

Good News

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



September 2016

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Every September churches and schools celebrate a new beginning. While the church officially follows the 'liturgical calendar' to guide our worship (Advent begins the week after Thanksgiving), our 'activity calendar' closely follows that of our schools. Just as schools get cranked up for a new year of teaching and learning in September, so our congregation sees a resurgence of activity after the summer lull.

RALLY DAY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Parents, please keep in mind the value of Sunday School. Generations of young children have learned the basics of our faith and fundamental Bible stories from dedicated Sunday School teachers. St. John's Sunday School is a blessing to our children, but it takes parents to make the connection. Plan to bring your child to begin a new year of learning and growing in Christ at 9:30am September 11.

ADULT BIBLE CLASSES

September 11 also signals the beginning of a new adult Bible Class led by Ben Bosch. He will lead a study of the [Augsburg Confession](#), the foundational document of the Lutheran Reformation. All are welcome to join him in the 7/8th grade classroom Sunday mornings at 9:30am.

I will continue our Pastor's Bible Study on the [Book of Matthew](#). However, I will be absent September 11, making our fall restart Sunday, September 18 at 9:30am in the Multipurpose Room (gym).

I am also planning a short, 3 session study on [Second Peter](#) (following up last winter's study of [First Peter](#)). The tentative dates are Tuesdays, October 11, 18 & 25 at 6:45pm in the Social Hall.

CALL PROCESS

As I write this Newsletter we still await arrival of the call list being prepared by District President, David Maier. The call committee has completed its advanced preparation and is ready to move ASAP to determine which names will be presented to the congregation for voting.

While it is premature to identify a specific date for the call meeting, we desire to hold it on a Sunday morning immediately following a single 'Unity Worship Service' at 9:00am.

A mailing announcing all information will be sent to each household at least two weeks prior.

The week prior to the call meeting, the Call Committee and Elders will host at least two 'Open Forums' (one during the day and one in the evening) to present candidate names and information. This open conversation allows members to learn about candidates prior to the call meeting. During the time between the forums and call meeting we encourage you to pray for God's guidance and discuss your opinions with family and friends. This creates an informed voters assembly for the call meeting itself.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide this entire process as we earnestly seek God's direction in identifying our next Senior Pastor.

DEBT ELIMINATION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

After much discussion we now have a plan in place to make St. John's a debt free congregation over the next 18 months. As strongly suggested by our members, this campaign has the single goal of paying off our existing mortgage of \$180,000 with Church Extension Fund. Once this is accomplished we will consider how to address several facility needs identified by our Trustees.

THREE PART CAMPAIGN

Part One is Advanced Gifts: We have two Advanced Gifts totaling \$40,000. We also have cash reserves that assure we will meet our monthly mortgage payments while the campaign puts all gifts toward paying down principle.

Part Two is Leadership Gifts: We have identified congregational leaders (some in elected office, others in positions of influence) to create the momentum needed for a successful campaign. They will be meeting with me the last Tuesdays of August to consider their commitment.

Continued on next page

Part Three is Congregational Gifts: A mailing will be sent out to each household toward the end of August. It will explain the campaign and include a 'commitment form' that invites each household of St. John's to make a gift. Forms may be placed in the offering plate or forwarded to the church office.

Our goal is to announce preliminary results during worship services the weekend of September 17/18. The gifting period will extend through 2017.

WHAT A BLESSING IT WILL BE FOR OUR NEW SENIOR PASTOR TO LEAD THE CONGREGATION IN A "MORTGAGE BURNING" CEREMONY EARLY IN HIS TENURE AMONG US. From that time forward our full attention can be on General Budget gifts to support St. John's ministry and missions.

SEPTEMBER 11

Several times in this article we have referenced this date in terms of congregational activity. However, in the recess of our minds, every time this date rolls around we remember the tragedy that befell on our nation on this date, 2001 (making this the 15th anniversary). In the September 10/11 weekend services we will allow time for silent reflection and prayer as we remember those who lost life and limb at the hands of terrorists. May we never take for granted the wonderful blessing God has provided in the form of this great nation. While Christians long for the 'new heavens and new earth' where we will spend our eternal future, we also thank God that our temporal lives are lived in a nation dedicated to 'liberty and justice for all.' God Bless America!

In Christ,
Ronald C. Moritz, Interim Pastor



Fostering & Multiplying Christ-like Servant Leaders

KINDLE is Impacting Congregations

"It's a game changer."

"KINDLE has impacted my workplace."

"I am more aware of the impact I have on people around me."

"KINDLE is changing my life every day."

These are the testimonies of people who have engaged KINDLE in their congregation. KINDLE helps prepare God's people to be a welcoming, engaging presence of Christ, wherever they may be.

