

# Good News

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



October 2016

## Dear Fellow Redeemed,

Although we hoped to receive our pastoral call list before Labor Day, it did arrive shortly after and is now in the hands of our Call Committee. As the call process moves forward, keep two passages of Scripture in mind, "Wait upon the Lord," and "Be still and know that I am God."

How often do we find ourselves getting ahead of God? He has a Divine time-table that perfectly fits our needs, and we want to 'jump the gun,' - putting ourselves in front of God's time-table instead of trusting it?

I must confess I have done this in each of my interim ministry assignments. I watch congregations work through a period of transition, reviewing who they are and what their mission is. As the interim progresses I sense a readiness to move forward into the next chapter of congregational life. I get eager for my work to give way to the ministry of the next pastor. And in so doing, I, too, forget to, "wait upon the Lord". So I tell myself, "Self, 'be still!' 'God is fully in control and has the future secure in His hands.'"

### NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS

Once we get this patience virtue worked out, our next step is the work of the Call Committee. They will carefully study the resumes of each pastoral candidate (our District President sent 13) and pare it down to 4-6 men they believe best fit our congregation's profile. They will interview them by phone to gain additional information and then create the final list to be presented to the Voters Assembly.

Our Constitution requires a call meeting be announced two weeks prior to the date. **A letter announcing the date and time will be sent to each household.** This letter will also invite you to attend one of at least two 'Open Forums' during which members can quiz the call committee on what they have learned about each candidate. This creates an informed electorate and gives you several days to pray over and discuss information with each other. This process also tends to limit the amount of time needed for the call meeting itself.

Announcing St. John's Lutheran Church



**PASTORAL  
CALL MEETING**

**Sunday, October 16, 2016**

**9:00am "Unity Service of Holy Communion"**  
(followed by a brief coffee break)

(We'll have our regular Saturday 5:00pm service on October 15)

**10:30am Call Meeting Convenes in Sanctuary**  
(Child care will be available in the school gym during the meeting)

**Open Forums**

**Tuesday, October 11, 2016**

The Call Committee will offer two open forums to present information on the pastoral candidates and respond to questions from congregational members.

**10:00am Open Forum #1 in the Sanctuary**

**6:45pm Open Forum #2 in the Sanctuary**

*Please remember this entire process in your prayers.*

Our Constitution requires a two-thirds majority of ballots cast to elect a pastor. If we get down to the final two candidates and neither receives the required two-thirds, we may suggest that those supporting the candidate receiving fewer votes consider switching their vote on the next ballot. Otherwise the potential exists for an impasse. God willing, we will not get to that point. When a candidate attains the required votes, a motion to make the vote unanimous will follow. It is customary in Lutheran circles to send a unanimous call.

Once a candidate is chosen he becomes our "Pastor elect". Our congregation chairman will place a phone call advising him of his election and assure him our prayers are with him as he considers his two calls - one to where he currently serves, and our call to St. John's. We will strive to have the call documents in his hands by Tuesday after the Sunday meeting. Generally it takes a pastor 3-5 weeks to reach a decision. During that time he will visit our church to get a first hand view of our ministry.

If the call is accepted, expect another 4- 6 weeks for he and his family to move to Grand Haven. Considering where we are in the calendar, his arrival could be around the holiday season or the first of the new year.

#### **WHAT HAPPENS IF THE FIRST CALL IS RETURNED?**

While no one keeps track of the exact number, I estimate that about 50% of first calls are accepted. If ours is not, we will announce a second call meeting that will bring the names of remaining candidates to the voters. There may be another Open Forum prior to the meeting. While we may convene the call meeting on a Sunday, it's doubtful we follow the previous pattern of a Unity Service. Instead we may convene either immediately after late service or on a week night. I estimate less than 25% of congregations must make a third or fourth call. It can happen, but it's the exception not the rule.

#### **PROTOCOL FOR INTERIM MINISTRY**

An interim pastor can never be considered for a call to his interim church. We are strongly encouraged to complete our interim as soon as a call is accepted. This may create a period during which a local retired pastor will serve the congregation until the new pastor arrives. It also has happened that once a call is issued, the District may ask the interim pastor to serve another congregation entering an intentional interim. Should this happen, we have several capable retired pastors in our area who can serve St. John's during the remaining vacancy. God always provides.

#### **OTHER OCTOBER NEWS**

I will offer a three session Bible Study on 2 Peter on Tuesdays, October 18, 25, & November 1 at 6:45pm in the eighth grade class room (the Men's Tuesday Bible Study will occupy the Social Hall). All are welcome especially those who studied 1 Peter with us last winter.

My wife Lorelle and I will celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> birthdays (we were born 5 days apart - and yes, I do obey my elder) with a St. Lawrence seaway cruise. I will be out of town the weekend of October 1/2. Local pastors will cover emergency needs.

