



# 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 OCTOBER 2015

Issue 112

Vol. 10

Dear Friends in Christ:

As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, I have been with you one year. Sometimes it seems like yesterday. Other times it feels like a lot longer than a year. Three hundred sixty-five days packed with new people, learnings, and experiences for me. So many blessings! I hope you have been blessed in some way as well as we study, worship, and serve together. I am honored to share in your lives at joyous, as well as difficult, times. Thank you for all the many ways you serve our Lord through St. John and support its mission in the community and beyond.

I am writing this from the Leadership Conference of the three ELCA Synods in Michigan being held at Mission Point on Mackinac Island. The theme of the conference is Evangelism. And while most of the ideas are not new, it is so good to be refreshed and think through them as they pertain to our situation. Bouncing ideas off colleagues and hearing what they are doing always helps.

On October 11<sup>th</sup> don't miss worship. The Church Council is going to sing as a choir! Yes, I have never heard of that one before. It promises to be memorable and hopefully a blessing to all! Thanks, George Pike, for the idea! Where in the world would we be without new ideas? If you have a new idea that you would like to be part of, mention it to the church leadership. You never know, it may be a great idea through whom God will be working to bless others!

Also, we will celebrate Evelyn Schultz's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Her family is providing a special coffee hour, with a light luncheon for the whole congregation. Very thoughtful idea.

The Bible Study sessions on Wednesdays have been a joy for me as I see others grow in faith. We have 20-22 people in the two groups. I too grow through the class, as well as by studying God's Word. And "Religion in the News" is a lively group on Sunday mornings. Join us if you wish.

The only hockey games that I have seen in many years have been youth games. So, I am very excited to hear our musician, Beth Hale, sing the National Anthems of both Canada and the United States before the Saginaw Spirit game on October 18<sup>th</sup>. I had to learn the Canadian National Anthem growing up in the border town of Port Huron. Did you?

On October 25<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the Reformation, the birthday of the Protestant Church. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Ninety-five Statements for discussion on the town bulletin board, the front door of the church. One courageous act incited the Reformation. As Lutherans we are called to be people of change. For when something is Re-formed, it is majorly changed. It will be a very special morning worship. We will join other Lutherans at 4:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Saginaw in a joint Reformation service.

May you enjoy the changing leaves of the season and the changing season of your life, through the grace of Jesus Christ.

In Christ, appreciatively,

*Pr. Connie Sassanella*

### Prayer for a Stewardship Congregation

Dear Heavenly Father,

My congregation is composed of people like me;  
I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will be prayerful, if I pray.

It will make generous gifts to many causes,

If I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship,

If I invite and bring them.

It will be a congregation of loyalty and love,

Of fearlessness and faith,

And a congregation with a noble spirit, if I,

Who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with Your help, O God,

I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all things  
that I want my congregation to be.

Amen.



**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), Deisler Funeral Home (General Fund), Robert Blohm (Thrivent Choice Dollars), Melvin Gay (Thrivent Choice Dollars).

**Memorials:** in memory of **Jack Deisig:** for **Breakfast for the Hungry:** Mary Ellen Johnson, Dan & Donna Konieczny, William & Cheryl Chasnis, Jean Kenel, Luella Markel, Lynn Holmberg; for **Camp Lu-Wix- E:** Kurt & Pam Aven; for **General Fund:** AMK Farms, Joyce Jessmore, Arlene Mossner, Warren Martin, Tom & Lorna List, Tom & Marcia Schmidt, Jim & Judy Dohrmann, Norma Hamlin, Chuck & Ginger Reed, Ronald & Beverly Hallman, Arline Roenicke, Robert & Barbara Albrecht.

In memory of **Dorothy Stork:** for **General Fund:** Wilmer & Mildred Oldenburg, Craig & Michelle Schneider, Dennis & Nancy Princing, William & Constance Reading, James & Debra O'Connor, Sandra Bittner, Dale Elbett, Tim Elberet, Barry Priem, Dale Glover.

