

Those serving the Lord and His people today:

Sunday, July 24

Worship Assistance

Elder: Bill Pearson

Acolyte: Sidney Roser

Music: Bill Cunningham

Communion: Bill Pearson & Jeff Crall

Altar Guild: Deb Niman

Greeters: Don & Nancy Nohr

Ushers: Mahlon Hemerley, Bartz

Sons, Harold Bauling, Kevin &

Richard Rindfleisch, David K

Counters: Beulah Knutson,

Beverly Bottoms

Those serving the Lord And His people next week:

Sunday, July 31

Worship Assistance

Elder: John Kannengeiser

Acolyte: Trey Griinke

Music: Bill Cunningham

Communion: Wally Prins & Chris Peterson

Altar Guild: Nancy Nohr & Delores Steil

Greeters: Wally & Kathy Prins

Ushers: Mahlon Hemerley, Bartz

Sons, Harold Bauling, Kevin &

Richard Rindfleisch, David K

Counters: Beulah Knutson,

Beverly Bottoms

This Week at St. John's

Sun	(July 24)	9:00 AM	Worship Service
		10:15 AM	Fellowship
		10:45 AM	Bible Study
Tues	(July 26)	6:00 PM	Parish Council Meeting
Wed	(July 27)	9:00 AM	Sewing
Fri	(July 29)	8:00 AM	TOPS

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Divine Service IV**

Prelude
Announcements
Greeting of Peace
Gathering Hymn **578**
Confession and Absolution: Pg. 203
Kyrie: Pg. 204
Gloria in Excelsis: Pg. 204
Salutation and Collect: Pg. 205
First Lesson **Colossians 2:6-15**
Anthem
Alleluia and Verse: Pg. 205
Gospel Lesson **Luke 11:1-13**
Nicene Creed: Pg. 206
Hymn of the Day **863**
Children's Sermon
Sermon **"Learning to Pray"**
Prayer of the Church
Offering
Preface: Pg. 208
Sanctus: Pg. 208
Lord's Prayer: Pg. 209
Words of Our Lord: Pg. 209
Pax Domini: Pg. 209
Agnus Dei: Pg. 210
Distribution Hymns **770,575**
Nunc Dimittis: Pg. 211
Closing Collect: Pg. 212
Benedicamus: Pg. 212
Benediction: Pg. 212
Closing Hymn **806**
Postlude

Prayer Requests

Prayers for the sick or those in need of physical or spiritual healing

Ralph Voss, Russ Wolter, Joyce Monroe, Darlene Willing, A young woman in the hospital, Tom Drost, Deloris Garber, John Matthews, Russell Ultsch, Mildred Wedel, Marlene Nolta, Dana Nolta, Helena Haug, James Swain, Nadine Polzin, Janice Hemerley, Joanie Genz, Charlotte Ross, Brianna, Kateri Bartz, Cory Bartz, Roy Jacob, Baby Hope, Terry Scribner, Pam Isenberger, Dwight Nattinger, Marilyn Straw, and all of our members who are homebound. Additionally, please pray for the protection of Airman 1st Class Kyle Summers and all of those who serve in the military.



SWD Missions Weekly Prayer

As you pray this week, please remember our District's Hmong ministry in Milwaukee, Manitowoc and Oshkosh. Ask the Lord for His Spirit to encourage Pastors Faiv Neng Her, Blong Vang, Moua Vang, and Moses Thao in their ministry among their people and in the raising up future leaders in these and other communities in our District.

Communion Practices of this Congregation

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. John's every Sunday in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord Jesus gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. In addition to the members of this congregation, visitors from our sister LCMS congregations and other Lutheran denominations with whom we enjoy altar fellowship are invited to join us at the Lord's Table. For further study, please see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

Worship Attendance for Sunday July 17, 2016, 82

Offerings for Sun. July 17, 2016: \$3,431.00 Capital Need: \$160.00

Rental: \$439.25

Stained Glass: \$9,791.00 Stained Glass Total: \$99,89619

Micro-Epistle from Pastor

Dear Friends,

In 2009, I went on the South Beach Diet and over the course of a few months I lost between 35 and 40 pounds. During the following six years I lost almost nothing – I was “stuck.” I began numerous diets of which I quickly lost interest and quit many exercise plans after only a few days. I simply lacked the motivation and habits needed to lose any more weight. While I said that I wanted to lose weight and become healthier, I had absolutely no interest in improving my eating habits and exercising. However, this changed for me in April when I accepted the invitation of our Missouri Synod’s health insurance provider to enroll in Vitality – an online wellness coaching program. Since that time I have lost 18 pounds, I make better eating choices, and I look forward to exercising each day. I didn’t need a new diet or exercise plan, I needed to be changed. When I enrolled in the Vitality program, I did not expect any significant transformation but that is exactly what has happened.

