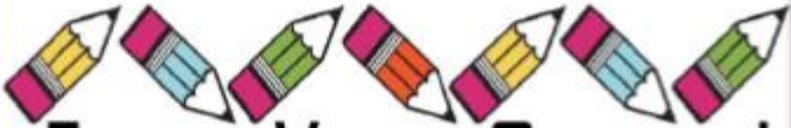


Newsletter



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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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
Ron Johnson, Vice President
Kathy Severson, Secretary
Tim Johnson, Treasurer

Ted Grund
David Moore
Heidi Pennycook

DEVOTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Doing the Difficult Things

John 14:18-21 - (Jesus said) "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you

in Me, and I in you. Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

Have you ever walked into a situation where you weren't sure what to do or how to do it? Or maybe you knew what to do, but you still felt wildly out of place—these people were not your "kind of people," and you wondered if you were going to stick out like a sore thumb. That happens to me in social situations, and it's bad.

But it's even worse when I'm going into a situation where I am doing something absolutely necessary that I've never done before—for example, doing personal care for a loved one who is dying of cancer. Technically it's not that difficult to cook for someone, to change a diaper, to get trained on how to handle a stomach feeding tube or an ostomy bag. And yet it's scary, the first time. I wish there was someone else who could borrow my hands, oversee my actions, and help me to do things right. Then, maybe, I could stop being so self-conscious. Then, maybe, I could relax a little and trust that it wasn't going to be a disaster.

And that is a gift Jesus gives us, believe it or not. He says, "In that day (the day of Jesus' resurrection) you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you." We are not alone with the challenge that lies before us. Jesus is with us, is even *in* us—not just as a metaphor or a figure of speech, but for real. If we are willing to let it be so, our hands are His hands, and our mouths can be His mouth. We can pray for help and trust that He will in fact dwell within us, according to His promise—and that He will make His presence known.

That makes it so much easier to be the first one to take leadership in an emergency—to be the first to make peace when a family fight is raging—to act as a parent to your own parent or grandparent, to behave like a sister or brother to someone who comes from a totally different cultural background. It doesn't matter if we ourselves are afraid and inadequate; Jesus is not. Jesus is living in us. We can call upon His strength whenever we need it. Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, remind us that we are never alone in this world. We have Jesus, and He is all we need. In His Name. Amen.

This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo.

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.

The SHIFT in our Culture a Review

In the Last 30 + years there have been influences in our society that caused people to rethink church and their spirituality. Early in American history, there was less diversity with one shared world view. Technology and information availability have increased our access to many other cultures, religions and perspectives of our world. While the scientific method is still present in uncovering truths, the universe is far more complex and scientific study does not explain all of our world. A spiritual hunger exists that people are searching for meaning in their life. In addition to the above, postmodern people distrust institutions. Even the best intentioned organization can have small outcomes that may be counter to the organization's mission statement. Some institutions with generous sounding names work actively against society's common good. The ideals that our nation was founded on are just now being realized: civil rights. People are looking for authority and genuineness in their leaders. No longer is a title or position of authority a guarantee of acceptance by the public. Will current times boost our society to address the injustices we face; health care, income disparity, affordable housing and more? Could stay-at-home policies help us with family relationships? In other words, can we help ourselves and others develop as disciples in Christ and how can we accomplish this in the year 2020?

The Great Commission:

"And Jesus came and said to them, "all authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations , baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you and remember , I am with you until the end of the ages."

This passage has been interpreted as a call to convert the masses to Christian faith. Also, according to the SHIFT author, this is a call to develop as disciples in Christ and to nurture other disciples in there lifelong journey to become a disciple. The world needs groups of people (the Church) who will look through the lens of love when making decisions at home, community, the world, and Church, who aspire to loving one another as their primary purpose.

In other words, we are called to become the change we want to see in the world, joining God's mission to transform this world. To this end we need partners, a community of faith with whom to travel.

St. John has an active group of disciples in Christ. I look through the directory and see those who worship and I see those active in supporting the worship service, supporting social ministries, maintaining church property, helping shut-ins; the list goes on. What is our next step in disciple development? While there is no easy answer, our stay-safe-at-home time gives us an opportunity to reflect on this topic. I would like to hear your thoughts.

