

# GOOD NEWS FROM ST JOHN

May  
2019

## NEWS FOR ALL

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00am

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

W1000 Hwy N  
Edgar, WI 54426

### PHONE/EMAIL

715-352-2524

### EMERGENCY PHONE

715-352-2492

[stjohnelca@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnelca@gmail.com)

### WEBSITE

[www.stjohnelcaedgar.org](http://www.stjohnelcaedgar.org)

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

### *Pastor's Ponderings*

I write this on Good Friday, the day God died. My morning devotions spoke to me in a deeply spiritual way. I want to share them with you.

"The Gospel writers don't linger on the gory details of Jesus' flogging and crucifixion.... The ghastly wounds on Jesus' body are the same as the wounds on the bodies of millions of innocent people across the centuries and throughout the world. The Gospel writers are more interested in recounting *why* rather than *what* Jesus suffered.

"At the cross we see the shocking truth with bloody clarity. God does not magically eradicate human suffering or the scars we carry from it. Instead, we see the naked, bleeding, vulnerable love of God enter fully into the naked, bleeding, vulnerable suffering of humanity. Jesus bears the brutal scars of the world's sin and of our own.

"The gospel doesn't provide glib answers or simplistic solutions to our inexorable questions about innocent suffering and human sin. Instead we experience the God who enters fully into the suffering we inflict on others and the pain that is inflicted upon us in a sin-broken, violence-addicted world.

"Beyond our explanation but not beyond our experience, we know that Jesus bears our infirmities, that he is wounded for our transgressions, and that the extravagant love of this wounded God can heal us. Through Jesus' obedience in suffering, he becomes the source of our salvation. Even his resurrection doesn't wipe away those scars. For his disciples, Jesus' scars confirm his identity as the risen Christ" (James A. Harnish, retired pastor, Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, in *Disciplines*, 2019, p. 137).

"Maybe *this* is where we need to enter the Good Friday drama, and maybe this is where we need to take our stand. . . standing there at the foot of the cross with others who love him, and putting our arms around each other for comfort and strength, so that when they ask us later what happened we can say, "I was standing at the foot of the cross. . ." ( Jim Green Somerville, *Daily Feast, Year C*, p. 221).

On the night when Jesus was betrayed, he took the Passover bread and gave it to *us*, and we are invited to remember that Jesus offered his life for us not when we were particularly worthy, charming, faithful, or successful, but when we betrayed him (Christine Chakoian, *Daily Feast, Year C*, p. 220). *Continued next page . . .*



*Pastor's Ponderings*  Cont.

On this day of infinite love and grace, we learn again that God's holiness bears our pain, and bares our pain, as infinite might gives way to infinite weakness. This is the God who loves us to death. Thank God for Sunday, when we behold *the light of Christ, rising in glory!* —*Pastor Gail*

**St. John Family News!**



**BRUNCH!**



Many thanks to the YOUTH and ALL who worked together to provide a delicious brunch following the Palm Sunday service which had 74 in attendance. To begin Palm Sunday worship, the children processed with palms and sang a song with special Palm Sunday lyrics written by Pastor Gail.



Thanks again to *Niaomi Treankler* for submitting these wonderful photo captures of the Palm Sunday Brunch AND Easter worship!

*What a joyful resurrection celebration* as 147 people gathered to worship our risen Lord on Easter Sunday, April 21. The sanctuary was adorned with Easter lilies and other spring flowers that were placed in memory/honor of our dear ones.



## WELCOME !

*Recently St. John has had a change in our Staff. Due to a change in employment, Marianne Mueller is no longer able to serve as our Custodian. She had asked that this welcome to our NEW custodian be included in LAST month's newsletter as she passed the torch, but it was inadvertently left out.*

--- I would like to welcome the new custodian, **Sonia Heidmann**. Sonia will be taking over the very important task of keeping our church clean, as I unfortunately do not have the time to give to this position any more.

I would like to **gently** remind everyone that the custodian is not here to clean every day, but usually only once a week (any time between Thursday night and Saturday morning, unless there is a funeral or wedding that warrants more cleaning). Therefore, if you are at church and you make a mess such as spilling something, removing something that leaves a mess, have a child that makes a mess somewhere that cannot wait for the custodian, please take the time to clean it up. If you find a mess that you didn't make and cannot clean up (certain things I wouldn't expect you to), please let Rose or Pastor know and they can let the custodian know so it can be cleaned up in a timely manner.

In the 3 years I have cleaned the church, I have encountered several unpleasant messes that should have been cleaned days before I came to do my routine cleaning. There is a closet downstairs in the basement next to the new conference room/preschool Sunday School room, with a vacuum, cleaning sprays, and paper towels. There is also a cordless carpet sweeper upstairs in the library/Confirmation classroom that can be used for carpet messes. The church is all of ours and everyone's responsibility to make it a pleasant place for us to worship. Thank you in advance for your help and consideration in keeping our church clean.