**Hospitalized Since Last Month:** Harold Asmus, Arthur Menapace, William Schuetter, Fred Sassanella, Dorothy Hardy.

**Our Dearly Departed:** Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of **Dorothy Stork**, who died on September 7<sup>th</sup>.



## Birthday Party

You are invited to join in the celebration of Evelyn Schulz's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Evelyn's family will be hosting the coffee hour and a light lunch following the worship service. Evelyn and her family are looking forward to sharing this special day with you!



## Fruits of the Spirit

May the Fruits of the Spirit uphold you  
Throughout your entire life

Love your neighbors as yourself

Then you have Joy in your heart through life.

Make Peace with the ones who hate you

Be Patient in your troubles and trials

Apply Gentleness when you care for others

Show Kindness to those that need a smile.

Have Faith in the Lord our Savior

Show your Meekness whenever something goes wrong

Have Temperance through your entire life

Then God will gather you into His throng.

Do you have the Fruits of the Spirit?

Love, Joy, Patience, Gentleness,

Kindness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance

In your heart and soul

They are something we all should have and hold.



by Rosalene Wurtz



## Music Updates by Beth Hale



**Church Council Choir** – Our new Church Council Choir will make their debut in worship on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Just a reminder to Council Members to be in the church lounge for warmup by 9:00 a.m. on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Saginaw Choral Society** – The Saginaw Choral Society will present their Fall concert, *Songs from the Heartland*, on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. at the Temple Theatre. This year both Beth Hale and Pr. Kathleen Basner are representing St. John in the Choral Society. We are preparing a fabulous concert of Americana favorites for you, with our interim director. We would love to see you there! Please see Beth by Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> if you are interested in purchasing tickets at a discounted rate.

**All Saints Choir** – All are 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>. Two brief rehearsals will be held after worship on October 18<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup> for those interested, and the main commitment is to be in the church lounge for warmup by 9:00 a.m. on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Please see Beth with any questions or to pick up music.

**All Hymn Sunday** – We will be having an All Hymn Worship Service on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is your chance to request all your favorite hymns for worship. Please look for the hymn request insert in the Sunday Bulletin starting October 18<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Spirit Hockey Game

**Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.**

## Dow Event Center in Saginaw

Please join us on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the Dow Event Center for a Spirit Hockey Game. Beth Hale will sing the National Anthem for Canada and the United States. Contact Pam Aven at: KurtAven@yahoo.com or 989-799-0033 to get free tickets. Tickets need to be reserved by October 4<sup>th</sup>. We need seats filled in support of Beth and the YMCA, which is the partner for the day.



## 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.



## Crop Walk

**Sunday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.**

The Crop Walk will take place at the YMCA in Saginaw on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, with registration at 1:00 p.m.; walk begins at 1:30 p.m. Twenty-five percent of the local funding is being provided to the Neighborhood House of Saginaw, a ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Michigan. For more info., call the YMCA at 989-753-7721.



## Health & Wellness Day

At the October 24<sup>th</sup> Breakfast for the Hungry, we will be having a "Health and Wellness Day." The Diabetes Management Staff of Covenant HealthCare-Mackinaw will be here giving out diabetes information and taking free blood pressure readings. Also, we will be giving out free healthcare bags. Items needed for the healthcare bags are: toothbrushes, lip balm, small hand sanitizers, and hand soap. If you would like to donate any of the items we will be giving away, please contact Marcy Andersen or Ginger Reed. You can also bring these items to the church office. Please help us take care of our neighbors so they can stay healthy. Thank you for your generous donations!

## Reformation Worship

**Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m.**

## Zion Lutheran Church in Saginaw

Zion Lutheran Church, 1209 Hancock Street, Saginaw, will be having a Reformation Worship service on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m., with refreshments afterwards. Additional parking will be behind the Court Street Theater. There will be a Joint Choir Rehearsal on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:15 p.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 2110 Brockway Street, Saginaw, and on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> prior to the worship service at 3:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church.



