



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 MAY 2016

Issue 113

Vol. 05

Dear Friends in Christ:

As I write, the flowering trees are beautiful around Saginaw. What a lovely time of year to take note of the Creator's handiwork! Magnolias, forsythia, daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, and so much more . . . gifts of God!

The highlight of May at St. John will be the Confirmation/Rite of Affirmation of Baptism of Brandy Blohm on Pentecost Sunday, May 15th during the 9:30 a.m. service. A coffee hour honoring her will take place following the service. Elsewhere in the Newsletter she has written about what Confirmation and St. John mean to her.

Brandy often blesses us during worship by playing the piano. She also acolytes and has served at the Breakfast for the Hungry.

I gave her the option of having two Confirmation verses, one which she could choose. She selected: Joshua 1: 9, "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Please plan to worship on Pentecost, celebrate Jesus' sending of His Holy Spirit and renew in your heart your Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism Promises as Brandy publicly confesses her faith in The Holy Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Think about these promises Brandy will make . . . as they speak to your life today: "Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the Word of God and share in The Lord's Supper, to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?"

Could you with Brandy say, "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me."?

They are enormous promises that involve a lifetime commitment of faithful living through worship, study, and service in Christ's name. Only with the help of the Holy Spirit, our Advocate, can we even make one step toward achieving them. Daily we make decisions whether we will live out our Confirmation promises or not.

Opportunities abound to grow in God, through regular worship and sacrificial giving of our financial resources, time, and talents. May Brandy be blessed and each of us as we strive to live faith-filled lives.

If you haven't ever been to a Bible Study, you think you have nothing more to learn, are curious to grow, or just want to gather with other believers, we are extending my leading of the Wednesday Bible Studies through May. One meets at 1:30 p.m. at St. John, the other at 7:00 p.m. at Our Saviour Lutheran Church. We look at the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. No one is made to answer questions or read . . . which I know has been a fear for some. Join us for a session and try it out.

Blessings this month as we remember Mothers on May 8th, celebrate Pentecost and Brandy's Confirmation on May 15th, have our Semi-annual Congregational Meeting on May 22nd, and remember those who have died in service to our country and all our beloved dead on Memorial Day weekend.

In Christ's Love, *Pr. Connie Sassanella*



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

Pastor: csassanella@yahoo.com

WEBSITE

StJohnLutheranELCASaginaw.weebly.com

FACEBOOK

St John Lutheran ELCA Saginaw

NEWSLETTER

Deadline: 20th day of the previous month

Church Updates



Donations: Roger & Pauline Winterstein (Summer Day Camp), Thrivent Choice Dollars: Shirley Bell, Harvey Jacques, Jerry & Lola Lemmer, Mark Oswald, Larry Roenicke, Susan Suppes.

Hospitalized Since Last Month: Arla Basner.

Our Dearly Departed: Our Christian love, thoughts, and prayers are with the family and friends of **Neil Bridge**, who died on April 2, 2016. Also, our Christian love, thoughts, and prayers are with the family and friends of **Kay Basner**, who died on April 4th. She was the daughter of Arla Basner and the sister of Mike (Kathleen) Basner.



Ascension Thursday - May 5th

There will be a joint special celebration worship service of Saginaw Metro Ministries and Freeland United Methodist Congregations on Ascension Day, Thursday, May 5th at 7:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 1209 Hancock St., Saginaw. The service will include the blessing of the Saginaw Metro Ministry Board Members. Please join us to support these dedicated volunteers and to celebrate Ascension Day together.

Please Remember Care Facility Members:

Please Remember At Home Members:

They would love a card or visit from you!

Fellowship Luncheon



Please join us on Thursday, May 19th at 11:00 a.m. at Horizon's Center on State Street in Saginaw for our Fellowship Luncheon. Contact Marcy Andersen at church or call her at 989-791-3657 to register.

May Birthdays

May 2 Mikayla Aven
May 4 Barbara Beden, Kurt Keaner, Carol Stephens
May 6 Rebecca Schulz
May 8 Ryan Beers
May 9 Sarah Schulz
May 13 Elizabeth Bresser, Amy Henze
May 14 Amanda Kumaus
May 16 Ashley Specht
May 18 Andrew Marcet
May 24 Virginia Geese, Nancy Keaner, Tracey Peters
May 26 Laura Pytlik, Colleen Taylor, Qiana Ware
May 28 Noreen Howell
May 29 David Hagar, Lillian Schmidt
May 31 Kevin Henze



May Anniversaries

May 12 Wayne & Jacklyn Marcet
May 13 Michael & Jennifer Hoffman
May 26 Scott & Colleen Taylor



St. John Lutheran Numbers

Date	Attend.	Deposit
3/27/16	89	\$2,048.00
4/3/16	36	\$5,841.73
4/10/16	42	\$2,537.00
4/17/16	42	\$2,069.00
4/24/16	40	\$1,453.00

Memorials/Gifts Received

January 1 – April 24, 2016

Altar Flowers	\$	128.00
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	\$	2,190.00
Heating Fund	\$	0
Music & Organ	\$	0
Stamps	\$	0
Summer Day Camp Gifts	\$	100.00
Summer Day Camp Grants	\$	0
TOTAL	\$	6,059.00

