



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 2016

Issue 113

Vol. 10

Dear Friends in Christ:

First off thank you for the birthday wishes and special coffee hour. Brandy Blohm, our recently Confirmed, made the cake. How sweet! Thanks, Brandy, and all who helped. As one 90+ old, very kind man said . . . "Pastor, could you have more birthdays?" as he walked by carrying his cake and ice cream! Some of our people are truly so dear.

The word is out that we are hosting two of the upcoming Alternative Worship Services and a Synod event. I think of it this way, when it's just us in our homes, we may let things slide, but when company is coming, we act differently. Therefore, the "sprucing up" has begun! As I type this, four men are out front removing unsightly bushes. Thank you to all who are helping in any way. If you see something you could do, offer to help!

On **Sunday, October 2nd** we host the **Alternative Worship Service**, which is an experiment offered until December 4th to see if we wish to continue. The service includes Faith, Resurrection, Our Saviour, and St. John. The focus is from Confirmation to age 45, but all are welcome. It is primarily lay led with a pastor presiding at Communion. Supper is at 6:00 p.m. and the service is at 7:00 p.m. At St. John it will be held in the lounge.

Tuesday, October 4th is **St. Francis Day** on the liturgical calendar. The U.S. Humane Society says this on their website: "Francis' devotion to God was expressed through his love for all of God's creation. St. Francis cared for the poor and sick, he preached sermons to animals, and praised all creatures as brothers and sisters under God. St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology, was born in Italy around 1181 or 1182." In honor of St. Francis, churches have been doing **Animal Blessings** for years. Join us at 6:00 p.m. at the west lot where there will be a tent set up. Bring pets on a leash or in a carrier.

Wednesday, October 5th we begin the six-week shared **Bible Study**. It covers the lessons for the upcoming Sunday and it doesn't matter if you only come when you can. The evening class is at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 2110 Brockway Street in Saginaw and is from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The day-time class is from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. here at St. John.

On **Sunday, October 16th** we will have **Prayers at the Altar for Healing** following the service in honor of St. Luke's Day, which is October 18th. Luke, the writer of the Gospel that bears his name, was a physician. Hence, he is the patron saint of healing. As you approach the pastor, tell her what you would like to pray for. It could be healing of a love one or personal healing (physical, mental, emotional, or relational), or healing of something like healing of our nation. It could be gratitude for healing, whatever healing need that you desire. The pastor will pray and make the sign of the cross on your forehead.

On **October 30th** we will celebrate **Reformation Sunday**. Our newly formed Worship Committee is in the process of planning this service. On Reformation Sunday we remember the historic acts of a German monk named Martin Luther, from the 1500s, who changed the course of history! Next year, **October 31, 2017, will be the 500th anniversary of Luther's Nailing of the 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg.**

Recently I, along with area ELCA clergy and our Bishop Satterlee, met with Bishop Cistone of the Saginaw Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church to discuss ways we could work together toward this historic event. This is in response to over 50 years of ecumenical work between our two church bodies, culminating in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the ELCA voting to affirm the "32 Statements of Agreement" as part of the larger work, "Declaration on the Way, Church, Ministry, and Eucharist." Simply put, there are 32 things we have come to agree on as we work toward full partnership in the Gospel. While Pope Francis has made overtures to Lutherans and Roman Catholics communing together, it is my prayer that by October 31, 2017, this will become an official reality. I pray for this day!

May yours be a beautiful October, appreciating the gifts of autumn all around you!

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)

Memorials:

In memory of William Schuetter from Chris Kaiser-Malicoat and Ruth Daenzer (General Fund)

Recently Hospitalized or Rehab:

Arline Roenicke, Patricia Hardy



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 **October 13th**. 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 dewburke@hotmail.com or at 989-971-4316.

Please Remember Care Facility Members:

Please Remember At Home Members:

They would love a card or visit from you!



**St. Francis Day
Blessing of the Animals
Tuesday, October 4th at 6:00 p.m.
St. John Lutheran Church**



In our back, south lot at St. John.
Corner of Third and Federal.
Look for tent.
Bring pets on a leash or in a cage!



Stephen Ministry will provide another training session beginning January 2017. If you or someone you know is interested in polishing your Christian caregiving skills – listening, supporting, and walking with a hurting person, please call 989-792-7135.

Part of Stephen Ministries is the H.E.R.O.E.S. Care Program, a "telecare" ministry supplied to active military members and their families around the U.S. The Stephen Minister reports and is supported at the supervision meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. They will receive six hours of additional training to participate in the H.E.R.O.E.S. Care Program. If you would like more information, please contact Pr. Tim Bender, Pr. Sue Hand, or Nancy Scott at the above number.

St. John Lutheran Numbers

Date	Attend.	Deposit
8/28/16	50	\$1,119.00
9/4/16	48	\$3,508.50
9/11/16	44	\$2,593.00
9/18/16	41	\$703.50
9/25/16	44	\$1,980.92

Memorials/Gifts Received

January 1 – September 25, 2016

Altar Flowers	\$ 425.50
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	\$ 200.00
Summer Day Camp Grants	\$ 28,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 36,912.80



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 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



Anniversaries

October 10 Raymond & Kellie Crane
 October 16 Duane & Debra Alverson, Joseph & Dana Aven
 October 18 Kevin & Amy Henze
 October 19 Carl & Elizabeth Quackenbush
 October 21 David & Debra Herzberg
 October 22 Jerry & Lola Lemmer



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:

September 18: Resurrection Lutheran
October 2: St. John Lutheran (in lounge, informal)
October 16: Faith Lutheran
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!

“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.

Prayer for Our Country

Almighty God, bless our nation and make it true to the Ideas of freedom and justice and brotherhood For all who make it great.



Guard us from war, from fire and wind,
From compromise, fear, confusion.

Be close to our President and our Statesmen;
Give them vision and courage,
As they ponder decisions affecting peace
And the future of the world.

Make me more deeply aware of my heritage;
Realizing not only my rights
But also the duties and responsibilities as a citizen.

Make this great land and all its people know clearly
Your will, that they may fulfill the destiny
Ordained for us in the salvation of the nations,
And the restoring of all things in Christ.

Amen.

Joint Reformation Worship Service
Sunday, October 30th at 4:00 p.m.
at Resurrection Lutheran Church

Featuring joint choirs and joint hand bells with “jazzy” music. All singers are invited to be a part of a joint choir for this service. Rehearsals will be Thursdays, Oct. 13, 20, 27 at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 2110 Brockway Street in Saginaw. For more information, call Nancy Powers at 989-395-3678.



Joint Thanksgiving Worship Service
Tuesday, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m.
at Ascension Lutheran Church
8695 Gratiot Road, Saginaw

THANKSGIVING
SERVICE

