St. John's Messenger

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

January **2021**

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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From the Pastor's Study

Dear Friends,

Many of you have had a very difficult 2020. Illness, the death of loved ones, isolation, stress, and unrelenting anxiety have been experienced by so many of our members this year. While it will be refreshing to turn the page on the calendar, many of our problems will remain unresolved. Even as we look forward to saying "good riddance!" to 2020, we know that 2021 (at least in the beginning) will also be marked by unprecedented levels of anxiety, depression, loneliness, economic woes, and a gnawing sense of loss and hopelessness. With this in mind, I invite you to hear Peter's words to the Church at the end of his first letter:

"5Likewise, young men, be submissive to those who are older. And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another. For "God opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the humble." 6Therefore humble yourselves under God's powerful hand so that he may lift you up at the appointed time. 7Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. 8Have sound judgment. Be alert. Your adversary, the Devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 9Resist him by being firm in the faith. You know that the same kinds of sufferings are being laid on your brotherhood all over the world. 10After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who called you into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you. 11To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen." (Holy Bible: Evangelical Heritage Version (Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 2019), 1 Pe 5:5–11).

While Peter is writing to Christians who are just beginning to face persecution, his words are applicable to the Christian life at all times, particularly when we are suffering. Over the years, I have listened to hurting people who have tried to "shrug off" their pain by saying "I know that a lot of other people have it worse than me." To which I frequently reply, "that's true (pause), but does knowing this take away your

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pain?" While it doesn't ease our pain, it becomes the excuse for denying our suffering. I then remind them that God doesn't give His attention to those who hurt the most severely and ignore the hurts of everybody else. Encouraging them that God wants to hear from them regarding their pain and that it is His desire to walk with them through their trials, I invite them to be honest with God about what they are going through. You see, I am not in a position to take away the pain of the one who suffers, but I am called to nurture their relationship with God - Who can address their suffering.

May God's grace lead you deeper into conversation with Him that you may be comforted. May the love of God for you in Christ Jesus give you peace, even in these circumstances.

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor

We will be taking our Christmas decorations down after Worship this Sunday, January 3, 2021.
Many hands make light work!

This week's Worship service bulletin is available for you on our website on the Digital Church page. It will be used for both the in-person and on-line Worship.
https://www.stjohnsbeloit.com/connect-with-us.html

Office Schedule

Pastor Roser is on vacation through Friday, January 1, 2021, but will be available if you should need emergency pastoral care.

Berta is working from home on those same dates, so the office will be closed, and she is taking Monday, January 4, 2021 as a vacation day.

Happy New Year!

Two New Ways to experience the Word of God!!

Two new weekly video programs will be available to you beginning next week! One is for children of all ages and one is for adults. Both of these video programs will be uploaded to Youtube and shared on Facebook.

The program for young people will be called **"CATechism and Dog"** and will premier every Tuesday, beginning on December 1. In this program, Belle and Pastor Roser will work through a section of the catechism at a level that connects with young children and their families.

The program for adults will be called "Catechism for Life" and will premier on Thursdays, beginning on December 3. In this program, Pastor Roser will work through a section of the catechism and discuss how it applies to our every day lives.

Join us on-line for these programs, as well as our weekly Worship services, streamed live each Sunday at 9:00 a.m., and also recorded so you can watch them anytime!

St. John's Prayer at the Close of the Day has moved to Wednesday!

When: Every Wednesday from 7:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranbeloit

How to Submit a Prayer Request:
Send requests to Pastor Roser @ 608-713-2050
dennismroser@gmail.com
or send a PM using St. John's Facebook Page

*Deadline for prayer requests is Wednesday each week at 6:30 pm

The 2021 sponsorship sign-up sheets for both the CD Ministry and Altar Flowers are now available in the Narthex!

Please be sure to PRINT CLEARLY. Thank you.

ON THE GO?
Listen to Our Podcasts on:
Our Podbean website or, app,
Itunes,
Google Podcast app,
or Spotify app.

Our Podbean site is
stjohnbeloitmedia.podbean.com

...by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Please note:

Pastor Roser's new email address:
dennisroser@outlook.com

Women's Guild *News*

LWML South Wisconsin District

Respectfully submitted by Betty Pearson

Living in Joy: Joy in God's Unbroken Promises

In the Word

The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made. Psalm 145:13b

Of the Word

"I will. Yes, sir. Tomorrow I will get it done." "Yes, Johnny, I will read to you just as soon as I finish this." "Yes, Doctor, I'll start exercising tomorrow." Everyone has made promises such as these only to break them. God makes promises too, but He always keeps them. When Noah and his family left the ark, God spread His rainbow across the sky a reminder of His everlasting covenant. (Genesis 9:12-16) He promised to be with Moses and the Israelites as they fled from Egypt. The pillars of cloud and fire were constant reminders of His presence. (Exodus 13 & 14)

Knowing that He has kept His promises in the past assures us that His promises are just as certain today. With the psalmist we can say, For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe ...(Psalm 27:5a). And God's best promise of all is this: Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life (Revelation 2:10b). As we see God's promises unfold before us, and say with faith-filled hearts, "The best is yet to come."

