

# Ministry Matters

- in the congregation and beyond -

**WORSHIP SERVICE TIME CHANGE:** Please note that our worship service time will change from 10:00 a.m. to **10:30 a.m.** for the months of **July and August and up to and including Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Pastor Michele Kaufman, our Pastor Designate, will be leading us in worship during that time.



**BAPTISMS:** We had two baptisms since our last newsletter! On May 28th, **Nicholas Pasquale Barbush**, and on June 11<sup>th</sup>, **Sakura Lynn Fisher**, became children of God and made members of the Church through the waters of Holy Baptism. We rejoiced with Nicholas, his parents Brad and Stephanie Barbush, and with Sakura, and her parents Blaine Fisher and Bryanna Shultz, at these momentous events. We pray for them the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they walk in the grace of God.



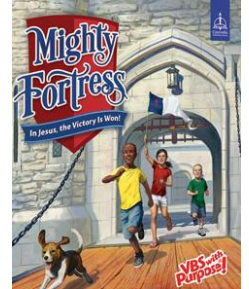
**THANK YOU – INDOOR YARD SALE:** Thank you to all who supported our Indoor Yard Sale. Proceeds in the amount of \$598.00 were collected and will benefit the ministries of LCW.



**VALLEY FOOD PANTRY:** During the summer months, donations significantly decrease for the Valley Food Pantry, even though the need is typically greater in the summer months. **Food items are always needed.** Currently, paper products are especially in need, specifically **paper towels and tissues.** Also, please don't forget our furry friends; **dog and cat food** are also needed for those families with pets. You can donate to our local food pantry in the designated basket located in the narthex.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Come and join us from **July 31<sup>st</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup>** while we embark on a "mighty" big adventure during Vacation Bible School! In celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, our Learning Ministry Team has chosen for this year's theme: "Mighty Fortress."



The children will learn that God is their refuge and strength. He promises to be their rock – their "fortress." Lots of fun and games are being planned to aid in teaching these important messages to our youth...think castle, tournaments, and banquets at the King's Table. The Learning Ministry Team and volunteers are currently hard at work decorating and planning; see meeting dates on the calendar in this month's newsletter, and watch for updates in the bulletin, as well. Join in the adventure; we hope to see you there! In Jesus, the victory is won!

**DONATIONS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:**

In July, we will be collecting donations to offset the expenses associated with Vacation Bible School. There will be specially marked envelopes on the table in the St. Stephen's Room, if you would like to donate.



**WALKING AIDS & WHEELCHAIRS:** We currently have available: crutches, walking canes, and three wheelchairs for anyone who would like to borrow them. If you could benefit from a walking aid or wheelchair, or know someone who can, please phone the church office at 570-788-2685. Thank you to those who donated these items.

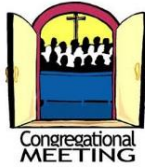


**REPAIRS UNDERWAY:** Construction is well under way on the roofs on the bell tower and first floor Sunday School areas and is expected to be completed soon.



### **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:**

There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> immediately following the worship service. Please see the letter from Council President, Don Wenner, Jr. in this month's newsletter.



### **WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

The summer months are a very busy time for everyone and many families take a vacation this time of the year, as well. Therefore, we are especially in need of volunteers to help during the worship service (i.e. greeters, ushers, etc.) Sign-up sheets for July and August are in the St. Stephen's Room. Please sign up, if you can help!



**COFFEE HOUR:** Coffee Hour has been moved to the first week of every month, except for the month of December. The sign-up sheet to host a coffee hour is in the St. Stephen's Room.



**CALLING ALL YOUTH!** The theme of the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering is "This Changes Everything."



"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." ~ Ephesians 2:8

It's time to begin serious conversations on who may possibly want to attend and answer any questions you may have, including who's eligible and what do we need to do to participate in the National Youth Gathering scheduled for July 2018 in Dallas, Texas. I want to encourage any young people from St. Johns who are of age to consider this opportunity. I can't begin to tell you what an awesome experience it can be. This is church as you've never experienced it before. Students attending next summer's gathering should be entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade this coming Fall. 2018 graduating seniors are eligible. If you would like to gather after church one Sunday I would be happy to share pictures, stories and information. How will you know if you don't ask!  
~ Submitted by Pastor Michele

### **UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES:**

We have some exciting events coming up at St. John's, so mark your calendar!

**Aug. 19** – Open House/Sunday School Registration Event



**Sept. 10** – Rally Day (Sunday School resumes)



**Sept. 10** – Hobo Party



**Sept. 17** – Screening of "Luther" movie



**Oct. 7** – Blessing of the Animals



**Oct. 9 & 10** – Shoofly Pie Bake



**Oct. 28** – Sausage Supper

