



# *PASTOR JOHN'S JOTS*

## **ELCA National Youth Gathering**

I was privileged to have been a participant (along with eight youth and two other adults from St. John's) at the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans Louisiana in July. I pass along these statistics as a way to say "thanks" to the St. John's community for supporting us in what was a very uplifting event.

### **Gathering facts and impacts:**

ELCA youth and adults contributed an estimated 244,000 hours of volunteer service in New Orleans during the Gathering.

Every K-3rd grade student in New Orleans will receive a school supply kit.

Youth and Adults worked with:

79 schools

16 churches

11 organizations building homes

37 parks & playgrounds

21 community centers

2 major public events

5 reading fairs

Servant Life experiences involved:

12,000 Gathering servants per day

360 young adult volunteers per day

300 buses per day

President Barack Obama sent a letter that was read to Gathering participants encouraging service and community responsibility.

About 300 youth donated their hair for chemotherapy patients.

1,023 units of blood were given during the Gathering -- the most given by an event in The Blood Center's 50 year history!

102,500 books were collected for the children of New Orleans.

Lots and lots of people asking, "Who are those people in orange shirts?"  
(Opportunities for sharing the gospel in both word and action!)

### **Gathering offerings: the sharing of God's gifts for ministry**

The Gathering offerings are expressions of our service, abundance, thankfulness, concern, and generosity. The offering totals include:

Sunday Offering = \$287,517

LYO Convention Offering = \$1,607

MYLE Offerings = \$2,057

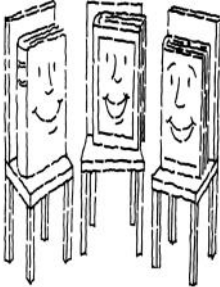
DAYLE Offering = \$308

Online Giving = \$212,578

ELCA World Hunger funds = \$154,488.96 (The Lutheran Youth Challenge)

Peace, Pastor John

## St. John's Book Club



**BOOK  
CLUB**

Do you like to read books? Do you like to share and discuss with others the contents of books you have read? Then come join a group of like-minded people interested in starting up a Book Club at St. John's. If you are interested in participating please speak to either Bonnie Klatt or Nancy Kessler. We will be scheduling a general planning meeting later this fall to discuss the details: when, where and how often to meet, what books to read, who will be leading the discussion, etc. Come join us!

## Chili Dinner and Auction

The chili dinner will take place on October 25th from 3 to 7 pm. The auction will take place at 7 pm.

Basket donations and desserts are needed . Please see Mark or Sue Koepfel.

If people wish to get donations from companies, we have donation letters available. All donations are tax-deductable.



## **St. John's Web Store Now Available**

The St. John's web store is an affiliate of the well known Internet store Amazon.com. For every dollar you spend at the store, St. John's will receive a commission of 4-15%. This money will totally be used to support the building of our new Church building. Every one's support is needed to assure the debt which will be incurred for the financing of this project is paid off as soon as possible. You can help by using St. John's store for many of your regular day-to-day purchases. We need your support. If you have ever shopped at Amazon.com, you are already familiar with the wide range of products they offer. If you haven't, a small sample of the variety of products available is: books, movies, games, digital downloads, computers and office supplies, electronics, home and garden, groceries, toys, apparel, shoes, sports, outdoors, tools, and much more.

### **How to shop at the St. John's Web Store**

Existing customers of Amazon.com or any other web based store are already familiar with the on-line shopping experience. The next time you wish to make an on-line purchase, simply go to our store instead of Amazon.com or whatever other on-line store you usually use to make your purchases. All John's products are priced identical to the prices at Amazon.com, well known as offering some of the lowest prices that can be found on the Internet.

Never made an on-line purchase before? Give it a try. Purchasing on-line is safe and secure. The first thing you will see when you enter our store is a page of featured items. If you are interested in any of the items, simply click on the item and you will be taken to a page which gives complete details of the product. Each page in the store has a menu of all the categories of merchandise in the store. Clicking on a category will present you with a list of sub categories from which you can select a particular product. If you are searching for a particular product, there is a search box on every page that will take you immediately to the product detail page. Once there simply follow the prompts to complete your purchase.

