

Good News

A PUBLICATION OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Resolution for 2018: Witnessing in Action

"When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ.

Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save so 1 Cor. 9:22 (NLT)

It's the New Year! 2018! And with the New Year comes a new three-part series of articles focused on how we can respond as a Great Commission congregation. My prayer is that you will find something practical to use when it comes to living out and sharing your faith, and that God will present you with opportunities through which His Spirit leads you to point others to Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

About five years ago, I had the opportunity to attend a one day conference titled "Christ Alone in a COEXIST World." Focused on what we call the Post-Modern world, the conference centered on the most effective methods to reach people in our culture and in response to questions such as: *How can you and I reach people for Christ when they live as if there are no absolutes? And, how can we bring the truth of God's Word and Salvation through Jesus Christ alone to a person who believes that truth is relative - based on each person's perspective?*

The conference began with a detailed discussion on the fact that not everyone comes from the same perspective. People are surrounded by a number of influences which create challenges when it comes to seeing from someone else's point of view. Essentially, we all wear "glasses" – and the "glasses" through which we look will affect how we see things.

What I found most interesting was how the focus of the conference quickly turned to highlighting the value of developing relationships. After all, how can anyone effectively witness to someone else in a personal way if we do not have a relationship with them? Getting to know a person is vital, and letting them get to know you is just as important because **you may be the only Bible that people ever read.** (Did you catch that? YOU may be the avenue through which people witness the truth of God's Word.)

That said...how can we develop the kind of relationship needed to effectively witness to someone through our lives and our words? Or, better yet, how can we develop a relationship that opens the door to sharing God's Word? This month we will begin to explore ways that will hopefully help you share Christ in this Post-Modern ("anything goes") world in which we live. So...are you ready? Because, here we go!

STEP ONE: Listen! James 1:19 teaches us that "**every person must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.**" While **listening** is not always easy, it is absolutely vital. When we **listen** we are able to hear what matters most to the person we're talking to. **Listening** leads us to understand what the person values – whether it's family, success, work, their home life, religion, etc.; and when we discover what it is that they value most, we now have a conversation point where we can share interests and show that we care enough to get to know them.

Keep in mind, though, that this first step to building a relationship is not one that will necessarily happen in five minutes or less. **Listening** takes time and may require a series of conversations. But it's worth it, because **listening** leads to understanding what a person values most; and understanding opens the door to a whole new level in a relationship where a person will be ready to hear what it is that matters most in your life.

Next month, we'll briefly explore effective skills to help us listen and understand. For now, though, feel free to get started. Introduce yourself to that neighbor you've never met, and take on the challenge that our very own Craig Kaschube offered in November. See how many of your immediate neighbors you can get to know by name and learn something about them through a conversation. And when you do, let them do the talking while you simply listen to what they have to say. It's a great way to start a New Year.

A blessed 2018 to all of you!

~ Pastor Kurt

Confirmation News:

Our second year confirmation students will share their Statements of Faith on Sunday, January 28 at our 10:30am worship service. They will be confirmed on Sunday, February 4 at our 10:30am worship service.



Michigan District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Will Writing Seminar at St. John's

Join Bill Burmeister, Michigan District-Church Extension Fund Gift Planning Counselor, Sunday, January 7, between services at 9:30am, to learn the importance of writing a will or trust and how to get started. Learn how to witness through your own last will and testament, so your children and grandchildren will inherit the blessings of your wisdom. Bill can also help you explore a variety of possibilities for fulfilling your legacy goals while making a significant gift to ministry at the same time. There is no cost or obligation to you and all conversations are kept confidential. For more information contact Bill at (800) 242-3944 or bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org.

Coming Soon: Men's Tuesday Early Morning Bible Study! Stay Tuned!