Memorials

In memory of **Kay Basner**, for the General Fund:

Kurt & Pam Aven	Adrian & Nancy Barnes
James & Kathryn Bocade	Eileen Bublitz
Rudy & Sue Emerick	Max Foster
Marie Hendrick	Ray & Sue Kaminski
George & Becky Meeker	Art & Sandra Meyer
Robert & Alice Morgan	Carl & Betty Quackenbush
Ken Robertson	Fred & Chris Schuster
June Stack	Marilyn Taipale
William & Jane Teckentien	Ira & Sue Thumma

In memory of **Kay Basner**, for Altar Guild Fund:

Charles & Ginger Reed

In memory of **Kay Basner**, for Handbells/Music Fund:

Classic Legacy Band of Saginaw Mr. & Mrs. Doug DeWald
Mr. & Mrs. John Tews Mr. & Mrs. Bob Zill

In memory of **Neil Bridge**, for Altar Guild Fund:

Charles & Ginger Reed

In memory of **Duncan Shaw**, for Evangelism & Camp Lu-Wix-E Funds:

Molly Kerlin

In memory of **Duncan Shaw**, for General Fund:

Ray Hills & Peggy Schambeck Norman & Christel Zeilinger



Geraniums for Pentecost



Please fill out the enclosed order form for red geraniums for Pentecost and beautify our church grounds. The cost is \$6.50 for each plant. Orders must be in to the church office by **Sunday, May 8th**. See Ginger Reed if you would like to plant geraniums around the building after Pentecost. Lots of helping hands make the work go faster!



Pentecost is on **Sunday, May 15th**, at which time we will celebrate the Rite of **Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism for Brandy Blohm**. What a joyous day in the life of the congregation!



Items for Breakfast Give-Aways

We at St. John have worked hard to provide help for those who are in need. The Evangelism Board has, with your help, been able to provide more than just meals for our Breakfast for the Hungry that we serve each month. We have given away many needed items, especially winter clothing and blankets, which is our biggest and probably most needed give-away.

It started with the congregation providing hats and gloves to those who needed them. As we continued this each year, the miracles just kept happening. People from other churches that help at the Breakfast started bringing things to give away, yarn got donated, and someone called who wanted to knit and crochet hats and gloves for us. Pr. Connie's former church started making things and sent care boxes. It is wonderfully inspiring!

This winter we have noticed a great need for socks, as well as hats and gloves. We had some used blankets donated and realized a great need for those as well. It made us think when one of our church board members related the story of a gentleman who took the last blanket and said, "Thank you so much, now I won't have to sleep with all my clothes on." We were sad to think that perhaps he had little or no heat to keep him warm at night.

In the three months of this past winter, we gave away more than ever. The need grows bigger each time food stamps get cut, other helping agencies get overwhelmed, there is less full-time work, and so many other factors that are creating a larger percentage of poverty-level people.

We have decided to ask a favor of you and your family as you do your spring cleaning and get ready for summer. Please keep our neighbors who are in need in mind. **Any clean and gently used hats, gloves, socks, sweaters, coats, and blankets will be gladly appreciated from now until next winter.** We have a place to store them that is safe and dry.

Another suggestion – most of us love to go to garage sales, so if you see a deal on any of these items, it could be a really good way to value shop and help someone else at the same time. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Yours in Christ, Marcy Andersen, Evangelism Board

St. John Summer Day Camp 2016

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



June 20th – July 15th and/or
July 18th – August 12th
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!

Free Community Dinners



Our **Free Community Dinners** are on the second Thursday of each month, with dinner served from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Our next dinner is on May 12th. 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.

A Prayer for Mothers



Where would we be
Without our mother’s love?
Lord, bless our mothers
with wisdom to teach and
Guide their children in a way
That will help them to follow You
And to become men and women
Who will be pleasing in Your sight.

Give all mothers the patience
To deal with the difficulties of their job.

And, most of all, give them
A special blessing as they care
So lovingly for the gifts
That You have allowed them
The honor of raising. Amen.



St. John Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting & Election of Officers



Council Positions Available:

- **President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.**
(1-Year Term, max. of 2 Terms in a row)
- **Worship & Music, Stewardship & Finance, Camp Lu-Wix-E, and Congregational Life**
(2-Year Term, max. of 2 Terms in a row)

Please see Pam Aven to add your name to the ballot and join us in serving on your council. Voting will be during the meeting.

Sunday, May 22nd
after the worship service.



Brandy and Her Fellow Confirmands



From the left: Brandy (St. John), Makayla (Zion), Ashleigh (Resurrection), and Nick (Our Saviour).

“On May 15th, I will be Confirmed here at St. John. When I first heard that I would be going to Confirmation for three years, I thought that was a really long time, but it really flew by. I got to know the other pastors well, and made new friends. It has really strengthened my faith. I know Jesus is my Savior, and I love being a part of this church. Now that I am being Confirmed, I feel like an adult in the church. This church will always be a part of my family, and I would like to invite you to my open house from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 15th at my home. Please call the church office for the address. Thank you for all of your support!”

Brandy Blohm