

Good News

Let them praise the name of the LORD. [Psalm 148:13](#)



November 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Printing deadlines require me to write this Pastoral letter prior to the calling of our next Senior Pastor October 16. We will use other means to announce the results of the call process to the congregation. We remind you again to approach every phase of this process with prayer. God has a plan in place. We patiently watch Him unfold His plan by the decisions the Holy Spirit makes through us. To God goes all the glory!

ESTATE GIFTS

Recently three members of our congregation remembered the ministry of St John's in their estate. Marilyn Kirsch, Arnie Redeker, and John Reyes put aside a portion of their estate for the work of God's kingdom at St. John's. Arnie's gift was designated for debt elimination. John's gift has been placed into our St John's Endowment Fund that provides on-going support to the ministry of our church and school. Marilyn's gift was given to General Budget.

It is the Foundation that I want to discuss in this article. While our Foundation has been established for decades and has received a variety of gifts and bequests over the years, it remains one of the least well known aspects of our life as Christian stewards.

It has been my privilege to support the establishment and growth of Endowment Funds in all the congregations I have served. I believe it's important for members to plan ahead in such a way that a portion of the blessings received in our life time is placed directly into the Lord's work when He calls us home to glory. I have seen first hand how a well managed Endowment can play a significant role in maintaining financial health in a congregation. It becomes a partner in providing resources beyond what a General Budget can provide.

Our weekly/monthly gifts and tithes will always be the primary means by which God's people support kingdom work. An endowment never replaces good patterns of Biblical stewardship. What it can do is fund important projects a General Budget is not designed to accomplish (especially in the area

of facility maintenance and up-grades). Our Board of Trustees does an excellent job of attending to projects that can be anticipated and planned for. However, structural needs, equipment failure and storm damage defy pre-planning yet call for immediate attention. Under these circumstances the congregation can turn to its Endowment fund to use accumulated resources to supplement the limitations of the General Budget. God expects us to be stewards of the buildings that house ministry. Our Endowment Fund is our partner for the care and keeping of God's House and School.

Each year interest on investment of the Endowment is also made available to support non-budgeted needs and projects in our church and school. For example this past summer the Endowment helped support our youth group's attendance at the tri-annual LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans (as it has several times before). At the end of last school term the old kitchen dish washer finally gave up the ghost. The Endowment supported purchase of a new one.

There is an impressive list of projects and events the Endowment has supported over the past two decades. It can do even more good work for the Lord as members intentionally set aside a portion of their estate to be given back to the ONE who provides every good and perfect gift to His people. This kind of financial planning falls under our Lord's encouragement to be, 'gentle as doves and wise as serpents.' Wisdom knows the importance of supporting the Lord's work during our life time and beyond.

Please give prayerful attention to how you plan your estate. It becomes a lasting testimony to our faith in Jesus Christ by being a blessing to the One from whom we are blessed. (See related article on page 2)

CURRENT STATUS OF DEBT ELIMINATION

As of October 9 we have received (in gifts and commitments) all but the final \$11,000 of the \$180,000 needed to pay off our mortgage note with Church Extension. With our September

Continued on next page

mortgage payment we also applied \$67,000 as a prepayment. There is currently another \$102,000 in commitments. Gifts received will be added as prepayment each month until our debt is eliminated. God willing, we can do this as early as the end of 2017 (even though some commitments are extended in 2019).

I anticipate the joy in the heart of our new Senior Pastor when he lights the match that officially 'burns our mortgage.' In that moment all obligations to the past are complete, allowing St. John's to give full attention to our future mission and ministry.

REFORMATION/ALL SAINTS WORSHIP

This year's Reformation Celebration is the weekend of October 29/30. All Saints will be celebrated the following weekend, November 5/6. Sunday services both weekends will include Procession of the Cross and a Gospel Procession as well as festival hymns and special music.

It is our custom on All Saints to remember fellow Christians called to glory over the previous year. We invite surviving family to be in worship to hear the names of loved one mentioned in our special prayers.

It is for the moment of death that put our trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The faith that guides and blesses us in life is our blessed assurance in the moment of our final breath. Reformation and All Saints celebrated back-to-back reminds us we are the 'church militant' that anticipates becoming the 'church triumphant.' SOLI DEO GLORIA!

THANKSGIVING/ADVENT WORSHIP

Also remember observance of our nation's annual celebration of Thanksgiving is Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00pm. The following Sunday is the First Day of Advent and the beginning of a new church year. **Midweek Advent Worship is moving to Wednesday** and will include identical services at 10:00am and 7:00pm on Wednesdays, November 30, December 7 &, 14. On Wednesday evening, December 21 our Day School will lead its annual Christmas service. Let us be frequently found gathered with God's worshiping people this most holy of seasons.