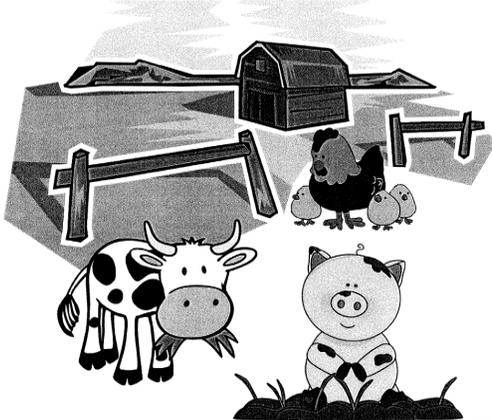
**Let's WELCOME & support our new custodian !**

*Marianne Mueller*



## What's The Buzz?

How **EWE** & your **NEIGH**ors can **WRANGLE** hunger during Lent!



Global Hunger Challenge 2019

## A Lenten Report

From Ash Wednesday through Easter St. John/St. Stephen Lutheran Parish, ELCA took up the invitation of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to participate in a **global hunger challenge to alleviate food insecurity** throughout the world.

The offerings from our Lenten midweek services and 2 of the Soup Suppers went toward this effort. The total came to \$984.00. Thanks to all who gave to minister to this need.

1 in 7 people throughout the world suffer from hunger, and do not have access to clean, safe drinking water. As followers of Christ, **we have been called to show compassion** to our neighbors and to provide shelter, food, and clothing whenever possible. As we ponder the arrest, death, and resurrection of **Jesus Christ**, we remember the **radical and powerful** ways he changed people's stories—from illness to healing; from despair to joy; from scarcity to abundance. *The hope we have in Christ is a message we are called to share!*

The ELCA World Hunger's "40 Days of Giving" raised more than \$35,000 through the generosity of participating churches. They sent a note of appreciation to St. John for your generous giving which made it possible to help fight hunger and poverty around the world!

## St. John Women of the ELCA

Our next Bible Study is on Tuesday, May 14, at 1pm at St. Stephen. Bring a friend!



The next General Meeting is Sunday, May 5 after the service. Please come join us. We need your input! The next Funeral Group to serve will be group #3, coordinator: Judy Totzke

**WOMEN'S STEWARDSHIP PROJECT**—for April, May, and June is **Baby Layette kits**. Items must be *like* new if not new. Yard sale season will be starting soon. Lists of needed items are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one along with you! **A bassinet is placed in the Narthex for your donations.** *Thank you!*



**Delicious**

The Women's Salad Supper

**Fun!**



**Tuesday, May 14, at 6:00pm.** Invite your family and friends for this time of delicious food, friendly fellowship, and BINGO for ALL. Please bring a salad comparable to the number of your guests. We have invited our friends from St. Stephen to join us. **SAVE THE DATE!** *A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex.*

**Coming in May: Summer Worship Schedule** Begins MAY 26: St. John at 8:30am/ St. Stephen at 10am. **Evening Bible Studies** resume at St. Stephen Thurs. May 9th & 23 at 6pm. *It will switch* to the 2nd & 4th WED. in June (*for the rest of Summer*) because **Summer Mid-week Evening Worship** starts at **St. Stephen** on May 30th at 6pm.

# Adventures of the Church Mice



Hi there Christian friends and family! It's Twink, from St. John, writing on Good Friday. I could never understand why they called it "good," because this is the day Jesus was murdered. But I spent this morning with Pastor Gail—and no, she didn't know I was in her kitchen when she was doing her morning devotions. And it was a little scary, because she was really, really quiet. Usually she reads and prays out loud but today she just sat there and then she started to CRY. I was pretty worried about her but then she said "Thank you Jesus, thank you Jesus" and I knew she'd be okay. She did something else strange too, she didn't even eat breakfast (and you probably know that Pastor Gail is always eating). She just finished her coffee and let the dogs out (remind me to tell you about her dogs some time, they are NOT very friendly to mice, not even Church Mice). And then she took 2 granola bars and 2 books and just went over to the church, St Johns of course. I jumped in the bag with her granola bars, and no I didn't eat them. She went right into her office and put a note on her door "on a roll, do not disturb." That was pretty confusing for me, she didn't have a "roll" she had granola bars! Anyway, she sat right down at her computer and I think she wrote her Pastors Ponderings for the newsletter. When she was done she jumped up and went to say good morning to Rose and I decided I'd better sit at that computer while she was gone and write MY peace. Ooh, was that a typo?? I meant to write "my PIECE" but look how it came out. Maybe that's good for Good Friday because I'm pretty sure somewhere the Bible says that Jesus is our peace.

*So on behalf of all of us 6 Church Mice I wish you the PEACE of Jesus.*



## Quilters



The Quilters of St. John are on break until September. However, if you have fingers itching to stay SEW busy, St. Stephen quilters are still meeting the 1st & 3rd Thursdays through May, from 1pm-4:30pm. ALL are welcome!

