

# Good News

"He who despises his neighbors sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy." - Proverbs 14:21



Faith at Home

St. John's Lutheran Church

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June 2011

## Pastoral Musings

"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." 1 Peter 4:9

"Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:1-2

With the summer months upon us, St. John's will experience the presence of visitors in our worship services. Actually, we average between three and six first time or infrequent visitors every weekend. The summer months will see that jump slightly to between six and ten households (couple, families, individuals) per weekend. It is our prayer that we are ready and prepared to receive them with open arms and joy in our hearts and upon our faces.

One would think this would come naturally, but it doesn't. In fact from some research shared by Pastor Joel Hoyer of Grace Lutheran Church in Coopersville, one would have to conclude that most Christian Churches have a way to grow when it comes to making visitors feel at home and like welcomed guests.

### Inside this issue...

Financial Freedom Update .....Pg 2

Faith at Home.....Pg 2

School News.....Pg 4

Church Calendar.....Pg 7

### Worship Services:

Sacred Song (Traditional): 8:15am

Blended Voices (Contemporary): 10:30am

Night Song (Saturday service): 6:00pm

1st & 3rd Saturdays – Traditional worship

2nd & 4th Saturdays – Contemporary worship

5th Saturdays – Vespers worship

This is what Pastor Hoyer shared with his congregation:

### How "Friendly" Are We?

Eighteen churches in Lincoln, NE., chosen at random were evaluated by a researcher. The researcher had determined a scoring method in advance, as follows:

**10 points for a Smile From a Worshipper.**

**10 points for a Greeting From Someone Sitting Nearby.**

**100 points for an Exchange of Names.**

**200 points for an Invitation To Return.**

**1000 points for an Introduction To Another Person.**

**2000 points for an Invitation to Meet the Pastor.**

His method was to visit congregations on successive Sundays, sit near the front of the sanctuary, and after the service to walk slowly to the rear. He was dressed neatly and asked at least one person to direct him to the social hall, Sunday School class area, pastor's study and rest room.

The results: not one of the visited churches scored even 100 points! The man concluded: "The preaching may be Biblical, the singing inspirational, or the sermon uplifting. But when a visitor finds no one who cares whether or not he is there, the visitor is not likely to return."

Consider having a friend who is not known in our church visit one Sunday and try the same test.

Let me know, will you? And let your love of Jesus show to those around you!

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Hoyer*

What would be the results at St. John's?

## Pastor's Prayer Calendar

It is with much joy that I share the number of different folks praying for me jumped from twenty-two at the beginning of April to twenty-nine at month's end. And...that number also includes someone who is **not** a member of our congregation. A first, and I thank him for it. Indeed, I thank each and everyone who is praying for me and the ministry here at St. John's and has let it be known. You don't realize how strengthening and invigorating that is. It lifts my soul immeasurably. It strengthens my resolve to abide in our God's Word and Way and to do the best job I possibly can as shepherd of this congregation. Thank you people of God for your prayers. Special thanks to those who make it known on the prayer calendar.

If you'd like to be part of that group, just look for the prayer calendar on the elder's bulletin board and sign-up for any day (or as many days as you are willing to lift up pastor and people, and ministry done – in prayer.



## Financial Freedom Fund Update

At the end of April, contributions to St. John's Financial Freedom Fund (FFF) totaled \$54,651. This includes the \$4,000 matching gift by the St. John's Endowment Fund which, by the way, was overwhelmingly responded to with gifts totaling over \$10,000.

All of this coming from sixty-three out of the three hundred and twenty-seven active giving units, roughly nineteen percent of the folks supporting our ministry at St. John's and ten percent of our total congregational giving units (63/629). Just think what we could do together if everyone got behind our efforts to retire our debt and gave an extra gift to the FFF. Won't you consider a gift today? Any amount will be gladly and thankfully received. Thank you brothers/sisters in Christ for your love of the Lord and His church here at St. John's.



# Faith at Home



## Take it Home Event

**Family Service Projects** will be the focus of our next Faith at Home (FAH) Take it Home Event scheduled for the weekend of July 9/10. This special session will offer suggestions for a variety of area service projects of different types and commitment levels that your family may choose to participate in. If you are IN NEED of a project done at your home, please submit your "wish list" to Craig Kaschube or Richard Rothe. You would need to supply materials-and be there to oversee the project. We will list your project as one of the available choices for families. Watch for this special focus to be coming one weekend in July.

## Marriage Ministry

Watch your worship bulletins for more information regarding our **Marriage Ministry Picnic** scheduled for Friday, July 22!

