



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 2016

Issue 113

Vol. 11

Dear Friends in Christ:

When I think of November, my mind goes from saints to pilgrims/Thanksgiving and sometimes Advent begins at the end of the month, as in this year. And at St. John, November includes a Congregational Meeting that deals with the budget, while another in May deals with elections and reports. My previous experience didn't have me thinking about an Annual Congregational Meeting until January, at which time all the above was covered. It's not to say one is better than the other, just that after 41 years, including my internship, I still find things like this at St. John that make me pause to wonder.

On **Saturday, November 5th**, we host a Synodical event called "**Walking Together,**" that features a variety of workshops for congregational members. Folks will be traveling from congregations in Grand Rapids, Lansing, Kalamazoo (I have seen the registration list), and throughout the Synod. Thanks to all who I am sure will be good hosts! Service of The Word will be the morning service at 9:30 a.m. and a Service of Holy Communion, where the Bishop will preach and preside, will be held at 2:30 p.m. Lay people and musicians from Saginaw area congregations will serve as worship leaders.

On **November 6th**, we will celebrate **All Saints Sunday** as we remember during worship those who have died in the past year, as well as all the saints in our lives. Following worship we will have an All Saints potluck.

On **Tuesday, November 8th** Americans who have not voted early go to the polls to elect the next

President of the United States, as well as numerous other officials. It is a privilege and a duty as good citizens to vote!

On **November 13th** we will have Favorite Hymn Sunday. I am curious which hymns will be chosen this year and how they will be integrated into the service. That is also the Congregational Meeting following worship in Knauer Hall.

November 20th is Christ the King Sunday, when we remember who is the King of our lives as we close out the church year in anticipation of a new church year beginning with the season of Advent.

We gather with other ELCA Lutherans for a Thanksgiving service at Ascension Lutheran Church in Saginaw on **Tuesday, November 22nd** at 7:00 p.m. Hope to see many of you there as we thank God for our many blessings! I love this national holiday and our American story!

And on **November 27th** we welcome in the new church year with the first Sunday in Advent. Oh my, it comes early this year!

Stay warm as the days get colder. May your heart stay warm as you thank God for your multitude of blessings!

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)

Bob Moritz (SMM Food Pantry)

Alternative Worship Collection (Breakfast for Hungry)

Luise Chastain (Thrivent Choice Dollars)

Memorials: In memory of **Art Menapace** from his children (all for the Trust Fund): Steven & Kathleen Schou, David Menapace MD, Jenean Provenzano, Robert & Karen Burmeister, Kurt Menapace.

Recently Hospitalized or Rehab:

Barbara Kramer, Edythe Passariello, Evelyn Schulz.

Our Dearly Departed:

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of **Shanika Southward**, who passed away on October 16th from a freak accident. Shanika was the former director of our Summer Day Camp. She is survived by her daughter, Jasmine.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Janet Goodeman and family on the passing of her mother, **Madalynne Ryder**, on October 18th.

Our Christian love and prayers are with the family and friends of **Elizabeth Chamberlain**, who died on October 19th. She is survived by her children, Sally Fischer and Kenneth Chamberlain.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of **Karen Hutchison**, who died on October 21st. She is survived by her husband, Jerry.

May God bless all who mourn.

Please Remember Care Facility Members:

Please Remember At Home Members:

They would love a card or visit from you!



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 **November 10th**. 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 dewburke@hotmail.com or at 989-971-4316.



SMM Food Pantry

Currently the Saginaw Metro Ministries Food Pantry is strapped financially. In order to make it through the holiday season, they are asking for your assistance to keep it running. Please consider donating \$5.00 (or more) to help feed our community. Donations can be mailed to: **SMM Food Pantry, P.O. Box 6472, Saginaw, MI 48608.** For more information, contact Karen Lupow at 517-712-8294 or karenjoylupow@yahoo.com.



St. John Lutheran Numbers

Date	Attend.	Deposit
10/2/16	46	\$1,969.05
10/9/16	47	\$3,303.00
10/16/16	46	\$826.50
10/23/16	48	\$2,206.00

Memorials/Gifts Received

January 1 – October 23, 2016

Altar Flowers	\$ 468.00
Altar Guild	\$ 60.00
Breakfast for the Hungry	\$ 3,501.00
Camp Lu-Wix-E Gifts	\$ 75.00
Congregational Life	\$ 0
Evangelism	\$ 150.00
General Fund	\$ 3,956.30
Heating Fund	\$ 0
Music & Worship	\$ 45.00
Stamps	\$ 0
Summer Day Camp Gifts	\$ 346.00
Summer Day Camp Grants	\$ 28,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 37,101.30

Trust Fund Withdrawal to Supplement Church Fund	\$100,000.00
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Shared Bible Study Wednesdays



October 5th – November 9th
1:30 p.m. at St. John Lutheran
7:00 p.m. at Resurrection Lutheran

The Shared Bible Study with Our Saviour, Resurrection, and St. John will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. from October 5th – November 9th at Resurrection Lutheran Church. The 1:30 p.m. class will be at St. John. Both will cover the lesson for the upcoming Sunday. Whether you have never been in a Bible Study or if you have, whether you can come every week or just some . . . this class is for you! Pr. Connie and Pr. Ann will share in the leadership.