God Bless,
Tim Banwell

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.



Our congregation extends their sympathy and prayers to the family of Lawrence Poltrock, brother of Rev. Roy Poltrock, who died on May 8, 2020. Private services for Larry were held in Lombard, Illinois on May 14, 2020. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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.

FAVORITE RECIPE

There were no volunteers this week for the recipe, but I have a quick coffee cake recipe that is very good. I discovered this at a potluck brunch for work. I think you will like it too.

Coffee Cake

Batter:

½ Cup Butter
1 1/2 Cups Sugar
2 Eggs
1 ½ cup Sour Cream
1 tsp Vanilla
Mix together

Add Dry ingredients to Batter

Topping:

2Tbl Sugar + 1 tsp Cinnamon
(put aside)

Dry Ingredients:

2 Cups All Purpose Flour
1 tsp Baking Powder
½ tsp Baking Soda
½ tsp Salt
Mix Dry Ingredients

Pour ½ of the mix in a Tube Pan

Sprinkle ½ of topping on mix

Add rest of mix and sprinkle remaining topping

Bake at 350 F for 40 - 45 minutes or till done

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

Morning Rotary honors February students of month

■ Craig High School student **Madeline Grund**, daughter of Susan and Ted Grund. She was president of the French National Honor Society and French Club, commissioner for Link Crew and a member of the Science National Honor Society, Tri-M, Interact Club, Sierra Club, Letterwomen's Club, International Buddies, pep and marching band, volleyball team, basketball team and track team. She also played for the Rock Volleyball Club. Grund qualified for state at Solo and Ensemble and performed in the Wisconsin State Honors Orchestra and First Lutheran Church's Praise Orchestra.



Grund

Grund is active on the Janesville CROP Hunger Walk planning committee member and as a volunteer for GIFTS Men's Shelter, Bags of Hope and Rock Juniors volleyball program.

She plans to study early childhood education at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
ST. JOHN'S OWN
MADELINE GRUND!**

Well done, Madeline!

OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES

Thank you to everyone for your offerings. This newsletter has begun with the *Offering Opportunities* each week to thank you for your generosity and inform you of our financial status. Without your support this church could not function. Your help for our community nonprofits is also admirable. Again, thank you!

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
- Health Net
- Salvation Army
- Men's' Gifts Shelter

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 12, 2020

The full council met by a ZOOM conference on Tuesday May 12, 2020, 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. On Wednesday May 6, St. John was approved for the Pay Roll Protection loan. We have not received any financial assistance

Church Property – The contractors have removed the asbestos from the two rental properties. The Foundation will coordinate with our insurance company and the City of Janesville for the fire practice.

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. We are all having challenges with our new life style brought on by the pandemic. The council agreed to move ahead on forming small group ministries using current online/digital technology. In the newsletter and via the phone tree, we will begin to explore the possibilities of sharing these challenges and pray for each other. First, we need to determine the accessibility of members to technology, such as availability to the internet and the electronic devices our members are using.

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

LET'S EXPLORE SMALL GROUPS !!

At this week's Church Council meeting we discussed forming small groups as a way to build community at St. John. Building community and belonging develops the spirit of discipleship between each of us, to share challenges and pray for each other.

How do we do this during this time of Stay-Safe-Stay-at Home you may ask? ZOOM meetings have enabled the Council to meet face-to-face each week and the thought is to apply this to small group meetings with around five or six that could discuss what is going on in their life and how we can support each other. One thought among others is to answer: *What ministries are you missing now that you can't experience during this stay at home and stay safe time?*

To participate in a ZOOM meeting a person would need access to the internet and install ZOOM. Someone from church can help them install ZOOM if needed. Before these meetings could be implemented, we would need to know how many have a computer, IPAD or smart phone; all devices that can utilize ZOOM. You can email the church office with the type of device you have. The church office has email addresses that indicate internet capabilities, but not smart phone use. If you could do this in the next couple of weeks that would be great!

