

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

July 2017



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

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“God’s Love in Action”

Some Thoughts on Welcoming a New Pastor ... "Start-Up" (Part One)

If all goes as planned and by the time this article hits your mailbox, you may be anticipating a congregational meeting to call a new pastor! Ahead of that event and in anticipation of it, I want my remaining newsletter articles to lend you some helpful perspectives on welcoming a new pastor. This is also my way of helping us all to prepare for closure and the termination of my time with you as interim pastor.

"Start Up"

In the first six to twelve months of a new ministry, the congregation and new pastor usually go through a relationship phase commonly referred to as a "honeymoon." Then they both settle into reality and begin to face the challenges of growing together. This is when the pastor and congregation become truly "engaged." My experience, along with other pastors, has been to experience a "grieving" period within the first three months of a new call. This is neither negative or positive; it is a reality of transition and change. This is made real by the finding of a new home (and setting up one), setting up utility services, establishing family members in the community (children in school, wife in a job?), becoming accustomed to stores and services, and a routine schedule that finally makes one feel "settled." All this takes time and emotional energy and says nothing about the parallel adjustment to a new congregation and its people.

Ultimately, a new pastor must learn from scratch, how your congregation "works." They need to understand main routines, what expectations are, who their leadership is and how well they function, how well staffing and programming are functioning, understand their role in the community and begin to integrate into the local Ministerium. They need to know from all or any of you how they can best become familiar with the community and how information flows and through whom that information flows.

Family, community, and congregation are multiple adjustment challenges upon the new pastor's shoulders, all at the same time. Patience is needed by both pastor and congregation in this "honeymoon period." By helping them with this adjustment process, you are helping yourselves as a congregation and helping this new family feel at home with you.

In the beginning, funerals, weddings, baptisms, worship, confirmation, sermon preparation, communion routines and working with staff are immediate and automatic tasks and expectations. It is wise to allow the pastor's adjustment period to move patiently until they feel ready to move you forward into mission and ministry. They need to understand and "get a feel" for what they have, how it works, and how they might lead it forward—especially being the only pastor on site in a large house. Immediate, multiple expectations too early without a proper adjustment period can easily create discouragement and a sense of feeling overwhelmed. They don't need it and neither do you want to experience them this way.

Your warmth, appreciation, friendliness, and care concerning these "start-up" issues will give your new pastor a tremendous boost and probably cause them to work energetically for you and among you. All along the way, throughout the honeymoon period, both pastor and congregation are not just maintaining a ministry but building a relationship together.

Next month's newsletter (August) will likely be my final article, filled with final points as well as a final, open farewell, assuming all goes as planned. It's an exciting time for St. John. You deserve a good, solid pastor!

Rev. Bill Odermann, Interim Pastor

**OF
NOTE...**

St. John Lutheran Business Manager: The St. John Lutheran Council is seeking interested applicants for the position of Business Manager. The St. John Council will be accepting applications until **July 2nd**. The job description can be picked up in the office or viewed on the St. John website at www.stjohncharlesciv.org. Please send your cover letter & résumé to St. John Lutheran Church, 200 S Main St, Charles City, IA, 50616 (Attn: Jeremy Heyer).



The St. John Youth & Stewardship boards will be hosting a meal during RAGBRAI. We are planning to feed about 700 people, so we will need a lot of volunteer help for this event! We will be serving from 5-8 p.m. on Wednesday, July 26, 2017. Youth and parents, & congregation members - get this date on your calendars now. This is a GREAT opportunity to raise some money for St. John!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
AUGUST 7TH - 10TH from 5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Theme: "A Mighty Fortress - In Jesus, the Victory is Won"
Cost will be \$5.00/child with a maximum family fee of \$15.00



ST. JOHN 9 HOLE GOLF TOURNAMENT
At Wildwood Golf Course
August 16th, Check-in at 5:00 p.m. Tee off at 5:30 p.m.
4 PERSON 9 HOLE BEST SHOT- \$25.00/PERSON (Advance payment required)
Includes: Green fees & lunch (Drinks on your own). Prizes will be awarded!
(Please make your own golf cart arrangements, limited number of carts)
This year's fundraiser will go to Floyd County Cancer Friends.
Sign up in the church office.



Prayer Shawl yarn has now been sorted into boxes, labeled and is on shelving in the clothing room. Some packages of yarn lots are also available in the choir room in the glass front cupboard near the kitchen. The yarn is there for you to pick up and prayerfully make into a shawl for someone in need. Thank you to Brenda DeBuhr for freeing up a bit of space from the Card Ministry to give us a visible area for the Prayer Shawl Ministry supplies. The next Prayer Shawl meeting will be in August when the summer activities start to wind down.



The St. John book club will meet August 28th at 7:00 p.m.
They will be reviewing the book *Thunder Dog* by Michael Hingson. It's the 9/11 story that will forever change your spirit and your perspective. *Thunder Dog* illuminates Hingson's lifelong determination to achieve parity in a sighted world, and how the rare trust between a man and his guide dog can inspire an unshakable faith in each one of us.