## Extra-Mile Giving

Someone asked a very good question the other day, namely: "What's included under the Outside Missions category reported on the Fiscal Year Comparisons chart in the monthly newsletter?" The answer? Everything not budgeted for by the congregation.

Thus you could have donations included for items that are paid for out of the General Fund, like flowers for Christmas and Easter, as well as **all** other funds (FFF, FAH, BUTC, Endowment, etc.), along with all "inside" the congregation organizations and missions (Ladies Aid, Tuesday Night Men's Bible Study, God's Pantry, Youth), "extra" projects for the school (playground equipment, computers, science lab, etc.), all "outside" the congregation missions and organizations (Lutheran Hour, LCFS, LBT, LFL, POBLO, to name just a few) and anything else that is given "outside" of our budgeted General Fund.

The one Mission this column does not include or cover is our tithe to District and Synodical missions, that comes out of our General Fund giving as the congregation voted on several years back.

The reason for this year's tremendous increase in the giving reported in the column is the congregation's response to the Financial Freedom Fund. We thank our Lord for such generosity.

## Board of Parish Education:

The Crossways Bible study completed the Old Testament in May and will be taking off for the summer. We will pick up with the New Testament in September the first Tuesday evening after Labor Day. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to jump in and begin the study of the New Testament with us. If you let us know as soon as possible we can order the study materials for you and be ready to go by September. Please consider joining us for this unique and extremely interesting narrative through the Bible. We will meet on Tuesday evenings in the Sanctuary from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Please Contact Wayne Kohn at [wjnd@comcast.net](mailto:wjnd@comcast.net) to order the study books.

Also VBS is fast approaching and there is always a need for volunteers to help with this traditional and exciting program for our young folks. Please consider lending a helping hand by contacting Shelley Peetes at [shelleycms@yahoo.com](mailto:shelleycms@yahoo.com) or contact Craig Kaschube at [ckaschube@sjlcs.org](mailto:ckaschube@sjlcs.org).

The Board of Parish Education encourages our members to stay involved in the life long study of God's word as it is a light unto our feet and a lamp unto our path. Please browse and consider the bounty of options available to you in our Church Library. This abundant source of reading and study is certain to have something to satisfy the desire of everyone in their lifelong journey with God's Word. If there is something you would like to see please let us know.

## Music Notes

**The JuBELLation Ringers** have finished their Spring Season. Our ringers this season have been **Micaela Semkiw, Pat Young, Peg Mandrick, Teresa Schaudt, Ruth Haupt, Kathy Spink, Jesse Schaudt, Dominique Larkin, and Alex Vandervest**. Thank you for all the time you gave at practices to learn the music and the time you gave on weekends to ring praises to our Lord Jesus in worship. Fall season will start on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the balcony. Anyone interested in joining the JuBELLation Ringers in the Fall Season, contact Ruth Haupt at (616) 846-7875 or [haupttruth@hotmail.com](mailto:haupttruth@hotmail.com).

## Church Library – 2011



### ☆ HIDING PLACES, Kathleen Trock

Experience "hiding" with children. Read about circumstances and the way a child may hide from it. The ultimate hiding place should be in God.

### BIBLE STUDY – FAITH AT HOME

Take a moment and glance at the display shelf. Read the printout of what's available on each shelf. Check it out – study it – return it at your convenience.

### CHILDREN

My ABC Prayers, Crystal Bowman

No Wonder They Call Him the Savior, Max Lucado

FREE – books on daily devotions or duplicate donations:

Daily Guideposts 2002

The Answers Book – revised and expanded

Family Devotions – life application

And the Angels Were Silent, Max Lucado

He Chose the Nails, Max Lucado

Six Hours One Friday, Max Lucado

Tell Me the Secrets, Max Lucado

Three from Galilee – Marjorie Holmes (novel)

All books on this shelf will be placed in the Ladies Aid Rummage Sale in June.

Fay Hoffman, Volunteer

## Mission U

Come join us at St Matthew Lutheran Church, Spring Lake on Saturday, June 4, for a course designed to support the evangelism efforts of the people of St. John's, St. Matthew's and other local congregations. A representative from Mission U, a program of Lutheran Hour Ministries, will be there to lead us in identifying witnessing obstacles and point to Scriptures for strength and guidance.

### Mission U - June 4, 2011

St Matthew Lutheran Church - 15395 Rannes Rd  
Spring Lake, 9am - 2pm Lunch provided

Contact Ronda Chapman at (616) 847-8736 if you need a ride or would like to carpool.



