

# GOOD NEWS FROM ST JOHN

November  
2013

NEWS FOR ALL

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 am

Sunday School  
9:15am—10:00am  
(during the school year)

Holy Communion  
1st & 4th Sunday

## PASTOR

Gail Sowell  
Office Hours: 9am-1pm  
Tuesday-Friday  
(*And by appointment*)

## SECRETARY'S HOURS

Monday-Friday  
9:00-1:00

## ADDRESS

W1000 Hwy N  
Edgar, WI 54426

## PHONE/EMAIL

715-352-2524

## EMERGENCY PHONE

1-(715)-680-0336  
Emergencies ONLY please  
stjohnelca@gmail.com

## WEBSITE

[www.stjohnelcaedgar.org](http://www.stjohnelcaedgar.org)

Items for print MUST be submitted by the 20th of the preceding month.



## A Week in the Life of Pastor Gail!

**Monday:** No chance to sleep in; 9:00 appointment in Wausau; visit to Eye Center to check glasses; took Mutti (mother) to lunch, then Shopko, Kohl's, Aldi, Pick 'N Save. Home in time to feed dogs at 4:30, then walk through cemetery. Then Monday Night Football!

**Tuesday:** 9:00 coffee break with Rose to catch up on week-end. Paperwork: filed papers from week-end, wrote personal notes to 6 people; talked to 4 people who dropped in at office; 1 long phone call; began planning for worship in November. Went home to feed dogs. Phone interview with organ transplant coordinator in Madison to be pre-screened to see if I could donate a kidney to an acquaintance in Green Bay; I passed the interview and will have blood work done to see if we're a match.

**Wednesday:** didn't make it to Text Study. Took communion to 4 members and visited 1 family member in Marshfield (1 of them I've visited almost every week for over 3 years). Home to let the dogs out, then to office, more work on November worship. Surprise visit from 2 members of my Green Bay congregation. Home to feed and walk dogs, quick supper, then Confirmation class for next month's confirmands.



**Thursday:** quick check-in with Rose, then off to Schofield for a visit with communion. Picked up Lillian, and we had a lovely communion visit with Leonard, then out to lunch. Back to Edgar for my regular Thursday visits (communion for first 2). Rose let the dogs out before she left, so I didn't get home till 4:00. Checked in at office; fed and walked the dogs; Thursday Night Football!

**Mission Statement:** *Getting to know Jesus and making Him known through our Worship and Serving.*

## *Pastor's Ponderings Continued . . .*



**Friday:** weekly "D-Day" with Rose (postponed from Thursday). Devotions and prayer, then strawberry pie delivered by our faithful "pie-man." Drop-in visits by 4 people. Paperwork and phone calls. 7 p.m. wedding rehearsal in Chippewa Falls; I left at 5:00, hoping to arrive in daylight so I could find the hall. Home before 9:30.

**Saturday:** Rewrote part of wedding sermon; found bat in Sunday School wing and covered it with a box. Left at noon for wedding; home by 5:00.

**Sunday:** Woke up at 3 a.m. and am writing this at 4 a.m. Worship at 9:00, with Barbara Solsaa from LSS as guest preacher. (This meant I didn't have to write a sermon last week.) I'll take her to breakfast after worship. After Worship I took "Home Communion" to a member in need.

Then 3 football games; **Go Pack!**



## **St. John ELCA Family News!**



*Bill Storm and his wife Charmaine blessed us with special music during Worship on October 13, the day of our Pancake Brunch. One of the Highlights was when Bill sang "Vater Unser" (Our Father) for us in German.*

A small group of the joyful workers at the brunch stood still (almost) long enough to be caught on film. They were the ones responsible for slicing cheese, Cutting bars, etc. and making sure the tables were well supplied. Thanks to these and ALL who worked so diligently to make this a successful event.

Pictured at right (L-R) are: Louann Miles, Jayne Tackes, Susan Robers, Bonnie Bargender, Arline Koehler, Cheryl Leffel, Enola Willhite, and Pat Kramas.

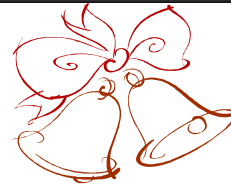
The congregation of St. John ELCA served up a wonderfully delicious ALL YOU CAN EAT Potato/ Buttermilk **Pancake Brunch** on October 13. They served from 8am-12:30pm. A total of 315 people were served. There was a **Gift Basket Raffle** held at the same time which added \$687 to the proceeds for the event. A list of donors and the recipients of the baskets appears later in this newsletter.

Thanks to all who **contributed** raffle items, and **congratulations** to those who won them! ENJOY!!



