

GOOD NEWS FROM ST JOHN

September
2019

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

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

Pastor's Ponderings



God's Work. Our Hands. This has been the – motto? slogan? statement of identity? for the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) for many years.

God's Work. Our Hands. In the June newsletter, after the Synod Assembly, I wrote the following words three times: *We were reminded that the Church exists for those who don't know Jesus, not for us.*

Evangelism is sharing the good news of God in Jesus Christ with family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, strangers. *Evangelism* is taking our faith outside the doors of the building where we worship (which is NOT the Church). In a very real sense, if we, the congregations of St. John and St. Stephen, don't reach out to others with the love and grace of Jesus, we are NOT the Church, the body of Christ, the fellowship of believers, the communion of saints. We're a fellowship of sorts, people who gather together in the name of Jesus—but we're NOT a "church."

Sunday School will begin on September 8th, and with it we'll renew our focus on what it means to be the body of Christ. There's an old saying: "Our walk talks, and our talk talks; but our walk talks louder than our talk talks." God calls us, through our baptism into Christ, to be his love in the world, beginning right here in Edgar.

A "church building" used by a congregation is NOT just a comfortable place to sit with friends and do things the way they've always been done. The message of the gospel should be life-changing and ground-breaking! God doesn't call us to be comfortable, but to be stirred up with the passion of God's own love and the Holy Spirit so that we can't help but go out and live a life of love and service for all people.

Both congregations have benefited from Thrivent's "Action Teams" support. Let me challenge us, both bodies, to actively seek out a local need and work to meet it with the help of Thrivent funds as seed money. St. John also has a "Charities Account" which was established to provide "mission start-ups" for needs within our communities: perhaps a cancer support group, or fund-raising for a family struggling with medical bills or disability or lay-offs; or a clothes closet; an addiction support group; or a farmer-in-distress support project.

Look around you, and you'll find many needs. An old rabbi was once asked why so few people were finding God. This was his wise answer: "People are not willing to look that low. Jesus was born in a stable, and God is especially concerned for the poorest, the lowliest, the lost, and the neglected."

Let's look for Jesus, lowly and humble, in our schools and streets and parks and malls, and let's find ways to serve him with all our resources.

From Pastor Gail

Thank you, St. John, for remembering my 10th anniversary here! I was totally surprised and deeply grateful for the flowers and commemoration. How well I recall those first 3 months now, although they were mostly a blur back then. When I agreed to accept the call, I was asked to make at least a three- or four-year commitment here. Who would've thought I'd still be working at 72, with no desire at all to retire? This congregation has truly been a blessing to me, and I thank God for you daily!



St. John Family News

A BIG thank you to all who worked the food stand at the Steam Show. Special thanks to Rick for the grill, Steve for keeping our fryers going, Marion our cashier, to all who worked double shifts and to those who worked that were not even signed up. Also thanks to Ann for the use of her Gator during the Steam Show. Thanks for the time that you donated (*and hopefully enjoyed*) at the stand. Because of all the great team work we achieved a successful weekend!

Money taken in: \$5372.00—\$500 (*start-up money*) = \$4872.00
Bills: \$2487.17—\$345.00 (*from Thrivent card*) = \$2142.17
Profit: \$2729.83



There are a few items available from the food stand.

- Corn dogs: box of 12, \$7.25 each—6 boxes
- French Fries: \$1.75 per bag—7 bags
- Foot long hot dogs: (3 bags of 6)—5.00 each



Cal & Jayne

Some folks make it an EVENT to mow the lawn. Lookin' good Herbie!



Much appreciation to ALL who have been working to keep the church grounds mowed and lookin' good! Herbie adjusted 30 headstones in the cemetery this summer, besides mowing the grass. That's a lot of time in the cemetery for a non-resident! It's appreciated by the congregation and all who come to visit. . .

Blessings & Congrats, TO . . .

A grandchild is a gift from above. One to cherish and to love.

Mike & Naomi Sebold—on the birth of their granddaughter Nava Mae Sebold-Sullivan, born on July 16th. Her parents are Jamie & Hydie Sebold-Sullivan.

Sharon Schumacker—on the birth of her new GREAT grandchild born to Amanda & Stetson Oelke this summer.

We share your JOY!