# St. John's Day School

## **PRESCHOOL**

Preschool said good-bye to 48 preschoolers in May. We had a great year learning and making new friends. We finished the year with our annual family picnic at Pottawattomie Park. We had 30 preschool families in attendance. It was a great night.

The May mini-session will be All about Camping. We have a lot of fun planned for the 36 students attending. Make sure and look for us in the Memorial Day Parade.

We have a couple of openings for fall in the 3 yr. old preschool class. Contact Debbie Luytjes if interested in preschool or daycare for the fall at school (616) 842-0260 ext.119.

## **KINDERGARTEN**

Our class learned many things about animals that live in the zoo. We found out where they came from in the world, what the males, females and babies are named and what they eat. We did a Venn diagram comparing zebras and giraffes. We had fun making zoo animals for our bulletin board. We made gifts for our moms to show how much we love them. We were great hosts to the children, who will be coming to Kindergarten in September, for a day to see what we do in our "family". We sang in the Talent Show and had a great time. On a bulletin board, we wrote sentences and illustrated them as we told why America is great! On Memorial Day, we rode in the parade in Grand Haven. We thanked all the people who protect us in America. God Bless America!

## **FIRST GRADE**

Reading, writing, math what fun!  
We are now to the end of Grade One Religion, art, spelling too!  
Classes that made up our day at school.  
The love of Mrs. Kooi, the friendships we share,  
And Cuddles, the puppy, not a teddy bear.  
Our best friend Jesus was with us each day.  
And throughout life, He'll be with us to stay.  
Have a blessed and safe summer!

## **SECOND AND THIRD GRADE (Mrs. Bunda)**

Wow! What a wonderful year of learning we have had in the second and third grades. We finished the school year enjoying lots of creative writing, reading, and learning how to write in cursive. We took a terrific field trip to Blandford Nature Center where we learned about homestead life, Michigan wildlife, and Michigan plant and animal habitats. We are looking forward to a safe and happy summer with our families and friends.

## **SECOND AND THIRD GRADE (Mrs. Harvey)**

Well, here we are at the end of the school year 2010-2011. This year has been filled with so many blessings. Second and third grade has done a phenomenal job in applying themselves to learning this year. They've learned how math is needed every day in all areas of our lives. They have a better understanding of the world in which they live. They know the love of God and that God has given each of them special gifts to use and have done their best to develop those gifts. I am so very proud of their efforts and successes. We all thank you for your continued prayers for our school students and staff. We pray everyone has a safe and blessed summer.

## **FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE**

The fourth and fifth grade class has finished reading Dear Mr. Henshaw and now we are on to books by Roald Dahl. We are studying the book of Judges in Religion class, multiplying and dividing fractions in Math class, and counting down the days till summer vacation!

The fourth-sixth grades learned three great science songs, Invisible Forces, Atmosphere, and Pollination Rock, which we shared at the talent show. We traveled to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago for a day-long discovery of all things science! We are finishing the year learning about natural resources and hope to use many of Michigan's wonderful natural resources this summer! We give thanks to our Lord for all the learning we accomplished this year.

## **SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE**

In religion class we are finishing the year with a survey of world religions, utilizing Dr. Maier's video series: Christianity and the Competition. Students requested this study and are highly interested. In science class we completed our study of the human body. As a culminating activity each student is researching a disease and presenting their findings to the class. Speaking of fabulous culminating activities, our students enjoyed an incredible week of learning and fellowship in Washington D.C. where they visited Jamestown, Williamsburg, the National Monuments, the Capitol, and Gettysburg. We thank you for your prayers and support this year and wish you a happy summer!

**A huge thank you to our wonderful congregation for helping St. John's win the "coolest school" award for the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year! What an extraordinary way to come together, enjoy an ice cream treat and support our incredible school!**

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ATTENTION Youth** - We are glad to have **Vacation Bible School** back in our summer schedule. This year VBS will be held July 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>. The theme is BIG JUNGLE ADVENTURE where kids learn that they are never alone during the adventure of life because Jesus is by their side. This year we are looking at having the Junior and Senior youth lead as Group Leaders as well as join in the Opening and Closing each day. Areas of participation will be in singing, teaching, reading, and a tech team. So please let Mr. Kaschube know if you are interested in participating by calling him at (616) 842-4510 or email [ckaschube@sjlcs.org](mailto:ckaschube@sjlcs.org).