October 23 I begin a five part sermon series on select passages of Romans 8. I call it "The Crazy Eights of Romans Eight" because each passage sounds crazy to the unbeliever while bringing great comfort to the believer. It's a series of messages I hope you will find edifying. The series runs through November 20. The 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation begins October 30 with All Saints Sunday, November 6. This is a unique opportunity to remember our Lutheran heritage.

St. John's Lutheran Church · 527 Taylor Avenue · Grand Haven, MI · (616) 842-4510 · [www.st-johns-lutheran.com](http://www.st-johns-lutheran.com) October 2016 - 2

#### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR DEBT ELIMINATION**

Our campaign is in full swing. Commitment forms are being returned each week. Mid September's unofficial estimate of progress puts us close to the \$100,000 mark in gifts and pledges. Some members also continue giving to the previous mortgage payment fund which helps us make our monthly payments to CEF while the Campaign puts new gifts toward principle.

If you have not yet made a gift or commitment to Debt Elimination, now is the time to join your support with that of fellow St. John's members with the goal of making ours a 'Debt Free Congregation' ASAP. As I have said before, it would be wonderful for our new pastor to light the match that burns our mortgage early in his tenure at St. John's. Being debt free allows us to put our full financial focus where it belongs, **on the mission and ministry of God's Church.**

Keep this campaign in your prayers as **TOGETHER** we pave the way toward a bright future.

In Christ,

Ronald C. Moritz, Interim Pastor



#### **The LCMS is teaching the world to see with 'Eyes of Life'**

In a world bent down and broken under the weight of death, the individual members of the LCMS are standing tall and sharing their stories of eyes of life.

In Christ, God gives us eyes of life — eyes that see life from His perspective. In a world that embraces abortion and euthanasia, 'Eyes of Life' is a campaign to add a voice to the conversation to defend the sanctity of life — a voice that speaks for life from conception to natural death. All in God's hands. All in God's time.

Read stories about people who see with eyes of life at [eyesoflife.org](http://eyesoflife.org). Join the conversation. Add your story. Describe how you see with eyes of life on social media — [#eyesoflife](https://twitter.com/eyesoflife).

# CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



## CROP Walk

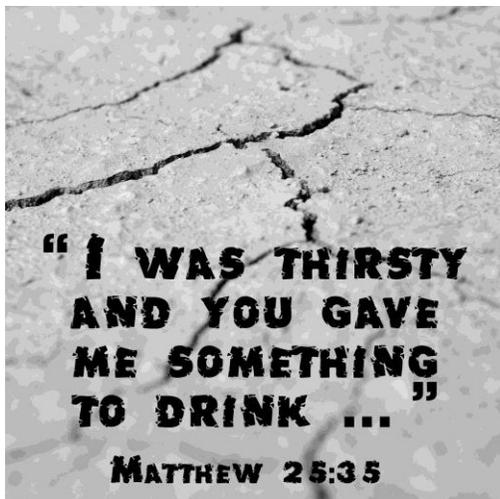
On October 2, 2016, St. John's will host the community CROP Walk. We are in need of a few small teams to help welcome walkers, feed the walkers, and set up and clean up for the walkers. We are expecting over 250 guests, so it's important that we have plenty of help. It's such an exciting event – please consider helping. No effort is really needed – just a smiling face and a welcoming attitude!

CROP is an acronym that stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. The CROP Walk is affiliated with Church World Services, which has worked for seven decades to build a world where there is enough for all: enough food, enough water, enough safety, and enough dignity. Donations are used by CWS to help the neediest of people all over the earth, but some money stays right here in our community, assisting those among us who need a helping hand. Additionally, if you prefer, all money you donate can be earmarked to Lutheran World Relief, an affiliate of CWS.

Tim and I have been involved with CROP for many years. We have been blessed beyond measure and we find this small effort very rewarding and a way to share with others the bounty God has given us. If you're interested in helping on walk day, please contact us.

In His Service,  
Tracy Wood

(616) 402-5099 or [woodtracy3@gmail.com](mailto:woodtracy3@gmail.com)



## Celebration Choir

Celebration Choir begins on Wednesday, October 5 at 7:00pm. This is the place to be if you love singing praise to our great God! Lots of great music is already planned and if you can carry a tune, you are welcome to join us!

## JuBELLation Ringers

An exciting new season of ringing is close at hand and YOU are invited to join us! Bell choir will be directed by Tracy Wood and we begin our practices on Wednesday, October 5 at 6:00pm. Interested in learning more about ringing bells? Contact Tracy Wood, Music Director, with questions at (616) 402-5099 or [twood@sjlcs.org](mailto:twood@sjlcs.org).