Feeding America Food Truck Thanks

We wish to express our grateful thanks to the over 75 volunteers who showed up last month to assist with the Feeding America food truck. Apologies to anyone we may have overlooked. **Rosie Anderson, Donna & Gene Hasenbank, Laura Harvey, Mark Brooky, Bill Kooi, Holly & Arabella Spink, Karen Losee, Kelly Hargrave, Jessica, Andy, Alex, Jacob & Emily Batka, Jocelyn, Laurel, Carmen & Amy Tolliver, Joe & Sue LaLonde, Patti Kooi, Shelley, Brian, & Mary Peets, Joan Krueger, Diane Veneklasen, Gwen & Veronica Snider, Carol Shake, Stephanie Heyn, Tiffany & Trenton Fase, Kathy & Jerry Fisher, Peggy & Jim Mandrick, Ronda Chapman, Heather, Matt & Emily Smith, Adam, Janet, Dayton, & Maeven Zondlak, Becky & Doug Rasche, Greg & Judy Talarico, Carrie, Dale, Scott, Andrew & Matthew Uthe, Terry Francik, Cathy Lutz, Scott Liggett, Craig & Beth Kaschube, Larry Thomas, Ben & Leah Appold, and Pastor Kurt.** Special thanks to **Kelley Hargrave** for presenting us with the Kohl's Cares program, giving us the opportunity to earn funds to be used for future outreach events, and to **Karen Losee** for bringing us additional workers through **Weiss Chiropractic**. We also give **Amanda Chapman** special thanks for running all over "tarnation" to get our lighting situation worked out when those we ordered on line did not show up on time. We especially appreciated everyone's willingness to be reassigned to new tasks when our client numbers turned out to be low. We heard many "thanks" from those who did attend, and your service made that possible. Richard & Sharon Rothe

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP SUPER BOWL 6" SUB SANDWICH FUNDRAISER

2018 ORDER FORM – PLEASE COMPLETE FULLY & LEGIBLY

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

COST: \$2.50 each or 10/\$20.00 (\$1.00 more per double meat sandwich)

** Submit payment (cash or personal check to "St. John's Youth") with order form **

SUBS ORDERED: _____
TOTAL COST: \$ _____

MEAT CHOICES:	QTY.	DOUBLE MEAT?	AMERICAN CHEESE CHOICES:
<i>* Bun is a 6" white hoagie *</i>	<i>* Write # of subs for double meat *</i>		<i>* Write # of subs with/without cheese *</i>
Ham	_____	Yes _____ No _____	Yes-DM _____ No-DM _____ Yes _____ No _____
Turkey	_____	Yes _____ No _____	Yes-DM _____ No-DM _____ Yes _____ No _____
Ham & Turkey	_____	Yes _____ No _____	Yes-DM _____ No-DM _____ Yes _____ No _____
Ham & Salami	_____	Yes _____ No _____	Yes-DM _____ No-DM _____ Yes _____ No _____
Ham, Salami, & Turkey	_____	Yes _____ No _____	Yes-DM _____ No-DM _____ Yes _____ No _____
* EXAMPLE ORDER FOR SARAH & STEVE SUBMARINE *			
Ham & Turkey	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u> Yes <u>3</u> No	<u>0</u> Yes-DM <u>1</u> No-DM <u>3</u> Yes <u>0</u> No
Ham, Salami & Turkey	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u> Yes <u>2</u> No	<u>2</u> Yes-DM <u>2</u> No-DM <u>1</u> Yes <u>1</u> No

Their order's total cost is \$25.00 (10 subs for \$20, \$5.00 extra for 5 double meat subs)

Submit order form and payment using the Social Hall drop box by Sunday, 1/28/18.

Pickup orders at church after worship Saturday, 2/3/18 or Sunday morning, 2/4/18.

For more information on any of the events on our calendar, please visit www.st-johns-lutheran.com/events/church-calendar and click on the individual event. You can also visit our youth calendar at www.st-johns-lutheran.com/calendars/youth-calendar and our Day School calendar at www.st-johns-lutheran.com/events/school-calendar.