A Special Thank You to **John** and **Julie** for the huge effort to clean and polish the floors and do the church spring cleaning of unused and unneeded items. Many items were put out for free and have been picked up. Also thanks to **Kathy, Melanie, and Laurie** for sorting their areas and discovering old bulletins and outdated educational and miscellaneous items that could be recycled to clean up more spaces. More records will need to be gone through. ELCA guidelines for record retention have been obtained and soon we will need to go through the boxes and boxes of material to see what we really do need to keep or can discard. Historical and legal documents, of course, will be retained (and some very interesting items have been found). We will share our historical discoveries with the congregation later. If anyone is interested in going through the record boxes as a committee, please contact Janet Petefish.

Memorials have been given in memory of:

Lyle Alan Sprout: Lorna Scrimger

Betty Jo Ferch: Leon & Jan Mulford, Kip & Judy Hauser, Jeremy & Jody Heyer

James Elroy Tyler: Lorna Scrimger, Arlene Thomas

ALTAR GUILD – JULY
Barb Tommingo, Kirsten Dietrich

The Parkinson's support group
will NOT be meeting in July

July Birthdays

5 th	Dorothy Hilgendorf	21 st	Patty Miller
8 th	Lola Vest	24 th	Glenda Link
9 th	Bob Peterson	25 th	Helen Goplerud
11 th	Bob Wolff	26 th	Gloria Schmidt
12 th	Marietta Sylvester	29 th	Glenn Jacobson
13 th	Evelyn Schmidt	31 st	Anna Mae Woolworth
14 th	Tilleen Litterer		

Do Day Quilters
Meets July 13th & 27th

St. John Lutheran Card
Ministry: Will NOT be meeting
in July

July Anniversaries

July 5, 1959	Robert & Gerry Waddell
July 10, 1954	Wayne & Jean Ellertson
July 18, 1960	Lester & Helga King

St. John's Parent Support Group will be meeting on an **as needed basis ONLY**. Anyone who needs to meet should contact Jill Connell at 319-215-8252 or jillconnell@hotmail.com.

JULY FUNERAL CALLERS & HELPING HANDS:

CALLER – Amanda Keyes & Dorothy Watson. Thanks to our June callers **Barb Tommingo & Tina Marth** and to all who provided food and served.

HELPERS – Kathy Crooks, Cindy Davidson, Julie DeBower, Janet Delap, Bev Jensen, Melanie Johanningmeier, Barbara Johnson, Amanda Keyes, Clarice Leraaen, Candy Lumley, Norma McClean, Kathy Michael, Jan Mulford, Norma Overlee, Angie Parsons, Susan Shankland, Bernice Voelker, Jacquie Watson, Dorothy Watson

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Bulletin Stuffer:
Acolytes:

Worship Assistants: 8:00 a.m. Makenna Schmiedel, Kristin George, Lauren Connell
9:30 a.m. Joey Heidebrink, Kristin George

Dates & times when the youth are serving are posted on the bulletin board outside the Business Manager's office.



St. John Youth

*“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gifts each of you have been given.”*

1 Peter 4:10

Blessings,
Laurie Heidebrink

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Board is sponsoring a mission trip to **The Commonwealth of Kentucky from July 5-9, 2017**. This mission trip is open to St. John 6th-12 graders and friends. Please keep all of the participants in your thoughts and prayers as we travel and serve.

This mission trip should be a great opportunity to serve and to have some fun doing it! We plan to work at Big Bone Lick State Historic Site, Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary, and a couple of sites near or in the city of Crestview Hills. For fun, we plan to visit the Ark, Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, and some other local attractions.

The Youth Board would welcome any donations toward the cost of fuel for the bus. If you feel called to donate, you can put it in the offering plate marked Mission Trip, or stop into the Business Office.

Thank you to everyone who purchased items or donated at our bake sale on Sunday, June 11th in the Narthex and Saturday, June 24th at the Farmer’s Market. The money raised offsets the costs for those going on the trip. We are **so very grateful** for your generous support.

The Youth and Stewardship Boards will be working together to host an evening meal the night **RAGBRAI** comes through Charles City. This will require LOTS of volunteers! There is a sign-up sheet outside my office for anyone willing to work at this St. John fundraiser. There is also a list for those who are willing to donate baked goods for this meal. Please prayerfully consider helping out in one of these ways. Thank you!

CONFIRMATION

Those students who have finished the third year of our confirmation program are required to write personal faith statements to put on their display board for the Confirmation Fair on Wednesday, October 4th. The writing of these faith statements will hopefully give the students an opportunity to reflect on what they have learned, what they believe, and how their faith will affect the way they live their daily life following Confirmation Sunday. The display boards will also contain some other information such as, reflections on their baptism and their favorite service project. These faith statements are due Wednesday, September 27th in the Youth and Family office, but will require some work over the summer, so parents – don’t let your student wait until school starts in August to get started! Confirmation Sunday is October 8, 2017.