In Christ,

Ronald C. Moritz, Interim Pastor



Michigan District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Five Reasons to Die without a Will or Trust

There must be powerful reasons to avoid a Will, because so many people die without one. Just in case you happen to be one of the six out of 10 who will depart without a Will, here are five reasons to confirm your position. You can use these to help you sleep at night.

1. The Court can do a better job deciding how to disburse your assets than you can. Probate Court will try to contact "next of kin" and decide who receives what from the estate. Plus in Michigan, your spouse may not get your entire estate. They are entitled to a certain dollar amount with the balance split between the spouse and children.
2. The Court can choose a better Executor to handle your estate during probate than you can. Will they pick someone that cares about you or your family? Will someone outside the family be appointed? Why leave it to Probate Court when you can decide who would best represent your interests?
3. The Court can choose a more caring guardian for your minor children than you can. You have a loving, caring family. Your brother is doing well financially but you don't always see things the way he does. Your sister would raise your kids with the same values that are important to you. Who do you want to be guardian if something happens to you? Who will the Court choose? Complete your Will/Trust so your wishes are known!
4. The government will use your estate tax dollars more efficiently than your favorite ministry/charity would use a charitable bequest. Your estate will go to one of three places, your family, Uncle Sam or you're most beloved ministries. How do you want your estate divided? With careful Christian Estate Planning you can influence the amounts that each receives.
5. Your grieving loved ones will be better off looking after your affairs without your Will. What will they choose to do? Will the family all agree on who gets what items or will arguments result from disagreements over your stuff? Will Lawyers get involved? Are there "special" items you want given to specific people? How will they know your wishes if you haven't completed your Will or Trust? Reduce the family stress and make your wishes known via a Will or Revocable Living Trust.

Powerful reasons to not have a Will? Probably not, but people quietly affirm those reasons as long as they put off the minor inconvenience of writing a Will. Write your Will or Revocable Trust now. Your family will appreciate it and the ministries you remember with a gift will benefit for years to come. If you are not sure where to start, we are here to assist you.

Bill Burmeister

Church Extension Fund - Michigan District
(800) 242-3944 bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org



Fostering & Multiplying
Christ-like Servant Leaders

LCMS Disaster Response

Join us in providing a faithful and robust response to disaster. In partnership with you and others across the Synod, LCMS Disaster Response has a decades-long legacy of changing lives with our Lord's mercy in the aftermath of disaster. Through the generosity of our LCMS congregations and families, you work with LCMS Disaster Response to carry out our Synod's response to people who are hurting, grieving and seeking hope. By God's grace, through resources and grants to districts, RSOs and other strategic partners, together we reach out to the hurting with Christ's love. Together, we can give people basic human needs and shower them with the mercy and hope found only in our Lord Jesus, who comes to us in His Word and Sacraments, and through compassionate, pastoral care. To make a gift that can be used for disaster relief visit [here](#). Make checks out to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with "Disaster Response" written on the memo line and mail to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 or call (888) 930-4438.

"By this all people will know
that you are my disciples, if you
have love for one another."
JOHN 13:35. ESV



Christ-Like Servant Leadership Q & A

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, our own **Craig Kaschube** is one of 59 professionals joining the 219 others who have participated in one of KINDLE's national training events!

Q: What is KINDLE?

A: KINDLE is an acronym that stands for: **K**arpenko Institute for **N**urturing & **D**eveloping **L**eadership **E**xcellence. Bill Karpenko is a prominent figure in the Director of Christian Education world and has been instrumental, along with several DCE's, in developing this training for commissioned ministers to take back and implement in their congregations, homes, communities & the world.

Q: What does it mean to be a Christ-like servant leader?

A: Christ-like servant leader is another way to describe being a disciple of Christ. We all are called to be disciples & follow Jesus, sharing his message of love. More specifically a Christ-like servant leader is defined in 3 ways:

- 1) **Celebrating** his/her baptismal identity as a loved, forgiven child of God
- 2) **Growing** more Christ-like, manifesting grace-filled marks
- 3) **Fostering & Multiplying** generations of Christ-like servant leaders

Q: What is the path for Christ-like Servant Leadership Development?

A: The KINDLE model is made up of:

- **Strands** - one of four major pillars supporting servant leadership
- **Practices** - A behavior which develops the core competencies in a Christ-like servant leader;
- **Outcomes** - The knowledge, skill or attitude associated with each of the 20 practices.

For more info visit <http://kindleservantleaders.org/>.

Watch for additional information in future newsletters!