Rally Sunday is September 8th. We will be returning to our regular worship time of 9am and SUNDAY SCHOOL will begin again! We are excited to welcome back our young people for another year of learning and growing in their walk with Jesus together!

We are blessed to welcome back our wonderful teaching staff and will have a time of commissioning them before they and the students are dismissed to their classrooms on that Sunday.

Please remember to pray for these dedicated individuals, and encourage them with your helpful support and words of appreciation.

There is a need for *volunteers to help with the younger grades as their classes are larger. The teacher will plan and lead the class, the volunteer would just be a 2nd set of eyes & hands to help.

A Quick Peek Ahead to October

Sunday October 13 is the Pancake Brunch! There will be a basket Raffle at that time too. So let's get those creative juices flowing, it's time to begin planning those enticing gift baskets!

- Lana Strasser & *Assistant—Co-teachers 4K/5K
- Michelle Hollatz & *Assistant—1st & 2nd grades
- Vicky Finke & Niaomi Treankler—4th grade
- Bonnie Bargender—5th Grade
- Marianne Mueller—6th, 7th & 8th grades
- Pastor Gail —9th grade/Confirmation Class
- Niaomi Treankler—sub as needed/group projects
- Morgan Mueller & Shae Wiesman—Floats/Subs
- Lana Strasser—Music Director

The QUARTERLY MEETING with ELECTIONS will be held on **Sunday, October 20th**. The leadership positions that need to be filled are listed below:

- PRESIDENT (3 yr. term) Steve Rober's term complete
Cal Tackes will "move up"
- VICE PRESIDENT (3 yr. term) currently held by Cal Tackes
- TREASURER (3 yr. term) currently held by Bev Umnus
- DEACON (3 yr. term) currently held by Shirley Rosien
- TRUSTEE (3 yr. term) currently open
- FINANCE COMMITTEE (2 yr. term)
 - Marion Werner
 - Sonia Heidmann
 - Jennifer Drabek

These are all completing their term.

- AUDITING COMMITTEE (yearly)
 - Naomi Sebold
 - Troy Wiesman
 - Leon Werner

These are all completing their term.
- CEMETERY BOARD (3 yr. term)
 - Gerald Borchardt's term is complete*
- PARISH ED COMMITTEE (yearly)
 - Currently serving are:*
 - Bonnie Bargender
 - Vicky Finke
 - Michelle Hollatz
 - Cindy Manecke
- LUTHER LEAGUE (appointed)
 - Position is currently vacant*

REFORMATION Sunday is October 27th which will be CONFIRMATION Sunday as is our tradition. Our 2019 Confirmands are *Ella Bauman & Griffin Treankler*. Pray for these young people as they prepare to publically affirm their Baptismal vows



JUST A "HEADS UP"

Pastor Gail & Rose will be on vacation Oct. 10-Oct. 22. Rose plans to return to the office on October 23.

Adventures of the Church Mice . . .



This is Rose writing, from St. Johns, I'm the Administrative Assistant. I heard the most interesting conversation from our 3 church mice: Tully, Twink, and Timothy. I asked them if I could write it up for the newsletter and they said it would be okay.

Tully has been living here at St. Johns since 2013, so he's the most experienced Church Mouse. Timothy is new this year, he came from Guatemala (but his English is really very good) It seems Timothy heard Pastor Gail and me talking about "our toads," and he was wondering what we saw in toads that would make them special. "They're just ugly and slimy and covered with warts" is what he said. I was getting ready to call Pastor Gail into my office to listen in, but then Tully spoke up. "Little Timothy, you have a lot to learn about being a Church Mouse! The church is supposed to be a safe place for everyone where no one has to worry about being made fun of or getting hurt. If you listen to the prayers on D-Day" (donuts and devotions day) "which is Thursday for the girls" (that's what all the Church Mice call us) "you'll learn how Jesus loves everyone all the same, it doesn't matter if they're mice or toads or people. Just think how you'd feel if you'd been born a TOAD instead of a mouse! You couldn't help it, and the toads can't help it either that they're not mice."

Tully's words blew me away! We never realized they were listening to everything we say, but he sure got that right! By the way, it's true Pastor Gail and I have sort of adopted a couple of families of toads. They live in the window wells at the parsonage, and we're worried they might get locked in or lose their homes if the trustees put covers over them.

