

GOOD NEWS FROM ST JOHN

October
2017

NEWS FOR ALL

Pastor's Ponderings



SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00am

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

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

500 years is a pretty long time! That's at least 25 generations, and in those 5 centuries a *lot* of changes have taken place. New "technology" during Martin Luther's lifetime included the printing press, which had just been developed by Johannes Gutenberg. This allowed Luther's writings (beginning with the *95 Theses*), to be distributed to an audience that was just learning to read.

How much more has more recent technology changed lives! Many of our oldest members were born at a time when outhouses were common, when homes were without running water, and telephones—if they had them—were all "manned" by one operator, who had to connect each call individually, and each call could be listened to by everyone else on the "party line."

Today "party line" means something very different. Our country is being torn apart by "party lines." Ideas of what's right vs. what's wrong, what's good vs. what's bad (or worse, *evil*), what's safe vs. what's dangerous—these ways of thinking are in themselves, I believe, wrong and bad and dangerous.

As Christians we're called to a way of thinking that's opposed to national politics. Our allegiance, through our baptism into Christ, is to our triune God: Father (Creator), Son (Savior), and Holy Spirit (the one who leads and directs us as children of the heavenly Father). The New Testament reading for October 1 is from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi, written around 60 CE (common era) while Paul was in prison in Rome. The appointed verses include what's known as the *Christ Hymn*, believed to be one of the oldest professions of faith in Christianity: ***Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, (continued...)***

Mission Statement: "Saints united to be the body of Christ in the world, freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully."

Pastor's Ponderings

Cont.

but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God highly exalted him and gave him the name [Lord] that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:5-11).

WWJD? *What would Jesus do?* When anyone tells you you “have to” do or say or believe something in order to be a good citizen of this “one nation under God,” stop and think. In what way is that “have-to” consistent with what we pray for in the Lord’s Prayer: ***Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*** May God have mercy on us all.

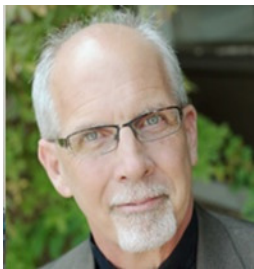
—Pastor Gail

St. John Family News **9am Worship returns on October 1st ! St. Stephen at 10:30.**



It was shared JOY as several members of St. John went to join in the 125th Anniversary Celebration of St. Stephen. There was a special Worship Service, followed by a delicious Chicken Dinner, and music at Oak Street Park by “Faith, Hope, and Harmony”. *Kudos to the 125th Anniversary Committee!*

St. John sent our celebratory greetings along with 2 Mums in honor of this celebration of God’s providence and blessing in and through the heritage of St. Stephen Lutheran Church.



St. John/St. Stephen Lutheran Parish ELCA was blessed to have Bishop Rick Hoyme from the Northwest Synod of the ELCA with us for a special time of joint worship on Sunday, September 17th. He came in celebration of our new, yoked relationship as sister congregations. He spoke in the sermon about forgiveness, and how the kingdom of God “breaks in “ whenever forgiveness is extended. Worship was followed by a potluck. *Many thanks to*

Bishop Rick Hoyme *St. Stephen for hosting that special gathering!*



We welcomed back our Sunday School students and teachers with “Rally Sundae” on Sunday, September 24th. There was a special dramatic presentation of the entire book of JONAH for the scripture reading. Many thanks to the Sunday School and Confirmation students & teachers for their help!

Thanks to the Youth group for the Ice cream Sundaes after the service!



Women of the ELCA

Next Bible Study—Tuesday, October 11, at 1pm. (at St. Stephen).

Next General meeting—Wednesday, November 1, at 6:30pm.

Funeral Group 2 will be next to serve.

At the **General Meeting** on September 6 at 6:30pm, there was a review of the changes to the *Bylaws* and *Constitution* for the St. John Women of the ELCA. All changes were APPROVED. A copy is posted on the Women's bulletin board.

The Pancake Brunch was discussed. The Women decided to create a basket for the RAFFLE with the theme "Pamper Yourself", they will also be baking pies to sell.

September 20th was set as the date for packing the *kits for Lutheran World Relief*.

A special request was made for Pastor Gail to make a presentation on one of her trips at the *Spring Rally in April of 2018* which St. John ELCA, Edgar will be hosting.

Bev will be beginning work on the 2018 W/ELCA Yearbook soon. ***Any changes in phone numbers should be submitted to Bev as soon as possible.***

Six women were in attendance at this meeting. More women are warmly invited and encouraged to join us!

Upcoming women's events:

Fall Retreat at *Faith Lutheran Church*, Marshfield on Saturday, October 28th. Theme: "Life in the Spirit". Join your sisters in Christ to see what God is doing IN and THROUGH them in their areas of ministry, and be encouraged!

Cookie Walk 2017 will be on Sunday, December 17th. This will be the same Sunday as the Christmas program as is customary.

Many thanks to all who have donated items for the Lutheran World Relief Kits! Bev will be taking all the kits to the Ingathering in Wausau on Saturday, Oct. 7th. From there they get shipped all over the world to wherever the kits are needed most.

Quilting has resumed!



