

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.

August 2016



From the Pastor's Study

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Dear Friends,

Sunday School is coming back to St. John's

Beginning on Sunday, September 11, we will be offering Sunday School for all ages again! The adult Bible Class will be held in the nave, the grades 9-12 class will be held in one of the upstairs classrooms of the school, the grades 6-8 class will meet in the Conference Room, grades first through fifth and their parents/guardians will meet in the Fellowship Hall, and the preschool/kindergarten class with parents/guardians will meet in the nursery. Some families may have children in both the preschool and elementary school classes and so we will be assisting parents/guardians in dividing their time between the two classrooms if they wish. All students preschool through adult will be studying the same Bible lesson in age-appropriate ways. This means that everyone studies the same passage each week. Additionally, each week—with the exception of important church festivals (All Saints', Christmas, Easter, etc.) - I will be preaching on the passage that we will be studying in Sunday School. In the Fall, we will explore Old Testament lessons and in the Winter/Spring we will be studying New Testament lessons. I am convinced that simplicity, focus, and reinforcement are needed if we are to effectively teach the Christian faith in today's world. Everyone should know what we are studying and our learning needs to be reinforced in a variety of ways. Please pray for us as we plan and promote our Sunday school program.

When congregations are places where the Holy Spirit transforms lives

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.

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. 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

Birthdays

8-9	Monica Vander Kooi
8-11	Lisa Hartley
8-12	Elinor Swain Pat Wolter
8-16	Betty Pearson
8-21	Collin Gill
8-23	Cheryl Curtis
8-25	Dorothy Gustina Zach Nohr
8-26	Don Nohr
8-28	Delores Steil
8-31	Gloria Hereford

Anniversaries

8-8	Peter & Connie Fast
8-17	Jeff & Monica Vander Kooi
8-19	Pastor & Dawn
8-20	David & Kathy Carter



Treasurer's Report

July 2016 Expenses

Church Mutual	\$1,180.66	Concordia Plan Serv.	\$2,423.85	CPH—Portals of Prayer	\$50.08
Big Radio	\$400.00	Advanced Disposal	\$88.00	Father & Son Cleaning	\$772.50
TDS	\$87.99	Beloit Utilities	\$107.96	Charter	\$38.99
Great Amer Financial	\$266.09	Beloit Daily News	\$22.00	South WI District	\$751.00
Kalt Computer	\$346.50	Wal-Mart (Wine)	\$51.88	Voigt Music	\$149.99
TTSG	\$43.97	Jay Big Roll	\$51.50	Entre Computer	\$799.00
Concordia Pub.	\$226.00	Emmanuel Florist	\$50.50		



Women's Guild News

Do you sometimes think that you don't have any special talents? Are you using what God has given you to make the world a better place? A blog by Joanne Ellison spoke about the Bible story concerning talents in Matthew 25:14-30. Jesus praised the workers who put their talents (in those day talents referred to money) to good use. He reprimanded the one man who buried his treasure and made it very clear that we should use the talents the Lord has given us.

How do we know what gifts and talents we have? One way to find out is to think about what you enjoy doing. Is it cooking and baking? Do you like to organize and lead others? How about sewing, gardening, and keeping things neat, clean and orderly? Do you have a good speaking or singing voice or do you play an instrument? Are you artistic? Do you enjoy working with children; are you good at math and bookkeeping? Do you like office work and have computer skills? There are many talents that you can bring to church with you.

If you still don't know what you are good at, listen to hear what others say about the gifts that they see in you. When you get compliments about something you have done, people usually mention it. When you use these gifts, not only will others benefit, but you will also feel good about yourself knowing you are using your talents by doing God's work.

As an example, if you stopped into Applebees on June 4th or Culvers on June 27th you might have looked around in surprise. All of the customers were family, friends or members of St. John's! More surprising was that the waiters were from St. John's. In the case of Applebees, the kitchen staff was also from St. John's. Most of them were using talents they did not even know they had! They were willing to give it a try as it was for a good cause. The LWML/Women's Guild sponsors these fund raisers so that they have funds available to donate when needed to benefit the needs of the church, support missions, missionaries or those in need. Please watch for notices about when the next fund raiser will be and support it by attending and /or working.

