



St. John Lutheran Church

"All God's Children Joyfully Celebrating God's Transforming Grace"

Established 1852

915 Federal Av, Saginaw, MI 48607

WWW.SJLC.US

989.754.0489

Greetings to you all,

As you may have heard by now, we're in the middle of summer, and what a wonderful summer it has been. I have really enjoyed the cool nights from a few weeks ago, but now we've reached those days that so many have been longing for. The days have flown by though, and too soon the weather will change again. Well, we'll just have to be grateful that we live in a state where we get to experience so many varieties.

As we look forward to the fall, we anticipate the beginning of Sunday school again, as well as the Confirmation program, but that won't happen until September. For now we continue to pray that all spend the remainder of the summer in safety, fun and relaxation.

On the last Sunday of July we had a "special" congregational meeting to pass on information as to what we had been up to. You may remember that in December, we had begun an ecumenical dialogue with the other mainline downtown congregations. Out of those conversations, I had been approached by one of the other participants to consider the possibility of them sharing our building. Several of their members had taken tours through our building and seemed to be excited about the opportunities that we all envisioned. Then the pastor was transferred to a congregation in Flint. I met with the new pastor, who also agreed that they needed to move out of their facility before another winter arrived. When the congregation voted however, the majority chose another congregation to rent space from. While this arrangement could have meant a lot of help to us with our own utility cost, we wish them all well as they come to know each other better. I still think that this kind of arrangement, or some other creative blending, is how congregations will remain vital in the future.

But out of this discussion came an awareness that we need to define who we are for ourselves and for the sake of others who may be out there considering something similar. So we're going to reexamine our mission and our vision statements. At the meeting I suggested the mission statement that the ELCA has adopted. It is, "Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world."

My suggested vision statement for St John is: "St John is a Christ centered people who seek God's will through prayer and action". Of course we invite other suggestions from the congregation.

Once we know who we are, when we're approached again by another group, we have something in place to use in helping us asses if that entity is compatible with who we are.

The Synod also is working with us on an idea that has worked in other cities. I'll let you know more about that as I learn about it.

Remember the words from Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

Since God cannot change, I believe that scripture speaks to us today still.

Peace!



PP@SJLC.US

Pastor Paulette

**ST JOHN
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
915 FEDERAL AV
SAGINAW, MI 48607

Rev. Paulette L. Cummings

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:30am

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Mon-Fri: 8am-2pm

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WEB SITE
www.sjlc.us

NEWSLETTER
Deadline: 8-20-09

Submit To:
news@sjlc.us

Quackenbush Farm
Pig Roast
August 16th
Good conversation
at 1:00 p.m.
Dinner at 3:00 p.m.
Bring a dish to pass!



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Jan DeMasellis

It was stressed to me how important communication is and I will try to keep my promise and write something for the monthly Spirit newsletter.

Since I am a new President and ignorant to many of the habits and ways of how things have been done, I will try my best not to "upset the applecart" as they say.

This is a challenging and exciting time for our congregation. As you know St. John is facing some difficult times and even more difficult decisions. We have great teams of people working together on the Grow St. John Committee and the Next Step Committee as well. It will be exciting to see where their work and the Lord takes us. Where ever that may be, it will most likely mean some changes in what we are used to. That might be our biggest challenge, accepting and adjusting to those changes. If you're like me, I don't mind changes as long as I don't have to do anything different!! I know we have our work cut out for us this year.

I would like to thank the other Council members and Board chairs who are either continuing to serve or starting this journey with us.

For the officers and chairs who have "done their time," thank you so much for your guidance and diligence at making St. John a wonderful church family and home for all of us. And a little reminder: You're not done yet! We'll still be calling on you for advice and help.

Warmest Regards,

Jan DeMasellis

GROW ST JOHN TASK FORCE

by Marie Wells

The *Grow St. John Task Force* meets once a month. Our theme at present is for St. John to be a very welcoming congregation. The *Grow St. John Task Force* has a good group of dedicated people on it. If you want to join us, please do so. We are ready to be of service as we are guided and are available as our services are required. Bob Chicky, Bob Morgan and Marie are meeting with Pastor Paulette every month to discuss where we can be of service.

We need to have a positive attitude. We need to pray every day for guidance. Jesus Christ was a positive thinker. The future of St. John is in the hands of God, but we parishioners need to be willing to follow God's lead and make our minds available for him to work through us to help him.

Prayer: *Thank You, Jesus Christ, for coming to this world to live, to show the love of God, to die for our sins, and to offer forgiveness, pardon, and cleansing to us. And thank You that You rose again, and You are alive to be our best friend, now and in the eternal beyond.*

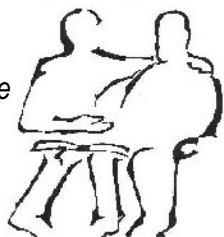
O God, I thank You that there are people today who will be saved, this very moment, from cynicism to possibility thinking, from blind doubt to eye-opening faith. Thank You, Lord, Amen

HOSPITALIZED

Noreen Howell - Chuck Howell
Larry Patterson - Carl Quackenbush
Warren Martin - Claude Haas
Helen Jones - Farrah Hopper
George Hopper II - Herb Volz Jr.
Joe Orłowski - Eugene Miller

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us-for it is written. "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree." Galatians 3:13

EVANGELISM



Having faith in God strong enough to compel me to serve Him anyway I can.

Sharing our faith in Jesus Christ to any person when that persons spirit required nothing else.

