

Ministry Matters

- in the congregation and beyond -

SUPPLY PASTORS FOR JUNE:

June 4 – The Rev. Kim Lengert
June 11 – The Rev. William Fairchild
June 18 – The Rev. David Kistler
June 25 – The Rev. James Covert



THANK YOU - SAUSAGE SUPPER:

Thank you to all who supported our May 6th sausage supper. Proceeds in the amount of \$3,772.37 were collected and will benefit the Building Fund.



GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST: In celebration of the Day of Pentecost on June 4th, the church nave will be adorned with red geraniums to symbolize the presence and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our midst. If you would like to help cover the cost of the geraniums, please place your donation in an envelope marked “geraniums” and place it in the offering plate. Following the Pentecost service, the geraniums will be planted outside the church. Any donations received in excess of the actual cost of the geraniums will be given to the ELCA Hunger Appeal.



MEN'S APPRECIATION BREAKFAST:

On Saturday, June 17th, Father's Day weekend, we honor and give appreciation to all the men of our church by serving them breakfast at **9:00 a.m.** in Luther Hall. The breakfast includes scrambled eggs, sausage, home fries, and toast with coffee, milk, and orange juice to drink. For dessert, we will be serving Mary Ellen's delicious and much sought after Sour Cream Dutch Cake. We truly appreciate all that you do! Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC:

Our annual congregational picnic will be held on **Saturday, June 24th**, at Nadine Sauer's picnic pavilion. Come early to swim and enjoy some conversation. The meal will begin at **4:00 p.m.** Please bring a food item to share (please, no serving spoons; Nadine has plenty on hand), and we ask that everyone bring their own drinks.



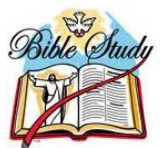
WORSHIP SERVICE TIME CHANGE: Please note that our worship service time will change from 10:00 a.m. to **10:30 a.m.** for the months of **July and August and up to and including Sunday, September 3rd**. We are excited to announce that Pastor Michele Kaufman, our Pastor Designate, will be leading us in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



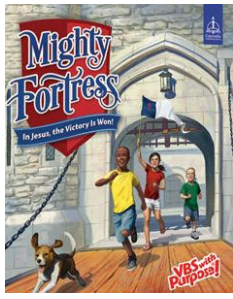
SYMPATHY: The sympathy and prayers of the congregation are with the family of **Betty Cunfer**, a lifetime member of St. John's, who died on Thursday, May 18th at the age of 93. Betty was the oldest living female member of our church. May all who mourn find comfort in the abiding love of God, the blessing of Christian fellowship, and the hope of the Resurrection.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Our Adult Bible Study will continue throughout the summer months. Bible Study begins at 8:45 a.m. every Sunday morning prior to the worship service, and is led by Bruce Young. During the time change in July, August, and the first week of September, classes will begin at 9:15 a.m. Currently, the class is studying the book of Romans. Come join us; all are welcome!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Come join us this summer, from **July 31st through August 4th** while we embark on a “mighty” big adventure during Vacation Bible School! In celebration of the 500th 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 anticipates another planning meeting tentatively the second week of June. Those on the team and those wanting to volunteer, please mark your calendar. Registration forms will be included in next month’s newsletter. Join in the adventure; we hope to see you there! In Jesus, the victory is won!

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS/ HOLY JOE’S CAFÉ: We continue during the month of June to pay special tribute to our men and women in the military who are serving overseas in war zones through donations to Holy Joe’s Café, an outreach program that sends free coffee to military bases around the world. “Holy Joe’s Café is a place where chaplains in makeshift chapels are able to bring a taste of home to the tired, the anxious, the angry, the lonely and the wounded,” says Chaplain A.S. “They all can get a gourmet coffee, a reminder that the world they willingly left behind still cares.” There are special envelopes marked “Support Our Troops” on the table in the St. Stephen’s Room for donations. If you would like to read more about this program, you can visit their website: <http://www.holyjoes.org/>.



VALLEY FOOD PANTRY: During the summer months, donations significantly decrease for the Valley Food Pantry. However, with children being home from school and not receiving the benefit of free school meals, the need for donations is greater during this time of the year. You can donate to our local food pantry in the marked basket located in the narthex.



COFFEE HOUR: Please note that, beginning in June, coffee hour has been moved to the first week of every month, except for the month of December. The sign-up sheet to host coffee hour is in the St. Stephen’s Room.



