



The Messenger

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
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From Pastor Telsoni

Dear Friends in Christ:

Please keep the Carpenter family in your prayers. Shannon tested positive for covid on Saturday, August 28th, and so she and Pastor Jon and the children must be quarantined for 14 days. We pray for a quick recovery for Shannon and continued good health for Pastor and the kids, Xander, Elliana, and Arielle.

In the meantime, I will handle pastoral responsibilities alone until at least September 11th. Speaking of "9/11," those of us old enough on that tragic day probably remember vividly where we were and what we were doing when we first got word of the twin towers in New York City burning and collapsing, the plane crash in Shanksville, PA, and the Pentagon destruction in Washington, D.C., all due to well-planned and precision terrorist attacks. What a terrible and demoralizing time for our country!



I do remember churches filled with worshipers the first couple of Sunday's afterwards. So many were worried about more similar invasions in other places and so flocked to God's house. We prayed for those who lost loved ones, and prayed for the government as it attempted to address the problems and prevent any further incursion by foreign and domestic terrorists. Fear and hopelessness led many non-churchgoers to join Christians in turning to the Lord above for answers and for peace and confidence for the future.

A similar kind of fear and trepidation has arisen with the events happening now in Afghanistan, and we surely pray for peace and for the rescue of fellow Americans and others friendly to our nation from that troubled region of the world.

Of course, anxiety and fearfulness arose as the covid crisis took hold in the United States at the beginning of 2020, and here we sit more than a year-and-a-half later still on pins and needles with surges in covid and delta variant cases, and serious concerns about restrictions, masking, vaccines, and the like that are intended to deal with the situation; however, with debates and questions about how to proceed in terms of people relating to threats and treatments and to returning to some semblance of normal life.



Through it all, we may not have answers to *our* satisfaction, but we do know One who does have answers. and who calls upon us to trust Him to work for the good of all that may happen to us, happy or sad, helpful or bad. As we pray, let us remember that our gracious God answers us and carries out His will even without our prayers so that we may live as His beloved children in Christ in this dark valley with the Spirit moving us toward our final destination – that is the purpose of our lives, to remain close to the Shepherd as He leads us to His safe sheepfold – in all circumstances.

At the same time, remember that prayer is our talking to the Lord, but it is certainly not a one-way street. More importantly, our lives are based primarily upon our listening to Him talk to us. Do not forget this key to peace and hope – hearing His Word, feeding at His Supper, living out the pattern of our Baptism by confessing our sins and being cleansed by His absolution for restoration and renewal.

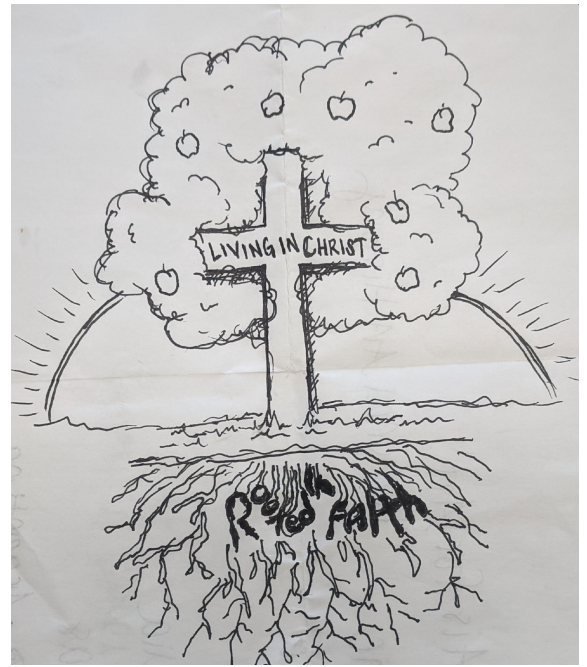
Also the fellowship of the faithful is defined by faithful fellowship around Word and Sacrament, even after 9/11, any natural or man-made catastrophe, and even during a pandemic. Safety precautions may prevail, but our true safety is in the arms of the One who spread His arms and shed His blood on the cross – for us. May this time, which calls for regular repentance and resurgence of devotion to Him, move us to do the right things and follow the lead of the Holy Spirit, who calls us by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and enlightens us with His gifts – so that we may be a beacon of light and hope to others in their dark and empty spaces so that they may see ample examples of dedicated followers of our loving Lord!

