

St. John's Messenger

Our Monthly Newsletter



St. John's Lutheran Church of Beloit is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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

July 2016



From the Pastor's Study

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Dear Friends,

When Jesus gave to His disciples the commandment that they were to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and teaching them to observe all that He had commanded them” (Matthew 28:19), He was giving them a commandment which would continue without interruption in the Church until He returns. What I mean to say is that if they are to teach those whom they baptize to obey all that Jesus has commanded them, this includes the commandment to make disciples by baptizing and teaching. This means disciples making disciples without any conclusion to the process. However, the Church in America and Europe is seeing a decline in many congregations because we have not been attending to Jesus’ commandment to make disciples. A significant part of the problem is that we often lack a process for making disciples. While most congregations know the New Testament’s definition of what discipleship is, we tend to be less clear about how to make disciples. The “what” of discipleship is pretty simple to identify – “love God” (Matthew 22:37), “love one another” (John 13:34-35), and “love everyone else” (Matthew 22:39). Unfortunately, our approach to encouraging our members to walk as disciples and make disciples has frequently been to announce the “what” of discipleship and say “go and do it.” It has not been happening as frequently or as well as we had hoped because the Church has dropped the ball on explaining the “how” of discipleship. Simply knowing the “what” will not produce disciples who are making disciples until we get clear about the “how” of discipleship. Here at St. John’s, we explain the “how” with the following three words “grow, share, and bless.” Loving God means worshiping Him, studying His Word, and going deeper in our prayer life – “growing.” Loving one another involves fellowship, caring for each other and the gifts God has given our congregation to steward, and offering our gifts (time, talent, treasure) to God’s work among us – “sharing.” Loving everyone else does not simply entail announcing to the community that we love them. Loving our neighbor compels us to share the saving Gospel with them, extend mercy

to those in need, and contribute to the welfare of our city in meaningful ways – “blessing.” Of course, loving everyone else is not limited to the evangelism and mercy that we extend to Beloit.

Moving inquirers from “nonbelievers” to “believers” and “new believers” to “mature believers” involves encouraging them to give more and more attention to their participation in all three areas – growing, sharing, and blessing. There is a logical sequence among these three areas in which development in growth will inspire development in the other two areas. It is the responsibility of our church leaders (myself and our boards) to provide meaningful opportunities in each of these three areas for our members to participate. The good news is that the process of evaluating new programs on the basis of whether or not they advance our growth in these areas will protect us from giving our time and efforts to activities which do not assist us in making disciples. Additionally, as our members continue to grow in spiritual maturity, we will see them bringing others in to join them in the journey. Please be in prayer for our congregation, as we clarify and develop our discipling process.

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor



Treasurer’s Report

June 2016 Expenses

Church Mutual	\$1,298.66	Concordia Plan Serv.	\$2,423.85	Alliant Energy	\$613.92
CPH (Portals/Prayer)	\$248.79	Big Radio	\$320.00	Advanced Disposal	\$88.00
Father/Son Cleaning	\$772.50	TDS	\$96.83	Beloit Utilities	\$117.62
Charter	\$38.99	Great Am. Financial	\$266.09	Beloit Daily News	\$22.00
SWD LCMS	\$843.00	ABC Fire & Safety	\$89.25	Kalt Computer	\$199.23
Maffett Advertising	\$200.00	Menards	\$349.71	Fellowship	\$13.00
US Yellow	\$137.00	TTSA	\$163.72		

