



# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Established 1852

915 Federal Av. Saginaw, MI 48607

989.754.0489

Grace and Peace to you all,

It's hard to believe that this is November already. It seems as if time passes more quickly every year. I was just commenting on the beauty of the multiple colors of leaves on the trees outside my window, and now most of those leaves are on the ground. Such visual reminders of the progression of time and how things change so quickly are all part of the great design.

## We as St John have been blessed in so many ways.

We as St John have been blessed in so many ways. We've had the experience of knowing so many faithful members who have given so much of themselves to the work of kingdom building in this corner of the world. We've had the legacy of all those saints who have gone before us that made it possible for us to seek out ways to be relevant still at a time when so many other congregations are making decisions that the struggle is too hard to continue, so they have to leave their wonderful heritage behind them as they look to relocation, and sometimes death of their worship family.

I guess that All Saints Sunday, for me, is a time when I look around and notice how many more of us are no longer able to gather on Sundays and I am saddened at the thought that one day those decisions will have to be faced by us, unless we can do something concrete and maybe drastic to transition into the body that God is calling us to be today.

Our Lutheran heritage is so rich, and since the message

of God's transforming Grace is the word that the world needs to hear today, that I really can not imagine the need for St. John's ministry to the community isn't more important now than it was all those years ago.

I believe that God is telling us to keep being his hands and feet because things are changing quickly for us. We have a wonderful new asset in Farah. Her experience as a vocal teacher has brought new excitement to the choirs that she is forming. Her students who have performed for us have expressed a desire to come back and perform other music. She is wonderful and I can only imagine that we will all come to love her too.

The Saginaw Metro Ministries Food Pantry that once was housed at St. James, then at Trinity is now in the process of being housed in our Knauer Hall. Both of these are signs of life and rebirth. Signs that God is reshaping our ministry!

When we gather on the 22<sup>nd</sup> for our Congregational meeting, I expect that the news will be good for us. I hope that those of you who have been so worried about finances may want to be sure to attend that meeting.

But please make sure that you are here on November 15<sup>th</sup> as we honor Bill Parth for all the work he has contributed to this congregation. Bill has moved in with his niece and we want to say Thank you to him while we can. If you have Bill stories to share, bring them with you or send them into the office.



*Pastor Paulette*

**Volume 7. Issue 74**

**Published Monthly by St. John Lutheran Church - Saginaw, MI**

**NOV 2009**

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## Congregational Meeting November 22, 2009

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## Bill Parth Day November 15, 2009

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Thanks to the members of St. John, especially Marcie Andersen, for all your visits, prayers and acts of compassion to the family of Claude Haas.

– David & Debbie Herzberg

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### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA'S

Please find an enclosed envelope for you to make that special memorial to a loved one, or to honor someone.

We ask that you make your donation \$13.00. These special names will be printed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve, and as before, after the service

you may take a flower with you to enjoy at home. We do ask that your envelope and donation be into the church office no later that November 23rd. If you have any questions please call the church office at 754-0489.

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### KINDER KARE PROJECT

The new walls and doors at the three stairwells leading from the Kinder Kare area are complete and passed inspection by the fire department on October 9th, 2009. The Building and Yard Maintenance Committee would again like to thank all who donated to this project. The completion of this project allows us to continue receiving rent from Kinder Kare. This will also allow the neighbors to continue to drop of their children at a convenient and safe location. This is a win win for St. John and the neighborhood.

Bob Chicky & Bill Braun

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### DEATHS

Claude Haas

### HOSPITALIZED

Bob Bremer, Bob Biggers, Art Meyer, Dorothy Witte,  
Virginia Geese, Adelaide Albrecht, Elizabeth Frisch

### CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH

If you would be willing to give someone a ride to church on Sunday, make a casserole for someone who is recovering at home, or do some "good deed" for another church member, please call the church office and let Shelly know. We would like to compile a list of volunteers that we could call upon when needed. It would not obligate you in any way, we would just check with you to see if you would be able to help out on a given project or day. Give it a try... it always feels good to give!

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### STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE BOARD

I'm pleased to let you know that the congregation responded to the recent Stewardship Campaign by pledging over \$107,000 in offerings for 2010. Thanks to all of you for your ongoing generosity. The proposed 2010 budget will be presented for approval at the Semi-annual Congregational meeting on November 22, 2009. Copies of the proposed budget will be available in the church office prior to the meeting. I hope that all of you will be able to attend this important meeting so please be sure to mark your calendars accordingly. – Bob Morgan, Chair

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### FROM OUR CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

This is a month of giving thanks. And when I look around me, I see all the things I have to be thankful for. When I listen to the news and hear of all the awful things happening to people around the world, I think of all the things I have to be thankful for. And when I consider how much God loved me to send his own son to die for my sins, I know what I have to be thankful for.

Although we all have our problems that plague our daily lives, we have so many blessings and things to be thankful for. Whenever I think of something negative I can find ten positive things to give thanks for. Take some time this month to examine your life and all your blessings. Thank God for all that He has given you. And try to live your life making the most of the gifts you were blessed with. – Jan DeMasellis

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### AUTUMN IS NATURE'S MASTERPIECE

Autumn is Nature's masterpiece when every tree's aglow;  
Before the leaves have fallen and the hills are white with snow.  
The bounty of the harvest is a treasure to behold,  
For the fruits of our labor are more valuable than gold.  
There's a change in the weather that fills the heart with cheer;  
With the holidays approaching in the twilight of the year.  
There's a feeling of thanksgiving that comes to one and all;  
When we count our many blessings as the leaves begin to fall.