Rooted in Faith - and - Living in Christ

A very special series of discussion sessions will begin on **Tuesday, September 21st**, with a morning session at **10:00 a.m.**, and an evening session at **6:30 p.m.**, and continue every Tuesday through **November 9th**. The topic to be covered is: *"Rooted in the Faith and Living in Christ – A Review of Luther's Catechism."*

The topics to be discussed are the following:

1. **GOD'S PLAN**
(*The View and The Re-View*)
2. **THE Story / HIS-Story,**
(*The Creed*)
3. **YOUR Story (Be-Lief – Be-Life)**
(*Life of Prayer - Lord's Prayer*)
4. **FOOD for FRUIT**
(*Word and Sacrament*)



Luther's Small Catechism is more than doctrine – it is a clear map and field manual for Christians who follow Christ along the path of life here and into eternity. Pastor Telloni will lead the morning session, and Pastor Carpenter will be the evening presenter. Both pastors invite all communicant members and visiting friends to avail themselves of this opportunity to renew their spiritual lives and experience the joy of reviewing the “laymen’s” door to meaningful life in Christ. (*Note: The choice of topic is a result of member surveys!*)

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND

PURPOSE: To raise funds in order to make necessary repairs to restore our church building to first-rate condition in order to carry out the mission and ministry of St. John Lutheran Church in the future, according to God's plan and blessing.

All members are invited to prayerfully consider a generous gift in the weeks to come. Please use the pink envelopes in the pews, or a special envelope in your offering box at home.

INITIAL GOAL: \$150,000.00

**Initial Project: To install a New Roof
on both the Sanctuary and Education Wings**

Note: When offering your gift, please place on your Offering Envelope the designation “*St. John Capital Fund Campaign.*” Thank you for supporting this major stewardship effort!



Actual Gifts Received as of August 29, 2021:

\$33,640.00 !!!

RESULTS OF SPECIAL VOTERS' ASSEMBLY MEETING

On Sunday, August 22, 2021, the Voters passed a MOTION to approve the Certificate of Resolution to borrow the sum of up to \$150,000.00 from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund-Missouri Synod for the purpose of installing a new roof and other needed repairs (a 2/3 majority vote was needed for passage). 35 people were present, and a voice vote was taken with only one or two dissenting.



Here are the terms LCEF-approved Church Improvement loan of \$150,000 for St. John's:

1. Type: Unsecured
2. Interest Rate: Cost of Funds (currently 1.875%) for the first 24 months adjusted annually. Then the rate will be adjusted to reflect Lender's Cost of Funds plus up to 2.5% to vary on an annual basis.
3. Term: 120 months
4. Repayment: Monthly payments consists of principal and interest and are set annually. Initial payments are set at \$1,371.82 per month for the first year.
5. Prepayment Penalty: No penalty
6. Loan Fee: \$350.00
7. Disbursement Amount: \$149,650

CONGREGATIONAL OPEN FORUM



A special Open Forum will be held on Sunday, September 12th, in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the Divine Service.

The purpose of the session is to

allow questions (with answers by the Leadership Team) and to express concerns regarding the SELC District-approved revised Constitution and Bylaws of St. John which was presented for approval by the Voters Assembly on July 25th, but was tabled in order to allow more time for review and discussion before final approval.

In order to prepare for the forum, two documents are available for pick-up at the church:

1. *Guidelines for Constitutions and Bylaws of Lutheran Congregations*, prepared by The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (Commission on Constitutional Matters)
2. *The Proposed Constitution and Bylaws of St. John Lutheran Church* (prepared by * St. John's Leadership Team)

Please take this opportunity to learn more about this new governing document for our parish and bring your questions and concerns.

** A significant number of individuals worked on revising our Constitution and Bylaws and provided quality input in the last 2 years or more. The following members were*

involved on the Leadership Team at one time or another and were divided into committees to work on various Articles and Sections: Dave Fisher; Mary Foulks; Keith Kleve; Mickey Krnach; Mike Krnach; Liz Kulick; Dennis Lillich; Steve Marker; Larry Meyer; Gail Mizeres; Frank Pershing; Mary Kay Pershing; Denise Ryder; Rose Sedjo; Cal Shunk; Jeanette Tennant; and Pastor Telloni (Pastor Carpenter was installed on July 12, 2020, and joined the discussion of the document after it was finished). Committees made their reports to the full team, which then discussed the recommendations and voted on final wording of the Articles and Sections.