10/13/2013

## More Family News!



**Two weddings** touched the life of our congregation in October! Congratulations and God's blessings to:

Mitchell (Colleen Dvorak's son) & Cassie (Lehman) BAESEMAN who exchanged wedding vows on October 12th at St. John ELCA.

AND Trisha (Borchardt) Sheryl Mueller's daughter & Josh HEIDTKE who had their wedding in Chippewa Falls. Pastor Gail went to perform their ceremony on October 19th.

**Barbara Solsaa**, Director of Church & Community Relationships for *Lutheran Social Services*, was a guest speaker for us on Sunday, Oct. 20th for Worship.

**The Quarterly Meeting and Election of officers and other lay leaders for 2014** took place on Sunday, October 20th, right after Worship. Results were as follows:

Council President: Steve Robers	Auditing Committee: Naomi Sebold
Treasurer: Bev Umnus	Troy Wiesman
Deacon: Linda Kovalik	Leon Werner
Trustee: Cal Tackes	
	Finance Committee: Marion Werner
	Morgan Mueller
Cemetery Board: Gerald Borchardt	Rick Mueller

The proposal to increase Pastor's salary by \$660.00 a year (2% increase in cash) was approved by a vote of: 47-YES 6-NO.



### MILESTONES!

**Congratulations & God's Blessing!**



**Johnathon Nowaki** (grandson of Pat & Tom Kramas) celebrated his *First Communion* on Sunday, Oct. 27th.

**Sam Bauman, Brianna Hoppenworth, and Cole Leterski** affirmed their Baptismal vows at their *Confirmation* on Nov. 3rd.

**All Saints Sunday** was the same day as Confirmation this year, so we spent special time during the service honoring our loved ones who have died. We also enjoyed a special coffee hour after the service.



Sam Randy Olmsted was baptized after the worship service on October 27th. Sam's parents are Nathan & Jennifer Olmsted. Sponsors were Matthew & Rebecca Totzke. Congratulations and God's blessings to all!

### HAPPY HOUR!

The jolly-good **Happy Hour bunch** resumed their monthly get-togethers on October 16th at 10am, at St. John. They started their time with

light-hearted videos, enjoyed a **HILARIOUS story** that was a vivid re-enactment of giving a cat a pill! and finished up with one of their signature **potlucks**. YOU can get in on the fun next time which will be **Thursday, November 21, at 10am**.



## 2013 Fall Raffle Pancake Breakfast



<b>Basket:</b>	<b>Donated By:</b>	<b>Won By:</b>
1 Cleaning Supplies	Bonnie and Mark Bargender	Elaine Mueller
2 Rugs and Clothes Basket	Barb and Gary Christiansen	John Totzke
2 Tool Kit	Ellie and Bryon Doll	
3 Decorative Lantern	John Totzke	Blake Bargender
4 Doll Bed	Peggy and Gary Weiland	Peggy Weiland
4 Doll and Clothes	Bonnie and Mark Bargender	
5 Little Boys Basket	Sharon and Curly Schumacker	Pastor Gail Sowell
6 Mens Basket	Sharon and Curly Schumacker	Shannon Treankler
7 Boys Basket	Brooke and Ryan Bargender	Paxton Mueller
8 Bath and Body Basket	Sara and Joe Riehle	Mary Jo Werner
9 Fall Lottery Ticket Basket	Cathy and Steve Mueller	Pastor Gail Sowell
10 Pink Baby Blanket	Elaine and Allen Mueller	Naomi Sebold
11 Blue Baby Blanket	Elaine and Allen Mueller	Sylvia Fergot
12 Dog Bed and Treats	Pastor Gail Sowell	Bonnie Bargender
13 Olive Garden \$50 Gift Card	Susan and Steve Robers	Naomi Sebold
14 Ribbon Necklaces	Ann and Bill Bonsall	Louann Miles
		Mary Jo Werner
		Barb Borchardt
15 Kitchen Supplies	Women of ELCA	Ann Bonsall
16 Baking Basket	Women of ELCA	Naomi Sebold
17 Fresh Bathroom Basket	Cindy and Dean Manecke	Shirley Rosien
18 Twin Sheet, Pillowcases, Quilt	Judy Totzke	Ellie Doll
19 Gods Country T-shirt and Hat	Marianne and Rick Mueller	Mary Jo Werner
20 Baby Basket	Barb and Gerald Borchardt	Jayne Tackes
21 Crock Pot and Harvest Soup	Shirley and Dan Rosien	Bev Umnus
Cash Donation	Lillian and Lenard Bauman	

Thought you might be interested to know the details of the Gift Basket Raffle. Thanks to **Susan Robers** and **Sara Riehle** for putting this together for us! MANY THANKS also to those who contributed to making up this wonderful variety of baskets.