Don't be like the person who buried their treasure. Use your talents to do good by contacting Pastor Roser and he will direct you to where your special talents are needed.

(<http://www.joanneellison.com/>)



Men's Ministry of St. John's

So What?

Over the years I have become fairly cynical about what I read, watch and hear. I do not believe there is such a thing as "unbiased" media. In today's world most media conveys a specific point of view, agenda, or call to action. The same "news" story reported on five different channels will deliver five different conclusions. Corporations and governments alike employ a cadre of media specialists to provide "spin," so their point of view is portrayed as fact. Over the years I have looked for the "So what?" in what I hear, see or read, especially in the media. I define the "So what?" as an action or attitude that the author wishes me to adopt. For example, when watching a car commercial, the "So what?" is that I be moved to purchase that vehicle. Those so whats are easy to spot.

Ads promoting the lottery offer the "So what?" that you will be a hero to school kids as you spend your money on the lottery, which funds education. Some of these ads leave me feeling as if I am a terrible person who hates kids if I don't plunk down my dollars for them -- at least once in a while. Now to all this some of you may be saying to yourself, "So what?" The "So what?" I want you to think about is to become a critical consumer of media. Too often we accept everything we hear or read without thinking objectively about it. We buy into the adage that "If it's on the Internet, on the national news, or in the newspaper, then it must be true ... at least mostly." This also applies to hearing it from "live" sources as when we wholesale accept something because we heard it from a friend or family member. Suffice it to say, critical thinking should be a close companion, a very close companion. As for me, I read the fine print, look for the angles, and will not send money to Africa because someone died and named me in his will.

This whole critical-thinking thing is something worthwhile to pass along to the next generation too. The world is awash in hyperbole and trivial nonsense, and this schlock is targeted (as it has been for years) at the very young as well. For impressionable, young minds the world is full of choices like never before. Some are of value; many are not, and it's a huge help if by our input and experience we can help them see the difference. As any guy knows, some of the priceless benefits that come with age are the lessons gained from our hard-won experiences. But let's not let these life-changing gems remain with us. Be sure to pass them on when you get a chance, but do so tactfully, in small, steady doses. As we all know, it's good medicine for those who hear it, but for some it may be hard to swallow.

Thinking outside the box is a skill worth working on. Are you a critical thinker? Have you found yourself resisting staid and worn-out kinds of "knowledge" and, instead, going deeper, digging past the fluff and surface noise, to get at a more reasoned sense of an issue -- whether it's politics, theology or science? So what does all this matter? Well, it can matter quite a bit when what's pawned off as true and real is a semi-sophisticated spin of dubious details and questionable facts -- something we're all getting an ear full of this election cycle.

<http://mnmanstuff.blogspot.com/2016/07/so-what.html>

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Our congratulations and prayers are with Bill and Betty Pearson upon the birth of their new great granddaughter. Her name is Lola Cooper Pearson, and she was born at 8:30 am on 7/08/16. She weighed 8.9 lbs and is 20.5 inches in length.

Pastor will be offering new members' classes soon. If you or someone you know would like to attend, please let Pastor know.

We want to thank everyone who has donated to our window restoration fund! Your generosity will enable us to finish the restoration without placing a burden of debt upon the congregation for the coming years!





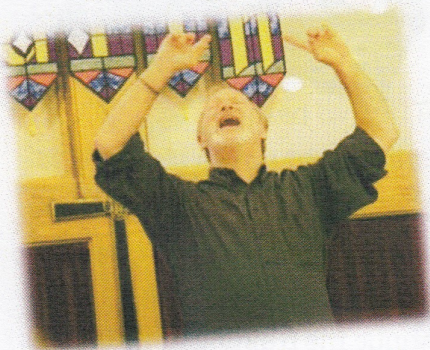
Lutheran Deaf Outreach

June/July 2016

"... you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Jesus Signs 2016

We want to help you share Jesus with deaf people.



Jesus Signs Workshops are designed to train and equip others to share Jesus with deaf people and their families.

We will provide you with:

- Opportunities to learn/improve religious sign skills.
- Immersion into deaf culture.
- Opportunities to learn about deaf ministry.
- Resources for deaf training.

