



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

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Spirit Newsletter - April 2017



Vol. 4

Isaiah 42.4-14

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

¹⁰ Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.

¹¹ Let the desert and its towns lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits; let the inhabitants of Sela sing for joy, let them shout from the tops of the mountains.

¹² Let them give glory to the LORD, and declare his praise in the coastlands.

¹³ The LORD goes forth like a soldier, like a warrior he stirs up his fury; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes.

¹⁴ For a long time I have held my peace, I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor, I will gasp and pant.

Friends in Christ,

It's Spring! All around us God is doing a new thing. Everywhere we look the earth is being renewed. Easter, and our celebration of Resurrection Life is quickly approaching. Could there be a more appropriate time than now to come together prayerfully and in faith, to talk about the future of our life together as the Body of Christ, who gather as St. John Lutheran Church in Saginaw?

Your leaders have been diligently seeking God's direction and guidance, and now are asking you to listen prayerfully and respectfully to your sisters and brothers in Christ, and to open your minds and hearts to new thoughts, ideas, and possibilities for our future together. Take time to read carefully the enclosed letter about the upcoming forums for our CONFIRMED/VOTING MEMBERS, and commit to participating in these discussions throughout the month of April. We have some very serious matters to consider and to decide on in the next couple of months. I ask you to be praying about the matters before us daily.

I also pray that you will make every effort to attend the Wednesday Lenten worship times that are left in this season (see details within the newsletter), and to come reflect on the final days of Jesus' life on earth during our Holy Week worship opportunities. Let us celebrate together God's great love for us, and for all the world!

Your fellow servant in Christ, Pr. Kathleen Basner

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St. John Lutheran Numbers

Date	Attend.	Deposit
2/26/17	47	\$927.00
3/5/17	38	\$2,832.00
3/12/17	43	\$3,326.75
3/19/17	42	\$1,141.75

Memorials/Gifts Received

January 1 – March 19, 2017

Altar Flowers	\$42.50
Breakfast for the Hungry	\$50.00
Camp Lu-Wix-E Gifts	\$50.00
Congregational Life	\$145.55
Evangelism	
General Fund	\$1,475.00
Heating Fund	
Music & Worship	
TOTAL	\$1,763.05

Year-to-Date Offering Income:	\$14,943.00
Year-to-Date Rental Income:	\$7,889.50
Year-to-Date from Trust Income:	\$40,000.00
Year-to-Date Seminary Student	\$8,000.00



Birthdays

April 1 Brian Meyer
 April 2 Nanci Glave
 April 3 Matthew Acha
 April 4 Barbara Kramer
 April 5 Helen Boitel, Martin Wiegand
 April 7 Audrey Edmond, Helen Henley
 April 8 Mattie Brown, Denise Kumaus, Raul Venegas III
 April 9 Lindsay Alverson, Mark Oswald
 April 11 Kalifah Sharper
 April 13 David Brimmer, Coda Henze
 April 14 Victor Leichner
 April 15 Gage Hopper
 April 17 Pr. Kathleen Basner
 April 20 Jacklyn Marcet, Sandra Wendland
 April 24 Bernetes Hillebrand, Kristine McInerney
 April 25 Melvin Gay
 April 27 Debra Alverson
 April 29 Jacob Hoppe

*Happy
 Birthday*



Anniversaries

April 14 Michael & Pr. Kathleen Basner
 April 28 Donald & Lorna Keaner

*Happy
 Anniversary*

Lent & Holy Week

Wednesday, March 29th at Resurrection Lutheran
 Soup/Simple Supper at 6:00 p.m., Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday, April 9th, 9:30 a.m. at St. John

Maundy Thursday, April 13th, 7:00 p.m. at St. John

Good Friday, April 14th, 7:00 p.m. at St. John

Easter Sunday, April 16th, 9:30 a.m. at St. John



Easter Breakfast



Sunday, April 16th 8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m.

Come join us on Sunday, April 16th before worship for our
 Easter Sunday Potluck Breakfast. Please bring your
 breakfast item by 7:45 a.m. that day.



Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 16th after Worship

As we prepare for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt (after
 worship on April 16th), we would greatly appreciate your
 donations of wrapped candy, trinkets, or small prizes. If
 cash is donated, we will do the shopping for you. Please
 see Pam Aven or Eveline Gatzsche with your donations.

Please Remember Care Facility Members:

Please Remember At Home Members:

They would love a card or visit from you!



