

# Messenger

**SAVED TO SHARE  
CALLED TO CARE**

August 2016

St. Johns Lutheran Church  
3738 Morgan Ford Rd  
St. Louis, MO 63116  
314-773-0126  
[stjohnslcstl@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnslcstl@gmail.com)  
[stjohnslutheranstlouis.org](http://stjohnslutheranstlouis.org)

## From the Pastor's Desk



Invite your school age friends  
and family

Sunday, August 7 during the  
9:00am worship

St. Johns Lutheran Church  
would like to bless the  
scholars as they begin the  
new school year and help fill  
their backpacks with school  
supplies.

Check out the website for  
more pictures from VBS!

### I Ran Out Gas!

I don't mean out of energy, though much was going on last week with VBS and hosting youth from Germany. Let me just say, Thank you all who helped plan, volunteer and participate in the evenings to make it a memory for the children that Jesus is the light of the world and we should follow him. I hope many of you got to see our caves.



No, I literally ran out of gas. Last month, though it might be two since my vacation, I told you about my gas gauge that moves to full as the gas tank becomes empty. Well I had calculated that around 250 miles I needed to gas up. So at 248 miles my car decided to run out of gas. If that had happened between church and home, no problem. Just leave the car walk home wait for my wife and go get gas. But my car decided it would be nice to stop somewhere close to Godfrey, IL. Now I don't know the

Continue on page

2

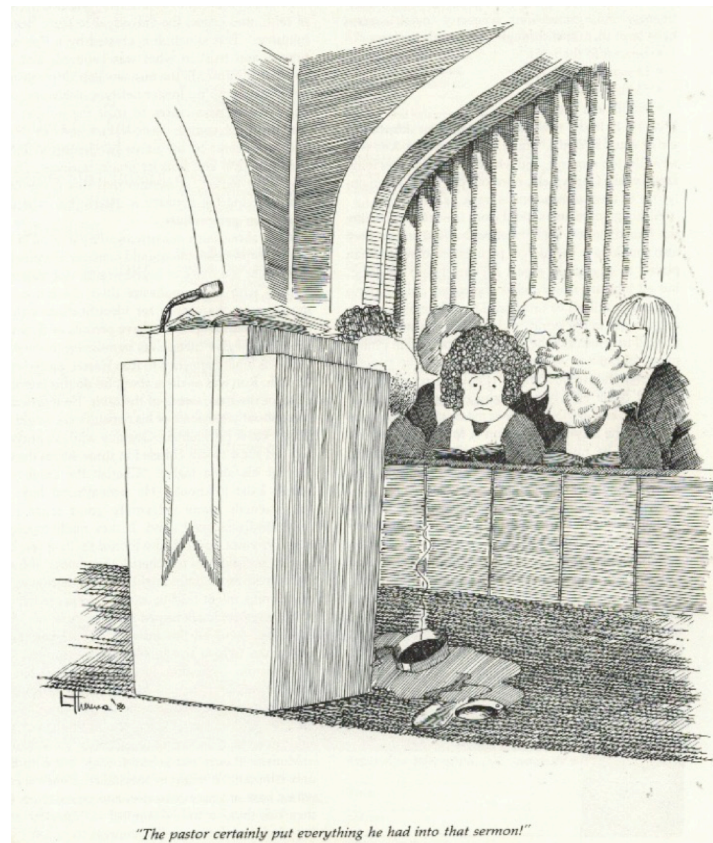
name of the trucker coming out of Steak and Shake that ran to my rescue and pushed my car to the parking lot, but I was very grateful. So asking “Siri” (my phone friend that answers my questions) where was the nearest gas station, she directed me that it was only a few minutes away. Great! What she was unable to tell me was it had been closed for sometime. So, I asked a real person for directions to another gas station, (not Siri she had her chance to be my rescue,) pointed me down the road. I asked how far, just a couple of blocks, came back the answer. It was hot, but a few blocks isn’t too bad. So I began walking and walking past the curve, turning left and still not seeing a gas station. I began to sweat, now 8 blocks later trying to decide should I go back, ask Siri, (nearest gas station 3.4 miles) or keep moving forward. Well, around the corner was a small gas station, open, with one pump, and hopefully a gas container to buy and put gas into. Only two aisles, yet on the bottom shelf was a two gallon gas container, deluxe model, because it cost 14 dollars. By this time, my phone had gone dead, and the shut-in I was scheduled to visit was a nervous wreck, asking her daughter to locate me and see if anything bad had happened.

