

# Messenger

## *From the Desk of Pastor*

### God's Hand Weaves a Tapestry

Some of you have already heard my presentation at a Serve Boldly event held by the Send-Me Lutheran Foundation. Myself and four other presenters shared what the Lord has been doing in our respective churches and organizations. My presentation was titled, Weaving a Tapestry.



Here was some of the points of the presentation.

- Our tapestry at St. Johns Lutheran Church was well known, well loved and easy to picture and well define.
- Our tapestry began to unravel, our school could no longer be sustained by the church, attendance dropped substantially, a pastor retired, what worked before didn't give back the same results.
- New material and resources were interwoven in the tapestry, a charter school takes over, a new pastor is called, different congregations worshipping here, Christmas programs by children not from our Lutheran school or Sunday School.
- Navigating what the Lord is doing to/for our church is sometimes hard to discern and uncomfortable.

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Saved to Share  
Called to Care



Sunday, June 4  
Carondelet Park Pavilion 1A

10:00am Worship

Recognizing our graduates:

Donald Meyer

Jonah Drush

Confirmation of Kayla Hennkens

Food and Fellowship to follow!

Compass Preschool Graduation

Map on page 6

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)

- So what to do? Create relationships with the people of different races, languages and cultures, and from different backgrounds. The strings that are tied to the frame (the church) are pushed and pulled upon to allow new yarn to be part of the church.
- How? Well...welcome Eagle students to school every morning, sing, teach and pray with Compass students after school, coach sports, help with homework, have weekly preschool chapels with preschool children, create scholarships and host a fun night for the



families of Eagle. One example of a relationship formed: A Vietnamese shared Lenten service, with ESL



class teachers from outside our church, Vietnamese teachers, invite ESL students to Lenten service, use Vietnamese English speaker to teach, visit homes of ESL students and bring translator who now wants to



take instruction classes. All I/we can do is be faithful to the hand that weaves, I admit it is beyond my imagining what the tapestry will look like and at the same time I encourage the congregation to serve boldly amidst a changing community.

I ended the presentation with this verse, it will sound familiar as I changed the wording for the presentation: ***"For I know the tapestry I am creating for you," declares the Lord, "By my hand to prosper you and not to harm you, a weaving to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)***



***"Well, at least they're honest about it."***



## Stewardship

One of the best known and beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the Shepherd Psalm. There we learn that the Lord is our shepherd. And since He is our shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord's sheep.

How do we do this? We do it when we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving the gifts that He won for us on the cross, a violation of the First and Third Commandments. We do it when we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we think we don't know what the future will bring, even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters. We do it when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help

themselves, we do this because we have a mind set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We do this because we have stopped hearing the call of our shepherd, which comes through His Word.

The Word of God is how our shepherd calls us to himself. Through that Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through that Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead you to your true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

even, and especially, for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the shepherd that lays down his life for His sheep. The Lord is your shepherd. Let us live then as His sheep.



And so, here's the good news:  
 The Lord is your shepherd still,

Article from The Lutheran Church—  
 Missouri Synod

## Social Ministry

Farmers continue to plant, cultivate and harvest the fruits of the earth. Farmers know that they are not the ones who cause the plants to grow and produce food. Most of them know it is God who gives us our food "in due season" (Psalm 104:27). He is the One who showers us with all the blessings we enjoy, so many of which we take for granted. Above all, we are blessed to know by faith in Christ that we are God's dearly loved and forgiven children, who will spend eternity with him.

Thanks to everyone who brought groceries for the Mother's Day food drive.

We are currently serving all zip codes for a trial of three months.

Summer clothes are needed, especially men's shorts, knit shirts and jeans.

Because of the generosity of our members, other churches and various other organizations we have extra funds. Therefore, we will be looking into purchasing additional meat, dairy products etc. with these funds.



All ladies of St. Johns come and join **WOW** for summer fellowship on Monday, June 12 at 6:30pm. We will be meeting at Pietros (3801 Watson). Call Ruth if you would like to attend. 314-306-5887.

## Evangelism

[Genesis 1:1](#) In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.



*Whether one is watching a thrilling thunderstorm or looking up at a mighty tree, the experience of nature is one of awe. One cannot help but marvel at the intricate design of a single leaf, or the roar of a great waterfall. Time spent in nature is time spent realizing that you don't know it all and that you never will. The earth is meant to be enjoyed by its inhabitants. That includes keeping it in the pristine condition in which it was discovered. Everyone has a part of the earth that they relate to the most. Whether it is a majestic mountain range, a roaring waterfall, a bouquet of flowers, or the calm of the woods, these are places to get to know oneself and build bonds with family.*

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poems/nature/>

Come and join us celebrating God's creation, God's love and God's word, Sunday, June 4th at 10:00 AM in Carondelet Park.



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

**Bobbie Kepford**  
**Avalon Gardens**  
**4359 Taft Ave.**  
**St. Louis, MO**

**June 6** Diane Schwab  
**June 7** Cathy Tanney  
**June 10** Bobbie Kepford  
**June 14** Lindsey Jackson  
 Sharon Sieber  
**June 25** Stephanie Franklin  
 Sandra Gerber

## Meetings 2017

### Voters

October 15  
 December 3

### Executive Council

September 17  
 November 19

### 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.

June 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 2:00pm Home Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>2</b> 8:00am Bible Study	<b>3</b> 8:30am Food Pantry
<b>4</b> 10:00am Worship and Picnic at Carondelet Park Confirmation Recognition of Graduates	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Elders	<b>6</b> 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 7:00pm Adult Info Class	<b>7</b> 6:30pm ESOL	<b>8</b> 2:00pm Home Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>9</b> 8:00am Bible Study	<b>10</b> 8:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Confirmation
<b>11</b> 9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30 am Bible Class	<b>12</b> 6:30pm WOW Pietros	<b>13</b> 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 7:00pm Adult Info Class	<b>14</b> 10:30am Avalon Bible Study 6:30pm ESOL	<b>15</b> 2:00pm Home Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>16</b> 8:00am Bible Study	<b>17</b> 8:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Confirmation
<b>18 Father's Day</b> 9:00am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 7:00pm Adult Info Class	<b>21</b> 6:30pm ESOL	<b>22</b> 2:00pm Home Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>23</b> 8:00am Bible Study	<b>24</b> 8:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Confirmation
<b>25</b> 9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30 am Bible Class	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 7:00pm Adult Info Class	<b>28</b> 6:30pm ESOL	<b>29</b> 2:00pm Home Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>30</b> 8:00am Bible Study	



