

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

915 Federal Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48607 Worship: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
(989) 754-0489 Email: sjc915@sbcglobal.net Website: StJohnLutheranELCASaginaw.weebly.com

Mission Statement: God's work. Our hands.

Issue 114



Spirit Newsletter - May 2017



Vol. 5

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. -- Jeremiah 29: 11

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

First, thank you for your prayers as I was hospitalized and recovering from pneumonia and severe asthma issues. The hospital was certainly not where I intended to be for Holy Week. Thank you to Pastor Mike Kemper, Pastor Mike Hahn, and Pastor Sarah Friesen-Carper for stepping in to lead worship in my absence. I am very grateful to Ann Stravos in the Synod office for calling them.

As I write this article, I'm not quite sure what to say, as we will be voting on a very important decision about our future at Saint John by the time you receive this newsletter. We have spent the month of April discussing and processing possibilities. This was preceded by several months of discussion and discernment by the leadership about our future options. Now it is time to choose. I do not know what the outcome will be any more than any of you, and that in itself is unsettling for us all.

I do know, however, that the promise of God made to the Jewish people in exile, is also a promise for us. We, in a sense, have been in our own state of exile; an exile of indecision and struggle. Through the voice of Jeremiah, God says to us, "*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*" Whatever the future holds, God's plan is always for our welfare and not for our harm, and God longs to give us a future with hope." No matter how times, places, circumstances change around us, God is unchanging. God's love for us in Christ Jesus, and the Good News of the Gospel is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

I pray that we as a community come through this time strengthened in our faith, and in our love for one another as we prepare to move into the future.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kathleen Basner



Church Updates

Donations: Roger & Pauline Winterstein (General Fund), Mark Oswald (Thrivent Choice Dollars)

Recently Hospitalized: John Balderas, Arline Gillam, Barbara Kramer, Pr. Kathleen Basner

Memorials: In memory of **Edythe Passariello**, (all for General Fund): Dale Glover, Louie & Kathy Passariello, Marie Wells, Robert & Alice Morgan, Carl & Betty Quackenbush, Johnny Thames, Brian & Kathryn Lombard, Rick & Deb Kestner; Kurt & Pam Aven (Camp Lu-Wix-E)

Our Dearly Departed: Our Christian love, thoughts, and prayers are with the family and friends of **Edythe Passariello**, who died on March 29th, and **Jane Scherzer**, who died on April 20th.

SMM 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.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting & Election of Officers Sunday, May 7th



Our spring Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 7th, following worship. At this meeting you will be asked to vote on some constitutional changes and elect Council positions that need to be filled.

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 **May 11th**. 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.

St. John Lutheran Numbers

Date	Attend.	Deposit
3/26/17	51	\$1,228.25
4/2/17	43	\$3,281.51
4/9/17	44	\$6,437.00
4/16/17	64	\$2,050.00
4/23/17	45	\$1,584.50

Memorials/Gifts Received

January 1 – April 23, 2017

Altar Flowers	\$42.50
Breakfast for the Hungry	\$2,330.00
Camp Lu-Wix-E Gifts	\$70.00
Congregational Life	\$145.55
Evangelism	0
General Fund	\$2,051.26
Heating Fund	0
Music & Worship	0
TOTAL	\$4,639.31

Year-to-Date Offering Income:	\$21,403.00
Year-to-Date Rental Income:	\$10,016.00
Year-to-Date from Trust Income:	\$60,000.00
Year-to-Date Seminary Student	\$8,000.00



Please Remember Care Facility Members:

Please Remember At Home Members:

They would love a card or visit from you!



A Prayer for all Mothers

Thank you, Lord, that You fill a mother's heart with love, that You have instilled in her very being the need to protect her children if at all possible. Thank You for giving her the gift of nurturing her children, of teaching them, of comforting them, for feeding them, and making a safe place for them. For guiding them to be all that God has created them to be. Fill every mother with love, wisdom and endurance, with strength and patience and joy. Give her ability to forgive again and again. Enable her to rely on You and call upon You, because You will give her all she needs. In Your precious and all powerful name. Amen.

thoughts-about-God.com

Birthdays

May 2 Mikayla Aven
 May 3 Robert Lentner
 May 4 Barbara Beden, Kurt Keaner
 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 29 David Hagar, Lillian Schmidt
 May 31 Kevin Henze

Happy Birthday



Anniversaries

May 12 Wayne & Jacklyn Marcet
 May 13 Michael & Jennifer Hoffman
 May 22 Don & Sue Albrecht
 May 26 Scott & Colleen Taylor

Happy Anniversary

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." For more information you may contact Rev. Erick Johnson at: erickj74@gmail.com.