**Visit the store today by going to <http://www.saintjohnsws.org/> and clicking on "St. John's Web Store".**

## Fundraising for our new Church

Our first fundraiser is collecting bottle return receipts. Please place them in the box in the narthex. Every little bit helps!

## Food Barrel for WS Food Pantry

The food pantry has moved to the parish house of St. David's Episcopal Church near Southgate Plaza.

Items needed for October are peanut butter, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese and boxed dessert mixes (jello, cake mix, brownie mix, pudding).

**The Food Bank of Western New York provides the WS Food Pantry with cereal, canned vegetables and canned fruit. Therefore, donations of other items are greatly appreciated.**





**We walk because they walk:  
Quenching a thirst  
Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty**

Hawa gets water in Geles, a village in the Darfur region of Sudan where the Action by Churches Together-Caritas coalition has provided wells and other services. While the CWS-supported coalition effort focuses primarily on the needs of people internally displaced by the widespread violence in Darfur, it is also assisting nearby villages, many of which are hosting uprooted families. In the arid northwest of Kenya, 350 Turkana families in two villages are gaining clean water and sanitation facilities, with the help of the CWS Water for Life/Water for All program and a local partner. The people are providing the labor and some of the materials. The new wells will free up the women and girls from walking long distances to get water. Latrines and bathing cabins will help to prevent illness.

As a CROP Hunger Walker or sponsor, you help us reach out to children and families in Darfur, Kenya, and elsewhere with the gift of clean, fresh water and other empowering tools of hope. **25% of the funds raised locally will go to the West Seneca Food Pantry.**

**A little help makes a big difference**

**\$25** – can provide blankets to a family of five displaced by violence or natural disaster

**\$45** – can provide 30 jerry cans to carry clean water for drinking and cooking

**\$150** – can buy a hundred chickens and two wire chicken coops, providing two families with a reliable source of eggs, protein, and income

**\$500** – can provide small start-up loans that enable women to jump-start a business, such as making school uniforms

**Together, we can make a difference!**

**Join the CROP Hunger Walk or contribute to a Walker.**

**Sunday, October 18, 2009**

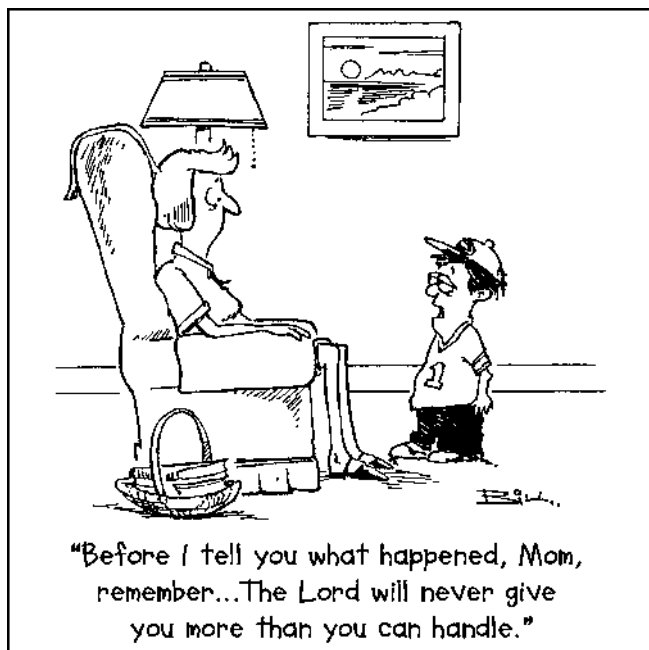
**2:00 pm**

**Ebenezer UCC**

**Please contact Sue Koepfel for a donation envelope**

## **Adult Forum**

During the Sunday School hour in October, all are welcome to share a continuing Bible Study based on the Book of Faith initiative.



### ***Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity***

The Erie County NY Chapter is in need of volunteers to help build the Thrivent Habitat for Humanity House.

