



# 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 SEPTEMBER 2016

Issue 113

Vol. 09

Dear Friends in Christ:

Where did the summer go? That is the question I ask every year about this time. Kids and grandkids are getting ready to head back to school. And the temperatures improve!

As I begin to write, I am seated in an outdoor café along the boardwalk in Hollywood Beach, Florida, in the evening after my daughter Libbi's lovely bridal shower. Passing by are all ages, old and young holding hands, many ethnicities and religions demonstrated by their Christian-message T-shirts, yamakes, turbans, and scarves on their heads, aka Hijabs, enjoying that the sun is setting and the temperature is decreasing by a little for the evening. It was at least 98 degrees earlier. By the water there is at least a breeze. Some are still relaxing in the ocean, others playing volleyball on the beach, and I am enjoying the music coming from the pedal carts going by. English is not the primary language I hear. The servers are at least bilingual. The one who served me breakfast is from the Ukraine, having moved to the U.S. a year ago with her family.

It is a slice of America I rarely see. And while it is beautiful, it is too hot for me in the summer in Florida. Having gone to Florida annually from my teens until 2000, when my mom sold her winter home there, and in 2009 as a chaperone with Libbi's high school marching band; those who know my story often ask if I will move to Florida in retirement. I joyously tell them, "No, I moved north not south with that in mind!" To me there is nothing like Michigan for the variety of beauty! God indeed smiled when the mitten was placed on the earth, along with the sideways mitten we call the UP (rest written from Saginaw).

As the temperatures cool (it was only 74 when I came to church this morning), may you get out and enjoy the beauty around us, in our parks, along our rivers, bay and lakes, right here in Saginaw! God's handiwork all around us from sunrise to sunset.

The fall signifies a return to the school-year calendar, which often shapes the education in the church, e.g. Confirmation classes, Bible Studies, and Sunday School, for adults as well as youth!

Rally Day is September 11<sup>th</sup>, which is also the ELCA's "God's work, our hands" day, as well as the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary remembrance of that horrible day in our nation's history. Our national church has supplied us with resources for worship and

ideas for the day. I bet everyone recalls where they were when they heard the news on 9/11/2001!

During coffee hour we will decorate cookies for the firefighters and police officers, as well as make them a card of thanks for all they do. It is nice that these first responders are located so close to St. John.

Speaking of treats for the firefighters, after our recent church council meeting, Carl Quackenbush shared a watermelon from his garden, served from the tailgate of his truck. That was indeed a first for me! Two of the firefighters joined us. Some also did one evening of Saginaw Friday Night Live, giving us pencils and coloring books to distribute. Special thanks to Ginger and Chuck Reed for coordinating our participation at Saginaw Friday Night Live.

Thanks also to the Quackenbushes for hosting the gigundus Pig Roast, aka "The Pig Gig," of over 100 in attendance, including St. John, Our Saviour, family, and friends. Great fellowship, food, and fun!

Thanks again to Russell Hale for a rewarding and smoothly run Summer Day Camp, to Kalifah Sharper who worked the Bible Class, and to Mikayla Aven who was a substitute and volunteer wherever needed, and to all who helped in any way.

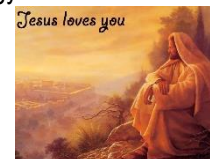
The information for Confirmation Classes Orientation is elsewhere in the Newsletter. I will be doing the bulk of the teaching for the three churches, along with Pr. Kathleen's assistance. Lay classroom aides will come from the other two churches.

The midweek Bible Study on Wednesdays, taught by myself, will resume October 5<sup>th</sup> and run for six weeks. For the 1:30 p.m. session, I give Ruth Sharper a break from the ongoing Bible Study. The 7:00 p.m. session will take place at Resurrection Lutheran Church on Brockway Street in Saginaw, with Pr. Ann, the Interim from Our Saviour, assisting in teaching. We hope to have a good turnout from St. John!