## Creation Museum & Ark Encounter Bus Trip

**Deadline for sign up:**

**Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Don't Miss the Fun!!**

**What?** Fund Raiser for St. John's Lutheran School 7/8 class trip to Washington DC

**When?** Depart November 4, 2016 6:00am. Return November 5, 2016 10:00pm (approx.)

**Where?** Ark Encounter is located in Williamstown, Kentucky. Creation Museum is located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Cost per person?** Visit link [here](#) for worksheet (or pick up one from the church office). Complete and return with full payment to Tracy Wood.

Prices include all transportation and lodging. No meals are included except for continental breakfast. Sign up now! *Seats will go fast!* (limited to 50 people) Cash or check made out to St. John's Lutheran School. Contact Tracy Wood to join the fun at (616) 402-5099 (call or text) or [twood@sjlcs.org](mailto:twood@sjlcs.org).



## Welcome New Students!

We wish to welcome all our returning students along with our new & kindergarten students and new teachers for this year: **Kahren Carlson, Clara Fox, Braden Goers, Finley Hardebeck, Everly Kliner, Luke Philpot, Annalise Vink, Dayton Zondlak, Grace Moore, Zachery Lans,** and **Gabrielle Lans**. Our New Teachers: **Bridget Dephouse** – K-Club; **Laura Gilson** - 3th/4th; **Tamara Zevalkink** – 7th/8th.

## 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](mailto:hbohn@sjlcs.org) for more information. (Sponsored by St. John's Early Childhood Department)



## SCRIP

Did you know that you can save on school tuition by purchasing Scrip gift cards? One-half of all the rebates you earn will be credited from your tuition in the months of January and April. Rebates can range from 2% - 25% (depending on the retailer). Even if you do not register for the tuition credit, your purchase of SCRIP gift cards still help our school. Please contact the school office for a FAQ's sheet and a registration form.

Cash & Carry gift cards available in the school office (rebate amount listed):

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meijer 3%           | <input type="checkbox"/> Leppinks 5%  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allied Waste 10%    | <input type="checkbox"/> WalMart 2.5% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walgreens 6%        | <input type="checkbox"/> Speedway 4%  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D & W 2%            | <input type="checkbox"/> GH Cinema 4% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marathon 3%         | <input type="checkbox"/> KFC 8%       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panera 9%           | <input type="checkbox"/> Starbucks 7% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Applebees 8%        | <input type="checkbox"/> Cabela's 12% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bed/Bath/Beyond 13% | <input type="checkbox"/> Dick's 8%    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JCPenney 5%         | <input type="checkbox"/> Jo-Ann's 6%  |

## Lutheran Education Convocation (LEA)

Michigan is the host District for the LEA in Grand Rapids October 13-15. Please pray for this event to be helpful and inspirational to all who attend. People are needed to share the hospitality of Michigan by volunteering as ushers and usher captains for two events: (1) Opening Worship is Thursday, October 13, 1:30-3:00pm. Ushers (four usher captains are needed) are trained by Barry Blomquist at 10:00am and start working at 12:00. The President of the Michigan District will preach and special groups from around synod will provide excellent music. (2) Closing Worship is Saturday, October 15, 10:15-11:45am. Twenty ushers and four usher captains are needed. Training is at 8:30am with ushering starting directly after. Rev. Greg Seltz of the Lutheran Hour will preach with music provided by various synodical entities. To volunteer and be part of a worship experience with 2,500 Lutheran educators, contact Bruce Braun, Superintendent of MI District Lutheran schools at [bruce.braun@michigandistrict.org](mailto:bruce.braun@michigandistrict.org).

# 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 costumes, meals, ticket sales, 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](mailto:rgchapman81@hotmail.com).

-----

### **Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM):**

Imagine facing the risk of death for what you believe. Even worse, imagine your children not being safe because they believe in Jesus. For Christians in the Middle East, this danger is **all too real**. Unimaginable situations like this have forced thousands of Christians, mostly women and children, to flee their homes. Today they survive in almost impossible circumstances. **The situation looks bleak, but you can carry Christ's hope to!** With the support of organizations and individual partners like you, LHM's ministry center in Lebanon provides food and other relief to displaced souls from Syria, Iraq and other countries. Beyond feeding their bodies, we also feed their faith. You can read more on LHM-Lebanon's blog. **Will you be a light in the dark** and help Christian victims of persecution? **[Please make a gift today!](#)**

Your Partner in HIS Mission,  
Kurt Buchholz  
President & CEO

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Dear St. John's:** Thank you for your ongoing contribution to the pregnancy center. It's a privilege to serve everyone that walks through our doors. The needs are great, but our God is greater as you can see His hand in the following client stories from our center:  
*She said her mom told her life would be better without her. That day in class, the verse was Psalm 139:13-15. She asked if she could keep the slip of paper with the verse. God loves her.*