-- Poet: Clay Harrison



**GREETINGS FROM  
BURKE'S GARDEN!**

*They have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on in a manner worthy of God; for they began their journey for the sake of Christ. – 3 John 1,6-7*

I apologize for not writing more articles, but I've been very busy down here in Burke's Garden. I am preaching virtually every week, as well as leading and presiding over worship. I have also been involved in a number of meetings that are helping me get oriented to this area and the Virginia synod. I have met with the Bishop, and his staff, twice and he has come to Burke's Garden to preach just last week.

This is a much different place than what I have been used to. The country is very beautiful, and the people are friendly. But this church has been without a pastoral presence for so long, it is taking some time for them to get used to having a vicar available. Also, because this is a new internship setting, it has been a little difficult trying to get incorporated into how things are done. Sometimes it is all left up to me, and sometimes stuff is done that I know nothing about. It can be disconcerting, but I am trying to embrace the experience I am in the midst of.

My mother is coming to visit me for the holidays; she will be coming down here in mid-November for Thanksgiving and will stay through the New Year. It will be nice to have her here for an extended visit, although I hope she isn't too bored with seeing me read and prepare for worship and Bible studies.

I appreciate the support, thoughts and prayers from the people of St. John. I pray that you all will continue to find ways to love and serve the Lord in the heart of Saginaw.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
Brian Robert Campbell  
7645 Burke's Garden Road  
Tazewell, VA 24651

Date	Attendance	Offering
9/27/2009	100	\$2,119.00
10/4/2009	83	\$4,730.00
10/11/2009	92	\$8,986.50
10/18/2009	97	\$2,133.00

**NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!**

*by Don Albrecht*

Neighborhood House is a 22,300-square-foot community center on the south side of Saginaw. It has been an anchor for community support services and recreation since 1949. Unemployment is high. More than 1,280 children live in a four-mile radius. Lutheran Social Services provides after-school and summer programs for these youth, including developmental activities, academic support, substance abuse prevention programs, nutrition education and recreation. Neighborhood House also provides snacks and complete dinners to the children, their families and others in the community who need a hot nutritious meal. This ministry is open to all free of charge, and receives no government support. They care for the least of these, providing service as an expression of the love of Christ.

Can you help keep this important program open for another year? Your gift would be greatly appreciated.

Visit Neighborhood House! Call Yvonne Riggins at (989) 752-5805 to arrange a tour.

Send your gift for this ministry to Sonia Bankston at Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, 8131 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, MI 48214.

**MEMORIALS...**

In memory of **Claude Haas**, given by Elizabeth June Johnson (*Breakfast for the Hungry*). Elaine Rosin (*Heating Fund*). Evelyn Schulz (*General Fund*).

In memory of **Leonard Pfau**, given by Elaine Rosin (*Building & Maintenance Fund*). Elizabeth June Johnson (*Breakfast for the Hungry*).

In memory of **Robert H. Bailey**, given by Donald R. Wendland (*General Fund*).

In memory of **Keri King**, given by Art & Kathryn Menapace (*General Fund*).

**GIFTS...**

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

A donation was given by **Allen & Gloria Thorsby** (*Camp Lu Wix E*).

## EVANGELISM BOARD

*After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. -- Revelation 7:9*

*All of us have suffered the loss of a loved one or dear friend. What price did they pay to enter into a perfect heaven from a sinful world. The sins of the world, our own sins, and our own sinful nature would deprive us of heaven. We could not enter if Jesus had not come into the world, taken our sins upon Himself, and granted us forgiveness. He is our only admission into heaven.*

The Board of Evangelism met on October 16th, 2009 at the church. In attendance were Pastor Paulette, Marie Wells and Charlotte Campbell.

### Listed are upcoming dates to mark on your calendar:

November 1st - All Saints Sunday

November 8th - We will have a guest during coffee hour from Partnership Center/Thrift Store.

November 24th - Thanksgiving Service at 7:00 p.m.

November 29th - Advent begins 9:30 a.m.

December 2nd - Advent Service 11:00 a.m.

December 9th - Advent Service 11:00 a.m.

December 16th - Advent Service 11:00 a.m.

December 24th - Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.

We are continuing work on the name tags for the church members & guests. Another upcoming project this year, is to do something for our members that are not able to get out. We are thinking about having a "Shut In" Christmas Tree with name tags. Personal gifts could be purchased such as perfume, powder, slippers, pajamas, lotions or any other idea that would be useful or practical.

Peace Be With You,

Charlotte E. Campbell  
Chairperson of Evangelism

**Thou who has by Thy might led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our  
feet stray from the places, our God, where we met  
Thee, lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the  
world, we forget Thee...**

**– James Weldon Johnson, "Lift Every Voice and Sing!"**

MEMORIALS/GIFTS RECEIVED	
January 1 thru October, 2009	
General Fund	\$13,588.38
Altar Flowers	\$1,502.00
Building & Maintenance	\$3,065.00
Music & Organ Fund	\$275.00
Breakfast for the Hungry	\$1,300.00
Office Supplies	\$0.00
Luther League	\$0.00
Summer Day Camp	\$900.00
Camp Lu Wix E (Needs List)	\$0.00
Camp Lu Wix E (Main. Fund)	\$735.00
Camp Lu Wix E (Repair Fund)	\$0.00
Heating Fund	\$175.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,540.38</b>

**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  
**TELEPHONE**  
989.754.0489 Office  
989.754.4029 Fax

**EMAIL**  
OFFICE: office@sjlc.us  
PASTOR: pp@sjlc.us

**WEB SITE**  
[www.sjlc.us](http://www.sjlc.us)

**NEWSLETTER**  
**Deadline: 11-20-09**  
Submit To:  
[news@sjlc.us](mailto:news@sjlc.us)

