

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church



September 2012

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Mission Statement: We are called by God to be the light of the world. We are to go forth and show Jesus' love and forgiveness through loving care for all God's creation.

"Living Each Day as a Steward"

C.S. Lewis said, "There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, 'All right, then, have it your way.'" As redeemed children of God, of course, we desire to belong to that first category. We long to **live each day as stewards** who earnestly pray, "Thy will be done." As God's stewards, we are devoted to using all that we are and have for His purpose. We are God's stewards each and every day.

On the first three weekends of September, the theme of our worship services will be **living each day as a steward**. We will learn how the Holy Spirit, working through Word and Sacrament, transforms us to be more like our Chief Steward, Jesus, Who willingly poured out His life in giving and serving, ultimately sacrificing His very life for our eternal lives. Just as Jesus faithfully served His Father by serving us, we are to use our lives and gifts in faithful service to Him by serving others. *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace"* (1 Peter 4:10).

As members of your Board of Stewardship, we pray that each of you will take advantage of these opportunities to grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord that you might be strengthened in faith both for eternity and for a fruitful life here on earth.

The three weekly themes are as follows:

September 1 & 2

"The Steward's Identity"

September 8 & 9

"The Steward's Purpose"

September 15 & 16

"The Steward's Lifestyle" (Commitment Sunday)



May God grant us strength and wisdom to be the faithful stewards that He has called us to be.

The Board of Stewardship

Sue Helmuth, Chair

Emily Saeger

Deb Sandberg

Darleene Swen

Pastor Kevin Ader

Recognition of Newer Members

Our newer members will be welcomed at the September 8 & 9 church services. Please join us in fellowship after each service. Refreshments will be provided by the Stewardship Board.

Members welcomed include: Don & Betty Spurlock, Curt & Colleen Ruesch, Sue & Tom Simons, Nick Simons, Barret Simons, Tom & JoLynn Winkels, Scott Federwitz, Juan & Tara Bonilla, Caleb Bonilla, Aryana Bonilla, Ray & Judy Monje, Jeanine Arneson, Chuck & Gail Bossingham, Steve & Terri Lybeck, Randy & Donna Polansky, Dave & Pam Lutz, Kurt & Carol Molski, Courtney Molski, Cassandra Woflgram, Gary & Pat Simmons.

Weekday School Registration Rally Sunday

Weekday School Begins on Wednesday, September 5 at 6:30 PM with registration. You may also register by contacting the church office. We have many fun activities included in this year's schedule while we share in God's word.

If you wish to volunteer or be a teacher please contact Brenda Prange at 715-213-9623 or Kylie Swen at 715-213-5555.

Rally Sunday will be September 23 at 9:30 AM.



Harvest Celebration

The Board of Stewardship will again sponsor a Harvest Celebration to be held on September 23.

This year we want to celebrate all members who have given of their time or talents. This includes each

and every one of you! You certainly should be proud of your stewardship efforts and we Thank You!

We do not want to minimize your efforts, however, we would like to give special recognition to certain groups or individuals who have exceeded in their efforts.

Our celebration will begin with the church service where our Weekday School children will again up lift our spirits with their singing. A semi catered meal will follow, after which we will have a brief recognition ceremony followed by plenty of time to visit and enjoy our time with each other.

Check upcoming bulletins for menu, updates, and more information.

Fall Bible Studies

Sunday morning class will resume on Sunday, September 16, from 8:00-9:00 AM. Chapter 18 (pp. 139-146) will be our topic of study.

Lutheranism 101: The Course will resume in September. The Monday evening session will resume on Monday, September 17 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Chapters 22 & 23 (pp. 166-183) will be our topic of study.

Bible Study at the home of Doug and Karen Ross will resume in October. We will study the book of Romans. Please let the church office know if you are interested so that we can order enough books.

School Supplies Collection

It's not to late to bring in your school supplies for Grant Elementary. A drop off box is located in the narthex for the following donations:

Colored pencils, crayons, glue sticks, rulers, pencils, loose leaf notebook paper (wide line-3 holes), folders, pencil boxes, markers, red pens, black pens, and back packs. Thank you—The Human Care Board

LWML Zone 17 Fall Rally

The LWML Zone 17 Fall Rally will be on Thursday, October 11, 2012 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Seneca). Registration is 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Lunch at noon and the Rally starts at 12:45 PM. Fee: \$5.00. More information and a map can be found on the table in the Narthex.