*She was shaking when she came into the center. Pregnancy was not okay. She left with a comment on her survey that she wasn't shaking anymore when she left. God calmed her. She ended up with a severe infection. Both her and baby were at serious risk. Outcome was uncertain at delivery. She and baby survived. God protected her. She shook her head at the sight of the positive test. She seemed reluctant at the ultrasound. She is now 12 weeks and planning to carry. God emboldened her.*  
Together for Christ, Sarah Minner, Grand Haven Director, Lakeshore Pregnancy Center  
[www.lpcenters.com](http://www.lpcenters.com)

-----

### **Lutheran World Relief:**

Congregations across Michigan are sewing quilts, assembling care kits, collecting soap, and taking monetary donations towards the annual Lutheran World Relief Boxcar Loading. The loading date is set for Wednesday, October 19 at the Conrail Yard in Detroit or the Hughart Yard in Grand Rapids.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Kelley Hargrave** has retired as our bookkeeper after 16 years of faithful service. We will celebrate her retirement on Sunday, October 9 in between the services. If you'd like to contribute to a retirement gift for Kelley, you can either place it in the collection plate or bring it to the church office.

Please consider participating in this month's Nursing Home worship service: Sunday, October 16, at 2:00pm at Christian Haven Home.

### **Attention Junior & Senior High Families:**

Over the past few years, the Youth Board has realized that the best way to communicate with you is via email. Our goal is to send out bi-weekly emails to inform you about upcoming bible studies, service projects, and social events. Please send an email to Sue LaLonde at [suelalonde@charter.net](mailto:suelalonde@charter.net) to sign up to receive these emails.

-----

### **Crafters/Vendors Needed:**

The Girls of Grace from Grace Lutheran Church in Coopersville is again planning the Party of Parties fundraiser for Saturday, October 22. Are you a home-based business rep (ex: Pampered Chef, Avon, Norwex, etc.) OR do you make craft items to sell? If you might like to set up a table at our event contact Joni Hoyer at (616) 837-1442 or [jonilou@fflinchrist.org](mailto:jonilou@fflinchrist.org) as soon as possible.





...to **Dave Turner, Gerry Boik, Jami Schmidt** and **Scott Liggett** for organizing the Arnie Redeker Golf Outing.



**October 2016**

Sun., October 2	Bible Study at 9:30am (every Sunday)
Sun., October 2	Youth group to help with CROP Walk
Wed., October 5	Confirmation at 6:30pm, Junior Rock at 7:30pm
Sun., October 9	Sr. High Mackinac Meeting at 5:00pm
Sun., October 9	Living Stones Sr. High Bible Study at 5:30pm
Wed., October 19	Confirmation at 6:30pm, Junior Rock at 7:30pm
Thur., October 27	Hawk Nelson Tenth Avenue North Concert

**FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS**

**Births**

08/24/16 **Penelope Jay Daniels**, daughter of **Tyler & Alyssa Daniels**, granddaughter of **Tod\* Daniels**, great granddaughter of **Agnes\* Daniels**.

**Baptisms**

08/21/16 **Nathaniel Todd Zervas**, son of **Joshua Zervas & Carrie Rae Palkowski**

**Deaths**

08/14/16 **Alverna Rice**, mother of **Debbie\* (Ken\*) Luytjes**, grandmother of **Kelly Luytjes Lutz** and **Erin Luytjes DeFouw**

08/16/16 **Arlene Hass**, mother of **Diane\* (Mark\*) Howard** and **Bruce\* (Debra\*) Hass**

08/21/16 **Alice Walter**, mother of **Patti\* (Bill\*) Kooi**

09/02/16 **Gordon Eminger**, father of **Jeff\* (Becky\*) Eminger**.

09/02/16 **Jo Markiewicz**, mother of **Carol\* (Bill\*) Markiewicz Gierke**.

**Transfers**

**Kevin & Eilene Kane** to Trinity Lutheran Church, Arcadia, MI

**\* Members of SJLC**

Our current membership stands at 578 baptized, 474 of whom have confirmed their faith.





Faith at Home

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

Rev. Ronald Moritz, Pastor [pasmoritz@dls.net](mailto:pasmoritz@dls.net)  
Craig Kaschube, Youth & Family Life Director [ckaschube@silcs.org](mailto:ckaschube@silcs.org)  
Laura Harvey, School Administrator/Business Manager [lharvey@silcs.org](mailto: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 is Hosting the Community CROP Walk  
Your Help is Needed!**

**Date:** Sunday, October 2  
**Time:** Registration at 1:00pm  
Walk begins at 2:00pm  
**Where:** St. John's



**How Can You Help:** We are in need of a few small teams to help welcome walkers, feed the walkers, and set up and clean up for the walkers. We are expecting over 250 guests, so it's important that we have plenty of help.

Contact Tracy Wood at (616) 402-5099 or [woodtracy3@gmail.com](mailto:woodtracy3@gmail.com) for more information.