



# 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

## SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

### JUNE 2016

Issue 113

Vol. 06

Dear Friends in Christ:

June is a month traditionally filled with much joy, so I will begin announcing joyous St. John news and in no particular order or priority.

Mikayla Aven graduates from Valley Lutheran High School on June 12<sup>th</sup>. St. John will honor her at a special coffee hour on June 19<sup>th</sup>. We congratulate her as she seeks God's direction for her life.

Mark Oswald begins a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Covenant Hospital on June 6<sup>th</sup> (Connie's birthday). Keep him in your prayers as he seeks to fulfill God's calling in his life. I commend him for beginning a new direction in his life at age 60. Perhaps a witness to others! God isn't done with ideas for your life no matter what your life's situation.

Summer Day Camp staff have been chosen and I am very excited about the possibilities for this summer! Russell Hale will be the Director and he has lots of good ideas and is in the planning mode as I type. The Summer Day Camp Committee, which included Pam Aven, Ruth Sharper, Marcy Andersen, Pr. Kathleen Basner, Linda LaFlair, and me, were pleased at the caliber of those who interviewed. Most are para-educators in the local school systems or college students. The children rotate daily through five areas: Reading and Math, Bible Study, Music, Recreation, Arts and Crafts. Please stop by to see the Summer Day Camp in action. It begins on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, with staff training during the week before. CPR is required of all Summer Day Camp staff, as well as background checks. This year we are also having a session on child abuse recognition and reporting offered by the CAN Council. I am so pleased that our Summer Day Camp is so well regarded in the community and it only makes sense to train our staff as well as possible.

On June 5<sup>th</sup> the three congregations (Resurrection, Our Saviour, and St. John), which are considering being in a Geographic Parish, will take a vote. It takes 2/3rds in each church to pass. Since we worship an hour earlier than the other two churches, we will have a Forum for questions and answers, as well as a potluck. Those who prefer not to bring a dish are not

to be discouraged from attending. There is always plenty of food at St. John. To be as uniform as possible, the vote won't be tallied or reported by any of the three churches until 12:30 p.m. that day.

The initial vote pertains only to clergy staff. Some have asked why not go further quicker? Like one secretary answering calls for all three, etc. At the recent forum, it was even asked why we don't look at the issue of three buildings. For some that was the "alligator in the room" that no one wanted to discuss. Others were relieved the topic came up! Statistics show that most church mergers, if done well, take 3-5 years. This is only step one.

I have truly enjoyed adding Resurrection and Our Saviour folks to our evening Bible Study and growing too big for the parsonage and holding it at Our Saviour this time. We will resume in the fall, likely moving to one of the other two congregations, for the next session.

It has also been fun getting more acquainted with people from the other two churches through the SMM Food Pantry, Breakfast for the Hungry, and the Free Community Dinner. The shared Lenten and Advent services with meals has also given us more opportunities to get to know each other. I find that the more things we do with each other, the easier it is to see us sharing staff.

Pray for God's wisdom to guide your thinking. It is based on what is best for Christ's mission in Saginaw and beyond. Pray that God leads us into God's future.

Lastly, and most painfully, pray for George Pike and his family as he will be sentenced on June 20<sup>th</sup>, the opening day of our Summer Day Camp. What irony in that George was a big part of our Summer Day Camp Committee last year and had a passion for the camp!

May God Bless and Keep Us All,

*Pr. Connie Passanella*



**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
915 Federal Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48607

*Pr. Connie Sassanella*

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 a.m.**

**PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**PASTOR'S TELEPHONE**

**Preferred (c) 330-692-6194 (h) 989-401-2283**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

*Secretary: Barb Socia*

**CHURCH'S TELEPHONE**

Office: 989-754-0489

Fax: 989-754-4029

**E-MAIL**

Office: [sjc915@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sjc915@sbcglobal.net)

Pastor: [csassanella@yahoo.com](mailto:csassanella@yahoo.com)

**WEBSITE**

[StJohnLutheranELCASaginaw.weebly.com](http://StJohnLutheranELCASaginaw.weebly.com)

**FACEBOOK**

St John Lutheran ELCA Saginaw

**NEWSLETTER**

**Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month**

## Church Updates



**Donations:** Roger & Pauline Winterstein (Summer Day Camp), Art Meyer (Thrivent Choice Dollars), Harvey Wickes Foundation (Summer Day Camp Grant).

**Memorials:** In loving memory of **Kay Basner** by Ann Davis (General Fund). In memory of **Our Parents** by Robert & Alice Morgan (New Office Computer and Software ).