Board of Evangelism

The Board of Evangelism is looking for two or three people to serve on this board. If interested or for more information please call the church office at 715-423-7788.

Fall & Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale

Saturday, October 27, 2012

We welcome your donations of Fall and Holiday decorations, crafts of all kinds, woodcrafts, toys, baby items, quality farm produce, canned fruits and vegetables, jams and jellies and home-baked goods. Watch for more information in upcoming bulletins and the October newsletter.

Book Sale

The church library committee will be having its Annual Book Sale at the Fall Bazaar on October 27. Donations can be made by placing your items in a bag marked "Book Sale" and dropping them off in the library area of the narthex. Besides books we will also take CD, video, and DVD's (in good working order). The money from this sale allows us to make new purchases for the library. Thanks for your donations!

We are also in need of volunteers to help set up the books on Thursday, October 25 at 7 PM and/or to help for a few hours the day of the book sale.

If interested please call the church office.

Bethesda Thrift Shop

The season ending Clearance sale - Bag Sale - continues through September 8. Fill a grocery bag with clothing and shoes – all for only \$7.00 per bag. Great time to load up on school clothing. On Monday, September 10 the store will be completely restocked with fall and winter clothing. Come early for best selection. Fall decoration and Halloween items are also available. New furniture, mattresses and athletic socks are in stock. Senior and Veterans Days (25% off) continue on Wednesdays. Come in for a great shopping experience. Thanks for supporting the disabled folks at Bethesda.

Looking For A Few Good Women (And Some Men)

Mom used to tell me to never look a gift horse in the mouth. Younkens continues to offer us cash money for very little work on our part and we have continued to look that gift horse in the mouth. I'd very much like to change that this year! I'd like to see us raise at least twice what we have in the past! How can we do that? By organizing and getting serious about our goals.

I am officially asking each of you to consider signing up for the coupon sales committee! The next time Younkens announces a Community Days Sales Event, I would like us to be ready to take FULL advantage of that opportunity! What does that mean for each of you? We seriously sell their coupon books at church, to our friends and family, to our co-workers, neighbors and maybe even to folks we don't know or even like so well...the point is to sell the coupon books. Why? Because for every book we sell, St. John makes a clear profit of \$5.00.

Needless to say, there has to be something in it for Younkens and there is. In addition to selling the books at church and locally, Younkens asks us to sell the books in the Plover store.

Remember, for every book we sell, including those sold at the store, St. John makes \$5.00. This summer, a very few folks sold over 100 books for a profit of more than \$500. Just imagine what we could do with 20 or 30 more volunteers who are willing to work a few of these shifts at the store. It isn't even close to hard work! You don't have to work in a hot kitchen, cooking or doing dishes or clearing tables. All you have to do is greet customers as they enter the store and tell them about the benefits that come with buying a coupon book (or 2 books or 3 books...the sky is the limit). Other organizations that sell at the store during these events (St. Bron's, Suzuki, Meals-On-Wheels, etc.) make tons more money than we did, simply by being there more often and actively working it.

We will give you some suggestions of things you can say to the customers, but you will find that once you know the benefits, telling others will be both easy and natural and will come across better than reciting a prepared script. You will also find that you enjoy the time spent speaking with folks from the community. It's a true win-win for everyone involved. I have heard some say that there are too many exclusions and the "deals" aren't as good as they seem. Well, for the \$5 spent for the

book, you get a coupon for \$10 off any purchase of at least \$10. That seems like a pretty good deal to me. True, there are some exclusions (you can't use coupons on "BONUS" sale items or "INCREDIBLE VALUE" sale items) but these are clearly marked and have already been reduced in price so that the store can't allow any further reduction. And consider that anyone can use that \$10 coupon for needed items like: PJ's, underwear, towels, sheets, socks, housewares and the list goes on. AND, don't forget that Christmas will be just around the corner!

The next Community Days Sales event will be towards the end of October and I would like for St. John to be ready to fill many spots when the shift sign-up is announced. The shifts begin at 10 AM and run until 8 PM, in 2-hour increments. If you work outside the home during the day, you could take evening shifts or weekend shifts. If you are willing to pitch in by joining our team or have any questions, please call me at 715-342-0117. Should I be away from home when you call, just leave a message and I will return your call in a jiffy!

The only way we can lose is by not taking advantage of the opportunity and working it to our advantage. Many hands make light work, so PLEASE consider how you can help by joining the team. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Judy Monje

Just arrived...

... a new selection of Boxed GREETING CARDS!

