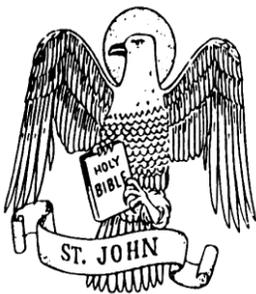


St. John's Lutheran Church  
200 North Hickory  
Toluca, IL 61369

Address Correction Requested



Fall into a season of New Life at St. John's!

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Worship: 9:00 AM

Sunday School: 10:00 AM

Fellowship: 10:00 AM

Interim Pastor Mary Kay Henson

Phone: (309) 530-4192

E-mail: [pastor@stjohnstoluca.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnstoluca.org)

Website: [www.stjohnstoluca.org](http://www.stjohnstoluca.org)

Church Phone: 815-452-2266

# THE EAGLE CRIER

Newsletter  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
August, 2018



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## Pastor's Ponderings ~

Brian and I have truly enjoyed getting to know the St. John's church family. We have felt the warmth of your welcome from the day we arrived last January. The first six months of getting to know you and how you do ministry at and through this church have been a joy. And I am grateful for the opportunity to serve another six-month term with you as your interim pastor.

As we approach the fall season, we tend to think about harvesting the fruits of our spring and summer labors and preparing for a season of winter rest. However the seasons ahead for St. John's are bound to be filled with new opportunities for life and growth. During the last few months, your church council and I have been reexamining what it means to be St. John's Church placed in Toluca, Illinois. If you are curious about some of the things we are talking about, ask a council member or me. You can visit the Altar Guild room to see some of our work recorded on very large post-it notes. As the world's culture continues to change and as you look for your next called pastor, the questions about who we are and what we are called to be about become especially relevant.

Churches everywhere are in the process of studying how culture impacts ministry. Our mission, at its most basic, is to share the good news of Christ with the world. As we see that people are less able to attend church weekly as once was the custom, we must consider how best we can be ministers of the means of God's grace. The **Sacrament of Holy Communion** is one of the primary ways that we are called to receive God's grace. This gift of God is ours to share and to share abundantly. Let us be in prayer together about how we may be called to alter our current tradition of celebrating the Eucharist once a month.

I am delighted to share that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and your church council; we have discerned that the time is right to offer **a class on Christian caregiving skills**. The hope is to assist members in becoming more confident in their caregiving skills as well as to build a ministry team that can help with caring for members who are not able to attend services regularly. However, the caregiving class will help anyone who attends grow in their understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. If you have the gifts of faith, intercession, mercy, or encouragement—or if the Holy Spirit has piqued your interest in participating, please let David Gerjets or me know if you would prefer to attend six one-hour classes on Sundays after church or two or three longer meetings on a weeknight. We hope to begin before the end of September.

In the short time that I have been with you, it has become apparent that one of St. John's strengths is its heart for outreach. I am so excited that St. John's will join ELCA churches all across the country to serve their communities on **God's Work, Our Hands day on Sunday, September 9**. After a slightly abbreviated worship service at 9:00 AM, congregation members will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of projects that are described elsewhere in this newsletter. Please check out the sign-up sheets in the Narthex to determine where you may be called to

serve. We will be providing food for the workers, so please be sure to indicate your intention to help so we can have enough food on hand. Thank you to Thrivent Financial for supporting our work with \$1000 in grant monies. And if you didn't order a God's Work t-shirt, there will be Thrivent shirts available as well. They are a beautiful robin's egg blue this year so be sure to pick one up!!!

Looking forward to falling into a new season of life with you at St. John's.

*Pastor Mary Kay*

## **ELCA/Central Southern Illinois Synod (CSIS) New**

### **Follow us!**

Do you follow the ELCA on social media? Keep informed with church news, events, pictures and videos across many platforms. We're on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Lutherans](https://www.facebook.com/Lutherans); [@ELCA on Twitter](https://twitter.com/ELCA); [@ELCA on Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ELCA) and [YouTube.com/ELCA](https://www.youtube.com/ELCA). Join this online community of Lutherans!

### **ELCA World Hunger is active in 27 countries**

This year, ELCA World Hunger is deepening and broadening our work to end hunger through 47 growth projects in 27 countries. This support was made possible by \$3.2 million in gifts made to *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* by members like you. Thank you! If you would like to support the work of ELCA World Hunger through *The Campaign for the ELCA* – and ensure further growth in years to come – visit [ELCA.org/hunger/donate](https://www.elca.org/hunger/donate) and make your gift today.

