



# 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 NOVEMBER 2015

Issue 112

Vol. 11

Dear Friends in Christ:

When I think of November, the word "Thanksgiving" comes to mind. Also, the expression "Thanks Living." For how can we truly give thanks without showing it forth in our lives? Daily I am challenged to grow in my appreciation and response for all that God has so wondrously poured out on me. How about you?

What are you particularly thankful for today? Over the weekend, my daughter, Libbi, was offered an internship for next summer at the consulting company where she most wants to work. The internships during their last summer in graduate school usually become their first position after graduation. A few weeks before, her long-time boyfriend, Jeffrey, received a similar internship at a desired law practice in New York City where they live. He also contacted me telling me that he planned to propose to Libbi before Thanksgiving. Yesterday following one of Libbi's favorite Broadway shows, he popped the question on the stage of the Gershwin Theatre. The wedding will likely take place in Florida (where Jeffrey is from) in January or March of 2017, during a school break, before they graduate that spring. I am thankful for these wonderful blessings in my family. I am also thankful for the opportunity to join with the newly engaged couple, Jeffrey's mother, my son Marty, and my kids' Dad, his wife and her daughter for Thanksgiving in Columbus, Ohio.

Daily I am blessed to be part of the St. John church family. From conversations over hospital beds, to being with a grieving family at the grave and the luncheon afterward, that is how I began my day today. And like most days, blessings abounded.

I could not do what I do without the help of so many! Behind the scenes, amazing work gets done in the name of Christ. Thank you for the Pie Potluck, Pastor's Appreciation on October 18<sup>th</sup>. It was very thoughtful and the idea of the pies was creative. Special thanks to the crew that cleaned the two corner lots. Many hands and sometimes dirty work!

November begins with All Saints Day as we remember those who have died in the last year and the personal saints of our lives. For me a personal saint is one through whom I see the light of Christ shining. They are the folks along my way who would quickly admit to their shortcomings, aka sins, yet God has chosen to use them to shine his grace on me and others. We will

have a potluck following the service.

On November 8<sup>th</sup> we will have our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting as we look ahead to the work which God is calling us to do, as well as reflect on what God has been doing through us in the past year. Join us in Knauer Hall during coffee hour.

On November 15<sup>th</sup> we will observe Michigan's national holiday called the Opening Day of Deer Hunting . . . I am just kidding! I have always wanted to say that since I never saw my father on his birthday because he was born on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, along with Christ the King Sunday, we will observe All Hymn Sunday. Favorite hymns have been submitted and will be used during this last Sunday of the church year.

On Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> we will host a Shared Thanksgiving service at 7:00 p.m. A joint choir and bell choir will add to our gratitude. Invite your friends! Watch the Bulletin for more information.

On November 29<sup>th</sup> we start another church year with the First Sunday in Advent. Can it be that time already?

Yes, with much to be thankful for! In Christ,

*Pr. Connie Sassanella*

### Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.



Our Fall Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will take place in Knauer Hall immediately following the worship service on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. The primary order of business will be a discussion and vote on the proposed Congregational Budget for 2016. **This will be a very important congregational meeting and we strongly urge our current voting members to plan to be in attendance.**

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



**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 (Summer Day Camp), Susan Kaminski (Thrivent Choice Dollars).

**Memorials:** In memory of **Dorothy Stork** for General Fund: Peter & Theresa Veremis. In memory of **William Schuetter** for General Fund: Robert & Alice Morgan, for Summer Day Camp Fund: Larry & Lori Roenicke.

**Hospitalized Since Last Month:** Lorna Keener, Betty Perry.

**Our Dearly Departed:** – Our Christian love and sympathy to Marguerite Schuetter, family, and friends on the death of **William Schuetter**, on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. May God comfort and bless all who mourn.



**Evangelism Board News**

At the October 24<sup>th</sup> Breakfast for the Hungry, the Evangelism Board held a mini Health Fair. We had Kelly Weiss of Covenant Mackinaw Diabetes Management Group, free blood pressure screening provided by Sara Gregor, and information on programs by the Saginaw Commission on Aging. We also gave away health care packets to adults and toothbrush and toothpaste to the children. Trick or treat bags full of healthy snacks were given to the kids ages 12 and under. We also gave away at least 20 large print Bibles on October 24<sup>th</sup>. As you know that's the best gift we could ever give anyone! Our next project will be our "Hats and Gloves Giveaway" during November, December, and January. If you would like to donate new or gently used hats, gloves, socks, or blankets, they would greatly be appreciated! Contact Marcy Andersen at 989-791-3657 about donations.