Are you looking for Masculine, Feminine, Juvenile, or a box of General Birthday Cards? The newest are now on display! The latest selection also includes boxes of Get Well, Sympathy, Thinking of You, Wedding, Anniversary, New Baby, Baptism, Confirmation, Graduation, Secret Pal, All Occasion Cards, and Thank You cards.

The "Boxed" Cards of 12 sell for a very economical price of \$6.00 (50c per card) or \$6.50 (54c per card). Some boxes offer a "special of 16 cards for \$6.50—40c per card. Prices are marked on the box.

There is also a great selection of "Individual Greeting Cards" priced at 50c per card. Packaged Napkins are \$3.00

Coming soon...a great selection of Thanksgiving and Christmas cards and Napkins.

Any questions, please contact Emily Saeger, Judy Shepard or Darleene Swen.

Father's Love Letter

My Child,

You may not know me, but I know everything about you. Psalm 139:1
I know when you sit down and when you rise up. Psalm 139:2
I am familiar with all your ways. Psalm 139:3
Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. Matthew 10:29-31
For you were made in my image. Genesis 1:27
In me you live and move and have your being. Acts 17:28
For you are my offspring. Acts 17:28
I knew you even before you were conceived. Jeremiah 1:4-5
I chose you when I planned creation. Ephesians 1:11-12
You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. Psalm 139:15-16
I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. Acts 17:26

You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14
I knit you together in your mother's womb. Psalm 139:13
And brought you forth on the day you were born. Psalm 71:6
I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. John 8:41-44
I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. 1 John 4:16
And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. 1 John 3:1
Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. 1 John 3:1
I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. Matthew 7:11
For I am the perfect father. Matthew 5:48

Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. James 1:17
For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. Matthew 6:31-33
My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11
Because I love you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3
My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. Psalms 139:17-18
And I rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17
I will never stop doing good to you. Jeremiah 32:40
For you are my treasured possession. Exodus 19:5

I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. Jeremiah 32:41
And I want to show you great and marvelous things. Jeremiah 33:3
If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. Deuteronomy 4:29
Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4
For it is I who gave you those desires. Philippians 2:13
I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. Ephesians 3:20

For I am your greatest encourager. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. Psalm 34:18
As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. Isaiah 40:11
One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. Revelation 21:3-4
And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. Revelation 21:3-4

I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. John 17:23
For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. John 17:26
He is the exact representation of my being. Hebrews 1:3
He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. Romans 8:31

And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19
Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19
His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. 1 John 4:10
I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. Romans 8:31-32

If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. 1 John 2:23
And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. Romans 8:38-39
Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. Luke 15:7

I have always been Father, and will always be Father. Ephesians 3:14-15
My question is...Will you be my child? John 1:12-13
I am waiting for you. Luke 15:11-32

**Love, Your Dad
Almighty God**

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Thank You!

On Thursday, August 2, 2012 the members of St. John were privileged to prepare and serve the weekly evening meal for the Neighborhood Table located at St. John Episcopal Church in Wisconsin Rapids. The Neighborhood Table is a community-based group of volunteers, of all faiths, working together to help our hungry neighbors. This organization has been serving the community for nine years. St. John, Kellner has had the pleasure of serving a Thursday night meal for the past 6 years.

This year's "to-go" meal was: Brats in a bun, lettuce salad and dressing, potato chips, corn on the cob and dessert. The "dine-in" meal had a slight variation—Brats or hot dogs in a bun, potato salad, bean salad, corn on the cob, Tortia chips and salsa, dessert along with a selection of beverages. Total Meals prepared were 361—135 "to-go's" and 226 "in-house" meals.

St. John members are thanked for their donations of monies used to purchase the food supplies for the dinner. The cost to St. John Kellner was \$343.32 (95 cents per meal). Donated monies left from 2011 collection was \$77.70, plus 2012 collection of \$190.00 a total of \$267.70, a short-fall of \$75.62. Thank you to those who prepared the many desserts, and helped to prepare and serve the meal plus the clean-up duties. A special Thank You is extended to the Port Edwards Lions Club and their families who donated desserts and assisted in serving the meal and the clean-up duties.

There are so many in the community that not only need a healthy meal, but the fellowship we can provide.

Plans are being made to serve...

*The Neighborhood Table Dinner
on
Thursday, August 1, 2013*

*Thank you for participating in "The
Neighborhood Table"*

*Bonnie James Judy Shepard
Co-chairpersons*