## **Educational Opportunities**

### **Exploring the Lutheran Confessions presented by Pastor Chris Repp**

Any adults who would like to deepen their understanding of our Lutheran Heritage and the Lutheran Confessions are encouraged to participate in this six session class which will be offered either Online or at Grace Lutheran Church in Champaign. Classes are offered on select Saturdays from 9AM to Noon beginning Saturday, September 14 and concluding on December 1. For more details, see the flier on the bulletin board outside the pastor's study.

### **Faith Formation Retreat: Exploring the Gospel of John**

**December 7 and 8, 2018**

**King's House Retreat Center in Belleville, IL**

**Presenter: Rev. Karoline M. Lewis**

Pastor Lewis is the chair of biblical preaching at Luther seminary and has led conferences, workshops, and retreats internationally on this topic and many others. This is an extraordinary opportunity to explore the Gospel of John and what it has to say to us here and now for our lives and our ministry in a way that cannot be duplicated in a one hour per week study. Check out the details on the bulletin board outside the pastor's study.

### **Pedal for a Purpose Event – September 29, 2018 – to Support Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center**

There has been a shift in the way that our Synod is doing pedal for a purpose this year. Please note below a letter of invitation to all CSIS congregations from event organizer, Pastor Adam Dichsen. There is a flier on the bulletin board outside the pastor's study with the bike route and additional details.

At our Synod Assembly we heard about our synod's 6<sup>th</sup> Pedal for a Purpose and our efforts to raise \$15,000 for **Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center of Oregon, IL**. While the Assembly has passed, the opportunity to support this effort has not! This week we just passed \$10,000, but we need your help to keep going. Please consider taking a special offering or utilizing some of your congregation's outreach funds for this effort.

Also, join us on **Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, at LOMC** to celebrate and give thanks for our efforts. Here is a schedule of the day:

- 9:00 a.m. – 25- mile bike ride through beautiful Ogle County.**
- 12:00 p.m. – Lunch at LOMC.**
- 1:00 p.m. – Celebrate “Pedal for a Purpose” success.**
- 1:30 p.m. – Worship with pastors Karen Kost and Adam Dichsen.**
- 2:45 p.m. – Tour of bunk houses to see where the money will be used.**

I hope you can participate in one way or another, either by helping us get to our financial goal or coming to celebrate with us in person. Thank you for joining in this opportunity to “be church together for the sake of the world!”

God bless,  
Pastor Adam Dichsen  
Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)  
1385 W Walnut Street  
Jacksonville, IL 62650  
217-245-8919  
[www.faithlutheranjacksonville.com](http://www.faithlutheranjacksonville.com)

### **We Pray For...**

Please remember these individuals in nursing homes, at home and in the military in your prayers:

Apostolic Christian – Evelyn Pomeranke, 1102 W. Randolph, Roanoke, IL 61561  
Heritage Health Center – Charlie Carroll, Jane Spear, 201 Locust St., Mionok, IL 61760

St. Joseph’s Nursing Home – Helen Young, 401 Ninth St., Lacon, IL 61540.

Snyder Village Assisted Living Edna Meinhold, Howard D. Schumacher (Memory Care Rm. 102), 1115 Harbers Lane, Metamora, IL 61548  
Evenglow Lodge – Art Pitts, 215 E. Washington St., Apt. 404, Pontiac, IL 61764

Prayers appreciated – Tim Arndt, Jack Bakel, Erin Breyne, Susan (Imm) Beaston, Claudia Bulta, Fay Cook, Nicole Curiale, Joe Daghe, Rhonda Downey, Nancy Gerjets, Jim Ghiglieri, Mary Haszler, Don Hultgren, Wayne Imm, Erin Koker, Emma and Joe Myers, Alma Beth Pomeranke, Bev

Ruestman, Charlotte Schulte, Eva and Vernon Stutzman, Michelle Sutton, Vickie Thomas and Joan Vallazza..

Serving our country – Frank and Frederick Hall, Tyler Kuehn, Chris Leigh, Jeremy Luning, Jeremy Merdian, Sean O’Connor, Zach Richardson, Jesse Schmillen, David Thies, Austin and Josh Toepper, and Joe Tooley.

### **Liturgical Calendar**

Year B:  
Time after Pentecost – now through November 28, 2018  
October 28 – Reformation Sunday;  
November 4 – All Saints Day;  
November 25 – Christ the King Sunday;  
Advent – December 2 – December 23, 2018  
Christmas – December 24 – January 6, 2019

### **Call Committee Update**

At our July Council meeting, Pastor Mary Kay’s interim contract renewal was presented and discussed. We approved

and have renewed her contract through January 2019.