As we get close to our destination to be with the Lord, don’t find yourself running out of gas or energy only to come up short of heaven’s glory. Some try to calculate just how far they can go on their last Bible study, worship service, communion or prayer and still make it. Sin can empty any life at anytime, so my friends be prepared. The Lord created a week for the very purpose that we gas-up for the next week activities. Any longer may find you stranded.

As for the stranger who came to my rescue, got me out of intersection, fully exhausted, sitting in the shade out of breath before getting into his pick-up truck, and driving away asking nothing in return, thank you. Thank you Lord for sending angels, thank you for sending Jesus and rescuing all of us.

***“Unless forestalled over time, all relationships deteriorate into arrangements.”***

***H. Newton Malony***



*“The pastor certainly put everything he had into that sermon!”*

## Evangelism

### I Prayed for Thee Today

*I prayed for thee today,  
To the God Who has all power  
That He would keep thee close to Him  
And strengthen thee this hour,  
And that thou be conformed to Christ  
In Whom thy life is hid  
And reflect to all the Father's love  
As Christ our Savior did.  
I prayed that thou might know Him well  
And delight thyself in Him  
Who sacrificed Himself for thee  
And cleansed thee of thy sin  
I prayed thy eyes be lifted high  
To Him enthroned above  
Until He brings us home to Him  
Upon His beams of love.*

**—Vicki Baird**



CAVE QUEST  
VBS 2016



## Social Ministry

It is amazing that we continue to have 40-50 families coming to the food pantry weekly. Therefore, our summer continues to be fairly busy, even in this heat. They just come earlier to beat the heat. This means we still need donations to keep our food pantry open. We want to say a big thank- you to each and every one of you who continues to support the food pantry.

**Summer clothing for all members of the family is still needed.**

It is by Jesus love and grace that we are able to continue to provide for our community.

## Compass Preschool Before & After School Program

### Supply Needs:

Boxes of Kleenex

Playdough, Bubbles

White Cardstock, Scrapbooking Paper

Drawing Paper, Construction Paper

Snacks such as: plain wheat thins, plain pretzels, plain graham crackers, plain teddy grahams, and plain tortilla chips.

If you would like to make a donation, please place it in the designated box in the narthex or give to the church office.



The church office is in need of volunteers to answer the phones and light filing Friday, August 26 thru Friday, September 2. If you would like to help call Cheryl 314-773-0126.

WOW

TRIVIA  
NIGHT

The Women of the Word invite you to their annual Trivia Night, to be held on Saturday, October 15, 2016, at the St. Louis Police Officers' Association Hall, located at 3710 Hampton Avenue (between Mardel and Tholozan). The doors will open at 6:00pm and trivia starts at 6:45pm. Donations are \$17.00 per person or \$120.00 for a table of eight. Your donation includes trivia, soda, cookies and light snacks. We will have attendance prizes and a silent auction, as well as some other games between rounds. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Alcohol and coolers may NOT be brought into the hall. For ticket or table information, contact Maureen (314-752-6266) or the church office (314-773-0126).

Mark your calendar and plan now to come and join the fun. Who knows – you might just learn something!



# Parish Health

This month I would like to consider the area of family health and specifically focus on Family Communications. All relationships involve conflict and we can focus on God pleasing ways of managing it. The following are ideas for responding to conflict in our family relationships.