When - Now through the Fall

Time - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturdays

Place - Thrivent Builds with Habitat House is located at  
33 Guilford Street in Buffalo

Contacts -George Copeland at 716-480 2461 for Weekdays

Virginia Leigh-716-832-2534 for Saturdays

## Hands and Hearts Knitting Ministry

Our first meeting after the summer break was a great success. Everyone was very busy burning up the needles during this cool rainy summer.

We knitted at last count at least 75 children's' caps to donate to WELCA for their Ingathering Project. The caps will be distributed worldwide. They will help to maintain body heat and hopefully lower infant mortality rates. Not a bad thing for ladies with sharp sticks, some string, and spare time.

At least three Prayer Shawls were completed which is remarkable considering the size and weight of these beautiful shawls that draped over the laps of the knitters working on them during the warm weather. They are truly a work of love.

As ever our group meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month and all are welcomed.

Submitted by Linda Wetzler



## Festivals and Commemorations

### October

- 4** Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, 1226;  
Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, 1864  
**6** William Tyndale, translator, martyr, 1536  
**7** Henry Malchoir Muhlenberg, pastor in North America,  
1787  
**15** Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church, 1582  
**17** Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, c. 115  
**18** Luke, Evangelist  
**23** James of Jerusalem, martyr, c. 62  
**26** Phillipp Nicolai, 1608; Johann Heermann, 1647; Paul  
Gerhardt, 1676, hymnwriters  
**28** Simon and Jude, Apostles  
**31** Reformation Day

### ***Campbell's Labels for Education***

***Preschool is collecting  
Campbell's Labels for  
Education to help fund their  
activities. A list of  
participating items is available  
in the parish hall foyer. The  
collection container is also  
located in the parish hall  
foyer.***



## **LOST & FOUND**

Look for the salmon colored sign. The box is on the white tubular shelf next to the Ladies Room in the narthex.

## **PLEASE NOTE!**

**We still have that winter jacket with the leopard lining and a black & gold head scarf. Please check your closets.**

Valuable items will be kept in the church office with a note put in the box so you know where to find them.

Any items left behind in our complex will be placed in the box (or next to it) for a reasonable length of time.

Unclaimed items will be donated to charities or thrown out.

## **PARISH HALL CLOSET/FELLOWSHIP ROOM CLOSET**

If you had items stored in either of these closets and want them back, please contact Connie Arnold or Carolly Huth. All items have been removed as the organ wind chests and pipes will be installed in the Parish Hall closet and some items have been moved to the Fellowship Room closet.



***There are Large Print Hymnals and Hearing Devices available at all worship services. Please ask an usher for assistance.***

### ***Farm Fresh Eggs***

The Lang's chickens are now laying free range, organic eggs in sizes from medium to jumbo.

25¢ from each egg sale will go to the church.

Please see Brad or Jeanne before or after church or call 716-725-8199.



## ***1st Year Confirmation***

Hello! On September 13, 2009, I welcomed another class. Class members are:

Amanda Altman, Kyle Bork, Alexander Braun, Amanda Copece, Samantha Godus, Travis Hicks, Benjamin Lang, Sarah Stradtman, and Christopher Wrobel. If there are any other 8th grade students interested in Confirmation please see Pastor and join us! This class is preparing for Confirmation in 2011. It will be here before we know it!

By the time you read this we will have completed our first month together.

Instruction started with a discussion about the Bible. We also talked about and tried to answer the question; "According to the Bible what is God really like?"

We then started our unit on Creation. The class will most likely have recently completed our "Creation Banner" that will hang in our room throughout the two years. The class, working in teams, will have artistically represented each of the days of Creation. Stop by for a look at our banner.

As in the past, keep a look out for our monthly articles written by members of the class. They will continue to keep you updated on our class lessons throughout the two years.

I look forward to a great two years together!

Submitted by,  
Andrea Mudd

## LCLC Camp July 2009

Paul & Georgie Napier and Roger & Judy McGill were grandparents for the week of July 5 to 9, 2009. The week was for Mini & Youth campers ages 7 to 12.