While we are very happy to renew Pastor Mary Kay’s contract, I know many of you are wondering where we are in the call process for a new Pastor for St. John’s.

What we know is there are many openings for pastors, and there are few candidates. With that in mind, we are basically in a holding pattern. We aren’t able to interview or discuss candidates as we haven’t received any from the Bishop’s office.

All our information is on file and candidates and leaders have the ability to review the information to see if a candidate may fit our congregation. While all candidate information must remain confidential, we will update you with the information we can, when we can.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time of transition. Pastor Mary Kay is a terrific interim and is doing a wonderful job

supporting our members' needs, presiding over us in worship, and helping guide the Council.

As always, if you have any questions please contact me or any member of the council. God bless,  
David Gerjets

### **New Members**

On July 8, 2018 we welcomed the following new members into our congregation: Carol Imm, Cara Keifner, Amber Kleppin, and Suanne (Reese) Rosetti. After church a New Member Reception was enjoyed in the Parish Hall.

Please welcome these new members when you next see them!

### **Upcoming Noisy Offerings**

September 16, 2018 – PADS – Illinois Valley Public Action to Deliver Shelter  
October 21, 2018 – Lutheran World Relief for shipping costs of quilts and kits  
November 18, 2018 – Toluca Food Pantry  
December 16, 2018 – MSW Projects of Henry

### **Benevolence Update**

As of August 15<sup>th</sup> we have a balance of \$521.00 in our benevolence account. We have paid \$2,500.00 (1/2 of our commitment to the Synod)

The budget this year was \$2,500.00 to Good Samaritan, \$5,000.00 to the Synod, \$200.00 for conference dues and \$600.00 to Little Red School House.

With over half the year gone we are falling behind what we projected. Please prayerfully consider giving more for benevolence to meet these goals. Thank you!



### **“God’s work., Our hands”**

will be celebrated on Sunday, September 9, 2018. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

A committee has been meeting after church several weeks and we have come up with several activities for the day which include pulling weeds in the flower beds at the park by the pool and repairing picnic tables at that same location. We will also help pack school and health kits here at church. All ages are invited to help us with the various activities.

T-shirts have been ordered for those who signed up before the deadline. Even if you didn’t order a t-shirt, but would like to be a part of the activity, please feel welcome to join us. “The more the merrier.” All are welcome to help with God’s work!

### **Lutheran World Relief Supplies Needed**

This year besides the Women of the ELCA, the God’s Work Our Hands group will be helping prepare to ship the health and school kits. Fall garage sales can help supply layette needs. Back to school sales have begun so why not pick up some extra articles. Bars of soap are needed for several kits plus we send boxes of soap as well.



#### **School Kits**

Pens (blue or black)  
Scissors (blunt end)  
Rulers (with inches & centimeters)  
Crayons (24 packs)  
70 page paper notebooks  
Pencil sharpeners  
Unsharpened pencils  
Erasers (2.5 inches)

#### **Health Kits**

Large-toothed combs  
Toothbrushes  
Nail clippers  
Lightweight bath towels  
Bars of soap

#### **Layettes**

Bars of soap  
Cloth diapers  
Socks  
Sleepers (without feet)  
Gowns  
Quilts  
Receiving blankets  
Shirts (no onesies)  
Hand towels



Rebecca Circle continues to meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM at church while Naomi-Ruth Circle meets

the third Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM at church. Please feel free to come to either circle for Bible study. Cards and dish cloths are sold by the women every second Sunday of the month. You may see the selection on the table outside of Pastor Mary Kay's office.

The women will again have a bake sale and sell cards and dish cloths for the Soup Supper which is held the Friday before Thanksgiving which this year is November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Help is needed throughout the week for preparing items for the Soup Supper. Please check out your bulletin for details as the time approaches.

Women of the ELCA will be having a general meeting on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Parish Hall. Our program for the evening will be on Health and Wellness. All women are invited to attend. We will also have another general meeting on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> with a Thank Offering Service and program to be announced. This also will be at 7 PM in the Parish Hall.

### Men in Mission

The men have returned to their monthly meetings this fall. They meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7 PM. They are currently busy making plans for the Soup Supper. All men of the congregation that are confirmed or older are invited to these meetings. Help is needed from everyone to make this a successful event.