Birthdays

7-1 Garnet Bauling

7-4 Joanne Hildebrandt and
Ryder Klingemeyer

7-5 Constance Fast

7-16 Roxanne Klingemeyer

7-17 Beulah Knutson and
Neil Walter

7-21 Deloris Garber

7-25 Kathleen Fiedler and
Larry Nolta

7-29 Beverly Bottoms and
Marilyn Fassett

Anniversaries

7-3 Bob & Lynda Bue

7-16 Lisa & Arlo Hartley

7-19 Lee & Marilyn Fassett



Women's Guild News

What does it take to make you happy? Do you like a bright sunny day and getting outside for a walk or a run, to play a little golf, or work in the yard? Perhaps you prefer a cloudy, even a rainy day when you can sit back with a good book, work on your hobby, surf the net, or watch your favorite TV shows. According to a recent article by Rev. Kyle Idleman, we are all chasing happiness. Does it make you happy to get out of the house and have a good time with friends, or do you like being home enjoying quiet activities either alone or with someone special? Maybe for you, happiness is not going to the party! Is happiness getting up early on your day off and having the whole day planned with fun things to do? Or, do you like the luxury of sleeping in, and then just putting around, knowing that eventually you will get around to putting together a to-do list? We are all looking for happiness in different ways and any of those options could apply to us depending on the day.

Would you be happy ...

if you could just win the lottery

if you were married...or if you weren't married

if you had enough money to retire

if you got promoted...or if you had a different job

if you had kids...or if the kids would move out

if you had your own home...or if you could sell your home

if you could forgive someone who hurt you

if you only had saved enough money to send your kids to college

if only you had the newest electronic toys and games everyone else has

None of these things guarantee happiness. Look at the celebrities who have beautiful homes, fancy cars, designer clothing and everything money can buy. Where does it get them? Often they lead empty lives, turn to drugs and even end their lives. What makes you happy about Sundays? Is it a day when you sleep in, then go out for breakfast and a drive or do you get up early and go to church? If you haven't been to church lately you have been missing a lot. Have you been there to hear the beautiful music with talented singers, musicians, and the choir with some new young voices? Have you heard the children's sermon and the inspiring adult sermons? How about the fellowship coffee and baked items following the service? Do you know about the Q & A in the Fellowship Hall? You don't know what that is? ...come and find out! There are other fun times with our church friends when we go out to eat at a restaurant, enjoy delicious pot luck luncheons and amazing concerts. You are definitely missing out if you are not attending all that St. John's has to offer including getting to know Pastor Roser and his family.

True happiness comes from knowing God and receiving all the blessings he gives us.

Make room for God in your life. Be happy! See you in church!

To learn more about Pastor Idleman, check him out at <http://cityonahillstudio.com/kyle-idleman>.



Men's Ministry of St. John's

If Today Was Your Last Day (From the "Man Stuff Blog" of Lutheran Hour Ministries)

One recent morning Alex Bestler, 23, decided to walk a trail near Mesa, Arizona, with a friend. They stuck to the trail but suddenly found themselves under attack. While the friend ran for help, thousands of bees swarmed around Bestler. When park employees arrived, they tried to rescue him to no avail; they couldn't get close before they too were driven off by the insects.

Finally, Maricopa County Sheriff Sergeant Allen Romer arrived at the park, jumped on a park utility task vehicle and raced to Bestler's location. Two rural metro fire fighters helped him load Bestler onto the UTV and remove him from the scene, still covered with bees, while the swarm pursued. They distanced themselves from the swarm and arrived at a waiting emergency vehicle where life-saving measures were begun. Unfortunately, Bestler died after arriving at Desert Vista Hospital. Medical staff and sheriff's detectives estimate he had over 1,000 stings.

Experts say the so-called "killer bees" have migrated from Brazil into the American Southwest. They are actually Africanized bees. They look like normal bees and are no more poisonous, but they're much more aggressive and more likely to attack in swarms which relentlessly pursue their target.

What gets me about these bee attacks is how they strike without warning. Construction workers and people mowing lawns have been attacked and killed by swarming bees as well.

Every morning when I wake up I take for granted my life will go like normal -- as will the lives of the people around me. But these stories remind me that my life -- or theirs -- can be altered or ended without warning, at any moment.

Every time we hear of a person killed in a car accident, a heart attack, or a violent crime, we need to stop and see ourselves, our loved ones, and the people around us at work and in our community. We need to live with more purpose, more understanding, and a greater sense of urgency in sharing our faith. They may not always be tomorrow. Today may be their last day -- or ours.