St. John and Our Saviour work the SMM Food Pantry on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. We need more helpers! Please join us at 7:30 a.m. There are jobs for all energy levels.

Don't forget to grow in your giving . . . we grow in faith as we do so! Blessings,

*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](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:**

Summer Day Camp - Roger & Pauline Winterstein

Thrivent Choice Dollars - Arthur & Sandra Meyer, Charles & Ginger Reed

Evangelism Board (Back-to-School Supplies) - Robert & Helen Henley

**Thank You!**

**Confirmation Class 2016 – 2017**



Confirmation Class (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders) Orientation will be held on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Saginaw, which is where the sessions will be held. The Orientation is for all Confirmation students, parents, and other interested folks. Resurrection, Our Saviour, and St. John will share in this year's Confirmation Program.

**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 September 8<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 [dewburke@hotmail.com](mailto:dewburke@hotmail.com) or at 989-971-4316.



**Underground Railroad**

Underground Railroad, Stephen Ministry, and Saginaw Metro Ministries are providing an educational session for all interested individuals, "Caught in the Web of Abuse," Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The presentation will be provided by Crystal Sanders, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, Underground Railroad. The presentation will take place at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 2110 Brockway Street, Saginaw. Please call 989-792-7135 if you have questions about this educational session.

## St. John Lutheran Numbers

Date	Attend.	Deposit
7/31/16	55	\$1,379.00
8/7/16	43	\$11,427.70
8/14/16	52	\$3,193.50
8/21/16	41	\$601.00

### Memorials/Gifts Received

January 1 – August 21, 2016

Altar Flowers	\$ 340.50
Altar Guild	\$ 60.00
Breakfast for the Hungry	\$ 3,481.00
Camp Lu-Wix-E Gifts	\$ 50.00
Congregational Life	\$ 0
Evangelism	\$ 150.00
General Fund	\$ 3,906.30
Heating Fund	\$ 0
Music & Worship	\$ 45.00
Stamps	\$ 0
Summer Day Camp Gifts	\$ 200.00
Summer Day Camp Grants	\$ 28,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 36,732.80</b>



## Prayer for the Church

Gracious God,  
 You have called us to be  
 the Church of Jesus Christ.  
 Keep us one in faith and service;  
 breaking bread together and telling  
 the good news to the world;  
 that all may believe You are love,  
 turn to Your ways,  
 and live to Your glory;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 Amen.

## Summer Day Camp

“Summer Day Camp is a wrap. I cannot even begin to thank you all for your encouraging words, prayers, and help to make Summer Day Camp the success that it was. To say being Director was a blessing would be a gross understatement. It’s amazing to wake up every morning pumped and energized about going in to work. May each of you know how much I love and thank God for you! Today is now, tomorrow is not promised, and yesterday is gone, so may we all continue to strive and live out God’s work, our hands.”

Blessings,

Russel T. Hale  
 Summer Day Camp Director



## September Birthdays

September 1 Nicholas Almond, Lawrence Wendland  
 September 2 Lois Lentner  
 September 5 Arline Gillam, Lola Lemmer  
 September 7 Jacob Hoffman  
 September 9 Elizabeth Frisch  
 September 10 Larry Roenicke  
 September 11 Lori Albosta  
 September 12 Elizabeth Chamberlain, George Pike  
 September 13 Donald Keaner  
 September 14 Delores Noble  
 September 17 Alice Almond  
 September 19 Arnold Schoen  
 September 22 Kellie Crane, Marie Wells  
 September 23 Pr. Connie Sassanella  
 September 26 Bruce Jahn, Emily Schulz  
 September 27 Janice DeMasellis  
 September 30 Samantha Venegas



## September Anniversaries

September 8 James & Susan Young  
 September 15 David & Diane Hagar  
 September 16 Ross & Linda Beers  
 September 17 Duane & Denise Kumaus  
 September 20 Kurt & Pamela Aven,  
 Gerald & Karen Hutchison  
 September 21 Robert & Rose King



## Handbell Choir Looking for New Ringers

Our Handbell Choir rehearsals begin on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. and there is a spot for you in our choir! If you are interested in ringing with us or know someone who might be interested, please talk to Beth Hale as soon as possible. We have a wonderful time laughing and making music together every week and we would love to have you join us!



## Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministers are available for anyone who may be struggling with health issues, grief, loss, relationships, or finances. A Stephen Minister walks with the individual, providing Christian caregiving through listening, acceptance, and God’s love. If you are interested or know someone who is, please speak with Pr. Tim Bender, Pr. Sue Hand, or Nancy Scott by calling 989-792-7135.

## "I'm a Lutheran" by Joshua Jerome



Joshua Jerome is from the Christus Rex Lutheran Campus Center, Grand Forks, ND. He is a custodian at Grand Forks Air Force Base. The Special Olympics National and World Games competitions that Joshua has competed in are: 2015 World Games in Los Angeles, 2014 USA National Games in New Jersey, 2010 USA National Games in Omaha, 2009 World Games in Idaho.

- My first experience with church was in 2005. I felt very accepted at Christus Rex and everyone was very nice to me.
- To me, church is a place where you get accepted for who you are. You meet friends, you sing and pray.
- I believe God is important. I believe you can do anything you work toward.
- My favorite part of competing in the 2015 Special Olympics World Games was meeting people from all over the world. A lot of my friends and I still talk on the phone or FaceTime with each other. And, of course, one of my favorite parts was winning the gold medal and breaking the Special Olympics world record.
- I pray most days. I pray with family. I pray for my mom who passed away in 1997. I also pray for my best friend who passed away last year.
- I share my faith by being a good brother and doing my part in the family. I also like to help out at the church a lot. I live how God wants me to and I always try to do the right things.
- To keep calm and focused before competing, I dedicate winning the race to my mom and my best friend. I tell myself to do my best and I get focused in my head.
- If I could change anything, nobody would call people retards. I really don't like to be called a retard; that is very mean.
- Most people think people with disabilities can't do things, but I am pretty good at a lot of things.
- People are surprised that I run marathons and can place in the top 10. People are also surprised I have worked at my job for 10 years.
- My advice to other athletes is to practice hard and never give up.
- I'm a Lutheran because I feel like I fit in at my church and everyone understands me. I don't feel different. It's a community of friendships, God's word, and singing. It's a place that makes me happy to go to and I think that is what being Lutheran is about.

from: *LivingLutheran.org*

## Anniversary Celebration

Please join us for the  
**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, September 25, 2016**  
**Worship at 10:30 a.m.**



125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1891 - 2016

With music provided by David Britton  
Rev. David Sprang, DEM of North/West  
Lower Michigan Synod will preach  
Luncheon at 12:00 p.m. (noon)  
Dueling Pianos at 1:30 p.m.

Please RSVP for tickets \$20 to 989-859-4491. Make checks payable to: Zion Lutheran Church, 1209 Hancock Street, Saginaw, MI 48602.



## Saginaw Metro Ministries Food Pantry Fund-Raising Committee 2016 – 2017 Planning

- Who: Volunteers with a desire to help supply food to our Saginaw neighbors.
- When: Monthly meeting.
- How: Sign up or Email: Karen Luplow, Chair at [karenjoyluplow@yahoo.com](mailto:karenjoyluplow@yahoo.com).
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/saginawmetroministries-foodpantry](http://www.facebook.com/saginawmetroministries-foodpantry)
- Projects: Fundraisers, Grant Writing, Donation Pickup, Community Outreach, Volunteers.
- Impact: We serve approximately 100 Saginaw families at each pantry.
- Churches: Ascension, Faith, Our Saviour, St. John, St. Matthew, Zion (Freeland), Zion (Saginaw).
- Benefiting: Saginaw Metro Ministries Food Pantry