

Newsletter



From Your Council

To communicate and draw us together
In a difficult time

Brought to you by your Church Council

A Publication of
St John Lutheran Church

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Issue #8

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

These are certainly unusual times, and I have been adjusting every week in order to continue to provide Word and Sacrament worship and prayer for Saint John Lutheran Church. Sent with this newsletter is the worship bulletin for the coming Sunday. The bulletin contains much more than just the liturgy outline. There are suggestions for daily readings and devotional readings related to the Sunday text. In this time of "Safer at Home," personal devotions are more important than ever. As you are protecting our health, please do not forget to strengthen your faith.

You are reminded that in-person worship with Holy Communion is available on Sunday mornings at St. John Lutheran Church, but in order to maintain appropriate "physical distancing," that worship is by reservation only. You must call Pastor Bond (I am the only one keeping the guest-book) in advance of Sunday.

If you are unable to attend worship in-person, please consider viewing our worship. We are live on the Saint John Lutheran Church Facebook site, Sundays at 9am, and I do not think you need an account to view. You can also watch the worship service on demand at our web-site, www.sjlc-elca.org, just a day or so delayed. And finally, if you have cable TV in Janesville, you can watch our service one-week delayed on JATV channel 994, Sunday at 9:00am.

There have been some requests for assistance in following along with these worship viewings. What follows are some general notes with web-links to resources, in addition to the attached bulletin.

Liturgy. Our liturgy is almost always from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. At this time, on Sundays, we are using *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Holy Communion Setting Four. This liturgy is essentially *Lutheran Book of Worship* Holy Communion Setting Two, hence, we have been singing this service music for about forty years, since 1978. Never-the-less, if you desire a hymnal, the church publishing house is the best resource: www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286482/Congregational

Bible. We usually use the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible for our public readings. Only very rarely is another translation used. If you need to purchase a Bible, I recommend www.christianbook.com. At this website you will find a wide variety of translations, formats, and sizes. Unfortunately, we cannot order Bibles or hymnals for you from the congregational office. With the "Safer at Home" restrictions, we would encourage you to have deliveries made directly to your home. It should be noted that the Psalms we recite in worship are from the *Lutheran Book of Worship*, very similar to the translation in the *Book of Common Prayer*. You can follow

along with the readings for particular days, or prepare in advance for any day, by using the Lectionary noted below.

Lectionary. We follow a lectionary, a collection of assigned readings, which follows the liturgical calendar in a three-year cycle. 2020 is designated as “Year A” with most gospel readings from Matthew. The assigned readings for the entire year can be found here:

download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/YearA_19-20-ALL.pdf

With the three resources above, one could have in print most of what is found in the Sunday worship service. Some additional elements, such as Thanksgiving for Baptism and the Invitation to Communion, come from a worship planning resource called *Sundays and Seasons*, which has texts for particular seasons of the church year which emphasize themes of those days. It can be found at the Augsburg-Fortress website, but would not usually be worth the investment for an individual to purchase.

I hope these notes assist you in following along, and I pray that you keep physically and mentally safe and well. Do not despise God’s word, but gladly hear and learn it, even now, so that your faith too might remain strong. Please contact me if I can provide pastoral care or conversation.

God’s peace be with you.

+ Pastor Bond



From Your Council

St John Lutheran Church Newsletter

Brought to you by your St. John Church Council

Let’s stay in touch during this time of the Corona-virus Outbreak. We hope to bring you a message to uplift your spirits. A little humor, a meaningful devotion, fun facts and other things. We are all in this together and where two or more are gathered (even in spirit) the Lord is with us. Please let us know if there is something you want in the newsletter or you may know of someone in need of prayer or material needs; call the office at 608-752-3159 or the newsletter editor at 608-752-3426.

Your Council 2020

Tim Banwell, President

Ted Grund

Ron Johnson, Vice President

David Moore

Kathy Severson, Secretary

Heidi Pennycook

Tim Johnson, Treasurer

DEVOTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Open-Hearted Love

Acts 6:1a, 2-3, 5 - Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose ... And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty ..." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

Acts 6 tells us that the new Christian church had the habit of giving out food to those who needed it every day, much like our modern food banks. A lot of the recipients were widows—women who had no husbands or grown children to care for them. So the church took care of them, and this was good.