**Father, We Thank Thee**

For flowers that bloom about our feet,  
 Father, we thank Thee,

For tender grass so fresh and sweet,  
 Father, we thank Thee,

For the song of bird and hum of bee,  
 For all things fair we hear or see,  
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

For blue of stream and blue of sky,  
 Father, we thank Thee,

For pleasant shade of branches high,  
 Father, we thank Thee,

For fragrant air and cooling breeze,  
 For beauty of the blooming trees,  
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee.



For this new morning with its light,  
 Father, we thank Thee,

For rest and shelter of the night,  
 Father, we thank Thee,

For health and food, for love and friends,  
 For everything Thy goodness sends,  
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

*by Ralph Waldo Emerson*



**Mary's Song – Our Song**  
**A Women's Retreat for Advent**  
**Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. –**  
**Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.**  
**Cost \$45 each \*covers materials,**  
**three meals, and lodging**

(\*If there are more than 16 participants, there will be an additional \$5 to cover food costs, which will be collected at the retreat.)

**Location: Camp Lu-Wix-E,**  
**5277 Wixom Drive, Beaverton, MI**

(Owned by St. John Lutheran Church in Saginaw.  
 Directions will be provided after registering.)



Enjoy time with other women of faith. Consider what "Mary's Song" means for living out our own faith as we study together Luke 1: 39-56 (led by Pr. Kathleen Basner). Create a work of art/painting (under the direction of talented local artist and art teacher Linda Shawl). Worship, reflect, and pray with your sisters in Christ.

Friday evening will be a time to relax together, with Compline Prayer Service approx. 9:30 p.m. If you prefer to come for Saturday only, breakfast at 8:30 a.m. will begin the day.

This retreat is open to women of Saginaw Metro Ministries congregations, Bay Area Conference, and friends. Please send registration, with your payment to St. John Lutheran Church, 915 Federal Ave., Saginaw, MI 48607. Registration needs to be received no later than November 10, 2015. Don't delay! Space is limited. Stop into the church office for a registration form or call 989-754-0489 to have one sent to you. Further details (what to bring, etc.) will be sent to you by email, mail, or phone after registration, when payment is received. Hope to see you there!

**Give Thanks!**



On Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. we will host a Community Thanksgiving Service at St. John. Please invite your family and friends to join us in giving thanks! We will have a joint choir and joint bell choir made up of members from the area Lutheran churches. Give thanks with a grateful heart!



**Fellowship Luncheon**  
**Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m.**  
**Horizon's Center on State Street**

Ladies and Gentlemen are invited to a luncheon on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Horizon's Center on State Street in Saginaw. Please contact Marie Wells at church or call her at 989-793-7340 to register.



**All Saints Day Worship**

On Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, All Saints Day, we will remember in worship all who have died in The Lord in the past year. Please invite others to attend this lovely service. We will have a Celebration of the Living Saints Pot Luck following the service. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office to help us have an idea of how much meat to provide. Beverages will also be provided.

**All Saints Choir**



Everyone is invited to sing in this year's All Saints Choir. This is one of our special choirs and will combine with the Church Council Choir to provide special music in worship on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Please be in the church lounge for warm up by 9:00 a.m. See Beth with any questions or to pick up music.



**All Hymn Sunday**

All Hymn Sunday will be on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. This your chance to request all of your favorite hymns for worship. Look for a hymn request insert in the Sunday Bulletin and return it to Beth or the church office by Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> to be sure your favorite hymns are in the running.



**Daylight Saving Time Ends**

Daylight Saving Time Ends on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on October 31<sup>st</sup>. It is also a good time to change your smoke detector batteries!



**St. John Future Committee Report**

by: Bob Morgan & Bob Chicky, co-chairs

A meeting of the Committee was held on October 6, 2015, with the following members in attendance; Carl Quackenbush, George Pike, Ruth Sharper, Eugene Miller, Bob Morgan, Bob Chicky, and Pr. Connie.

A general discussion was held focusing principally on possible new outreach programs that the church might start up to fill needs in the Saginaw communities we serve. Financial support of new programs using funds from the Synod's available grants was also discussed.