**Keep these events in your sites, SAVE THE DATES, and come out to support the team !**



**Brat Fries** in Stratford at ProVision on Friday, May 31 and Friday, June 7th.

**Worship in the Park**, at Oak Street Park on Thursday, June 13th at the beginning of Edgar Carnival Days.

**Breakfast in the Park**, at Oak Street Park in Edgar on Saturday, June 15th.

**Packer Raffle!** See Below



**Raffle Baskets NEEDED**



**Tickets \$20**

## Celebrate 100 Seasons of PACKER Football / RAFFLE

- 1st prize: 2 TICKETS to preseason Chiefs at PACKERS, 7pm at Lambeau Field, Thursday, Aug. 29
- 2nd: Signed Packer FOOTBALL
- 3rd: \$75 ProVision GIFT CARD
- 4th: Framed photo of Aaron RODGERS (36" x 24")
- 5th: PACKERS/VIKINGS line-up framed photo (36" x 24")
- 6th: HANDMADE QUILT by the St. John ELCA Quilters

**Drawing July 21, 2019  
Need not be present  
to WIN !**

*Proceeds from ticket sales will go to repair flood damage in the Sunday School wing at St. John ELCA.*

# St. John ELCA

## Brat & Hamburger Fry

### May 31st and June 7th

(Both FRIDAYS)

**Pro Vision (CWC) Gas Station Parking Lot**



**STRATFORD**  
**8am – ?**



**Supplies, Set-up, Cooks, Servers, and Clean-up Crew needed. Join us! You would be MUCH appreciated. Talk to Shirley Rosien.**

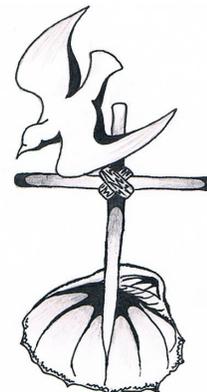
**ALSO Coming in  
JUNE**

**SAVE the DATE!**  
**June 9, 2019**

*You are cordially invited to celebrate  
the 20th Anniversary of Pastor Gail's Ordination*

There are plans for ONE combined service at St John. *The exact time of the service is yet to be determined.* There will be a guest speaker and other invited guests. This will all be followed by a celebratory pot-luck meal. The plans are for St. John to prepare the main-dish, hot food items and St. Stephen will bring salads and desserts.

Your PRESENCE would be so much appreciated and serve to make the day really special. Please join us!  
A sign-up sheet will be posted.



**We are seeking BIDS for MOWING** the cemetery. If YOU are interested or you know of someone who is, please contact Herbie Werner, Gerald Borchardt, or Ron Runge, *Thanks*.

*ALSO— as you begin to plan your summer, please figure in some time you would be able to help with the mowing of the church and parsonage properties. This is an important summer ministry! A sign up sheet is posted.*



.....



### *Reflections from Rose*



I have been thinking a lot about SEALS lately. Not the ADORABLE, *(sometimes furry)* sleek-bodied mammals that glide through the water, although I do really enjoy them. It sure was a delight to see them when we went to Alaska!

Recently we have been thinking about how a huge stone was rolled in front of Jesus' tomb and a seal was put on the stone to make it as secure as possible, as ordered by Pilate. *(Matthew 27: 62-66)*

The religious and political leaders of His day tried all they could to silence Jesus and remove his influence, but it did no good. Because our God is ALMIGHTY and His love is relentless. Nothing can defeat His good plans and purposes!

MOST recently I've been thinking about Ephesians 1: 13-14 *"In Him you also trusted, **after you heard** the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, **having believed**, you were **sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."*



Once we put our trust in God's truth about Jesus Christ, we get a tamper-resistant SEAL put upon us. That seal is God's own Holy Spirit, sent by God to be with us after Jesus arose and went back physically to glory with the Father. *(John 14: 15-17)* How awesome is that?!

This SEAL confirms that we belong to God, we are secure. The transaction happened in the past and is complete. No one can remove us from the outside, and we cannot break out from the inside. The only One who can open the SEAL is the rightful Owner/Recipient. That is God, when He brings us safely home into His presence.

Think about THAT the next time you're struggling with one of those stubborn tamper-resistant seals and PRAISE GOD!

**Make sure you join us on May 12th!** It will be a momentous day of worship and celebration! We will celebrate our Moms (and Dads), Honor our Graduates, and conclude our Sunday School term with Teacher appreciation, Student recognitions, and an AFTER Easter, egg hunt! You won't want to miss any of this!



## GOOD NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church ELCA  
W1000 Hwy N  
Edgar, WI 54426

We're on the Web  
[www.stjohnelcaedgar.org](http://www.stjohnelcaedgar.org)

## May 2019



### See Inside for Articles:

- Page 1 Pastor's Ponderings
- Page 2 St. John Family News  
Palm Sunday Brunch
- Page 3 Family News (*Continued*)  
Resurrection Celebration
- Page 4 What's the Buzz—Report  
St. John Women of the ELCA  
Coming in May!
- Page 5 Adventures of the Church Mice  
Quilters  
Save the Dates!  
PACKER Raffle
- Page 6 Brat Fries/ A Special Invitation
- Page 7 Reflections from Rose  
Make sure to join us May 12th!

## Deadline for June 2019 News



**May 21st**

*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."*