But even in those days there were groups that didn't get along well with one another. For example, there were the Hellenists, who were Jews who had picked up a lot of foreign Greek culture. Then there were the so-called Hebrews, who rejected all that foreign stuff. There were people from both groups in the baby Christian church. And sure enough, there was trouble.

The Hellenists complained their widows were getting overlooked in the food distribution. But notice what the church did! They didn't just blow off their complaint. They didn't argue or respond with complaints of their own. No, they listened. They took the problem seriously. The whole church treated this problem as if it were happening to them personally, regardless of ethnic group.

Then they figured out a solution. They chose seven leaders who were "of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom." They weren't just warm

bodies, or the first seven people they could guilt into taking the job. No, these were the best. And notice their names! Every single name on that list is a Greek name. The leaders' hearts were so open and loving that they made sure the people appointed to handle the problem came from the very ethnic group that was suffering.

Where does this kind of love come from, that can look at "those people" and see them as "us people"? Only from Jesus. He is the only One who can break down cultural and ethnic walls in such a complete and wonderful way. And no wonder, because He Himself is our peace—with God and with one another. As Paul writes, "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility ... through the cross ... For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the Cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:13-14, 16b, 18-20).

THE PRAYER: Father, help us to love one another with Jesus' own love. Amen.

SHIFT - OUR CHURCH AND OUR CULTURE ARE MOVING IN NEW DIRECTIONS

SHIFT - Our Church and our culture are moving in new directions

Shift, Three big moves for the 21st Church, by Mark Tidsworth, has been read by the St. John Church Council who are applying these concepts to our disciple development.

Sacred Partnering

By this time our review of the book, "Shift" has revealed to us that we, as disciples in Christ, are a communal body of Christ followers, mutually committed and responsible to one another and to the mission Jesus sent us on at his resurrection. This communal body is the church, in our case, St. John. St. John is remarkable in its generosity and support of community and world mission. But how does a church make the shift towards a missional church and beyond? Where should we go from here?

We know the old model of being a church in the 20th century just doesn't resonate with the society and the culture we find ourselves. We can no longer consider ourselves just voluntary members of an organization. We now join God in his mission to bring healing and reconciliation to this world. Our journey at St. John is to intentionally develop an atmosphere that supports fellow disciples in Christ to succeed in our missions. This intentional development of disciples in Christ will lead to a missional church. Developing disciples in Christ and transforming into a missional church are two processes that can happen simultaneously and complement each other. Both are needed to accomplish the final step in the SHIFT step, Sacred Partnering.

Sacred partnering occurs when a church asks, (1) what more does our church need from all the disciples to sustain development and missional movement? And (2) what do we need to do to in our church to help God transform this world? Let's review the three shifts the author describes for growth of a church in this postmodern era:

1. Member ID to Disciple ID – As a disciple in Christ we are not a passive member of an organization. We are intent on becoming the church. How do we love and support one another and make disciples of ourselves and others.
2. Attractional Church to a Missional Church – This is a way of seeing God. God is active in our community and the world. Our role is to join him in bringing his kingdom to earth and to work for the healing and reconciliation of this world. We are invited to join him. Our purpose is not to save our congregation.
3. Consumer Church to Sacred Partnering - We are a communal body of Christ followers, committed and responsible to one another and to the mission Jesus set upon us at his resurrection. How can we relate to one another to further our discipleship growth? What do we need from one another to be a church? We are called out of our culturally encouraged self-centeredness into a less self-focused way of living.

Sacred Partnering is not so much a final step but rather a way of being the church. Starting this week at our Council meeting, the Council will begin exploring the development of disciples at St. John. This may be an opportune time to stop, discuss and listen to each other and consider what God is doing in our community and world.



MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Beth, The Family of Larry Poltrock (brother of Pastor Roy Poltrock), Pastor Roy Poltrock, Jerry Churchill, all those effected by Covid-19, and healthcare workers.

FAVORITE RECIPE
Toffee Bars by Melanie Morgan

Ingredients for the crust:

One cup room temperature butter

One egg yolk

1 cup packed brown sugar

2 cups flour

1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Ingredients for topping

Eight dark chocolate Hershey bars

Half bag of butter brickle chips

Preheat oven to 350°

Beat together butter and egg yolk till fluffy

Slowly add brown sugar flour and vanilla be until blended.

Spread on a 15 x 10 x 1/2" cookie sheet. Bake 15 to 20 minutes

Meanwhile unwrap Hershey bars.