Join us 9:30am Tuesday mornings. The Quilters have completed 2 quilts that will be put in the RAFFLE at the Pancake Brunch. One is purple and measures 65" x 93", (*Arline Koehler did the patchwork on this one*) the other quilt is pink and measures 59" x 76". Let's STUFF those cans with tickets.

Good Luck to one and ALL! *Many thanks to the ladies for their labor of love.*

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Ads continue to run, and we've contacted the Wausau Conservatory of Music to try and find a Worship Accompanist to take over for Louann.

No calls have been received in response yet. *Prayers appreciated!*



Help Wanted:

Additional members for Altar Guild. Interested?
Contact Judy Totzke or Bev Umnus.



coming SOON! Sunday, Oct. 8, 8am—12:30pm, St. John ELCA

All you can eat Potato and Buttermilk Pancake Brunch !

As always it will feature all-you-can-eat Potato & Buttermilk pancakes, served with REAL Maple Syrup, Sausage, Cheese, Applesauce, Bars, Coffee and Milk.

There will be **homemade pies** available for purchase and a **Basket Raffle** which offers a wide variety of creative collections. Also up for raffle are two beautifully **hand-made quilts**.

Brunch Tickets Adults—\$7.00 (\$8 at the door) Children—(6 - 12 yrs) \$4.00 5 yrs. & under FREE!

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Basket Raffle Tickets \$1 each \$6 for 7 \$10 for 15 \$20 for 35

ALL tickets are available in advance. This is a THRIVENT Action Team Project
For Ticket information Call: 715-352-2524

Sign up sheets are posted...there's still a need for bars, cheese, eggs etc. See where you can help out! Also need workers to sign their names on the sheet so we know who we can count on to be there...Many hands make **light** work!

Have you seen our display ads in The Shopper, Salesman Sam, and the Record Review?

The paid publicity is courtesy of Pastor Gail, fliers are also available on the table in the Narthex for you to post/hand out. **Much appreciation** to those who have already been working to get the word out!

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LOOKING Ahead . . . Quarterly Meeting coming up on Oct. 15th



Confirmation Sunday is October 22, Nathan Drabek will be confirmed at St. John.

Reformation Sunday is October 29th. It's the 500th Anniversary!

All Saints Sunday is November 5th. Memorial names should be submitted to Rose by Oct. 30th.

The Thanksgiving Eve Service will be at St. John this year on Wednesday, November 22 at 7pm.

There will be fellowship around pie after worship!

Sunday School Christmas Program & Cookie Walk will be Sunday December 17th at St. John.

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The **Wednesday evening Bible Study** held at St. Stephen every OTHER week, continues to meet at 6pm. Bring your questions and join in the lively discussion! ALL are welcome.

Thursday evening Worship at St. Stephen continues to meet each week at 6pm. This service is a time to worship as well as reflect on the upcoming Sunday's Scriptures. We'll continue to meet as long as attendance is 8 or more.

***** Election of Officers** will take place at the Quarterly Meeting. Available positions: *Deacon*-3 yr. term, *Trustee*-3 yr. term, *Finance Committee (3)* - 2 yr. term, *Cemetery Board*-3 yr. term.

We'll also be voting on the newly REVISED Constitution and Bylaws. Copies are available to borrow and read on the table in the Narthex.



Adventures of the Church Mice



This is Merry Twinkle from St. John. We had a meeting, the 4 of us Church Mice, and we decided we're going to take a vacation for a while.

Hmm...Can they do that? Just decide they're not going to show up like this? . . .

Reflections from Rose

Do you really believe that what you believe is really real?



I was very excited to hear that those being confirmed this year have been attending the Wednesday evening Bible study at St. Stephen AND participating in the discussion!

I came across a quote by an English Theological Writer recently that really struck a chord with me...*"Unthinking faith is a curious offering to be made to the creator of the human mind."*

John A. Hutchinson

I've also been thinking a lot about TRUTH. It seems difficult to find lately. What actually is truth? I've given it a lot of thought...I think genuine TRUTH isn't relativistic. It isn't threatened by our questions and doubts, nor is it determined by culture or opinion. It's essence isn't changed. It seems opinions come and go, along with values, societies, trends and traditions. All of these are subject to change, but TRUTH stands forever. We just need to be willing to pursue it. TRUTH is important to me. I want it to shape my values, opinions, decisions, and everyday actions. Jesus said He was the Way, the Truth and the Life...I believe God's word is TRUTH. It is good to pursue the BEST understanding and application of it that we can with the help of the Holy Spirit. Our God is indeed BIG enough, and sovereign, so as not to take offense with us as we make an honest search.

Way to go Confirmation Students and students of the Bible! You will be blessed....

The Edgar Arts Association presents **"A Tribute to John Denver"** at the Edgar High School Auditorium, Saturday October 7th at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased in advance at Berg Sales, Edgar or at the door the night of the show.

The Marathon County Transportation Program is recruiting volunteer drivers. If you have spare time, and would like to help elderly, veteran, or disabled people in your community get to their appointments, please call Jenny McKenzie at **715-841-5101**.

Drivers get reimbursed at 53.5 cents a mile to cover expenses.



GOOD NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church ELCA
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We're on the Web
www.stjohnelcaedgar.org



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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 November News



October 23rd