There will be four classes:

- Beginner signers
- Intermediate signers
- Advanced signers; and
- Deaf

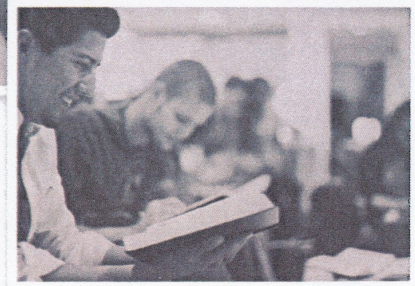
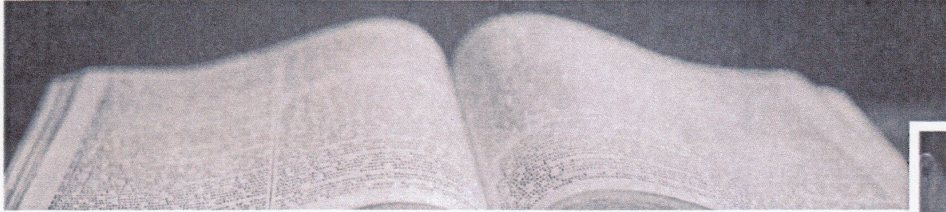
Costs:

- Registration \$25.00
- CEU's \$30.00
- Lodging is on your own. Options will be provided when you register.
- Transportation is on your own.

We will accept walk-ins for the weekend; but we ask that you register so that we can plan for materials and food. Lunch and dinner will be provided on Saturday. Please bring a snack to share during break times.

The harvest is ripe and the workers are few.





Join us for this outreach training workshop from **MISSION U**, a program of Lutheran Hour Ministries. Become equipped through this one-day event to fulfill your mission with boldness to the diverse mission field around you.

Course: MU-202/301 – “Equipping to Share: A Culture of Outreach

Location: Christ Ev. Lutheran Church, Clinton, Wisconsin

Date: Saturday, September 10, 2016

Time: 9:00 A.M TO 2:00 P.M LIGHT LUNCH SERVED

Contact: Rev. Gary Schockman at christluth308@aol.com or at 608-774-8463

Registration Form:

Print Name(s): _____

Number attending: _____ Number of children for daycare: _____ Ages: _____

More information can be found at
LHM.ORG/MISSIONU



Eleanor Backhaus, Home

Ivan Drake, Home

Peter Fast, Pioneer Court

Marie Hefty, Premier Skilled Nursing

Lois MacGowan, Premier Skilled Nursing

Ray Mathewson, Home

Joyce Nelson, Willowick Assisted Living

Ione Reetz, Home

Christine Ruckert, Premier Rehabilitation

Marcella Savage, Home

Russell Ultsch, Home

Kay Wells, Cedar Crest Apartments

Dan Burrows, Alden Meadow Park

Connie Fast, Home

June Feldon, Home

Joanne Hildebrandt, Riverside Terrace

John Marquardt, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.

Nadine Polzin, Home

Josephine Rhode, Alden Meadow Park

Anna Rumery, Pioneer Court

Marilyn Treder, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.

Audrey Weiss, Riverside Terrace



Ralph Voss, Russ Wolter, Joyce Monroe, Darlene Willing, A young woman in the hospital, Tom Drost, De-
loris 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.

August 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10 AM Board of Fellowship	2	3 2PM Board of Elders	4	5 8:00 AM TOPS	6
7 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:45 Bible Study	8	9 6PM Board of Trustees	10 9AM Sewing 3PM Board of Membership & Evangelism	11	12 8:00 AM TOPS	13
14 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:45 Bible Study	15 10 AM Finance Board Meeting	16 5 PM Personnel Planning Comm Meeting	17	18	19 8:00 AM TOPS	20
21 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:45 Bible Study	22	23 6PM Parish Council Meeting	24 9AM Sewing	25 1 PM LWML Board Meeting	26 8:00 AM TOPS	27
28 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:45 Bible Study	29	30	31			



**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:
dennisroser@gmail.com

Our address:

1000 Bluff Street
Beloit, WI 53511-5167
(608) 362-8595

Visit us on the web:

www.stjohnsbeloit.com

Facebook:

<http://tinyurl.com/z7xexdy>



St. John's Lutheran Church

1000 Bluff Street
Beloit, WI 53511-5167

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