**CONGRATULATIONS to you lucky winners!!**

## From the Church Mouse



**I'm so upset**, I can't even spell! We mice are pretty independent. We don't usually rely too much on people. But I guess I expected more from Pastor Gail [maybe I should call her Passsttorr Gaillll] than this.

Here's what happened. Last month she completely ignored me! She used to talk to me sometimes when we were the only ones in the church at night. But the last 2 weeks she was talking to someone else and I actually heard her call it "the church bat". I guess I'm just plain jealous.



You see, there was a bat downstairs in the sump pump room. She heard it chittering and chattering when she was checking on the sump pump after the pancake breakfast. By the way, thank you all for the many goodies you left after the breakfast!

She even took Rose downstairs the next day to be sure it was still alive, but they couldn't find it. Then after confirmation class on Wednesday she saw it in the hallway. It was still there on Saturday and she asked Linda to help her catch it. She said she was afraid it would get burned up, since it was stuck under the heating vent. Well, Linda swept it out with a broom, and Pastor Gail put a box over it. She even apologized to it because she put the box on its neck!

So you tell me. Has the honored position of Church Mouse been removed and taken over by the Church Bat??? If you still want me around, the rest of you, please leave me some crumbs on Sundays!

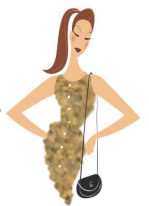
## WOMEN OF ELCA NEWS

The next **General Meeting** of St. John's Women of the ELCA will be **Tuesday November 5th** at 2:15pm after **Quilting & Bible Study**.

### WELCA Upcoming Events for 2013

July 2014	Triennial Convention—Charlotte NC
September	Fall Leadership Training
October	Fall Retreat
December 15	Cookie Walk

We will enjoy a **special speaker** at the General Meeting this month as **Louann Miles** shares with us about the Chequamegon Women of the ELCA who had their Fall conference at Trinity Lutheran Church in Loyal, WI this year. The featured speaker was **Mary Pierce** who is a humorist and author of "**When Did I Stop Being Barbie & Become Mrs. Potato Head?**"



**ALSO** at the General Meeting, the **2014 YEARBOOK** of the St. John Women of the ELCA will be discussed and **revisions** will be made as deemed necessary. If any of your **contact information** has changed in the past year, PLEASE get the changes to Bev Umnus ASAP, **before** the meeting would be WONDERFUL! **Hope to see you Tuesday, Nov. 5.**

**Come, Join us!**



Do you look forward to the *Splashes of JAVA Joy* in your coffee cup on Sunday mornings during Coffee Hour? Let's express our appreciation by remembering to make a "splash of ca\$h" in the coffee hour **offering basket!**



## Reflections from Secretary Rose...

**Whew!** I get tired just READING Pastor Gail's weekly journal of her daily activities...there are weeks that I think she sees that rascally CHURCH MOUSE more than I see her. Thankfully, I KNOW she's seen that BAT more than I have. **I'M** not at ALL jealous over their relationship!

I've had some pretty busy weeks too. Things are never boring here at St. John! Many life celebrations, special events, services, and observances. All good vital signs for LIFE!

Have you ever noticed that God blesses us in surprising ways, and some surprising places, sometimes when you least expect it?

Since I have been the church Secretary at St. John, it has been my wonderful opportunity to attend SOUL SUPPORT which is an ELCA sponsored conference for Church Secretaries. It has been a very helpful, refreshing, resource for me. Especially since I came to you from a NURSING background, not an experienced OFFICE professional.

This year, because I had been away from the office a bit more than usual, and because the main topic of focus at SOUL SUPPPORT didn't seem as vital for my service here, I chose to attend a 1-day seminar in Wausau. It was a FRED PRYOR , Career Track, SEMINAR. The topic was **"Managing Multiple Priorities"**. How PERFECT is **that** for the Secretary here at St. John?!

Some of the specific skills that were covered were: *Techniques for Prioritizing, Developing Efficiency and Organization Skills, Streamlining and Organizing Paperwork and Achieving Results through Effective Communication*, to name just a few. Needless to say, I was **encouraged** and **better equipped** for my role at St. John! I'm so thankful for the opportunity to attend.

I also got CEU's and a certificate! I haven't gotten those things in awhile. I used to have to be **very** aware of acquiring a needed number of CEU's, these I got without any pain, or needing to even think about it. How cool is that?!

