time to help out! There is a mower in the shed available for your use.





Reflections from Rose

As I look out the window, it's a beautiful sunny morning. After listening to the weather forecast this morning, it seems like the messy, muddy, rainy, part of our transition to Spring might be taking a break. I could bask in this for awhile.

One of my favorite sights while we were traveling through country sides in Portugal, was the frequent scene of sheep peacefully grazing on rolling, green, grassy hillsides. It really spoke peace to my soul.

One of the scripture texts at St. John for this week is the 23rd Psalm. It has the same effect on me, although even more so. Because it's God's word, it stands sure. No matter what the weather, season or circumstances. Jesus is the GOOD Shepherd. There are other kinds of shepherds. We read about them in John 10: 12-13.

One of my devotional books I use highlighted a verse this week that went along with the 23rd Psalm really well. Often, God brings similar messages to me through different avenues at the same point in time. Does that ever happen to you? (*I figure it's to really get His point across.*)

Anyway, the scripture was Luke 12:32 "*Fear not little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*" This verse challenges us to be FEARLESS in light of 5 great truths about God.

- 1) God is our **Shepherd**. Since we are His *flock* and He is our Shepherd Psalm 23 applies, and we won't lack ANYTHING we truly need.
- 2) God is our **Father**. "...it is your *Father's* good pleasure..." We are not only His flock, we are his children. He really cares and knows what we need, and will work to make sure we have what we need.
- 3) God is **King**. "...it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the *kingdom*." He can give us the kingdom because He **is the King**. This adds a huge element of power to the one who provides for us.
- 4) God is generous. "It is your Father's good pleasure to **give** you the kingdom." He doesn't rent or sell, God is infinitely wealthy and doesn't need our payments. So God is generous with His bounty. *This next one really thrills my soul...*
- 5) God really **wants** to do this. "...it is the Father's *good pleasure* to give you the kingdom." God is HAPPY to give us abundant life now, heaven, eternal life, joy, and everything we need to get there!

How many times does God tell us "fear not" or "be anxious for nothing" in his word? A LOT! I think that's because we tend to resemble timid sheep in this way. Anyway, it's something I'm really working on. As in all our transitional seasons of growth, it can be really muddy, and messy at times...but then the sun breaks through and we can see new life springing forth!

A Mother's Love

~Anon

There are times when only a Mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappoints
And calm all of our fears.

There are times when only a Mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.

There are times when only a Mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.

For a Mother's heart and a Mother's faith
And a Mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the Angels
And sent from God above.

June 18, 2017



May 14, 2017



Life Lessons

You may have thought I didn't see,
Or that I hadn't heard,
Life lessons that you taught to me,
But I got every word.

Perhaps you thought I missed it all,
And that we'd grow apart,
But Dad, I picked up everything,
It's written on my heart.

Without you, Dad, I wouldn't be
The person I am today;
You built a strong foundation
No one can take away.

I've grown up with your values,
And I'm very glad I did;
So here's to you, dear father,
From your forever grateful kid.

By Joanna Fuchs

GOOD NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church ELCA
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Edgar, WI 54426

We're on the Web
www.stjohnelcaedgar.org

May 2017



See Inside for Articles:

- Page 1 Pastor's Ponderings
- Page 2 Pastor's Ponderings (*conclusion*)
St. John Family News
- Page 3 Palm Sunday Brunch
- Page 4 Resurrection Joy/ Family Joy
- Page 5 Celebrations Continue/ What's coming up?
- Page 6 St. John Women of the ELCA
Newsworthy Nuggets
- Page 7 Adventures of the Church Mice
Ah...Summertime!
- Page 8 Reflections
- Page 9 In Honor of Parents

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 June News