On October 15<sup>th</sup> several Committee Members visited Neighborhood House, where we met with Director, Daniel R. Soza III, to learn more about the scope and nature of their various outreach programs. The information obtained should be helpful in developing new programs of our own. The next meeting of the Future Committee will be on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at St. John, at which time we plan to focus on the information gathered at Neighborhood House, as well as new programs St. John might initiate to serve unfulfilled needs. Possible sources of financing available to support the same will also be discussed.

## St. John Lutheran Numbers

| Date     | Attend. | Deposit    |
|----------|---------|------------|
| 10/4/15  | 54      | \$3,608.00 |
| 10/11/15 | 92      | \$2,791.00 |
| 10/18/15 | 57      | \$1,833.00 |
| 10/25/15 | 66      | \$1,076.50 |

### Memorials/Gifts Received

January 1 – October 25, 2015

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund             | \$ 3,442.00         |
| Altar Flowers            | \$ 302.50           |
| Music & Organ            | \$ 0                |
| Breakfast for the Hungry | \$ 2,465.00         |
| Summer Day Camp Gifts    | \$ 9,405.20         |
| Summer Day Camp Grants   | \$ 27,923.99        |
| Camp Lu-Wix-E Gifts      | \$ 154.14           |
| Congregational Life      | \$ 202.75           |
| Luther League            | \$ 574.00           |
| Heating Fund             | \$ 25.00            |
| Stamps                   | \$ 0                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>\$ 44,494.58</b> |



## SMM Food Pantry



The Saginaw Metro Ministries Food Pantry is in need of your help with unloading the food from trucks and stocking shelves here at St. John. Truck unloads are at 7:00 a.m. every two weeks. The next unload days are Wednesday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. There are jobs for everyone to do and it's not hard work! Our next Food Pantry Day for St. John members to help is Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Dewey Burke at 989-971-4316 or at dewburke@hotmail.com.

## November Birthdays

November 2 Betty Dent  
 November 4 Sarah Pedini  
 November 5 Nancy Specht  
 November 6 Heather Wardin  
 November 11 Danelle Albosta  
 November 12 Marcy Andersen, Paul Stephens  
 November 14 Ross Beers  
 November 15 Arlene Roenicke  
 November 27 Jill Castro, Robert Chicky  
 November 28 David Goodeman



## November Wedding Anniversaries

November 6 Nicholas & Alice Almond  
 November 18 Mark & Connie Oswald



*If you don't see your birthday or anniversary listed, please inform the church office so our records can be updated.*

## "From the President"



by George Pike, Church Council President

As many of you are aware, there are many things happening at St. John. I would like to discuss several of them here: (1) Breakfast for the Hungry, Free Community Dinners, and the Saginaw Metro Ministries Food Pantry are ongoing projects that have had much success and continue to grow. In addition to all of the volunteers that prepare and serve the food, the Evangelism Board organizes several giveaways that benefit many. Please watch for requests for items for those giveaways. They also have had many medical services that assist in educating our guests. (2) I will not attempt to name names of those who work on these projects because there are many and I do not wish to miss anyone. St. John is blessed to have so many helpers to make these projects happen. We are joined by volunteers from other area churches, and we thank them also. (3) I wish to thank the Council Members for "volunteering" to take part in the Council Choir. Our Music Director has turned a one-time event into a more frequent happening. If other Boards or family groups are interested in doing this, I would suggest contacting Beth Hale. Be careful though, she may add you to her schedule! I wish to thank Mark and Connie Oswald who started this by doing a duet a few weeks back. We are also blessed to have Brandy Blohm do her piano work. (4) Your Council Members are doing many different things to prepare St. John for the future. One of these is a "Future Group" that has regular meetings to look into the various aspects of our program and plan to prepare a report to the Congregation. (5) Lastly, for this month I would like to get Congregational Members to agree to meet in small groups to hear various things going on at St. John. Council Members would make presentations and answer all questions on any topic members may have. Confusion and misunderstandings among people is a problem and we hope to alleviate that by keeping you informed.

Recently I saw this on a sign: "Remember, stressed spelled backwards is desserts."



## 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 November 12<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign-up 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. Thank you for your help in providing for those less fortunate and your generous donations!