KINDLE is growing as it stays true to its stated mission to ". . .foster and multiply Christ-like servant leaders to enhance the ministry of congregations in their communities and the world." More workers and their congregations are witnessing the impact. This fall, another 59 professionals will join the 219 others who have participated in one of KINDLE's national training events and they will involve many more in their congregations, and our own **Craig Kaschube** will be one of the 59!

BENEFITS TO THE CONGREGATION

When you attend Classic KINDLE, the congregation and those you serve will gain a staff member who: is a healthier, more intentional Christ-like Servant Leader; desires to develop an ongoing leadership development process within his or her ministry area; possesses resources for creating generations of Christ-like Servant Leaders, both inside and outside of the congregation; is able to coach lay leaders in their pursuit of a Servant Leader growth plan; keeps his or her ministry area focused on Christ-like servant leadership in congregation, home, workplace, and community. For more info visit [here](http://www.st-johns-lutheran.com).

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



CROP Walk

Save the Date! 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. October is just around the corner – it's not too early to start planning. If you're interested in helping on walk day, please contact us.

In His Service,
Tracy Wood

(616) 402-5099 or woodtracy3@gmail.com



From the **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Men's Choir

Men's Choir is Wednesday, September 7, 14, 21. All men and high school boys are welcome. We'd love to have lots of new voices! This is the perfect choir for those of you who can not commit to Celebration Choir.

Celebration Choir

Celebration Choir is Wednesdays beginning in October. 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? We'll have an informal demonstration in the Social Hall between services on Sunday, September 25. See you there!

Contact Tracy Wood, Music Director, with questions at (616) 402-5099 or twood@sjlcs.org.

SEE YOU AT THE POLE™
WE CRY OUT
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

Meet us at the flag pole at 7:00am on Wednesday, September 28 at St. John's Lutheran Day School. Staff, students & parents are invited to join us in prayer! After prayer, doughnuts & juice will be provided.



Creation Museum & Ark Encounter Bus Trip

Deadline for sign up: Friday, September 30th

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 (approximate)

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.

Who? Couples, Families, Girlfriends, Neighbors, church members, non-church members, and anyone else interested in the Biblical account of Creation and Noah's Ark!

Ark Encounter: Features a full-size Noah's Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, this modern engineering marvel amazes visitors young and old. Ark Encounter is situated in the beautiful Williamstown, Kentucky, halfway between Cincinnati and Lexington. From the moment you turn the corner and the towering Ark comes into view, to the friendly animals in the zoo, to the jawdropping exhibits inside the Ark, you'll experience the pages of the Bible like never before. Click [here](#) for more info on the Ark Encounter.

Creation Museum: The state-of-the-art 75,000-square-foot museum brings the pages of the Bible to life, casting its characters and animals in dynamic form and placing them in familiar settings. Adam and Eve live in the Garden of Eden. Children play and dinosaurs roam near Eden's Rivers. The serpent coils cunningly in the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Majestic murals, great masterpieces brimming with pulsating colors and details, provide a backdrop for many of the settings. Click [here](#) for more information on the Creation Museum.



Itinerary:

Friday, November 4

6:00am depart St. John's Lutheran Church
11:00am (approximate) fast food lunch
1:30pm (approximate) arrive Ark Encounter
6:00pm depart Ark Encounter
6:30pm arrive at hotel
7:00pm group dinner at Cracker Barrel

Saturday, November 5

9:00am arrive Creation Museum
3:00pm depart for home
7:00pm fast food dinner
10:00pm (approximate) arrive St. John's Lutheran Church

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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

School Supplies Needed: As the first day of school approaches, the Social Ministry Board is again collecting the following school supplies for our students at St. John's Lutheran School: wide and college size loose leaf paper, markers, spiral notebooks, pencils and glue sticks or Elmer's glue bottles (no crayons needed). These supplies supplement what the students start out the school year with. Our ministry board and teachers sincerely appreciate your continued support. A donation box is located at the parking lot entrance.

Youth Group Kickoff Picnic is Sunday, September 11, 11:30am – 1:30pm at St. John's Lutheran Church. Welcome to the annual SJLC Youth Group Kickoff Sunday! Attention Junior and Senior High Youth Families (6th grade and up) you are invited to the annual SJLC Youth Group Kickoff picnic. We will be having a cookout and handing out youth group information, calendar of activities, etc. Please contact Craig at (616) 842-4510 or ckaschube@sjlcs.org for more information. See you all there! Families please bring a dessert to share. Thank you.

Attention Men: The 71st annual Lutheran Laymen's League Men's Retreat at Camp Arcadia will be held September 8-11. The featured speaker will be Lutheran Hour speaker Emeritus Pastor Ken Klaus. Scholarships are available. To register, email online@camp-arcadia.com or call (231) 889-4361.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer Shawl Group resumes on Monday, September 12 (2nd Monday of the month) at 9:00am. Thank you! Kathy Fisher

Ladies Wednesday Bible study begins September 7 at 9:30am with coffee and fellowship time. The actual study will begin on September 14. All ladies are welcome.