We had the pleasure of greeting campers in our new pavilion. The remarks from the campers and parents were awesome about the new pavilion and basketball court. The daily schedule consisted of Bible study, activities (arts & crafts, sailing, swimming, recreation and fishing off the dock). Thanks to Roger, staff and nurse Sheri for placing the worms on the hooks.

We had devotions, camp fires and songs every night.

Grandparents were involved in all activities.

Pastor Debbie Turley of Lord of Life was our Chaplain for the week and she was very INSPIRATIONAL.

Nurse Sheri was busy with scrapes and bruises, etc. Sheri also brought bracelets for campers, staff and adults. On the bracelets it said SAVE THE SKIN YOU'RE IN. When the bracelet turned blue that meant you need sun tan lotion.

The Recruits in Advance Training planted a vegetable garden during the week we were there. It was part of Chautauqua County Rural Ministry food program. Sailing is still the number one activity and Capt. Ron does a great job as director.

Our new basketball court was used a lot.

The kitchen director and the staff did a great job preparing the food. It was delicious.

The office and maintenance staff was busy keeping office and grounds running smooth and maintained. Lee, the camp director and his summer staff also do a wonderful job.

Canteen time is also a fun time for the campers as they purchase M & M's, Gator Aid, Peanut Butter, Twix, etc. They sure love the candy as do the grandparents.

The grandparents also got hugs from the campers and that is a blessing.

Our new water treatment system has been completed. As we walked around the camp we saw lots of improvements.

Retreat Center walls inside had been painted and new dish washer installed.

The flower garden looked beautiful; a new porch has been built on one of the cabins, new floats and rope lines for the swimming area.

If you have time drive down to LCLC, see improvements and look for GOD he is everywhere at LCLC.

Submitted by Paul & Georgie Napier

## ***Self Employed Talents***

**WOODARDS INSTANT TAX SERVICE** – Personal and Small Business Tax Returns, Quickbooks accounting, estimated tax payments, checkbook reconciliation, budgeting, and payroll services. **675-2829**

**WOODARDS LANDSCAPING** – Outdoor landscaping design, installation and maintenance, plus lawncare, tree and shrub removal and gardening. Deck and fence staining/painting services as well. **684-6242**

Ronald Braun—**Chiropractor**  
Lancaster **706-0600**

### **Babysitters**

Allison Altman 16 years old **822-8417**

Amanda Altman 12 years old **822-8417**

Cindy Godus—**vocal work for weddings** or other events  
**677-6620**

**Sandy Huenniger**—sewing, housecleaning, laundry, personal care, grocery shopping and errands **668-5075**

Additions are always welcome. Please leave them in the Crossbeam mailbox or email to [skoepfel@roadrunner.com](mailto:skoepfel@roadrunner.com).

# *Faith & Fitness*

## **Water**

Summer has almost come to an end and many of us have decreased thirst during the other seasons of the year. We often decrease our intake of water during these other seasons. Faith and Fitness suggest you purchase a special MUG that you keep filled with water. Hopefully throughout the day, as you notice this mug, that you have placed in plain site, you will be reminded to drink. You need 8--8oz glasses of water per day.

Water improves digestion, helps keep your bowel and skin healthy and can help decrease your intake of high calorie foods and beverages, by giving your digestion system a sense of fullness. Health experts say it can also reduce your blood pressure. (if you drink half your body weight in oz. per day, i.e., a person who weighs 160 lbs. should consume 80 oz. of water per day)

We suggest you drink filtered water, not bottled water. This will decrease your chemical intake and also help keep plastic out of our environment. Its also cheaper to filter your own water, than purchased water.

For more information on water, just type water into the search bar of your internet service, or talk to any member of the Faith and Fitness.

Submitted by Carrie Weinreich

## ***Worship & Music***

**KIDS' CHURCH:** will resume the first Sunday in October at the 11:00 a.m. service. The children will move to the Fellowship Room immediately after the Kid's Talk and return during the Sermon Hymn.