Church Updates

Donations: Roger & Pauline Winterstein (General Fund)

Recently Hospitalized: Roger & Barbara Kramer, Victor Leichner, Edythe Passariello

Memorials: In memory of **Paul Buchholz** (General Fund) from Laurel Buchholz. In memory of **Lucille Dater** (General Fund) from Donald Wendland. In memory of **Evelyn Schulz** (Breakfast for Hungry) from Marie Laeding & Patricia Stratton.

Pedal for a Purpose Michigan 2017

Save the date for "Pedal for a Purpose Michigan 2017: A Hunger Ride in the Mitten Synod," A Synod bicycle tour that will end at the Synod Assembly in Mt. Pleasant. This is a 3½ day cycling tour to deepen awareness on World Hunger, challenge giving to ELCA World Hunger, and enhance physical fitness. The ride will begin and end at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mt. Pleasant and will stop at nine churches in the Bay Conference.

May 18 – Mt. Pleasant to Gladwin to Rhodes

May 19 – Rhodes to Bay City to Vassar

May 20 – Vassar to Bridgeport to Saginaw to Freeland to Midland

May 21 – Midland to Mt. Pleasant

We envision a small core group of riders riding the entire route (about 225 miles), and others joining us for a day or just a few hours. Riders will have the opportunity to receive contributions for their ride through the Team ELCA website: "Pedal for a Purpose Michigan 2017." More information and details will be coming soon. You may contact Rev. Erick Johnson at: erickj74@gmail.com.



Free Community Dinners

Our **Free Community Dinners** are on the second Thursday of each month, with dinner served from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Our next dinner is on **April 13th**. Contributions to fund the Free Community Dinners here at St. John can be made with checks payable to: Messiah Lutheran Church, "St. John Evening Dinners" and we can forward your check to them. If you have any questions about the dinners, please contact Dewey Burke at: dewburke@hotmail.com or at 989-971-4316.

Saginaw Metro Ministries Food Pantry



Appreciation Dinner

Friday, May 5th at 6:00 p.m.

It's getting close to that time of year again where we thank each and every one of you for helping. This year the Appreciation Dinner will be Friday, May 5th at 6:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church. Please plan on attending if you in anyway helped, donated, prayed for, or done anything whatsoever to make the Food Pantry able to serve the hungry in 2016. If you have any questions, please contact Dewey Burke at 989-921-0494 or at: dewburke@hotmail.com.

Habitat for Humanity 16th Annual Quilt Show & Silent Auction



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Corner of Hemmeter Road and Weiss St. in Saginaw

Friday, March 31st – 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 1st – 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 2nd – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Free Admission! Featuring a Buy-it-Now Booth. All proceeds go to the Saginaw County Habitat for Humanity. Supported by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.



Help Reunite a Family

Esther's Daughters is a mission project of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Bloomfield Hills, MI. The goal of the mission project is to bring two young girls from Papua New Guinea to the United States and assist their adoptive family in establishing permanent housing. The girls (age 12 and 15) are the orphaned nieces of one of Beautiful Savior's members. They are currently in the care of their aging grandmother, who is in declining health. Should something happen to their grandmother, these girls are left with few opportunities, and at best, would be placed in arranged marriages (away from their current village) or, at worst, face the risk of human trafficking. Funds raised will be used by Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church for legal fees, travel costs, and other financial needs associated with an international adoption.

If you can help, you may donate online at: <https://www.crowdrise.com/esthersdaughters>. You can also donate by sending a check to: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, 5631 N. Adams Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304, and in the memo line write "Esther's Daughters Mission." (These girls are the nieces of Michelle Basner-Ketepa's husband, David. Michelle is the daughter of Pr. Kathleen and Mike Basner, and grew up at St. John. Michelle is on the staff at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. Thank you for considering to help!)

Food Bank of Eastern Michigan March Against Hunger



March 1st – April 30, 2017

Saginaw Metro Ministries (SMM) is kicking off their yearly Fund Drive on March 1st for the SMM Food Pantry. All funds collected between March 1st – April 30th will be matched by 10% at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

Please fill out the enclosed deposit slip, along with your check, and send to: **Saginaw Metro Ministries Matching Funds Program, PO Box 6472, Saginaw, MI 48608**

Write on the memo line of your check: P-981

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Luplow at: karenjoyluplow@yahoo.com. Thanks for your generous contributions to feed the hungry!