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**A Trip to Turkey:** Pastor John & Nancy Westra from Zion Lutheran in Holland, are hosting a trip to Turkey, Mar. 19-28, 2012. Visiting ancient cities in the Book of Acts, and the Seven Churches of Revelation, all found in the country of Turkey. An informational meeting is scheduled regarding this trip for Tue., June 7 at 7:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 77 West 32nd Street, Holland. Join Pastor John & Nancy Westra for about an hour to hear about the adventure through history in the modern day country of Turkey. The group is gathering. Plan now to attend this meeting and learn travel tips, financial concerns, and more. There is still time to sign up for the trip. Come and bring your questions. Contact Pastor John or Nancy at (616) 394-4784 for more details or a brochure.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

LCFS would like to thank St. John Lutheran Youth, Quilters and Congregation! ***"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."*** **2 Corinthians 9:11** On behalf of Lutheran Child & Family Service of Michigan please accept my most heart-felt "THANK YOU"! I was overwhelmed by the number of blankets that were produced by the youth group and the Quilters. When Sheri Sanborn asked me if I needed help picking up the blankets – I politely declined. I should have taken her up on her offer and I could barely fit all of the blankets in my car! **Thank you for the 73 blankets and quilts – a value of over \$2000!** What a blessing you all have given to abused, abandoned and neglected children. We sometimes take things for granted. The children that LCFS serves are in difficult situations, that is why we are called to care for them. Something as simple as a warm blanket can bring joy to children who need it most. Thank you again for all of your support and your partnership for LCFS and those in our care.  
Blessings, Scott Liggett, LCFS Director of Development

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**Something New:** The third Sunday of every month Ladies Aid will display their Rada Cutlery for sale in the Social Hall. Proceeds will further the purpose of the society to help with maintaining and furnishing the church, school, and parsonage. Please look for us.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Marriage Ministry Upcoming Events:** Couples – watch for a fun night out in mid-July. We're thinking picnic, bonfire, and volleyball kind of fun! We are also excited to announce that our Fall Date Night is scheduled for Fri., Sept. 9 when we will view the movie "Fireproof".. As a follow up a "Fireproof" Bible study series will be starting on Sunday mornings. Watch for additional details in the coming weeks.

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**OWL's Upcoming Activities:** Next planned activity is the Annual Picnic in July. Watch the bulletin for any activities in June. Peggy Erhorn 844-5095.

**St. John's Ladies Aid** will be holding their **Rummage Sale** Jun. 16&17, 9am-5pm, and Jun. 18, 9am-noon. Help is needed in setting up the sale and packing up on the 18th. Donations of clothing, house wares, books, toys, etc. are appreciated and can be dropped off on Wed., Jun. 15 in the multi-purpose room.

**Thank You!** We'd like to thank everyone for their outpouring of love and concern for us since Ken's accident on Dec. 13. We're grateful for the cards from the school children and others, the meals, visits, the hospital bed delivered in a snowstorm, Pastor Haupt supporting us with Christian love, the youth group, counselors and parents for working in our yard and all other expressions of love. It has been an interesting journey and we thank God for the healing in Ken's leg. God bless each of you. Ken & Connie Behm



...the Trustees would like to thank **Carol & Harry Schmidt** and **Erin Kauth** for donating and planting flowers in the outside planters around the church this year. Also, **Amy Kelly** and **Bill Gierke** for volunteering for keeping the flowers watered this summer.

...the Trustees would also like to say thank you to **Dennis Hoffman** and **Harry Schmidt** for repairs to the access door in the church basement men's bathroom.

...to **Mike Gilmore** for setting up the display for the Easter flowers and also taking it down. His help was certainly needed and much appreciated.

...the Social Ministry would like to thank the **Men's Bible Study** group once again for their help in carrying Easter food baskets.

...to **each and every student at St. John's** for the fantastic job they did at this year's Talent Show. With 15 different acts, the variety kept the audience of 200 involved, smiling, and clapping to the beat. Thank you to all who attended and supported this event in any way!

...to **Mark Brooky, Dan Hardy, Chuck Hasseldahl, Craig Kaschube, Wayne Kohn, Joe Kovacs, Michael Kuras, Craig Montgomery, and Dave Thomas** for sharing the stewardship talks with the congregation before our worship services.

...to all our **out-going officers and board members** for the service they rendered to our Lord's work here at St. John's over their terms in office. Special thanks to **Joe Kovacs** who served as our Executive Director for 6+ years. He steered us on a fiscally sound path and held everyone's feet to the flames when it was needed most.

## FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

### Births:

05/11/11 **Annalise Vink**, daughter of **Andy\* & Megan\* Vink**, granddaughter of **Priscilla\* Isabel**  
 05/11/11 **Austin Noble**, son of **Ryan & Jessica Noble**, grandson of **Richard\* & Sharon\* Rothe**;

### Baptisms:

05/08/11 **Keiya Lee Lockhart**, daughter of **Douglas & Susan\* (Lyons) Lockhart**  
 05/08/11 **Bryce David Nedderman**, son of **Troy\* & Jamie\* (Hannum) Nedderman**  
 05/08/11 **Carter James Podein**, son of **Tara\* Lynn Podein**

### Deaths:

05/07/11 **Albert Weigel**

### Received by Junior Confirmation:

05/01/11 **Tara Lynn Brooky**  
 05/01/11 **Megan Marie Daniels**  
 05/01/11 **Tyler Jay Schraudt**

### Received by Transfer:

05/05/11 **Kurt Williamson** and baptized son, **Travis Williamson**, from St. John Lutheran Church, AuGres, MI

### Received by Reaffirmation of Faith:

04/17/11 **Kelly Sukstorf** and **Sarah Schermer**  
 05/16/11 **Lanell Strait**  
 05/20/11 **Kerry Barr**

### Released Memberships:

**Rhonda Greene** and children, **Leslie, Melanie, Jeffery, and Elizabeth Slack** to Genesis Community Church, Fruitport, MI  
**Treyton Davison** to Second Reformed Church, Grand Haven, MI

### \* Members of SJLC

Our current membership stands at 972 baptized, 773 of whom have confirmed their faith.

## Fiscal Year Comparisons

Our Stewardship Of The Gospel					Our Stewardship Of Gifts			
Date	Worship Attendance		Communion Attendance		General Fund		Outside Missions "Extra-Mile Giving"	
	2009/2010	2010/2011	2009/2010	2010/2011	2009/2010	2010/2011	2009/2010	2010/2011
	<b>June - March</b>	<b>13,766</b>	<b>12,972</b>	<b>10,153</b>	<b>8,974</b>	<b>\$ 576,276.35</b>	<b>\$ 578,058.22</b>	<b>\$ 72,925.16</b>
April 3	512	255	361	213	\$ 23,949.11	\$ 12,500.39	\$ 5,911.48	\$ 3,355.10
April 10	308	314	236	219	\$ 11,513.57	\$ 11,200.19	\$ 2,751.00	\$ 5,375.00
April 17	322	441	256	291	\$ 11,455.00	\$ 20,662.44	\$ 1,208.23	\$ 3,103.47
April 24	454	547	301	364	\$ 24,242.75	\$ 17,221.20	\$ 2,620.97	\$ 1,716.00
Fifth Sunday								
Year to date	<b>15,362</b>	<b>14,529</b>	<b>11,307</b>	<b>10,061</b>	<b>\$ 647,436.78</b>	<b>\$ 639,642.44</b>	<b>\$ 85,416.84</b>	<b>\$ 134,912.90</b>
Weekly ave.	327	309	257	229	\$ 13,775.25	\$ 13,609.41		
General Fund weekly needs					\$ 15,165.67	\$ 13,561.54		



Faith at Home

St. John's Lutheran Church  
527 Taylor Avenue  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

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Rev. Dieter Haupt, Pastor [dhaupt@silcs.org](mailto:dhaupt@silcs.org)  
Craig Kaschube, Youth & Family Life Director [ckaschube@silcs.org](mailto:ckaschube@silcs.org)  
Laura Harvey, School Administrator [lharvey@silcs.org](mailto:lharvey@silcs.org)

**Return Services Requested**

*God's Blessings To:*

You and your  
family!

## Vacation Bible School

With **Big Jungle Adventure**, kids learn that they are never alone during the adventure of life because Jesus is by their side!

**July 25 – July 28 ° 5:00-8:00 p.m. ° dinner included**

Kids ages Preschool - 4th grade meet friends, explore Bible stories, do fun activities, sing great songs, make crafts, play games, and eat snacks. **We need you!** Through the dedication of our members and friends who volunteer at VBS, we are able to minister to children each year with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray for God to provide leaders and helpers for this important mission. If you can help with this very important project, please contact Debbie Clark at (616) 844-7486 or Shelley Peets (616) 842-9051 to sign up!



**We appreciate your prayers** for BIG JUNGLE ADVENTURE. Ask God to bring children to our program so they can know and grow in Jesus, our Savior! And ask God to provide leaders and helpers for this important mission.