As soon as the crust comes out of the oven, place Hershey bars on top and spread around evenly, then sprinkle the butter brickle chips on top.

Let cool for a few minutes and then slice. Cool completely before serving.

If you have a recipe to share, please send it to the contact info below:

Tim & Ruth Banwell, 4240 Lansing Dr., Janesville, WI 53546, 608-752-3426

tbanwell@outlook.com

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the happy family of Felix Nova Fischer, son of Jennifer and Mike Fischer and grandson of Ron and Joyce Hornsey. Felix arrived on May 4, 2020 weighing 8 pounds 6 ounces and 22 inches tall! Welcome to the world, Felix!

REACH OUT

Are you getting a little stir crazy? You are not alone, but there is something we can do to nip that in the bud. Make a phone call to that relative or friend. They are in the same boat as you & I. Chat small talk, reminisce about old times, listen to them, and reflect on their message. Let them know you truly care. What better way to be a Disciple of Christ.

OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES

Thank you to everyone for your offerings. Your generosity has allowed St. John to meet the expenses for the month of April. St. John contribution to benevolence has been especially remarkable. Since February 2020, benevolence from the congregation has been \$3,150 and from the Foundation, \$6,000. A breakdown of the contributions are as follows:

Benevolence received from February - April 2020:

ECHO - \$1500.00 Foundation grant, \$265.00 from congregation

ELCA Hunger - \$2216.16

ELCA Disaster Relief - \$1500.00 Foundation grant

CROP WALK - \$3000.00 Foundation grant, \$310.00 from congregation

YWCA - \$109.56

Healthnet - \$125.00

Salvation Army - \$100.00

GIFTS Shelter - \$25.00

Here are some simple ways to help get your offerings to the church office:

- 1) You can mail your check for St. John Lutheran Church to 302 N. Parker Dr., Janesville, WI 53545
- 2) You can drop your check off at the church office mailbox. Please drop it in the church's locked mailbox right outside the church's office entrance. (Do Not use the lift-top box labeled "outgoing")

Please send any questions or concerns to the Pastor at church 608-752-3159, or at 608-208-0283, or pastor.bond@sbcglobal.net. Also, Tim Banwell at 608-752-3426 or tbanwell@outlook.com.

How can we respond to local needs?

Local non-profits in our community are filling an important need serving others as our community confront the covid-19 virus. One challenge they are having on top of the current crisis is the cancelling of fundraisers that help sustain them during the year. We have been talking about being Disciples of Christ and here is where we can do our part by sending a check written out to St. John with the name of the organization in the note line lower left hand corner of your check.

Each week St. John will send any contributions to the organization. The following organizations have been supported by St. John in the past:

- Women's YWCA Shelter
- ECHO
- Salvation Army

- Men's' Gifts Shelter
- Health Net

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an Evangelical part of the Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the Love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His Name without discrimination.

Locally the Salvation Army has sponsored lunch meals from Monday through Friday and Food Pantry from Monday through Thursday. They help with shelter for the homeless and provide assistance to pay bills.

We have incredible opportunities as Christians to follow Jesus lead to love and serve those around us.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL CORNER

Do you see the resemblance to the Brady Bunch!!



Council Meeting Tuesday May 5, 2020

The full council met by a ZOOM conference on Tuesday April 28 at 6:30 PM. Worship Planning- Sunday's Face Book Live Streaming went well. Some echoing was observed, but was attributed to a personal computer as it was not observed by everyone else. Attendance on live streaming has been around 25 visitors.

Church Financial – April income has met expenses and we have a positive balance of \$3,989.26, however for the year we are only \$459 short. This is better than the last four years.

Church Staffing – Staff remain at 25% and everything is getting completed. Pastor will contact the credit union regarding the Pay Roll Protection Act. (On Wednesday May 6, St. John was approved for the Pay Roll Protection loan). Church Property – The contractors have removed the asbestos from the two rental properties. The Foundation will coordinate with the City of Janesville for the fire practice. There were questions about salvaging useful material from the houses. Heidi Pennycook will contact the Foundation for guidance. Adult forum via Zoom platform is going well and there is still room for more to join on Sunday mornings at 10:30 Am. For more info, contact Dave Moore.