**AUSTIN ORGAN:** is now installed in the Parish Hall, the Band equipment has been moved, chairs have been rearranged and the Choir will be sitting in reserved seats in the side section in front of the Band area. We move on.

**HYMNALS:** the bookcases have been moved out of the Parish Hall and the Ushers will be standing by them ready to hand you a hymnal and bulletin before you enter the worship area.

**GREETERS:** are asked to stand at the parking lot entrance doors to alleviate congestion in the Narthex.

**CARRYING THE ELEMENTS:** we ask those who carry the elements forward during worship to please return to your seats via the side aisles. This gives the Ushers room to process forward behind you.

**OFFERING:** Pastor has asked us to try something new. Instead of the Ushers reaching into your row, please take the plate and pass it to the next person. When it reaches the other end of your row, an Usher will then take it and pass it to the next row. Hopefully this way no one will be missed.

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## ***Worship & Music, continued***

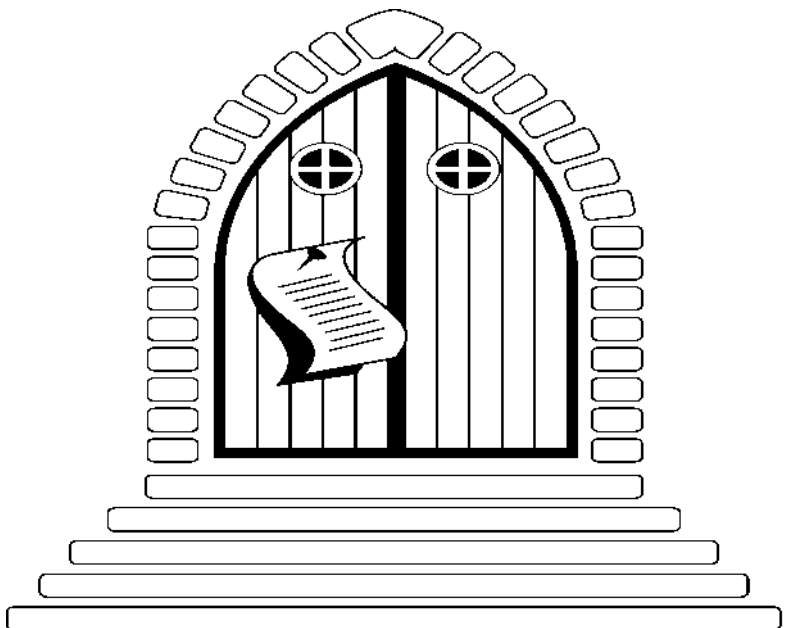
**HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:** many times, two hymns aren't enough so we are adding a third hymn. It will be the same one every Sunday but we will change it periodically. Currently we are using # 471, "Let Us Break Bread Together". It will be listed in the Bulletin but not on the hymn boards.

**BAND:** have you noticed that sometimes when Patrick Mudd isn't here to play the drums you still hear a drum? Tim Then fills in on his djembe. No, I didn't spell that wrong. It is a small drum that stands on the floor and is played with hands rather than drum sticks. Thanks, Tim, for being there. We also have a tambourine that Sue Staple plays. What talent we have in our Congregation!

**USHERS AND GREETERS:** we do need more, especially at the 8:30 a.m. service. Ladies don't be bashful. If you are interested in serving God in this way, please see Jon Grauer, give him a call at 895-5042 or e-mail him at [jon@jongrauer.net](mailto:jon@jongrauer.net).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** we welcomed Bonnie Klatt and Jon Grauer to our committee. The more people we have, the better representation of the congregation. A big thank you to all our members. You make my job easier.

Carolly Huth  
Chairman



# REFORMATION SUNDAY

**October 25, 2009**

## ***Crossbeam Deadline***

Articles for the **November** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **October 11<sup>th</sup>**. Please e-mail your articles to Sue Koepfel ([skoepfel@roadrunner.com](mailto:skoepfel@roadrunner.com)) or leave them in the Crossbeam mailbox outside of the church office. Electronic articles are preferred, if at all possible.