We understand that not all congregation members have internet access and may not be able to be part of this plan, but it is a start to figure out opportunities to adjust to this new normal. Please share your ideas or comments with Pastor Bond, pastor.bond@sbcglobal.net , 608-208-0283, or Tim Banwell, tbanwell@outlook.com , 608-752-3426.

CORONAVIRUS HEALTH UPDATE

May 15, 2020

Risk Factors (part 1)

As reports of coronavirus infections progressed from a cluster of unusual cases of pneumonia in Wuhan, China in late December, to a more widespread outbreak impacting international travel, and eventually to pandemic proportions (the World Health Organization declared pandemic status on March 11), reassurances were commonly given, along the lines that the vast majority of people who contract this virus would recover without serious difficulty. And while that is still true, it has been clear from the early days of the pandemic that certain risk factors predispose to a higher likelihood of complications or death. This week and next week, I will review some of those risk factors. Much of the information here is taken from this CDC web site:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/groups-at-higher-risk.html>

Age

Older adults, defined as “65 years and older” [yikes -- I hit this milestone earlier this year!] are more likely to suffer serious complications or death from COVID-19. There are many reasons for this, and increased risk with age is not unusual for many medical conditions. (For example, seasonal influenza is usually more serious in the elderly population.) Older adults are more likely to have underlying health problems (termed “co-morbidities”). Also, our immune system tends to weaken with advancing age, making it more difficult to fight off infections.

Chronic Lung Disease

Chronic lung disease, including emphysema and other types of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), increases the risk of serious illness. This is typical of other viral respiratory infections, including seasonal influenza. People with chronic lung disease are more prone to secondary infections such as pneumonia.

Asthma

Most any respiratory virus can trigger an asthma flare-up. In addition to breathing difficulty, such flare-ups can in turn lead to pneumonia or other complications.

Diabetes

People with Type 1 (sometimes called insulin dependent) diabetes, Type 2 diabetes, or gestational diabetes, are at risk for complications from COVID-19 infections. This is probably due to complications of diabetes, such as heart disease, kidney disease, and hypertension.

Recommendations

In general, continue to monitor your health; make sure you keep an adequate supply of medications on hand; and stay in touch with your health care provider. It is also

important to continue “routine” health measures regarding the coronavirus pandemic, including hand washing; social distancing; keeping frequently touched surfaces clean (doorknobs, light switches, and, yes, your cell phone); and — to help limit spread and protect others — wear a mask when you are out in public. (And don’t even ask me to comment on the mad rush to crowded bars which occurred the evening of May 13, shortly after the Wisconsin State Supreme Court invalidated Governor Evers’ extended stay-at-home order, which was due to expire May 26.)

TESTING UPDATE: Senator Tammy Baldwin announced on Friday, May 15, that “free COVID-19 diagnostic tests are currently available throughout the state for Wisconsin residents.” These are offered to “Any Wisconsin resident over the age of 5 experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.” Here is the link to a Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services web site which includes information on testing locations and availability:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/testing.htm>

Submitted by: John Ziegler

Wisconsin Updates:

As of this writing (05/17/2020), there have been 12,543 confirmed cases in Wisconsin, including 453 deaths. Rock County has reported 429 confirmed cases and 14 deaths.

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

SHOPPING LOCAL

As you are doing your 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. Its primary purpose is to connect with others concerned about the issues effecting local immigrant populations and to seek ways to help. Interested persons, including myself and two other members of St. John Lutheran, have been involved in the subsequent meetings of this task force, which is 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.. 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

Going to Church:

A friend in front of me coming out of church one morning and the preacher was standing at the door as he always does to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" He whispered back, "I'm in the Secret Service."

Painting Church the Wrong Way:

There was a little church in the countryside; painted white and with a high steeple. One Sunday, the pastor noticed that his church needed painting. He checked out the Sunday ads and found a paint sale. The next day, he went to town and bought a gallon of white paint. He went back out to the church and began the job. He got done with the first side. It was looking great. But he noticed he'd already used a half gallon of the paint. He didn't want to run back into town and being the creative person that he was, he found a gallon of thinner in the shed out back and began to thin his paint. It worked out great. He finished the remaining three sides with the last half gallon of paint. That night it rained hard. The next morning when he stepped outside of the parsonage to admire his handiwork he saw that the first side looked great, but the paint on the other three sides had washed away. The pastor looked up into the sky in anguish and cried out, "What shall I do?"