Thank You! Pat Young and I delivered 11 sleeping mats to the LWML MI District Convention last month. Thanks again for those of you who bring the bags to church and to the gals who cut them. Please make sure that the bags are #2 bags not #4. The #4 bags are too thick and too hard to use. Thanks again! We have now made and delivered 48 mats so far this year. God Bless. Rosie Anderson

Sunday School Teachers are Needed: Please contact Kim Tullock at (616) 847-1637 if you are interested in teaching or subbing. **Sunday School Rally Day** is Sunday, September 11 at 9:30am for ages 3 through 4th grade. Looking for donations of cookies (peanut free). For more information, contact Kim Tullock.

Attention Parents of College Students: Please provide the church office with your student's names, addresses and college they are attending at office@sjlcs.org.

Please consider participating in this month's Nursing Home worship service: Sunday, September 18, at 2:00pm at Oak Crest Manors

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CROP Walk Help Needed: October 2nd is just around the corner, and that means it's CROP Walk time! St. John's is hosting the community walk this year, and we are in need of a core team to help set up, welcome walkers, serve soup, clean up, and just generally be a friendly face. CROP is such a powerful way to help people in need here in our community and around the globe. Will you consider giving some of your time on October 2? And don't forget - YOU can be a walker too! Help us combat hunger! Questions? Contact Tim or Tracy Wood at (616) 402-5099 or twood@sjlcs.org.

Attention: Jr./Sr. High youth families! If you would like to receive youth group bi-weekly updates please send your email address to Sue LaLonde at suelalonde@charter.net. Remember you can always access the live youth group calendar on our church website [here](#).

Free Food Distribution & Dinner: Anyone in need of food is welcome to come to a Feed America Truck! Thursday, September 15 at Hope Reformed Church (14932 Mercury Drive, GH). Registration begins at 4:00pm. Dinner is served 5:00-6:00pm. Distribution of food begins at 6:00pm. In case of inclement weather, distribution takes place inside the church.



...to **St. John's members** for your support for the 2016 National Youth Gathering.

...to all **St. John's members** who contributed to our Coast Guard Festival Parking Lot Fund Raiser by parking your car in our church parking lot during the Coast Guard Parade. All proceeds help to support our 7th and 8th grade class as they prepare for their trip to Washington DC!

FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

07/03/16 **Carson Gabriel Pierce**, son of **George & Domonique* (Larkin) Pierce**

07/21/16 **Camielle Scarlett Socia**, daughter of **Steven & Nicole* (Hass) Socia**

Deaths

07/20/16 **Betty Shaw**, mother of **Mary Linda* (Ross*) Kittleman**

Kittleman

07/25/16 **Florence Garrett**, mother of **Marlene Bushaw**

Bushaw

* **Members of SJLC**

Our current membership stands at 579 baptized, 476 of whom have confirmed their faith.



Dear **St. John's**,

Thank you for your support for the 2016 National Youth Gathering. The poster above illustrates some of the things we learned about "In Christ Alone".

Thanks again,

Craig, Amanda, Alex, Ryan, Peter, Travis, Rhiannon, Veronica, Alicia

Strengthen Your Marriage in 12 Weeks!

The Heart & Soul of a Real A Marriage course looks behind the wall of issues that most couples think are causing marital tension and into the deeper wounds that each carried into the relationship before they even met. Rather than glossing over marital issues with marriage management skills, this course exposes the motivations of our hearts that sabotage any hope for genuine intimacy. In so doing, it provides real hope for redeeming the marital intimacy we dreamed of when we first "fell in love."

Whether you want to enrich your marriage or find hope for a troubled or broken marriage, The Heart and Soul of a Real Marriage will offer you practical resources to help you on your journey of intimacy. This series runs for 12 consecutive weeks, beginning, Tuesday, September 6, 2016, 7:00-9:00pm.

For more information or to pre-register, contact Bridge To Life Ministries, 17194 Van Wagoner Rd., Spring Lake, MI 49456, (616) 846-1051 or info@BridgeToLife.org.



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

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

Arnie Redeker Memorial Golf Outing to Benefit St. John's Lutheran School

Date: Sunday, September 18

Time: 2:00pm Shotgun Start,
Pig Roast Dinner at 6:30pm

Where: Pigeon Creek Golf Course,
Grand Haven

Format: 4-Person Scramble, 18 holes

Cost: \$60 per person, \$220 per Team



Get your foursome together--or let us pair you up with a team.

Click [here](#) for more information!