## ***Women of the ELCA***

It was a pleasure to welcome every one of our members to the September meeting as we gathered to share devotions, our upcoming programs, fellowship and refreshments. We would love to welcome more of our church family ladies to these meetings, so if you are free on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30, please come to the fellowship room. Even if only one of our programs sounds interesting to you, it would be great to have you come.

You might enjoy the speaker we are having at the October 13 meeting. She will be presenting her program titled "Are You Getting Old?" It should provoke some interesting laughter and discussion. Hope you will consider coming. Marie Ramey will provide the devotions and Phyllis Kerner and Nancy Weber the refreshments.

We can't forget to send a huge THANK YOU! to the gals of the knitting ministry. They have been working their fingers all summer to make over 60 baby caps for us to take to the convention in October. These will be distributed locally and join all of the other caps that have also been so kindly and lovingly made. We are blessed to have such a wonderful ministry as this at St. John's and we thank you again for all you do.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

The Thought for the Month comes from Sandy Haase's September devotion.

GRACE: God's Riches At Christ's Expense



# ***Parish Nurse***

## **HEALTH CARE REFORM**

During WELCA's last meeting, many of us shared information on our current health care coverage. After sharing we came to the consensus that cost and coverage varies significantly. WNY has many insurance options, but this is not true all over our nation. Many people have only one option. and most of those covered by a company may have only one option offered. Over the last 50 years, there has been NO cost effective changes in insurance coverages made. At the same time technology has improved its test and increased in cost. I believe that Americans today are in the same place seniors were when FDR passed Social Security. Both FDR and Kennedy were called socialist when they pushed for SS and Medicare. We need to do something and we need to educate ourselves on all the issues. The bill has NOT been passed yet. We can find information in several ways, i.e., Type health care on the search bar of your internet. You will find 12 pages of possible sites to review. You can go to [VoteHealthcare.com](http://VoteHealthcare.com), [www.NPR.org](http://www.NPR.org) and ask for healthcare information. I'm sure that there also are probably Lutheran sources of information available. If you have no computer, and wish to be informed, its important to watch, listen to and read a large variety of information. Even ones you find hard to digest. As Americans we are privileged to have many options available and we also have the right to speak out and contact our representatives in government. Politicians agree we need change, lets not let them pass the buck and fail to vote for it, because they are worried about their jobs. I have done a great deal of research on this subject and am willing to share it with anyone who is interested.

Submitted by Carrie Weinreich



**Eleventh Churchwide Assembly  
August 17-23, 2009  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
God's work. Our hands.**

**A Brief Summary of Actions**

- ◇ Full communion with the United Methodist Church adopted
- ◇ Carlos Pena-re-elected Vice President
- ◇ HIV and AIDS funding proposal adopted
- ◇ LMI (Lutheran Malaria Initiative) development adopted
- ◇ Social Statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust", adopted
- ◇ Ministry Policies resolutions adopted:
  - ◇ Resolution 3: "Resolved, that in the implementation of any resolutions on ministry policies, the ELCA commit itself to bear one another's burdens, love the neighbor, and respect the bound consciences of all."
  - ◇ Resolution 1: "Resolved, that the ELCA commit itself to finding ways to allow the congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support and hold publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships."
  - ◇ Resolution 2: "Resolved, that the ELCA commit itself to finding a way for people in such publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church."

Continued on page 21.

## **A Brief Summary of Actions, continued**

- ◇ Resolution 4: This resolution called upon members to respect the bound consciences of those with whom they disagree; declared the intent to allow structured flexibility in decision-making about candidacy and the call process; eliminated the prohibition of rostered service by members in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships; recognized and committed to respect the conviction of members who believe that the ELCA should not call or roster people in committed same-gender relationships; called for development of accountability guidelines; directed that appropriate amendments to ministry policy documents be drafted and approved by the Church Council; and urged that this church continue to trust congregations, bishops, synods and others responsible for determining who should be called into public ministry.