We held another successful event on Sunday, July 19th, for our "Appreciation Sunday." Each person that volunteered received a certificate for service rendered. After worship we enjoyed coffee, tea, pie, coffee cake, cookies and ice cream.

This could not have been a success without the help of Shelly, for doing all the certificates. Thank you. Also to Peggy Robinson, Madeline Blohm, Marie Wells, and myself for doing all the work setting this up bright and early Sunday morning. Thanks again.

As you know Evangelism is:

Reaching out, sharing with others God's Word.

Spreading the Word of God, everyday of our lives and living our lives as God would want us to do according to our understanding of the Bible.

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who do not know Him.

Being a light that reflects God's light.

The Word of God being offered freely to friends and family and to people who need the Word of God.

Demonstrating your faith and trust in God on a daily basis.

Following the Golden Rule.

Preaching the Gospel to people.

Thanks to all the people who work so diligently to keep our evangelism effort alive.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Charlotte E. Campbell
Chairperson

YOU ARE INVITED

September 20, 2009

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF MICHIGAN'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

You are invited to the Lutheran Social Services of Michigan's 75th anniversary celebration in Saginaw on September 20th. There will be an open house at Luther Manor and Neighborhood House from 2-3:30 p.m., with transportation provided from the Horizons Center parking lot on State Street. Starting at 4:00 p.m. you are invited to a reception and buffet dinner at Horizons Center as guests of LSSM. For reservations, email Connie Warren at warrengk@charter.net or call Don Albrecht at (989) 245-5819 or Pastor Bernie Philabaum at (989) 835-6442 before September 14th.

BIBLE STUDY

In the Fall, after the 9:30 Service we will again offer Bible Study for all ages. If you want to learn a little more about how God's word still applies to us today, grab your donut and coffee and stop in.

Class will be held in Knauer Hall. Erv Sparapani and Mark Oswald will be the discussion leaders.



MEN'S BIBLE AND BREAKFAST SEPTEMBER 12th at 8 A.M. at Fuzzy's on Court Street.

This season we will look at the Bible itself. It's origins, where it came from, who wrote it, who put it together. Then we will look at the Old Testament and some of the stories we should be familiar with and then dig a little deeper. We will finish out the year with doing the same thing, this time with the New Testament.

I'm looking forward to this year's lessons and especially renewing friendships with the men of St. John who attend. We always keep a spot open for YOU. Stop in and join us!

Mark Oswald,
Lay Minister

DEATHS

Beatrice Jacques



METRO MINUTES

Kimberly Steng from LSSM Foster Care came to the July meeting. Her office is in St. John. She talked about the need for foster parents in Saginaw County. She talked about how being a foster parent could open doors if you are trying to adopt, can fill the gap if suffering from an empty nest, or how one single lady takes in a child and is able to give love and attention that the child had yet to experience. If you know someone who could be a foster parent please have them call her. 752-4314

Trinity Center has a different type of dilemma. They have programs, they have a building, there is money available. They need a board of directors or some organization to take them under their wing. Someone to get the grants, decide what needs to get fixed first, hire contractors, and disburse the funds. If you would like to know more please call me.

The Stevens Ministry program is growing again. If you would like to be active again or are interested in an in depth, Christ based program about helping others through crisis call me for details. God's Peace!

Mark Oswald

As one of the newest members of the church council, I wanted to introduce myself and the position as secretary of the council. My job is to gather the main points, events, topics, etc. of each officer's report and make it into one combined report. They are all such hard workers and a great team! I'm happy to be a part of such a wonderful group of people.

Thanks for your support!

Shirley Bell

Sincere and appreciated thanks to all of you who offered prayers for me during my recent and unexpected "medical nightmare." Your prayers were really needed to get me through the problem to where I am now improving and getting stronger. I still have a long way to go, but each day seems to get a little better. Also, thanks to all of you who



sent me "get well" cards, offering encouragement and a positive attitude. God Bless All Of You,

Bob Jahn



MEMORIALS...

In memory of **Raymond Ritter**, given by Arlene Roenicke, Louise & Gilbert Ritter, Harold & Sharon Krenz, Dennis & Marilyn Hansen, Alvin Johnson, Dan & Shannon Miller, Walter & Marlene Reimer, Mary Ann Bauer, Jan & Bart Blum, Jack & Suzanne Deisig, Jeff & Rene Wuckert, Ray & Helen Daenzer, Ken & Grace Knoerr, Dave & Kathy Bremer, Mary & Len Wuckert, Beverly Curnutt, Emilie Veitengruber, Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Hartman (*General Fund*). Larry & Lori Roenicke (*Heating Fund*).

In memory of **Leon Figiel**, given by Esther Figiel (*General Fund*).

In memory of **George Volz**, given by Esther Figiel (*General Fund*).

In memory of **Beatrice Jacques**, given by Marie Wells, Lois Herbage, Robert & Alice Morgan, Valerie Grimaldi, Evelyn Schulz, Elaine Rosin (*General Fund*).

In memory of **Adell Dankert**, given by Luella Kaul Markel (*General Fund*).

In memory of **Dorothy Passon**, given by Eugene H. Miller (*Music Fund*).

GIFTS...

A donation was given by **Roger & Pauline Winterstein** (*Summer Day Camp*).

A donation was given by **Don & Mary Kuhn** (*General Fund*).

A donation was given by **S. Douglas & Marilyn Leffler** (*Summer Day Camp*).

A donation was given by **Herb Volz Jr. and Family** (*Building Fund*).

