

Messenger

Saved to Share
Called to Care

From the Desk of Pastor

A Parable of a Lighthouse

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur there was a once a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch

trained. The little life-saving station grew.

Some of the new members of the life-saving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and so poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be



over the sea, and with no thought for themselves, they went out day or night tirelessly searching for the lost.

Many lives were saved by this wonderful little station, so that it became famous. Some of those who were saved, and various others in the surrounding areas, wanted to become associated with the station and give of their time and money and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews were

provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea.

So they replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in an enlarged building. Now the life-saving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they re-decorated it beautifully and furnished it as a sort of club.

Less of the members were now interested in going to sea on

Our Mission

St. Johns Lutheran Church is a diverse family of saved sinners, walking together in forgiveness. Motivated by Christ's love, we will share the Gospel and care for the needs of all people.

Celebrating the Past Sharing the Present Planting the Future

St. Johns Planning Retreat

When: April 29, 2017 8:00am - 6:00pm
Where: Loeber Hall, Concordia Seminary
801 Seminary Place St. Louis, MO 63105
Cost: \$20 per family

Registration forms are in the narthex.
Forms must be returned with payment by
Wednesday, April 19

St. Johns Lutheran Church
3738 Morgan Ford Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63116
314-773-0126
stjohnslcstl@gmail.com
stjohnslutheranstlouis.org

Continued on page 2

life-saving missions, so they hired life boat crews to do this work.

The mission of life-saving was still given lip-service but most were too busy or lacked the necessary commitment to take part in the life-saving activities personally.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boat loads of cold, wet, and half-drowned people.

They were dirty and sick, and some of them had black skin, and some spoke a strange language, and the beautiful new club was considerably messed up. So the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where victims of shipwreck could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's life-saving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal life pattern of the club.

But some members insisted that life-saving was their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the life of all the various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own life-saving station down the coast. They did.

As the years went by, the new

station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. They evolved into a club and yet another life-saving station was founded.

If you visit the seacoast today you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are still frequent in those waters, only now most of the people drown.



Vital Signs

In a changing world, what are the indications of spiritual health?

I remember way back when Cathy and I went to the mission field we were to plant a church with other missionaries. Where do you start? Who do you reach out to first? What resources do we have? Are they available now or later? Where will the church building be built? When all is said and done, when will we be able to say we finished or accomplished our goals? In other words (as a missionary) when can I leave. If I remember

correctly there were 14 criteria that needed to be in place to call mission a church.

I can't remember them all but to give you an example of a few criteria when a congregation could call itself a church in Venezuela.

Attendance 100+

Budget \$50,000+

Building debt - \$50,000

Sunday School 75+

Baptisms 10 a year

Confirmations 10 a year

Full-Time Pastor 1

Leaders 10

We will be taking a look at the vital signs of St. Johns and the community we serve. Are we considered a healthy church? What criteria are we using? Is change inevitable? I hope we can take a look at ourselves in the mirror, check our pulse and see if we are still in line with God's vision. It will take some prayer. It will take some dialogue. So reserve the date April 29th for our planning retreat at Concordia Seminary.

Please feel that every member is welcome.

(If you don't have a ride and can't afford the \$20 let me know! We want everyone to come.



"Most of the significant things done in the world were done by persons who were either too busy or too sick! There are few ideal and leisurely settings for the disciplines of growth."

Stewardship

Easter is a moveable feast. Easter isn't on the same calendar date every year in the way that Christmas is always celebrated on December 25. The date for Easter each year always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the

Spring equinox. And once you find the date of Easter, everything else finds its place—Good Friday and Maundy Thursday, Ash

Wednesday and the Transfiguration, the Ascension of our Lord and Pentecost. All this is a long way of saying that Easter determines everything. Easter defines everything. It orders not only the entire church year, but it orders our very lives. It defines and gives meaning to our lives, as well to the things that happen in them. And since Easter defines everything, that means it changes everything too. It redefines who we are and where we stand with God and with one another. Easter makes all things new.

Without Easter, Jesus would not be raised from the dead.

Without Easter death would still reign, we would still be in our trespasses and sins, and our faith and hope would be in vain. But Jesus is raised

from the dead. Easter changes everything. It makes all things new. Therefore, darkness is overcome with light, wrath with peace, fear with hope, angst with rest, sadness with joy, hatred with love, sin with righteousness, and

death with life.