Chicago Bus Trip

Don't miss this November 19 Fundraiser for St. John's Lutheran School! Grab a friend and ride our charter bus for a day of fun in the Windy City! Bus leaves St. John's parking lot at 7:00am EST sharp. Drops off near Magnificent Mile at approximately 10:00am CST. Leaves 8:00pm CST from same spot. Enjoy your day, don't worry about the ride there or back (except for catching it on time!!!!) Tickets are \$65. Visit [here](#) for more information.

Harvest Blessings

The Early Childhood Department of St. John's Lutheran School is holding a fall festival for preschool through 3rd grade families on Friday, October 28 at 5:30pm. Pizza and pop will be provided, however we ask that you bring a salad or dessert. We will be thanking God for all the wonderful things He provides for us. Come join us for Dinner & Dessert, Face Painting, Hayrides, Fall Crafts, Storytelling, and Pumpkin Walk.

WANTED: Silly faces or artistically carved pumpkins for our Harvest Blessings Festival Pumpkin Walk on Friday, October 28. The carved pumpkins will be put on display for all to see in our darkened Social Hall. If you want to bring a jack-o-lantern, please deliver it on Friday, October 28 (no later than 3:00pm) so we have time to arrange the display. You may want to put your initials on the bottom with permanent marker. You can take your pumpkin back home at the end of the Harvest Blessings Festival. Please contact Heidi Bohn at (616) 842-0260 ext 119 or hbohn@sjlcs.org for more information. (Sponsored by St. John's Early Childhood Department)



SCRIP Online – Presto Pay

Do you like to shop online? Did you know you can also purchase your SCRIP gift cards online too? Here's how...

1. Register with our Scrip program (application is in the school office). You can direct your half of the rebate to:
 - your own school tuition
 - donate it to another family's tuition
 - or direct it back to the school
2. Login with your assigned code [here](#)
3. Review the list of merchants [here](#)
4. Check for bonus rebate amounts
5. Place your order and pay with PrestoPay (ACH payment) [here](#)
6. Cards purchased by Tuesday 8:00am will be available by Thursday

Kelley Hargrave Retires



Kelley Hargrave has retired as our bookkeeper after 16 years of faithful service. We recently celebrated her retirement in the Social Hall. Well done, good and faithful servant!

CLASSIFIED AD SECTION OF YOUR LOCAL ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Journey 2 Bethlehem – Save The Date! 2016 dates for this year's journey are December 8, 9, 10 and it will be in Duncan Woods again. Many, many volunteers are needed here at St. Johns for ticket sales (November 11, 2:45-9:00pm), costumes, meals, as well as, all the needs for the cast and crew of the production itself. Prayerfully consider helping and using this as a witness tool to friends, family and neighbors. For more information contact Ronda Chapman (616) 847-8736 or rgchapman81@hotmail.com.

Reformation Music: You are invited to a music event at St. Matthew (15395 Rannes Street, Spring Lake) takes place on Reformation Day, Mon., Oct. 31, 12:15pm-12:45pm. Joanne Jansen, parish musician, will share arrangements of Martin Luther's hymns.

Annual Youth Group Wreath and Swag Sale: St John's Youth are again selling fresh wreaths, garland and swags for the holidays. You can order October 30 – November 13. See the youth group display in the Social Hall to order your fresh evergreen wreath, swag and beautiful handmade bow. Wreaths will be ready for pick up the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 19/20. Contact Sue LaLonde at suelalonde@charter.net or (616) 847-7876 or Craig Kaschube at ckaschube@silcs.org or (616) 842-4510, ext. 126. Thank you for your continued support!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. James Lutheran's Harvest Dinner is Saturday, November 5 (8945 Stebbins St, Montague) with two dinner settings: 4:30-7:00pm & 6:00-7:00pm. Menu includes roasted pork loin, oven fried chicken, German style sauerkraut, real mashed potatoes, pork gravy, stuffing, squash, green beans, applesauce, rolls, pies, and beverages. \$12 for adults, \$5 for ages 6-12, free for 5 & under. Reservations recommended. Call (231) 894-2290 or (231) 894-8471.

Both the Church & School Offices
will be closed on Friday,
November 4.



Help the Counters: When making a memorial gift in memory of more than one person, please write a separate check to St. John's for each person you desire to memorialize. This will help greatly with our counters' accounting procedure. Also, if you are catching up with your tithe, it's ok to use just one check and one envelope to bring your tithe current. Thank you, Harry Schmidt

Wanted: Full size refrigerator for St. John's Infant-Toddler Room. We have two small refrigerators and need a full size for bottles and lunches. Thank you.

Bowling Balls Needed: St. John's Youth Board is looking for used bowling balls.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

High School Youth Gathering to take place June 25-28, 2017 at the Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island. Under the theme, "The Fortress", youth from all over the MI District will gather to celebrate Jesus with the theme verse 2 Samuel 22:2: "He said, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer." Cost of \$450 covers transportation, 3 nights lodging, ferry service to/from the island, a Gathering t-shirt, meals, luggage transfer, and all Gathering activities and events. Click [here](#) for more info.