If an online wellness program can change lives for good, I am confident that Christian congregations can be retooled to bring about serious life-transformation in their members. The rapid decline of congregations in America during the last 30 years has created an exploding geyser of new books, studies, and seminars all designed to help church leaders and congregations survive this unyielding trend. I know this because I have read the books, reviewed the studies, and attended the seminars. It has taken me years to figure it out, but I am now convinced that congregations decline because the impact that they have on their members’ lives is so insignificant that they can “drop out” without noticing a loss. These members are losing the weekly gifts that are received through God’s Word and the Lord’s Supper, but lacking the spiritual maturity needed for an awareness of these gifts they simply do not apprehend any real loss.

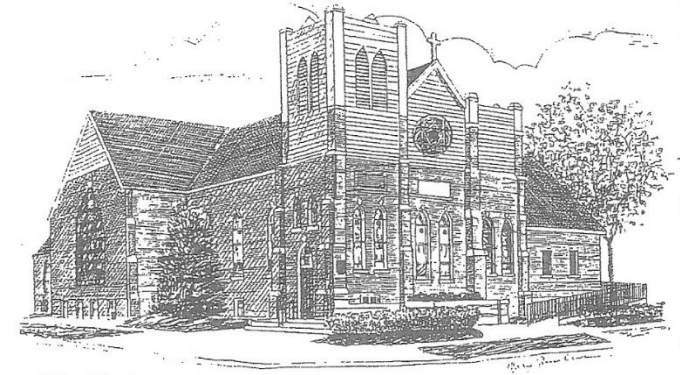
If congregations are going to retool in order to provide their members with a life-changing experience of Jesus Christ that causes people to see their growing relationship with Him as essential for their lives, we must change our expectations for what church membership looks like. Most congregations, if we are honest, are really only looking for their members to attend worship each week and make a financial contribution to the church. If you do those two things most congregations will not only describe you as a very active member but will wish that other members would follow your example. What’s the problem? The problem is that an atheist can do those things without compromising his or her beliefs. I want to be clear here – I am not suggesting that our congregations are comprised of atheists who are just going through the motions – I am not saying that at all. What I am saying is that most congregations that I know do nothing to motivate their members to grow to spiritual maturity, and apart from real life-change it is logical for members to grow indifferent to the things of God and simply drift away from their congregation.

Congregations need to change their objectives right now. We need to move our expectations from attendance to spiritual growth. We need to expect that our members will be changed by the work of the Holy Spirit through the transforming power of the news that Christ Jesus has died in their place and answered for their sins. We need to offer our members the motivation and opportunities to grow spiritually. Instead of simply expecting that our members will “show up,” we need to be intentional in helping them to grow in their prayers, study of God’s Word, evangelism, and service to others. It is no longer acceptable to me that members can attend our churches for years and not be changed in significant ways – I can’t accept that anymore. After 30 years of ineffectively trying to reverse our decline through treating members and prospective members as valued customers of religious goods and services, it is time to return to discipling those who make a commitment to being a part of what we are doing. We are going to be talking a lot about discipleship here at St. John’s in the next few years. I pray that we will do so not because we want to keep our doors open – but because we want to show others the open door to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor

Announcements

1. Marjorie (Margie) Gallert, aged 94 of Grand Rapids and formerly of Ludington, went to her heavenly home on Monday, July 18, 2016. She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. A. R. Gallert. Funeral services for Margie will be held Saturday at 11 am at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2900 Burton SE with Pastor David Fleming officiating. The family requests that memorial contributions be given to Hospice of West Michigan or Samaritas Senior Living Center of Grand Rapids. Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

“Sharing the good news of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ.”

Divine Service: 9:00 AM

Bible Study: 10:45 AM

Radio Broadcast: Wed 6:00 PM 1490AM

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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Mr. Jeff Vander Kooi, Facility Maintenance
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Mrs. Monica Vander Kooi, Church Treasurer

Mr. David Koebernick, Sound Technician

July 24, 2016