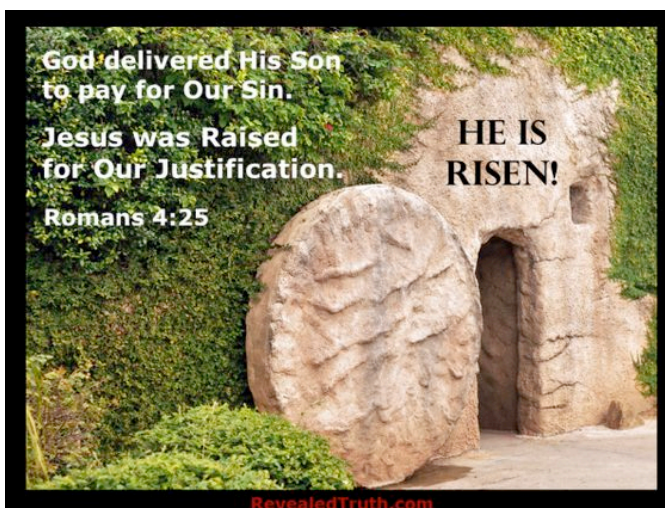
Easter changes everything, redefines everything, determines everything. Easter makes all things new.

Thus, Easter also changes our attitude about giving. For if God

gave us His own Son into death so that we will live, how will He not give us everything else we need? He will, and He does. He provides for us. He even gives us the gifts that we give back to Him for service in the church. Easter demonstrates that we have a God who loves us, a God who provides for us, a God who presses us into His service, a God who has made us new in the death and resurrection of His Son.

For when you give to the church, you pass along those things that God alone has given to you. You pass along the message to others that Easter changes everything and makes all things new, even as it has done this for you. This is not a burden, but pure joy. For God has given you a part in the administration of His kingdom. He provides for the needy through your hands. He ensures that the Gospel is preached and the Sacraments are given out through the work of your hands and in the gifts that you give. And He honors and blesses this work and generosity as it redounds to those around you.

So when you sit down on the first day of the week to make your offering to the place where Easter is proclaimed and where the gifts of Easter are given out, remember: Easter changes everything. It makes all things new. More than that: Easter has changed you and made you new. Because Jesus who was crucified for our transgressions is raised for our justification.



WOW Members

Our regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, April 10, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Don't forget that we will be serving snacks at the Peace Center (4019 S, Grand Blvd. at Liermann) on Tuesday, April 11. Please let Sandy Gerber know if you will be able to participate and if so, what time you can be there (between 4:00 PM and 7:15 PM).

Social Ministry

The mission to which Christ calls the Church clearly includes works of charity. Throughout His public ministry, Jesus demonstrated the degree to which we are to provide service to others. The church is called to direct services, such as providing food, clothing and shelter. The letter of James reminds us Christians that faith without works is dead. (James 2:14-17) "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed", but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

Our food pantry keeps going because of all of your faith and deeds. Thanks to everyone for helping to serve the community, with providing clothes and monetary contributions.

Email by Stephanie G

"Pastor Tanney and staff,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you and your volunteers and staff. My mother-in-law, Victoria, was able to serve on several Saturdays in the food pantry over the past couple months. She missed a couple days due to doctor's appointments, but did what she was able. I know it isn't easy to invite an outsider into your ministry and for that, I am truly grateful.

Everyone there was welcoming, helpful and seemed to have a servant's heart for the work being done. Victoria was impressed because where she is from in Nigeria, the resources don't exist for local churches to meet the needs of the community in such a way. I think it was a blessing for her to see how Christians serve here and to be a part of it - if even for a short time. Victoria has gone back to Nigeria and we expect her to be back late summer/early fall.

I expect that you will be seeing her again when she returns. Please share this with your pantry volunteers. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!"

Evangelism

Spring has sprung! At least for this day in March 2017. This year's weather has been an adventure; spring-like temperatures one day and snow the next. Many people say Mother Nature is fickle indeed.

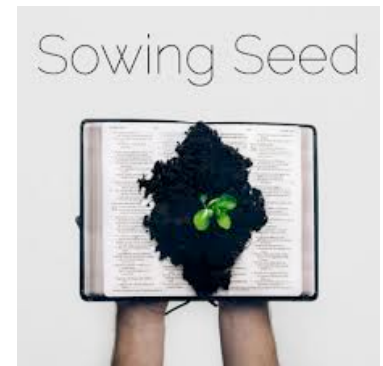
As Christians, we know that Mother Nature does not control the weather, God does. Nevertheless, spring is coming and with it, new growth will be everywhere. Spring is my favorite time of the year! Tree leaves are a shade of green they never are again until the next spring. Plant bulbs that are the first to appear start sprouting, reminding

you again, of how beautiful the plants are going to be. So how does all of this new growth in nature relate to us as Christians? When you get out your garden gloves, wheelbarrows and other tools for spring planting, you

should also get out your bible and get prepared to plant the seeds of evangelism. You are surrounded by fertile ground, just ripe for the planting of the seeds of evangelism.