Wanted: Full size refrigerator needed for St. John's Infant-Toddler Room for bottles and lunches. Thank you.

New Keys: As of October 28, St. John's Lutheran Church and School will have new locks on all of our entrance doors. New keys will be assigned and registered to staff, board directors and leaders of both the church and the school. To receive your new key please plan on coming into the church or school office.

Please consider participating in this month's
Nursing Home worship service: Sunday,
November 6, 2:30pm at Riverside Nursing Home.

Harvest Time: When our Lord reminds us in Matthew 9:37 "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few..." He is talking about the harvest of men's souls. Your investment in the Church Extension Fund can help bring in that harvest by making CEF loans available to facilitate our churches in reaching out to other souls. Call CEF at (800) 242-3944 or visit www.mi-cef.org today!



...to Coach **Sandy Minuth** for helping our Day School girls with their basketball season. The girls continually look forward to spending time with her and we all wish to acknowledge our appreciation and of the fond memories she has helped to create here at St. John's!

...to our Call **Committee** for their prayers and deliberation as they considered the pastoral candidates that were presented to them: **Karen Shields, Ronda Chapman, Leah Appold, Matt Hillman, Matt Williams, Scott Liggett, Rich Robinson, Al Lutz and Harry Schmidt.**

...to the many workers and for the abundant donations to our **Ladies Aid Rummage Sale.** It was a big success taking in \$1,412.20.

...to **Sue Blanchette** for surging all of our quilts, and to **Les Chapman** and **Bob Anderson** for bringing 125 of our quilts to the train station for distribution.

FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

Births

09/12/16 **Brinley Grace Sanborn**, daughter of **Blake & Molly Sanborn**, granddaughter of **Ray* & Sheri* Sanborn.**

10/08/16 **Brooke Lorraine Bagley**, daughter of **John* & Kali* (Harper) Bagley.**

Baptisms

09/18/16 Dallas Elden-Lee Sumerix, son of **Branden Sumerix** and **Libby Tokarski**

Deaths

09/18/16 **Joanne Hemmelsbach**, mother of **Janet* (Craig*) Montgomery**, grandmother of **Alex* and Ryan* Montgomery.**

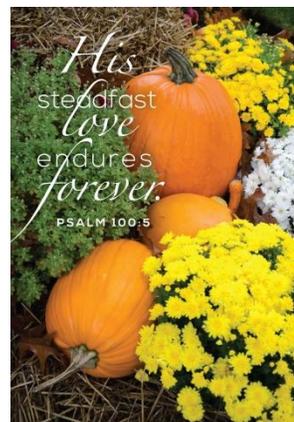
* Members of SJLC

Our current membership stands at 578 baptized, 473 of whom have confirmed their faith.



**Thank You for
Praying for Our Pastor!**

You may have noticed that our newsletter typically has at least one picture of sunflowers in it. There are four pictures of sunflowers hidden in this month's newsletter. Can you find them all? Please pray for our pastor whenever you see a sunflower.



Journey to Bethlehem

December 8, 9, and 10, 2016

Tickets go on sale Nov. 11



Imagine making the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem as Mary and Joseph did for the purpose of the census. You will step back in time to Bethlehem, a living, interactive re-creation of the town as it appeared over 2,000 years ago. On your outdoor, guided journey, you will encounter shepherds, magi, townspeople, livestock and the imposing Roman Soldiers. You will visit the inn, be turned away, and pointed in the direction of the stable, now holding the MOST PRECIOUS gift of Christmas - the Christ Child.

Again this December, the churches of the Tri-Cities will present the journey to the stable for the entire family, from grandparents to the youngest child. Will you prayerfully consider lending your time and talent to make this journey happen? **We need you!** There are many opportunities to serve so people can experience the culture and the wonder of this glorious night in remembrance that JESUS is the reason we celebrate Christmas! Visit [here](#) for more information.



St. John's Lutheran Church
527 Taylor Avenue
Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 842-4510
office@silcs.org

Rev. Ronald Moritz, Pastor pasmoritz@dls.net
Craig Kaschube, Youth & Family Life Director ckaschube@silcs.org
Laura Harvey, School Administrator/Business Manager lharvey@silcs.org

Worship Services:

Sacred Song (Traditional):	8:15am
Blended Voices (Contemporary):	10:30am
Night Song (Saturday service):	5:00pm*

God's Blessings To:

You and your
family!

**St. John's Lutheran Church has extended a
solemn call of Senior Pastor to the
Rev. Steven E. Newberg!**



**Please be in prayer as Pastor Newberg considers our
formal notification. Click [here](#) for more info.**