Alternative Worship Service Opportunity

Planned by Representatives of:

Faith Lutheran Church, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Resurrection Lutheran Church, St. John Lutheran Church



1st and 3rd Sunday of each month
6:00 p.m. Meal; 7:00 Worship Service

Schedule:

November 6: Our Saviour Lutheran
November 20: Resurrection Lutheran
December 4: St. John Lutheran



Lay led with pastors presiding at Communion. Goal: To share God's Love and Forgiveness with those young and young at heart. To reach those not attending worship regularly. **All are welcome! Invite others!**

Birthdays

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



Anniversaries

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



Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 13, 2016 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 13th. The primary order of business will be a discussion and vote on the proposed Congregational Budget for 2017. **This will be a very important congregational meeting and we strongly urge our current voting members to plan to be in attendance.**



Lutheran World Relief Gifts Water Challenge

Lutheran World Relief Gifts Water Challenge was extended by Pr. Tim Bender to all Saginaw Metro Ministries (SMM) churches. Pr. Bender challenged each church to get involved to collect change, do a noisy offering, or take donations and pool all of our resources together to provide \$2,500 to help a community in Africa bring water to their fields with an irrigation system. Once the waters begin to flow, crops can grow for years to come. The \$2,500 divided among the eight churches of SMM is slightly over \$300 each. We could all come together as one and make a difference in the lives of these people. Please send your donation to the SMM Treasurer to support the SMM Water Challenge. Donations can be sent to: **Saginaw Metro Ministries, P.O. Box 6472, Saginaw, MI 48608**, and write "Water Challenge" in the memo line of your check. Thank you for your generous contributions!

“Walking Together”
Saturday, November 5, 2016
9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
at St. John Lutheran Church



A Day for Lay Leaders Congregation Council Members

Do you ever wonder how best to lead your congregation into God’s future? Ministry Team and Committee Leaders – Are you looking for new ideas and best practices in your specific area of ministry? Rostered Leaders – Would your congregation benefit from its Lay Leaders meeting with others who are serving as they are? If you can answer yes to one of these questions, let’s go “Walking Together.”

The word “Synod” can be translated “together on the way” or “walking together.” November 5th, our Synod will offer a day called “Walking Together” – an opportunity for our Synod’s Lay Leaders to be encouraged and equipped for their work through prayer, worship, presentations, and conversation. The focus of this first “Walking Together” event will be “Fundamentals of Renewing the Church.” Our Synod’s Director of Evangelism Mission, Rev. David Sprang, will give the keynote on these fundamentals:

1. A congregational plan leading to numerical growth in worship and participation in the life of the church.
2. A congregational plan to develop, equip, and empower self-reliant leaders.
3. A plan for the congregation to reflect the diversity of its mission field and community.
4. A congregational plan to develop the discipleship/faith practices of the ministry participants.
5. A plan for holistic, year-round stewardship.
6. Development of a worship and music ministry that is relevant to the community.
7. Plans for partnering with the community.

Following the keynote, participants will have the opportunity to explore two of these fundamentals more deeply. There will be time for discussion over lunch. Our day together will conclude with Holy Communion, led by Bishop Craig A. Satterlee.

“Walking Together” will be held Saturday, November 5th from 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at St. John in Saginaw, MI. Please save the date and see the registration sheet in this Newsletter. Come as a group from the congregation and bring back insights and enthusiasm for the ministries entrusted to you.

Breakfast for the Hungry
Giveaways



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. At our Breakfast for the Hungry, we have given away many needed items. Our biggest and probably most needed Giveaway has been for winter items.

It started with us as a congregation providing hats and gloves to those who needed them. Last winter we noticed a great need for socks, as well as hats and gloves. We had some used blankets donated and realized the great need for those as well. In the three months of last winter, we gave away more than ever. The need grows bigger each year.

We are asking for donations of new or gently used hats, gloves, socks, blankets, sweaters, or any other wearable winter items. Bring them to the church office or contact Marcy Andersen or Ginger Reed. Thank you for your generous contributions to help keep others warm!



Martin Luther Study

Join us after worship on Sundays for a study of **Martin Luther**. We are kicking off our year-long 500th Anniversary Celebration of The Reformation.

All Saints Day Worship & Choir



We will remember in worship all who have died in The Lord in the past year on All Saints Day, which is on Sunday, November 6th. 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 bring a dish-to-pass. The meat will be provided by St. John.

Also, everyone is invited to sing in the All Saints Choir on November 6th. Pick up music from Beth Hale. Rehearsal is at 9:00 a.m. on November 6th.



All Hymn Sunday

Our All Hymn Worship Service will be on November 13th. This is your chance to request all your favorite hymns for worship. Please return the hymn request insert from your Sunday Bulletin to Beth or to the church office by Sunday, October 30th to be sure your favorite hymns are included.

Joint Thanksgiving Worship Service
Tuesday, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m.
at Ascension Lutheran Church



Enjoy the fellowship in worship and praise, the combined choir of area ELCA congregations, the joint handbell choirs of St. John and Resurrection, and spending time with God. Fellowship with snacks will follow the service. The offering is designated for the Saginaw Metro Ministries Food Pantry.