Friendship Sunday is coming and you can invite someone to our church. Spring Sundays can be beautiful for walks and what a beautiful way to get to church! So as you enjoy

the coming of spring, stop and think about how wonderful the coming of Jesus is and how you can share that good news with someone else!



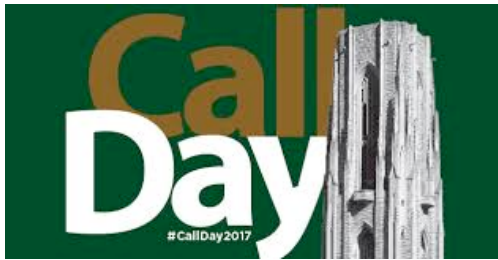
CALL DAY 2017 Concordia Seminary

Wednesday, April 26

7:00pm - Pastoral Calls

If you can't be there watch it online at
callday.csl.edu

Pray for our Field Workers Joel Heckmann,
Joe Beran & Matthew Lytikainen as they
receive their Pastoral Calls



Jesus - Our Forever Friend

Friendship Sunday

April 2, 2017

9:00am

***Continental Breakfast following
Worship***

Please join us!



BURNING BUSH MINISTRIES
AND
CONGREGATION CHAI V'SHALOM
invite you to our annual
PASSOVER SEDER



Please join Apple of His Eye Congregation Chai v'Shalom
for their annual Passover Seder celebrating our freedom
from slavery to sin through the shed blood of our Passover
Lamb, Jesus, and His resurrection!

April 9, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

at St. Lucas Lutheran Church, 7100 Morganford Rd., St.
Louis, MO 63116.

Reservations suggested.

Call 314-645-4456 or go online to ChaiVShalom.com.

PLEASE NOTE:

An inventory of items in our Fellowship Hall kitchen and
the (former) Women's Guild closet is currently underway.

If there are items that you and/or members of your
organization use regularly, please give a written list of those
items to Terry Hartz. We are hoping that at some point
in the future we will be able to clear out unused items to
open up storage space.

Concordia Seminary Hosts

Christian Friends of New Americans

Third Annual CFNA Benefit

5K Run / Fun Walk



Saturday, May 6, Registration 9:00-Start 10:00 am

801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105 **RAIN OR SHINE!**

Join the fun! Run, walk and/or Sponsor the
event. Participate in befriending, mentoring and
sharing Christ's love with New Americans.

Register and/or order a tee shirt to remember the
event @ cfna-stl.org/walk,
call (314) 517-8513 for details.

Our Vision

St. Johns, partnering with Open Sky
Education will do Christ-centered
community outreach that engages our
community with worship



4/2 Cameron Hampel
4/2 Ruth Trauth
4/3 Craig Goebel
4/9 Karl Frerichs
4/14 Cindy Geiger
4/20 Tyler Bohannon
4/25 Joan Potvin
4/25 Dennis Solomon

Dennis Solomon
 100 Woodland Ct. Rm203
 Arnold, MO 63010

Meetings 2017

Voters

May 21
 October 15
 December 3

Executive Council

April 2
 September 17
 November 19

Budget Meeting
Tuesday, April 25
7:00pm

Easter Lilies



If you would like to order Easter Lilies please contact the church office or Ruth Evers 314-306-5887.

They are \$10 each.

April 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Friendship Sunday Set Up 8:00am Social Ministry 8:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Confirmation
2 Frienship Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Continental Breakfast 11:00am Executive Council	3 9-1pm Eagle OT in Fellowship Hall 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Elders	4 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass	5 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Lenten Service 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Lenten Service with Vietnamese 7:00pm ESOL 7:00pm Choir	6 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	7 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Compass Ushers BBQ Set Up	8 8:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Confirmation 11-4pm Ushers BBQ
9 Palm Sunday 9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Class	10 9-1pm Eagle OT in Fellowship Hall 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm WOW	11 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass	12 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:30am Avalon Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm ESOL 6:30pm Choir	13 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	14 8:00am Bible Study 12:00-3:00pm TreOre Service at Trinity Soulard 6:00pm Good Friday Service	15 8:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Confirmation
16 Easter Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Class	17 9-1pm Eagle OT in Fellowship Hall 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Evangelism	18 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass	19 10:00am Confirmation 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm ESOL 6:30pm Choir	20 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	21 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Compass Pastor out of Town	22 8:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Confirmation Pastor Out of Town
23 9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Class Pastor Out of Town	24 9-1pm Eagle OT in Fellowship Hall 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Ushers	25 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Budget Meeting	26 10:00am Confirmation 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm ESOL 6:30pm Choir	27 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	28 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Compass	29 Food Pantry Closed 8:00am- 5:00pm Planning Retreat at Concordia Seminary
30 9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Class						