**More information about the social statement and the ministry policies resolutions is at [www.elca.org/faithfuljourney/faq](http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney/faq) on the Web.**

- ◇ Budget proposals for 2010, 2011 adopted.
- ◇ Social statement on justice for women to be developed
- ◇ Assembly adopts memorials for immigration, Israel/Palestine; worship, liturgical materials in Braille; Project Connect and human disability message.
- ◇ Assembly adopts, refers resolutions for health care reform; Batak special interest conference and thanks.

**[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)**

# *Sunday Church School*

The new Sunday Church School year was kicked off on September 13 with a Rally Day event. The children were excited, the teachers were ready and the event started another year to look forward to. All children received a name tag, had their picture taken and were welcomed by Pastor Klatt.

Parents that have not returned the enrollment/medical form for their children are asked to do so as soon as possible. These forms contain pertinent information on your child in case of emergency.

Our staff this year:

3 Yr. Olds-	Nadine Brown, Leah Ruhland
4 Yr. Olds-	Bethann Hintzman, Susan Lew, Jeff Hejna, Kristen Lew
Kindergarten-	Kathy Moody, Karen Maier, Brittany Moore
1st Grade-	Stefanie Wetzler, Patty Rackl, Megan Marrano
2nd Grade-	Lisa Bostwick, Ursala VanGorder, Amanda Wolf
3rd Grade-	Linda Altman, Allison Altman, Nick Woodard, Devan Brady
4th Grade-	Tracy Reilly, Tyler Wrobel
5th Grade-	Amanda Doucette
6th Grade-	Steve and Cassie Graap
7th Grade-	Renee Then
8th Grade Confirmation-	Andrea Mudd
9th Grade Confirmation-	Linda Wetzler

We welcome our newcomers on the teaching staff. Jeff Hejna, Kristen Lew, Amanda Wolf and Devan Brady.

Remember, starting time for Sunday School is 9:45 am. Dismissal is 10:45 am. The class time is one hour weekly. Please try to be punctual. This hour flies by!

The teachers and staff will meet the first Sunday of October, that's the 4th at 9:00 am.

Submitted by Danese Dick



## News From the Pews

### ***In The Hospital***

Tracy Lumb  
Paul Heine  
Carl Benson



### ***Wedding***

8/15—Jennifer O'Shei to William Simson, Jr.

### ***Funeral***

8/25—Edward Schuster

## ***Blessing of Animals***

On Sunday, October 4 at 12:30 p.m. members and friends of St. John's church are welcome to participate in a blessing of animals. The event coincides with the feast day for St. Francis. He is a saint well known for his respect for and devotion to nature. He held animals in particular, to be an experience of God's goodness. Depending on the weather, we will gather in the courtyard between the church and educational buildings, or in the parish hall. Participants are welcome to bring their pets and share in a blessing of thanks.



## ***Esther Altar Guild***

We wish to thank everyone who helped in any way with prizes, set-up, baked goods or attending our Penny Sale this year. We hope everyone had a great time and won many treasures.

Please remember to check the list of duties when setting up for worship. We do have some changes that have occurred.

The plea goes out again for new faces to join us at our meetings and to become a member of the guild. We are looking for help with altar preparations. We work in teams of 2. It's an easy job and only takes a small amount of your time. Please Join Us!!!

The altar flower calendar is located on the board by the ladies room door in the entry way. Please sign up for a bouquet or two and honor or remember your loved one on a special occasion.

Taking care of the altar in October is Barbara Kwiecinski and Sylvia Delaney.

Our next meeting is November 8th, in the copy room, between services. Hostesses are Erma Fitzpatrick and Janet McLeod.

Submitted by Nancy Weber

Dear Friends,

Many greetings again from Tanzania.

We are well. The new place we are renting has become a home. A recent visit from Heidi, and Nate being home on break, really did that for us.