## **Conflict Management as God's Children:**

### **Cool down before you start:**

All of us need to manage our anger in ways that respect our Creator, others and ourselves. Share a prayer as you begin discussion (Eph. 4:26).

### **As a family, decide together what the problem is:**

Everyone's perspectives, feelings and hopes deserve to be calmly discussed. Feelings belong to each person and should not be debated. We can try to view the concern from the perspective of each person (Prov. 18:13).

### **Brainstorm possible solutions and agree on an approach:**

There is always more than one way to solve a problem. What a joy to sit together, understand each person's perspective and agree together on a better approach (Ps. 14:14).



### **Revisit later about how the new approach worked:**

May we all experience this gift of reconciliation and be empowered to share it within our families (2 Cor. 5:14-19).

Family life is a blessing from our great God, but at times it can also be very difficult and fragmented. May we all be encouraged with Jesus' words "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has mercy on you". (Mark 5:19)

***If you have any medical questions or problems contact the church office or Maureen Rehmer at 352-6266.***



**Concordia Publishing House** is inviting you to join us for our annual **Operation F.U.N.** event!

**FREE** backpacks filled with school supplies will be distributed to school aged children (while they last). Hot dogs, chips, and drinks will also be served.

#### **DATE & TIME:**

Thursday, August 4, 2016 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

#### **PLACE:**

Concordia Publishing House 3558 South Jefferson Ave. (behind the building)

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Child(ren) must be present in order to receive a backpack.

# Stewardship

“Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift” (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul’s exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church’s response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the Church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God’s mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul’s call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthian’s joy filled Jerusalem’s need.



This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God’s generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord’s. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn’t. Stewardship is easy because it God’s work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous

Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything—life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance—be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It’s a place where God’s mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For we who believe in Christ, it means forgiveness, life, and salvation in the face of sin, death, and the power of the devil. Here in the church we inhale God’s mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor’s need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!







August 8	Brittney Matasouk
August 13	Maureen Rehmer
August 15	Deborah Schmidt
August 16	Ellen Schmaltz
August 19	Carol Otte
August 24	Ruth Evers
August 28	Mark Holdenried

## 2016 Meetings

### Voters

September 18

November 20

December 18

### Executive Council

October 16

December 18



*All ladies of St. Johns come and join  
**WOW** for summer fellowship on  
Monday, August 8 at 6:30pm. We will be  
meeting at Pietros (Watson Rd.). Call  
Ruth Evers at 314-306-5887.*

August 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 7:00pm Elders	<b>2</b> 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study	<b>3</b> 10:00am Confirmation	<b>4</b> 2:00pm Home Bible Study 6:30pm ESOL	<b>5</b> 8:00am Bible Study	<b>6</b> 8:30am Food Pantry
<b>7</b> 9:00am Worship w/ <b>Back Pack Blessing</b> 10:30am Bible Class	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Wow at Pietros	<b>9</b> 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study	<b>10</b> 10:30 Avalon Bible Study 1:00pm Confirmation	<b>11</b> 6:00pm Eagle "Flight Night" 6:30pm ESOL Global Leadership Summit	<b>12</b> Global Leadership Summit	<b>13</b> 8:30am Food Pantry
<b>14</b> 9:00am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Bible Class	<b>15</b> Eagle Prek-KDG classes begin	<b>16</b> 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study	<b>17</b> Eagle All Classes Begin 10:00am Confirmation	<b>18</b> 2:00pm Home Bible Study 6:30pm ESOL	<b>19</b> 8:00am Bible Study	<b>20</b> 8:30am Food Pantry
<b>21</b> 9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Class	<b>22</b> 3:30pm Compass	<b>23</b> 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass	<b>24</b> 10:00am Confirmation 3:30pm Compass	<b>25</b> 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm ESOL	<b>26</b> 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Compass	<b>27</b> 8:30am Food Pantry
<b>28</b> 9:00am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Bible Class	<b>29</b> 3:30pm Compass	<b>30</b> 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass	<b>31</b> 3:30pm Compass			