That same week, on Friday after work, I attended the WOMEN OF FAITH conference in Minneapolis. That was another HUGE blessing! But that's another story...May you be blessed by God in surprising ways and places this month!



### Coming soon in the life of St. John. . .



**The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service**, will be at Holy Family Catholic Church in Poniatowski at 7:00pm on Wednesday, November 27th. This year St. John the Baptist (Catholic) St. Stephen Lutheran (ELCA), Hope Lutheran (LCMC), and St. John Lutheran (ELCA) will be participating together. What a blessing!  
**Save the date and plan to join us!**

**Sunday School Christmas program practices** will be starting Nov. 17th and continue each week during Sunday School until after the program **presentation on December 15th**. The practices on December 1st, and December 8th are scheduled to go a little longer than the rest. They will go until about 11:00am. Then there will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Dec. 22 & Dec. 29th. Classes will resume on January 5th.



**The annual Cookie Walk will take place on December 15th after the Christmas Program as usual!** Time to start digging out those favorite tried & true Christmas Cookie recipes!



## Remember to SAVE THE DATE!



**December 8, 2013.** This is the day St. John congregation will celebrate **Christmas** with a **brunch potluck** after the service, than bring the **Good News** through **music** (led by choir members) and **fellowship** to the shut-ins and elderly of our congregation,

**AND OTHERS AS MAY BE REQUESTED!** Carolers will divide into two groups and carpool. They will leave the church parking lot at approximately 12 noon. More details will follow, but **PLEASE** plan to join us and make sure to bring the children...**ALL** voices are needed, and no experience is required!

## Other Area Events



**November Steak Feed**—Sponsored by Stratford VFW, **November 5, 2013** at the Stratford VFW Club-house from 4:30-8:30pm. Proceeds go to support Community Activities. Ground sirloin and French fries have been added to the menu!

**BOOK SALE**—Marathon County Public Library, 300 N First St. Wausau, Wisconsin, Third Floor. **Friday, Nov. 8th & Saturday Nov. 9th** 9:30am—4:30pm, **Sunday Nov. 10th**, 1-4pm  
SPECIAL BAG SALE \$6 per bag (bags provided).



**A pasta dinner** will be held on **Saturday, November 16**, from 4:30-7:30pm, at Hope Lutheran Church, F4356 Hwy 97, Edgar, WI. (*That's 2-1/2 miles south of Hwy 29*). Serving Spaghetti and Chicken Maniotti.

A free will offering will be taken. Contact Rosemary Bauman at [rustyroseydairy@gmail.com](mailto:rustyroseydairy@gmail.com) for more information.



**BOWL- A - RAMA!** The West Marathon County Thrivent Chapter will sponsor a Bowl-A-Rama for area youth and adults at Edgar Lanes, on Sunday, November 17th. Bowling will begin at 12:00, with a second shift added at 3pm if needed.

**Cost:** \$5 per person, which includes: \*3 games of Moonlight bowling (including shoes & use of house balls) \*A pizza lunch, \*Many prizes, including soda, chips, & candy bars, \*Awards for bowlers in different divisions. To register a form needs to be completed and a check sent in by November 9th to: Fay Niemann, W416 County Road P, Edgar, WI 54426

**Central Chamber Chorale**—Sacred Music Through the Ages, FREE ADMISSION, Christ Lutheran Church, 1208 W. 14th St., **Sunday, November 17th, at 3pm.**

**2013 Christmas Bazaar Fish & Shrimp Fry**—St. John's Catholic Church, Edgar, Friday, Nov. 22 4pm—7:30pm. Raffle drawing at 7:30pm. Winner need not be present to win. Includes Book Fair, Bake Sale, and Children ONLY Shop.

**Holiday EXTRAVAGANZA Vendor/ Craft Sale**—St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Nov. 23rd, 9am-5pm. Chili or Chicken Soup Lunch 11-1pm \$3.50

**Community Craft Sale**—Trinity Lutheran Church and School, 301 Elm Street Athens, Saturday, Nov. 23rd, 9am—2pm. Food & refreshments available. Proceeds will go to Athens Area Circle of Joy.

## **GOOD NEWS**

St. John Lutheran Church ELCA  
W1000 Hwy N  
Edgar, WI 54426

We're on the Web  
[www.stjohnelcaedgar.org](http://www.stjohnelcaedgar.org)



# November 2013



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REMINDER: November calendars were placed in your mailboxes separately LAST week!

Please remember to check your bulletin for updates. If you would like to have us e-mail the Newsletter to you, please let us know.



*Deadline for  
December Newsletter  
is November 24th.*