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. David McMaken, former member of St. John's, passed away on Saturday, July 24, 2021. He was laid to rest in a private graveside service on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, in Malvern, Ohio. We express our sympathy to his beloved wife, former member Deanna McMaken, and pray that our gracious God comfort her and her family with His abiding presence and the hope of resurrection of eternal life in Jesus Christ, Who is the Resurrection and the Life.



WEDDINGS

We extend our congratulations to Larissa (nee Russert) and Brandon Hinderer who were united in marriage on Saturday, August 14, 2021, in Louisville, Ohio!

Emily (nee DeFine) and Steven Scott were united in matrimony in a special service on Saturday, August 21, 2021 here at St. John's.

Maggie Stacy and Robert Peter were married on Saturday, August 28, 2021, in Orrville, Ohio. May our loving Lord bless these couples as they begin their wedded life together!



CATECHISM PROGRAM

Catechism Classes will begin on Saturday, October 2nd, from 9:30 am to 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Enrollment is open for all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Pray that the student's faith in Jesus Christ would continue to grow as they remain in the training and instruction of His Holy Word and the Small Catechism. For any questions or information, please talk to Pastor Carpenter.



ADULT CHOIR REHEARSALS

Will resume on Thursday, September 16th, at 7:00 p.m. The choir sings liturgically appropriate anthems and other attendant music throughout the church year.



More voices are welcome to join our group of faithful, competent singers! If you have a voice to sing, please consider joining this group in carrying out this very important ministry. Choirmaster is Dr. Lewis P. Porter.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The SELC District Board of Directors will hold its fall meeting here at St. John's on Monday, September 13th, and Tuesday, September 14th (Pastor Telloni is the District Secretary). On Tuesday, September 14th, and Wednesday, September 15th, the SELC Central Circuit Pastoral Conference will be held here.



A Divine Service with Holy Communion will be held on that Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., at which both board members and pastors will be in attendance. The congregation is also invited to join them in worship that morning and fellowship with our important guests.

We thank the Martha Society for serving refreshments and providing four meals during these events.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



Fall Rally will be held here at St. John's on Saturday, September 25th, from 10 am to 2 pm.

MARTHA SOCIETY

Due to the SELC Board of Directors' Meeting taking place on September 13th and 14th, the Martha's will meet on Tuesday, September 7th at 1:00 pm. Please plan to attend for the devotions and fellowship. *All ladies are invited to attend!* If you have questions, please see Mickey Krnach, President.



QUILTING CIRCLE



Will have their 1st meeting on Wednesday, September 8th, at 9:00 am at the church. If you like to quilt, cut and sew, please join us! Questions, see Jeanette Tennant, Mickey Krnach or

Rosemary Sedjo. The first project will be preparing lap robes and blankets to be distributed by Lutheran World Relief this fall.

MITE BOXES

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program. Our Martha Society participates in this collection. Questions, please see Mickey Krnach, President.



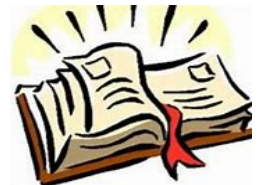
PRIVATE COMMUNION



On Wednesday's and Saturday's is being discontinued until further notice. If anyone desires to receive Sacrament in private, please call the Church Office for an appointment.

"ON THE WAY"

Is broadcast on the website and Facebook Page and YouTube every Wednesday with brief devotions. Pastor Telloni is host this week. We are reaching hundreds each week through these media! Pray for continued blessings!



MOBILE SNACK COMMITTEE

Served 15 persons a picnic lunch on Wednesday, August 25th. Thanks to our drivers: Gloria Pavelzik; Dennis Lillich; Gene Stocker; Jerry Roseman; Rose Sedjo and Deb Stocker. We will mobilize again on September 22nd. If you enjoy baking, we are looking for help in September, October & November. If you can help, please see Rosemary Sedjo, Deb Stocker or Gloria Pavelzik.



CEDAR POINT TRIP WAS A BLAST!



11 persons (adults and children) enjoyed a full day at Ohio's "Roller Coast" on July 27th. Thank you to all for monetary donations, snacks & water! Good time of fellowship was had by all! Thanks to Pastor Jon and Shannon Carpenter for coordinating this youth outing!