Council discussed discipleship development. It is difficult to plan any action due to the stay-at-home situation. There was talk of using the phone tree now in place to form some type of small groups when joining of small groups are allowed. The council will give this some more thought and share any thoughts next week.

Thank you to the following people who helped put this newsletter together: John Ziegler, Ron Johnson, Melanie Morgan, Gary Wesolowski , Ruth Banwell and Melissa Van Tassell.

CORONAVIRUS HEALTH UPDATE

May 10, 2020

Look for the Update next week

Wisconsin Updates:

As of this writing (05/10/2020), there have been 10,129 confirmed cases in Wisconsin, including 400 deaths. Rock County has reported 354 confirmed cases and 13 deaths.

<https://www.co.rock.wi.us/publichealth-familycommunity/publichealth-communicabledisease/coronavirus-disease-2019>

SHOPPING LOCAL

As you are doing you're shopping this week, think about doing your business with local businesses in our community. You will be spending your money in the local community and helping your neighbor keep their job. Many businesses provide curbside pick-up so you do not have to shop near other shoppers; just call ahead and your purchase can be brought out to you. Larger stores have on-line purchase options without the need to venture inside. Again call ahead, or go to their website for directions.

BREAKFAST, ANYONE!

The St. John Lutheran Congregation is set to provide meals for the GIFTS men's shelter the week of May 24-31. Due to the Covid-19 lockdown at the shelter, it is unlikely that we will be allowed to go into the shelter to cook. So, I am looking for folks who would be willing to cook a breakfast meal which can be dropped off at the shelter either the night before or in the morning. We are hoping for items that can be easily transported (i.e. egg bakes or other types of casseroles, breakfast sandwiches, etc.) and can be put together to be cooked ahead and/or warmed at the shelter. I have some recipes if anyone wants ideas. I also have some money that can be used to buy ingredients if needed, including aluminum pans that can be disposed of after the meal.

We need two pans of any casserole so you might want to ask a friend to make one. You can find some ideas on line

at: <https://www.buzzfeed.com/jesseszewczyk/big-batch-breakfast-recipes> or google "meals for a crowd" to find more ideas.

I am told that there are presently about 20 men who are confined to the shelter. Other items that would be greatly appreciated might be fresh fruit salad, muffins, breads, etc. If you are not leaving your residence, I would be willing to pick up the food and deliver it to the shelter.

If you would like to volunteer for this service, please contact me and let me know what morning would work for you and what you are planning. If you are using your own recipe and you want ingredients, please let me know by the end of next week what you need. I am told that there are plenty of donated eggs at the shelter that I can have access to. You can call me at 608-752-8117 or 608-449-4559 or better yet, e-mail at kholcombe8117@charter.net. Thank you in advance.

Peace, Kathy Holcombe

A NEW COMMUNITY INITIATIVE: THE JANESVILLE IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

In October of 2019, the St. John Mission Outreach Group invited John Garland, pastor of the San Antonio Mennonite Church, to come north and present a program about Trauma-responsive hospitality and his congregation's work with refugees seeking asylum. The program was open to the Rock County community and funded through the St. John Foundation. Pastor Garland presented at an all day workshop on Saturday and led a Bible Study for the Adult Forum on Sunday morning. As a result of this program, an interest in issues of

immigration and the treatment of refugees has been ignited in the Rock County Community.

As a direct result of Pastor Garland's presentation and those of other organizations in the community, a Janesville Immigration Task Force (JITF) has been organized. The primary purpose of this task force is to connect with other players concerned about the issues effecting local immigrant populations and to seek ways to help in some way with their efforts. Interested persons, including myself and 2 other members of St. John Lutheran, have been involved in the subsequent meetings of this task force which has been held in Friendship Hall here at St. John Lutheran Church once a month. We have been fortunate to have input from many people already involved in helping the immigrant population and we have learned a lot from them. By March, our invite list had grown to include representatives from Rock County, City of Janesville, School District of Janesville, HealthNet, Head Start, Diversity Action Team, YWCA and others.

Our initial plans for involvement included working on providing local rides for people who need to get to appointments such as those concerning health and/or employment. Others volunteered to provide rides for people who need to present themselves at times to immigration forces in Chicago or Milwaukee. Other items included the possibilities of teaching English to adults, advocating for more open possibilities for driver training and licensing, and advocacy for children of immigrant families in our public schools.