**Our Dearly Departed:** Our Christian love, thoughts, and prayers are with the family and friends of **Art Menapace**, who died on May 19<sup>th</sup>. His funeral was on May 28<sup>th</sup> at St. John.

## Saginaw Geographic Parish Vote

We will be voting at St. John regarding the Saginaw Geographic Parish document on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> after the worship service. All four of the following requirements must be met in order to receive a ballot to vote: Who since January 1, 2015, is a Confirmed member, and has Communed since January 1, 2015, and has made a contribution of record since January 1, 2015, and must be present at the meeting to receive a ballot to vote.

**Please Remember Care Facility Members:**

**Please Remember At Home Members:**

**They would love a card or visit from you!**



## St. John Summer Day Camp 2016



For children going into  
grades 1–8 this fall,  
two, 4-week sessions:

June 20<sup>th</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup> and/or  
July 18<sup>th</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup>  
Monday – Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Price per 4-week Session is:  
\$30 each child, \$60 for a family  
Includes Breakfast & Lunch!

Classes/Activities include: Bible Study, Math, Reading, Arts & Crafts, Recreation, and Music. Swim Lessons/Water Safety at the YMCA for the first 80 registered children. There are some additional costs for field trips. Please stop by the church office for a registration form. Limit of 100 students per session. Please join us and experience a summer of enrichment and fun!

## Note from Summer Day Camp Director

I would like to let you know how excited I am about being the new Director for St. John's Summer Day Camp. This is the 19<sup>th</sup> year for the Camp and we look forward to another fantastic summer of learning and fun! The staff and I appreciate your prayers and support as we embark on this exciting journey. Look for weekly updates in the worship bulletin about Camp happenings and volunteer opportunities. Blessings, Russell Hale, Camp Director.

## St. John Lutheran Numbers

Date	Attend.	Deposit
5/1/16	41	\$4,160.55
5/8/16	48	\$3,371.50
5/15/16	82	\$6,591.00
5/22/16	54	\$2,182.81

### Memorials/Gifts Received

January 1 – May 22, 2016

Altar Flowers	\$	298.00
Altar Guild	\$	60.00
Breakfast for the Hungry	\$	3,481.00
Camp Lu-Wix-E Gifts	\$	50.00
Congregational Life	\$	0
Evangelism	\$	50.00
General Fund	\$	3,421.30
Heating Fund	\$	0
Music & Organ	\$	20.00
Stamps	\$	0
Summer Day Camp Gifts	\$	125.00
Summer Day Camp Grants	\$	4,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,505.30</b>

## Annual St. John Pig Roast



at the Quackenbush Farm  
10830 Sheridan Road, Burt, MI



**Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

**(Dinner at 3:00 p.m.)**

Call 989-770-4129 for more information.

Come join us for a fun day at the farm!

## June Birthdays

June 2 Andrew Peters  
June 5 Arla Basner  
June 6 Connie Oswald  
June 9 Kendall Specht  
June 14 Linda Beers  
June 16 Jill Wendland  
June 17 Farrah Madsen  
June 18 Joseph Patterson  
June 21 Wayne Andersen, Mark Goodeman  
June 24 Karen Hutchison  
June 27 Joseph Aven, Matthew Aven  
June 28 Marguerite Schuetter  
June 29 Joshua Pike  
June 30 Allison Taylor



## June Anniversaries

June 6 Matthew & Heidi Acha  
June 9 Robert & Karolyn Chicky  
June 22 Art & Sandy Meyer  
June 27 Roger & Barbara Kramer



## Prayer for Dad on Father's Day



God our Father, we give you thanks and praise  
For Fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers,  
newly embracing their vocation;  
May they find courage and perseverance  
To balance work, family, and faith  
In joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own fathers around the world  
Whose children are lost or suffering;  
May they know that the God of compassion  
Walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers  
But still mentor and guide us  
With fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers, and  
Great-grandfathers who are no longer with us  
But who live forever in our memory and  
Nourish us with their love.  
Amen.



## Free Community Dinners



Our **Free Community Dinners** are on the second Thursday of each month, with dinner served from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Our next dinner is on June 9<sup>th</sup>. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office for workers to setup, cook, and cleanup. 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 989-971-4316 or at dewburke@hotmail.com.

## Family Camp at Camp Lu-Wix-E



St. John Members will need to reserve space with a \$10 deposit by July 3<sup>rd</sup> if you are planning to stay at Camp Lu-Wix-E for the weekend of July 15 – July 17, 2016. There will be a potluck on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Your stay at the camp and small planned craft projects are also included. If you are not staying overnight, please bring a potluck dish and spend some time enjoying our camp. Hope to see you!