PARISH ED NEWS

SAVE THE DATES: August 7-10 will be Vacation Bible School! Registration will begin at 5:15pm on the 7th.

- Plan to have your kids attend from 5:30pm-8:00pm on Monday-Thursday!
- VBS is open to kids in Preschool-5th grades. We will serve a light supper for the kids each evening.
- Our theme this year is **“A Mighty Fortress – In Jesus the Victory is Won”**
- The cost for VBS will be \$5 per child with a maximum family fee of \$15. Look for registration forms in the bulletins coming soon.
- Our hope is that having VBS in the evenings will make it more accessible for those who work during the day, both parents AND volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at VBS, please contact Laurie.

Be watching for our donation requests coming this summer. I can’t thank this congregation enough for how supportive you are when we ask for supplies! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



“God’s
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I don't know if there is anything better than sitting out in the sunshine, watching the glories of God's earth bloom, and grow around me and listening to the laughter of children on summer vacation! Carleen and I are definitely enjoying the slower pace of the summer and extra time with our families, but we are also eagerly anticipating the start of the new St. John Christian Preschool school year! We are excited to be gearing up for the new school year with some cleaning projects around the preschool and the assembly of our July packets.

This year, we will be having our informational parent-only meeting here at St. John in the Parish Hall on Thursday, July 20th from 6:00-7:30pm. This meeting is a great opportunity for question and answer sessions and for our families to get to know the other families that will be in their child's class. We will also be using this evening as an opportunity to distribute our preschool information packets for the fall. This is a little different than years past, but we are wanting to try something new! ☺ We look forward to seeing our families back for the open houses in August.

We are excited to announce that we have 15 littles (and counting!) on our 3-year-old waiting list, so we are opening a new class! This new class will be the same time as our current class, 8:30-11:30am, but will be held on Tuesdays & Thursdays. So, we will have 2 separate sections of our 3-year-old program and the two afternoon sections. With that said, we do have a few more openings in our 3-year-old programs. These classes are open to any child who will be at least 3 on or before September 15, 2017. We also have openings in our 4-year-old programs in the afternoon. Our 4-year-old classes are open to any child who will be at least 4 on or before September 15, 2017. Please call the preschool (228-7274) if you would like more information.

Thank you for the many blessings that you bestow upon our preschool program. Without your prayers and support we would not be able to do what we do. We love sharing God's love with our friends and we thank you for helping us share that important message! A special WELCOME to Shirley Holm and Susan Shankland! These ladies will be our substitute teachers for the upcoming school year! They are greatly appreciated already and we are excited to have them be a part of our SJCP family!

Carleen and I would also like to take a moment to thank the preschool board members who work so very hard to keep our program running smoothly: Sheena Bohlen, Cassandra Michael, Heather Hobert, Kady Korbel, Megan Williams, and Rachel Ginbey. It is with their dedication and hard work that our preschool program continues to thrive! THANK YOU!

With HIS Love, Whitney Franke

July 2017 Birthdays!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Jeanette Anderson Lillian Kuykendall Meg Tjaden
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Susan Shankland Angie Ulrichs	Wayne McClintock Loyal McLean	Judith Troge	Becky Boerschel Dorothy Hilgendorf Chris Hoeft	Quinn DeBower June Kehret		Mark Kabele John Rima Lola Vest
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Bob Peterson	Jodi Milleson	Jeanne Hansen Madison Lensing LaVonne Reysack Bobby Wolff	Lisa Garden Erik Hoefer Devon Murray Ed Platte Marietta Sylvester	Carl Johnson Evelyn Schmidt	Tilleen Litterer	Jacque Watson
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Don Holm Rylie Keyes		Katherine Bailey David Seckar	Brianna Ross	Craig Begemann Dewey Chase Joslyn Cotton James Jensen Lacy McDonald Marron Murray Shirley Ripley	Danny Griffin Madelynn Hoeft Patricia Miller	Rosie Baldus Gloria Hulbert Julie Kisch
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Todd Prichard	Kielyn Bahe Wendy Castillo Aaron Lacour Glenda Link Karen Streich	Helen Goplerud	Linda Girken Harley Hinz Allen Manning			Glenn Jacobson
30	31					
Ana Blickenderfer Lori Griffin Ava Koenigsfeld Michael Quade	Hannah Menken Anna Mae Woolworth					

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Communion Sunday	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Congregational meeting		Office Closed 	Youth Mission trip to Kentucky			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Women's Ministry Root Beer Float Sunday 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship	NO Card making at St. John 6:00 p.m. Finance	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible study 7:00 p.m. Council	5:15 p.m. Stewardship board	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters		
16 Communion Sunday	17	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Youth & Stewardship meeting		6:30 p.m. Preschool board		6:00 p.m. SJCP Parent meeting		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship		9:30 a.m. Women's Bible study 1:30 p.m. Assemble newsletters	4:00 p.m. Youth & Stewardship RAGBRAI dinner	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters		
30	31	1-Aug	2	3	4	5
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship				1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support Group		