This is a good reminder that little ears pick up things even when we don't realize they're listening. So parents, talk about these things, what you learn in church, and let your kids amaze and delight us when they come up for children's time on Sundays!



Reflections from Rose

This morning I was sweeping my kitchen floor after breakfast. The last time or two I've swept I haven't swept under the table because people have been seated all around it. I was marveling at the pile of crud that was building up. I no longer have a dog's

help in maintaining the kitchen floor. We had to say farewell to our 11 year old Labrador, Thunder, 2 weeks ago. We still are missing him in so many ways. This was another I guess. My brother-in-law is visiting us for a few days. He said, "Boy, I see you sweeping, mopping, doing dishes or something all the time when I'm here." I was surprised to hear what came out of my mouth "Well, if these things don't need to be done regularly, there's not enough LIFE going on." Wow! I said that? These are the chores I grumble about sometimes, I have to admit. But what I heard come out of my mouth today was TRUTH, and I was glad to hear it. There is great joy in the journey: in the mundane details, the difficult times, the confusing moments, and in the tears. There's always hope in Jesus, and the gift of joy-filled moments along the way. Rays of sunshine streaming in the window, a nice person at the checkout counter, a turn-the-radio-as-high-as-it-can-go song, a dance party with the grandchildren, or the opportunity to share time laughing, praying, crying with a dear sister/friend. Pity parties or comparisons create a direct path for the enemy of our souls to steal our joy. *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish it's work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."* (James 1: 2-4) *Happy Fall, rake up some JOY!*

Women of the ELCA

Every woman that is a member of St. John is a member of the women's group. All are WELCOME and encouraged to participate in our activities. Each woman of St. John is assigned to a funeral group. Each one's help is vital to help serve in the time of need.

Next combined Women's Bible Study:

Tuesday, Sept. 10th, at St. Stephen, 1pm.

Next General meeting:

Sunday, Sept. 8, following the service.
Please join us, we NEED YOUR input

Upcoming women's events:

2019 Chequamegon Conference Fall Retreat at Faith Lutheran Church, 207 S. Cherry Ave., Marshfield on Saturday, September 14th. **Theme Verse:** (Christ reveals the "Living Water")
...If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink...John 7:37-38.

Theme: Tea Time with Jesus. Will include 3-course Tea Party, the "Miss Overflowing Tea Cup Pageant", and Pass-it-on Basket.

If special diet is needed, please bring your own food for 3 courses.

IN-KIND GIFTS & OFFERINGS will go to PDC Orenda Center, Neillsville/Marshfield Domestic Abuse & Assault Services. Suggested items:

Paper items—Toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, etc.

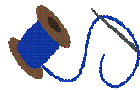
Personal hygiene items—toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, deodorant, body wash, shampoo/conditioner, tear-free baby shampoo, shaving cream, etc.

Cleaning/Laundry Supplies

Kitchen Essentials: Flour, sugar, salt, pepper, cooking spray, vegetable oil., coffee, simple baking mixes, baking powder, chocolate chips, oatmeal, etc.

Warm thanks . . .

Much appreciation to our QUILTERS for the donation of a beautiful quilt to The fundraiser for the General Store of the STEAM SHOW. What a nice gesture!



St. John QUILTERS

The QUILTERS are itchin' to begin their stitchin' on Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 10 at 9:30AM.

More helping hands would be greatly appreciated! Come when you can, leave when you must.

Recipients of their handcrafted comfort will be selected from those in need. If you have a suggestion, please share it with Judy Totzke.

YOUR help needed !

WANTED: A FULL-TIME ALTAR GUILD replacement. Members of the ALTAR GUILD make a valuable contribution to the worship services of the church by preparing and maintaining the altar furnishings, filling the candles, preparing for communion and making sure additional items needed for baptisms, confirmations, and special seasonal decorations are in place. No experience necessary, training and help will be provided. Altar guild members generally serve in teams of two. Interested?

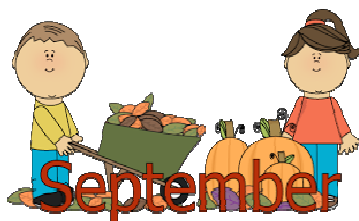
Talk to Judy Totzke.

GOOD NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church ELCA
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We're on the Web
www.stjohnelcaedgar.org

September 2019



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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 October 2019 News



September 23rd