Work travel has been so much since late June. It's a challenging time. Our funds from the U.S. government are due to run out soon. We are actually "finishing strong" in these 13 hospital sites, and hopeful that the next year will bring further funding opportunity. Meanwhile, our team is also visiting other hospitals and sites, wondering if, with another round of funding, they might get on board as well. This month has seen a breakthrough in 3 sites that have been "slow" up to now, and outside our larger support: Karatu, Ilula, and Bulongwa. Even today, I head off to Bulongwa/Ilula, a 2 day trip each way in the deep south of Tanzania. It has been your church gifts, by the way, which continue to enable us to visit and support these "other" hospitals, as well as filling critical gaps in those 13.

As our teams and services mature, often we work to help sort out team dysfunctions and misunderstandings. That can mean meeting with church or hospital leaderships. Recent visits to Iambi, Nkoaranga, and Marangu have actually been reconciling visits. We've been very happy to be a part of such positive changes.

There was a time about 2 and a half years ago I begged prayer for the different places struggling to serve well. We still need prayer - for the "work" in teamwork, for perseverance of those who still serve without much assistance, for safety in the amazing amount of travel we have to do. And - most of all - for those who serve and are served in the communities for empowerment, endurance, and hope.

From Colossians: Pray for us, that we might have the right opportunity to share the mystery of Christ. It is a mystery how so much comfort is given and received by so many, and all developed in such a short time.

Kristopher and Rebecca Hartwig in Tanzania

## ***Ladies Aid***

As all of the groups and committees begin their fall schedules, Ladies Aid was no exception. It is always a pleasure to gather with our church friends for fellowship and discussions.

We discussed the Election Day Luncheon and decided that it would be difficult to run this efficiently and properly while the parish hall is being used as our worship space. We look forward to the day when we will once again be serving this, as well as our dinners, so that the profits can be put to good use for St. John's.

Ladies, start thinking of your mystery pound for the November meeting. The profits from this will benefit St. John's Building Fund.

As we remember our shut ins and other members and friends in need of our thoughts and prayers, we especially remember our member, Doris Snyder, who continues to recover from her illness.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

## ***Group Fellowship***

Due to conflicting meetings in September, our monthly meeting had to be cancelled. We will meet on Saturday, October 17th in the Fellowship Room to set up our years schedule. We will start with the usual pot luck supper at 6 pm.

Any questions please call Ron Wirth

Submitted by Sandy Huenniger

# Lutheran Roots in America

## The historical origins of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### **Martin Luther**

The ELCA, along with other Lutheran churches, can trace its roots directly to the Protestant Reformation that took place in Europe in the 16th century. Martin Luther, a German monk, became aware of differences between the Bible and church practices of the day. His writings, lectures and sermons inspired others to protest church practices and call for reform.

By the late 1500s the Reformation had spread throughout Europe. Followers of Martin Luther's teachings were labeled "Lutherans" by their enemies and adopted the name themselves. Lutheran beliefs became widespread, especially in Germany and the Scandinavian countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland and Finland), later spreading throughout the world as early explorers took their faith with them on their voyages. Lutheranism came to the Americas that way; some of the earliest settlers in the Americas were Scandinavian, Dutch and German Lutherans. Their first permanent colony was in the West Indies, and by the 1620s there were settlements of Lutherans along the Hudson River in what are now the states of New York and New Jersey.

As people migrated to the New World they continued to speak and worship in their native languages and use resources from their countries of origin. Europeans from a particular region would migrate to a particular region in America and start their own churches. As the number of these congregations grew, scattered groups would form a "synod" or church body, and as the nation expanded so did the number of Lutheran church bodies.

By the late 1800s the 20 or so Lutheran church bodies that would eventually merge to become The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America had been established. Massive immigration from traditionally Lutheran countries had started, and between 1840 and 1875 alone 58 Lutheran synods were formed in the U.S.

There were revivalist and confessional movements within Lutheran churches in Europe and in America, and as Lutherans migrated to this country they were influenced by the evangelicalism of various Protestant sects. Consequently, a wide variety of expressions of Lutheranism developed in North America. Nineteenth-century Lutherans still looked to their homelands to supply pastors and worship materials, but as second and third generation Americans spoke English more than German, Norwegian or Danish, a need arose to provide formal theological training, hymnals, catechisms and other materials

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