St. John's Lutheran Church and School							Jan 2018 (Eastern Time)					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	1	2	3	4	5	6
St. John's Day School Christmas Break New Year's Eve 8:15am - Trad Worship 9:30am - Augsburg Confession 9:30am - Pastor led BS 10:30am - Cont Worship	New Year's Day 8am - Prayer Shawl mtg 10am - Quilters 11:30am - Recorders 2:30pm - Boy's BB 7pm - All Boards 7pm - Family Matters	Church office closed 11:30am - Recorders 6:30pm - Men's BS	Day School Resumes 9:30am - Ladies BS 10am - Chapel 1:15pm - Church Staff mtg 2:30pm - Boy's BB 6:30pm - Confirmation class 7pm - Celebration Choir	7:15pm - Praise Team	Pastor Kurt's Day Off 2:30pm - Boy's BB	9am - De-Decorating 5pm - Worship						
8:15am - Trad Worship 9:30am - Augsburg Confession 9:30am - Pastor led BS 10:30am - Cont Worship	8am - Winkler Pastor's conf 6:30pm - Men's BS 7pm - PTL Meeting	9:30am - Ladies BS 10am - Chapel 1:15pm - Church Staff mtg 2:30pm - Boy's BB 6:30pm - Confirmation class 7pm - Celebration Choir	9:30am - Ladies BS 10am - Chapel 1:15pm - Church Staff mtg 2:30pm - Boy's BB 6:30pm - Confirmation class 7pm - Celebration Choir	7:15pm - Praise Team	Pastor Kurt's Day Off 2:30pm - Boy's BB	5pm - Worship						
Lutherans Schools' Week-Sun, January 21, 2018 - Sat, January 27, 2018 8:15am - Trad Worship 8:30am - Pancake brkfst 9:30am - Augsburg Confession 9:30am - Jr/Sr Youth BS 9:30am - Pastor led BS 9:30am - Sunday school 10:30am - Cont Worship	10am - Quilters 11:30am - Recorders 2:30pm - Boy's BB 7pm - PPC	4pm - Boy's BB game (home) 6:30pm - Men's BS	Social Studies Fair 9:30am - Ladies BS 1:15pm - Church Staff mtg 6:30pm - Confirmation class 7pm - Celebration Choir	7:15pm - Praise Team	Pastor Kurt's Day Off	5pm - Worship						
8:15am - Trad Worship 9:30am - Augsburg Confession 9:30am - Jr/Sr Youth BS 9:30am - Pastor led BS 9:30am - Sunday school 10:30am - Cont Worship	10am - Quilters 11:30am - Recorders	4pm - Boy's BB game (away) 6:30pm - Men's BS	9:30am - Ladies BS 10am - Chapel 1:15pm - Church Staff mtg 2:30pm - Boy's BB 6:30pm - Confirmation class 7pm - Celebration Choir	1pm - Ladies Aid 7:15pm - Praise Team	Pastor Kurt's Day Off	5pm - Worship						



St. John's Lutheran Church
 527 Taylor Avenue
 Grand Haven, MI 49417
 (616) 842-4510
office@sjlcs.org
www.st-johns-lutheran.com

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Kurt Wenzelburger, Senior Pastor pastorkurt@sjlcs.org
 Craig Kaschube, Youth & Family Life Director ckaschube@sjlcs.org
 Laura Harvey, School Administrator/Business Manager lharvey@sjlcs.org

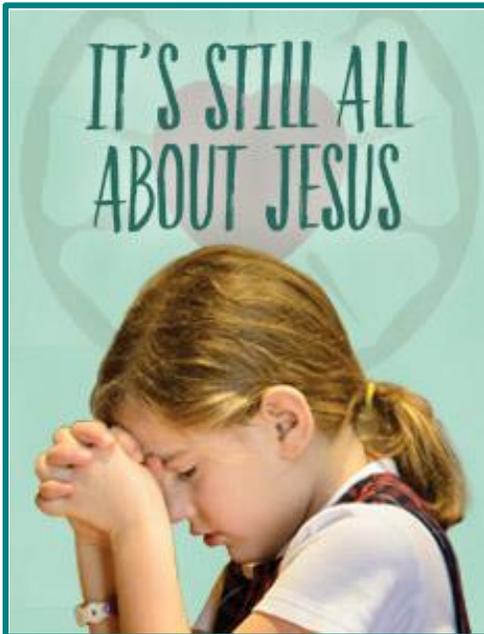
Worship Services:

Saturdays: 5:00pm - Traditional/Relaxed
 Sundays: 8:15am - Traditional
 10:30am - Contemporary
Please check calendar for all worship times!

Return Services Requested

God's Blessings To:

You and your
 family!



National Lutheran Schools Week

January 21-27 is National Lutheran Schools Week and we are celebrating here at St. John's Lutheran School. The theme for this special week, **It's Still all about Jesus**, is based on the verse Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." This week allows us the opportunity to join with more than 2,000 schools in giving thanks and praise to the great God we serve. We are grateful for the challenge that we have been given to train and equip our students who attend our schools. During this annual event, congregations and schools are provided with an opportunity to rejoice together in the partnership that we have in sharing God's grace and mercy as we provide another year of spiritual training and educational preparation to the next generation of faithful Christian servants. Please plan on joining us on Sunday, January 21, 2018 as we begin this special week celebrating in the knowledge that our Lord and Savior is the same yesterday and today and forever.