CHOIR HIATUS: The choir will continue with anthems through the end of June. Choir will thereafter be on hiatus through Labor Day. Practice will resume on Wednesday, September 6th at 2:00 p.m.



PRAYER CIRCLE: Our Prayer Circle is engaged in the important ministry of praying for members of our parish as well as others throughout the community at large with special needs or concerns. All requests for prayers are kept strictly confidential, unless the group is given specific permission to share the concern with the congregation. If you have a prayer request or would like to join the group, please contact Theresa Steinman, the coordinator of our prayer circle at 570-788-2058 or email at HTSTEIN@PTD.NET



PRAYER SHAWL & KNOT-A-QUILT: The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be taking a summer break after their Wednesday, June 7th meeting. They will resume on Wednesday, September 20th at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome to join and they are willing to teach! If at any time someone has a prayer shawl request, please let them know. You can fill out a prayer shawl request card, which can be found in the pews, and place it in the offering plate or return to Peggy Hawk or the office secretary. The Prayer Shawl Ministry Team would like to wish everyone a safe and wonderful summer! Please note that the Knot-A-Quilt Team will continue to meet throughout the summer.



CEMETERY BOARD: Linda Wenner will be filling the vacancy on the cemetery board left by the passing of Rudy Hoda. Our church, along with the U.C.C. church next door, oversees the operations of the St. John's Lutheran & U.C.C. Cemetery. Each congregation provides five members to serve on the board. The term for cemetery board members is five years. The board customarily meets twice a year, in February and in May, and other meetings may be called if the need arises. The current members of the cemetery board from St. John's Lutheran are: Joyce Ray, Don Wenner, Jr., Dawn Klick, Linda Wenner, and Beverly Janso. Current board members from St. John's U.C.C. are: Dennis Stecker, John Simonson, Frank Costello, Shannon Marchetti, and Thomas Schaeffer.



OUR NEW CWU LIAISONS:

Thank you to Dawn Klick and Marie Shultz, our new *Church Women United* liaisons! Founded in 1941, Church Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive Christian women's movement, celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice. CWU is recognized as a non-governmental organization by the United Nations. CWU is organized into more than 1,200 local and state units. Our local group is comprised of nine churches of various denominations. Our prayers are with Dawn and Marie as they carry on this important ministry.



STEWARDSHIP CHAIR NEEDED: Our Stewardship Team is still looking for a chairperson. If you are interested, please see Don Wenner, Jr. The Stewardship Team's purpose is to educate the congregation in the Biblical principles of whole life stewardship and not merely the raising of money to meet budgets. Our stewardship team encourages members of the congregation to use their time, talents, and monetary offerings to further the mission and ministries of the Church and to be good stewards of God's creation. "All Christians are but God's stewards. Everything we have is on loan from the Lord, entrusted to us for a while to use in serving him." ~ John MacArthur



TWIN FLAT SHEETS NEEDED:

Our Knot-A-Quilt group is currently in need of twin sized flat sheets. If you have any available and would like to donate, please see Theresa Steinman.



PHOTOGRAPHS: We love to capture memories of events in our church through photographs (or videos) and share them with all our members. If you happen to be the person who captures some of those memories, please email them to the office secretary at: stjohns@epix.net so they may be included in future newsletters or on our Facebook page. Please be sure that you have permission from those in the photos to share them in our newsletter or online.



THRIVENT ACTION TEAM: Did you know that if you hold an insurance policy through Thrivent Financial, you can help the church finance different missions and projects? In 2014, Thrivent Financial started a program known as Thrivent Action Teams. Through this program, any Thrivent member can apply for a \$250 debit card to use as seed money to help people grow in generosity and aid charitable purposes. Each Thrivent member can apply for a card two times each calendar year. Several members of our church have already taken advantage of this program, and used the card to cover expenses for our church fundraisers, for the prayer shawl team to purchase needed items, and most recently toward expenses incurred putting together the Road to Resurrection event. If you hold a Thrivent policy and would like to help the church, please call the church office and leave your name with the secretary, and further information will be subsequently provided. Due to privacy requirements, this is the only way our church can know who holds a policy. No one will call you regarding buying new policies. This is strictly to help the church by defraying costs of our projects so that we have more proceeds to aid in our many ministries.