Thankfully, all of us who have been given faith in Jesus will be ready when our last hour arrives. But what about those who don't trust in Jesus? For their sake we need to remember the urgency of our Lord's call and get busy!

Whether it's killer bees, malicious viruses, or some other scourge, they're just subtle reminders that there are no life-time guarantees when it comes to the number of our tomorrows.

What do you think about when something like killer bees make the headlines?

<http://mnmanstuff.blogspot.com/2016/05/if-today-was-your-last-day.html>



THE BULLETIN BOARD

We express our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to our stained glass window restoration project! We are approximately 80% of the way toward reaching the \$111,000.00 needed for the project! If you have questions about sponsoring a window, please speak with Don Nohr. If you would like to donate, please write “window fund” in the memo section of your check. The professionally-cleaned and re-leaded windows will be installed this month, with new window guards on the outside.

We grieve with the families and friends of Dolores Wittnebel and Bill Peterson, who died this past month. Rest eternal grant them O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them.

We rejoice with Judy Niedermeier on the birth of her new grandson, Jonathan, who was born on June 2. His proud parents are Ken & Stephanie. We thank our good Lord for this precious gift of new life!

If you are traveling this summer, please consider bringing back a service bulletin from the churches you visit for Pastor Roser to review. It is always beneficial for us to learn from our sisters and brothers in other places. If they have candy, please bring some of that back too—just kidding.

Our LWML held their end-of-the-year luncheon at the Road Dawg Family Restaurant on June 2.





**Remember
Our Homebound Members**

Eleanor Backhaus, Home

Ivan Drake, Home

Peter Fast, Pioneer Court

Marie Hefty, Premier Skilled Nursing

Lois MacGowan, Premier Skilled Nursing

Ray Mathewson, Home

Nadine Polzin, Home

Josephine Rhode, Alden Meadow Park

Anna Rumery, Pioneer Court

Marilyn Treder, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.

Audrey Weiss, Riverside Terrace

Dan Burrows, Alden Meadow Park

Connie Fast, Home

June Feldon, Home

Joanne Hildebrandt, Riverside Terrace

John Marquardt, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.

Joyce Nelson, Willowick Assisted Living

Ione Reetz, Home

Christine Ruckert, Premier Rehabilitation

Marcella Savage, Home

Russell Ultsch, Home

Kay Wells, Cedar Crest Apartments



Tom Drost, Deloris Garber, Dor, Roseann Hemerley 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.

July 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00 AM TOPS	2
3 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:45 Bible Study	4 Independence Day	5	6 2PM Board of Elders	7	8 8:00 AM TOPS	9
10 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:45 Bible Study	11	12 6PM Board of Trustees	13 9AM Sewing 7PM Board of Membership & Evangelism	14 11 AM Fellowship Committee	15 8:00 AM TOPS	16
17 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:45 Bible Study	18 10 AM Finance Board Meeting	19 5 PM Personnel Planning Comm Meeting	20	21	22 8:00 AM TOPS	23
24 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:45 Bible Study	25	26 6PM Parish Council Meeting	27 9AM Sewing	28 1 PM LWML Board Meeting	29 8:00 AM TOPS	30
31 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:45 Bible Study						



**We gather for worship every Sunday morning at 9 am,
and everyone is welcome!**

You have a savior who is Christ the Lord, and we invite you to join us in receiving the gifts which God delights in giving you through His Son.

God loves all people. His Son died in the place of everyone and answered for all of our sins - including yours. Everyone who trusts in his death for the forgiveness of their sins will receive the free gift of eternal life with God. We would love to have the opportunity to tell you more about this good news.

Where everyone is invited and Jesus is Lord!

Contact Us

If you would like to learn more about our congregation, please email our pastor:
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Visit us on the web:

www.stjohnsbeloit.com

Facebook:

<http://tinyurl.com/z7xexdy>



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