A voice came back from the heavens saying, "Repaint, and thin no more!"

Two Trouble Makers:

A couple had two little mischievous boys, 8 and 10. They were always getting into trouble, and their parents knew that if any mischief occurred in their town, their sons would get the blame. So, the mother heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children so she asked if he would speak to the boys. The clergyman agreed and asked to see them individually. So, the mother sent her 8 year-old first, in the morning, with the older boy to see the clergyman in the afternoon. The

clergyman, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Where is God?"

The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there with his mouth hanging open.

The clergyman repeated the question, "Where is God?" Again, the boy made no attempt to answer. So, the clergyman raised his voice some more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "Where is God?"

The boy screamed and bolted from the room. He ran directly home and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him.

When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?" The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied:

"We are in BIG trouble this time! God is missing, and they think we did it!"

Next week I'll have some quick question and answer funnies and maybe a couple other short signs seen near a church to tickle you. Until then, I hope all is well with you and keep smiling.

THE MINI-VIEW

You know the old saying, "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink it?" Well, with what we're going through right now, it seems to ring loud and clear. The government and doctors are telling us to Stay Home and Stay Safe. But, many are refusing to listen and won't wear masks or self-distance themselves. Now with the state order being overturned, we may have opened the door to even greater tyranny. I saw on TV, people crowded in a bar and none of them had masks on or even separated from others. You can tell them but they don't want the water... People want to be free and socialize once again. I'm rather drawn by that same pull. I want to return to some normalcy and get back to church to be among the people of our congregation once again. But I really don't think we are ready for that yet. Our health is still a big concern. Church services will remain small in hopes of staying healthy while hoping to stay strong spiritually as well as staying safe.

Our Church Council has been meeting weekly via ZOOM, an online meeting place to communicate, and even the Adult Forum is using this same format. It's working out really great and it's not hard to do once you get started. Council has been talking about how we can stay connected and we agree that smaller groups are a great way to be together and support each other to grow in our faith. Helping, listening, being there for one another as God is there for everyone us and asks us to be there for each other.

Chapters 12 through 14 in 1 Corinthians talks a lot about being together, one body under Christ and sharing our gifts with each other to strengthen and support one another in our faith journey to become one with Christ. Everyone has something to offer no matter how small it may seem and we are to use those gifts to nurture and comfort one another.

Right now, would be a good time to meet in small groups as Paul points out. It can be done through ZOOM or Face Book or telephone or soon maybe small get-togethers of 5

or 6 people, adhering to the safe guidelines of facemasks and 6 feet distancing. I'm sure there are more ways to stay connected, and we need each other to get through these times until hopefully soon, we may all worship together again.

We invite you to think about joining a small group or maybe two. We can find a way. Let's realize God's kingdom and join His mission on earth. Stay strong, stay healthy, stay safe! God's Peace, Ron Johnson

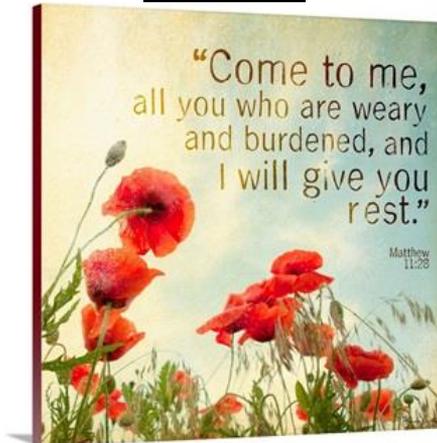
MUSIC CORNER

Music from Bishop's Stortfield College Choral Concert

Highlight the link, right click, and then right click on *Open through hyperlink*

<https://youtu.be/doJ2Fd6JRpQ>

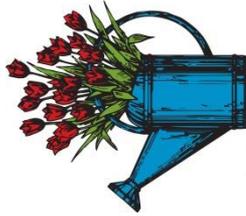
ART CORNER



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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