## Trunk or Treat

**Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> 4:30 p.m.**

## Neighborhood House

On Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 p.m. Neighborhood House and Lutheran Social Service of Michigan, along with Ascension Lutheran and Zion Lutheran Church (Saginaw), will be having a Trunk or Treat event at Neighborhood House, 3145 Russell Street. Pull your decorated car into the parking lot at Neighborhood House where you can distribute candy to the trick or treaters. Also, Halloween costumes will be collected to give to the children at Neighborhood House. Please bring donated costumes to Ascension Lutheran Church, 8695 Gratiot Rd., or Zion Lutheran Church, 1209 Hancock St. by October 19<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, contact Pr. Julie Bailey at 989-781-2170.



## St. John Lutheran Numbers

Date	Attend.	Deposit
8/30/15	70	\$2,489.00
9/6/15	43	\$8,141.50
9/13/15	50	\$2,260.81
9/20/15	53	\$6,212.70
9/27/15	48	\$1,400.50

### Memorials/Gifts Received

January 1 – September 27, 2015

General Fund	\$ 3,092.00
Altar Flowers	\$ 260.00
Music & Organ	\$ 0
Breakfast for the Hungry	\$ 2,465.00
Summer Day Camp Gifts	\$ 9,355.20
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>\$ 44,052.08</b>



## St. John Future Committee Update

A meeting of the St. John Future Committee was held on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> with the following members in attendance: Bob Chicky, Bob Morgan, Eugene Miller, Art Meyer, George Pike, Carl Quackenbush, Ruth Sharper, and Pr. Connie, plus our special guest, Pr. David Sprang, the Bishop's Assistant. The purpose of the meeting was to seek any guidance that could be offered from our Synod office in our search for the future of St. John. A wide range of ideas was offered and discussed, with the meeting lasting 90 minutes. The next meeting of the Committee has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m., at which time the guidance provided by Pr. Sprang will be further considered, plus other matters that may be brought before the committee.

## 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 October 8<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. Thank you for your help in providing for those less fortunate and your generous donations!

## October Birthdays

- October 2 Kurt Aven
- October 5 Ryan Hoppe, Robert King
- October 10 David Herzberg II
- October 11 Kaye Schultz, Evelyn Schulz
- October 12 Heidi Acha, Janice Aven, Elmer Schulz
- October 14 Roger Kramer
- October 15 Dustin Alverson, Gerald Hutchison, Sara King
- October 16 Dylan Henze, David Herzberg
- October 18 Larry Kolhagen
- October 19 Suzanne Deisig
- October 20 Eugene Miller, Caleb Zeitz
- October 23 Raymond Crane
- October 29 Becky Pytlik
- October 30 Betty Marr
- October 31 Diane Hagar, Steven Marcet, Steven Meyer



## October Wedding Anniversaries

- October 10 Ray & Kellie Crane
- October 16 Duane & Debra Alverson, Joe & Dana Aven
- October 18 Kevin & Amy Henze
- October 19 Carl & Betty Quackenbush
- October 21 David & Debra Herzberg
- October 22 Jerry & Lola Lemmer



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



## 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 Wednesdays, October 7<sup>th</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup>. There are jobs for everyone to do and it's not hard work. If you are interested in helping, please contact Dewey Burke at dewburke@hotmail.com or at 989-971-4316.

## Annual Fall Sausage Sale

**Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> 12:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.**

**Resurrection Lutheran Church**

**2110 Brockway Street, Saginaw, MI 48602**

Are your taste buds ready for some awesome homemade sausage? Resurrection Lutheran Church Men's Club is making and selling their fantastic homemade garlic, plain, or Italian sausage in bulk or links. Sold in two-pound packages for \$8 per package. To place an order call 989-792-7135.