### Quilt and Soap Sunday

On Sunday,  
October 21,



noisy offering will go towards the shipping of kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will pack quilts and kits on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 in the morning. The Ingathering for Lutheran World Relief supplies is again at St. John's Lutheran in Bloomington, Illinois on Saturday, October 27, 2018.

### Altar Guild

Summer went way too fast and fall will be here in just a month. The geraniums by the front door look very nice. A thank you to Gail Clodfelter for tending them.

Our next meeting of the Altar Guild is on October 14<sup>th</sup> after church services. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting. There are a few things that will be discussed. One of them is possibly purchasing a smaller Christmas tree or trees. It gets harder each year for the ones that are climbing the ladders to get to the top of the tree.

If anyone would like to join Altar Guild, you are welcome to come to the next meeting.  
Submitted by Carol Miller

### VBS

This year's VBS was Shipwrecked- Rescued by Jesus. During the week the kids learned that When You're Lonely, When You Worry, When You Struggle, When You Do Wrong and When You're Powerless – Jesus Rescues.

The awesome decorations around the church put you in the mood for the week. We started off the evening by singing and learning the songs and then the rest of the evening

they learned a Key Bible verse and received a Bible buddy. There were volunteers each night to lead the Bible stories along with crafts, games and some cool snacks.

We had an average of 65 kids per night with 12 great crew leaders (with the help of Dick Hahn and Jeff Gochanour filling in). We also had 25 adults who helped out wherever needed throughout the week. Your help was greatly appreciated.

We collected packages of flavored drink mixes for water bottles and styrofoam cups to donate to PADS, the homeless shelter in Peru. We raised \$518.46 for CARE 4 Ghana for medical supplies.

We would like to thank everyone who was involved and gave their time to make the week a great time for the kids. There were too many to name, but we can always count on you giving your time. We would like to thank K & T Disposal for the use of the dumpster during VBS. I would also like to thank my co-director, Kristen Gordon for her time and everything that she did to help me.  
Submitted by Carol Miller



### Sunday School

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 9, 2018, for age 3 through grade 8, from 10:00-11:00.

We will be separating the kindergarten/preschool kids from the older kids this year

since we foresee more 3-4 year-olds attending.

The more kids that attend, the easier it is to teach and the more fun it is for them. For those who didn't bring their children last year, please consider coming again. Attending church and Sunday School is very good for them.

This year we are implementing Family Sunday School on the second Sunday of the month beginning with September 9<sup>th</sup>. We invite parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, siblings and friends to come help us.

On our first Sunday back we will be helping pack the kits to go to Lutheran World Relief. This is a great way for everyone to learn how to help others. We will join together at the end for a brief fellowship time each week.

Paula Nenne, Rhonda Sunken and Pam Hahn are looking forward to this new school year and hope that you are too. We look forward to seeing you on September 9<sup>th</sup>!

Submitted by Paula Nenne

Choir will be starting up again in September. We would love to have



you join us. You do not need to read music in order to sing so come and help us out.

We have a lot of fun and fellowship as well as singing. Be looking in upcoming bulletins for more details. We have a lot of fun as we work on our songs of joy.

Submitted by Rhonda Sunken



### **Trunk or Treat!**

Trunk or Treat will be held on Sunday 10/21/2018 from 2 to 4 pm. I can't believe this will be the 6<sup>th</sup> year we have hosted this event. In addition to the decorated "trunks", there are games for the kids as well as hayrack rides. We have had good community support for this, and would like to see an increase in the number of vehicles participating. We ask that you bring your vehicle to the parking lot, open the trunk or hatch, decorate with some seasonal items and of course have a stash of candy. We have several themed decorations to share for anyone who feels they are not

creative, but, keep in mind the kids are easy to please. It really is a fun afternoon, please consider joining in the festivities. Any questions, see Beth Nenne.

Submitted by Beth Nenne

### **Operation Christmas Child**

As we continue this important ministry, please note on your calendars that Shoebox Collection Week is November 12-19 with a blessing of the boxes on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Be watching for more news as it becomes available.

### **Cemetery Board**

Cemetery Board will hold its next meeting on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

### **Newsletter Information**

We ask all ministries of St. John's to please contribute updates on events and/or accomplishments to The Eagle Crier, it is the newsletter of St. John Lutheran Church and its congregation.

Contact Carla and Tim O'Connor at (815) 452-2529 or [toccmoc@att.net](mailto:toccmoc@att.net). Thank you.