However, our focus has shifted in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Now our primary concern is for the basic needs of Rock County immigrant families who have lost income but are not eligible for unemployment or other federal relief. To this end JITF, in partnership with our sister organization in Beloit, are in the process of joining with the Rock County YWCA to create a YWCA Immigrant Relief Fund to be administered by the YWCA. The Janesville Immigration Task Force and the Beloit Immigration Task Force would be involved in helping to raise the money for such a fund through our contacts with congregations, businesses, and other organizations. I will update you as to progress toward the task force goals and I invite you to be involved as we move forward. If interested, you can call me or our group facilitator, Christine Moore.

Peace, Kathy Holcombe

THIS WEEK'S HUMOR

Eino, the Finn from Cook County Northern Minnesota:

Eino was a single gentleman who was born and raised Lutheran. Each Friday night after work, he would fire up his outdoor grill and cook a venison steak.

Now, all of Eino's neighbors were Catholic...and since it was Lent, they were forbidden to eat meat on Fridays. The delicious aroma from the grilled venison steaks was causing such a problem for the Catholic faithful that they finally talked to their priest. The priest came to visit Eino, and suggested that Eino convert to Catholicism. After several classes and study, Eino attended Mass...And as the priest sprinkled holy water over Eino, he said, "You were born Lutheran and raised Lutheran, but now you are Catholic."

Eino's neighbors were greatly relieved, until Friday night arrived, and the wonderful aroma of grilled venison filled the neighborhood again.

The priest was immediately called, and as he rushed into Eino's yard, clutching a rosary and prepared to scold Eino, he stopped in amazement and watched...

There stood Eino, clutching a small bottle of water which he carefully sprinkled over the grilling meat, and chanting; "You were born a deer, raised as a deer, but now you are a trout."

A man praying in church:

He looks up to heaven and says, "God, could you answer a question for me?" "Of course, my son," says God. "What would you like to know?" "God, what is a million years to you?" "Well," says God, "a million years to me is as a second." "Hmm," says the man, "I guess I understand, so what is a million dollars to you then?" "My son," God says, "a million dollars to me is as a penny." "Hmm," says the man. He goes back to praying, but after a little while he looks up again. "God," he asks, "Can I have a penny?"

"Sure," says God, "Just a second."

A church bell ringer passed away:

So they posted the position and a man came in, with no arms, wanting the job. The clergy weren't sure he could do the job, but he convinced them to let him try. They climbed the bell tower and the guy ran toward the bell and hit it with his head. They gave him the job.

The next day he went to ring the bell, tripped, bounced off the bell and fell to the sidewalk below. Dead. Two guys were walking past.

One guy asked, "Do you know this guy?" The second guy responded, "No but his face rings a bell."

The next day, the dead bell ringer's twin brother comes in for the again vacant bell ringer position. He also has no arms. They led him up to the bell tower, he

runs at the bell, trips, and falls to the ground below. The same two guys walk by. The first guy asks, "Do you know him?" The second guy responds, "No, but he's a dead ringer for the guy we saw yesterday."

These were a little longer so I figured I better keep it short. Hope I got a little smile out of you. Till next week, keep up with the humor!

MUSIC CORNER

Music Corner "All God's Creatures Have a Place in the Choir" Sing Along
Highlight the link, right click, and then right click on *Open through hyperlink*

<https://youtu.be/sTKJUxl8TL4>

ART CORNER

Art Corner "The Angelus" by Jean-Francois Millet
Highlight the link, right click, and then right click on *Open through hyperlink*

<https://static.trinityroad.com/sites/gf/2015/10/the-angelus-1859.jpg>

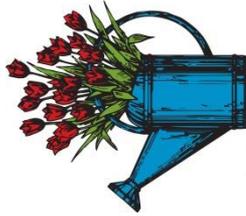


SPRING CLEAN UP

Below is a list of outside yard projects to spruce up the church. It will be difficult to organize a cleanup day with Covid-19. However if anyone has a desire to get outside and get a little exercise, why not help St. John with yard work!

- Trim bushes on north side of yard by Deli Dog house. Basically any bushes.
- Clean out window wells by office section
- Weed hill on upper parking lot – watch for perennials!
- Clean out flower bed section by bell – watch for perennials!
- Plant flowers in pots on Parker Drive
- Clean up flowers by electric box on Parker Drive by sidewalk
- Be careful using those gardening tools!





May

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