Walking with my Lord

Dear Lord, forgive me for doubting Your promises. Help me to remember that you are faithful and always keep Your promises. I look forward to being with you in heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

(Mustard Seed: Living in Joy. Authors: Dcs. Betty Knapp, Irene Mensing, Myrna Lou Meyer, Margaret White. www.lwml.org

January Birthdays

1 Marissa Vander Kooi
Ruth Kannengeiser
5 Bev Bingham
Jeff Vander Kooi
Linda Spychalski
10 Ed Spychalski
11 Kathy Gruber
Tyler Thompson
12 Aubriella Hyde
Peter Nattinger
15 Jerry Straw
19 Jeanine Thompson
Roseanne Hemerley
21 Kathy Carter
27 Andrew Culver
31 Adriana Gonzalez

Wedding Anniversaries

5 Roger and Joyce Nelson

11 Tom and Linda Gage

Please be aware, we have chosen when the office is "unmanned" to forward calls directly to Berta's cell. However, her phone is currently experiencing some issues. Sometimes calls don't register as they're coming in, and messages are often delayed in reaching her. She is in the (really annoying) process of getting a new phone.
It will take a week or two for that new phone to arrive (as it has to come via her phone plan.) Please bear with her, and accept her apologies if she misses a message or is a little slow in responding.

In our thoughts and prayers . . .

all those whom we have named on our prayer list, and those we now name in the thoughts of our hearts; The family and friends of Elinor Swain, Daryl Swain, Karl Hemerley, Marie Gilbertson, LaRon Lofton, Jan Petterson, Owen Thomas, Roger Griinke, Marsha Griinke, Tim Griinke, Kathy, Beverly GeRue, Lori Vieni, Amy Tracy, Bob Brohn, Darlene Willing, Carol Lowry, Ruth Peterson, Karen Nohr, Brad Carter, Keith Stowers, Ed Spychalski, Jon Turner, Bobbie Reynolds, Mike Papini, Tom Wulf, Doris Rindfleisch, Joaquin, Marcie Moore, Laura Jo Pearson, Cayden Krueger, Janice Hemerley, and all of our members who are homebound, those who serve in the military (particularly Pastor Keith GeRue, Kyle Summers and Logan Davies), emergency services and all who work for the common good.

Our Homebound Members

Beverly Bingham, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.
Beverly Bottoms, Riverside Terrace
Dan Burrows, Skaalen Nursing & Rehab, Stoughton
Carol Gusk, Home
Donna Hall, Willowick, Clinton
Janice Hemerley, Suites at Beloit
John Kannengeiser, Home
Shirley Mathewson, Beloit Sr. Living
Katherine Petitt, Green Knolls at Beloit
Ione Reetz, Home
Christine Ruckert, Autumn Lake, Beloit
Ed Spychalski, Home
Mildred Wedel, Home

"And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick,
and the Lord will raise him up."
(James 5:15 ESV)

Our local food banks are experiencing *significant shortages* as individuals and families are impacted by the changes in work and school schedules.

The items most needed are:

* **Toilet Paper**
* **Rice**
* **Canned Meats/Tuna**
* **Canned Hearty Soups or Mixes**
* **Hand Sanitizer**
* **Dry Beans**
* **Canned Vegetables**
* **Baby food/diapers**

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE SALVATION ARMY
THE SALVATION ARMY
Giving Hope Today

All other items, of course, will be gratefully accepted as visits to the food banks are rising, and expected to continue to do so in the coming months.

St. John's Lutheran Church has a collection bin for the Salvation Army in the Narthex. If you would like to drop items off, our Administrative Assistant, Berta, is in the office Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, or contact Pastor Roser to arrange a time.

Thank you for your generous help.

But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

- Psalm 66:19

Who Wants to Win a Culver's Gift Card?

We have a number of avenues to keep you apprised of the opportunities and events here at St. John's: The monthly Messenger, the weekly Communicator, the Facebook page, the Web page, the Sunday Bulletin, and (first and foremost) the Worship service. Many times we will repeat the information in more than one of the venues in an effort to make sure the information is reaching everyone. But how can we tell if the announcements we're providing are getting through and being remembered?

How about by playing a little game each month!

The last weekend of the month, watch for a list of four questions whose answers can be found in the one or more of the Messenger, Communicator, Sunday Bulletin, Facebook page, Web page, or during the Worship Service during that month. Submit the answers either in writing or by email to the church's Administrative Assistant by noon the following Friday, and a winner will be drawn from the entries with the correct answers. The winner gets a gift card for some delicious Culver's food!

See the November 27, 2020 Communicator for the current quiz. Get your answers in by noon on December 4, 2020 to be in the drawing for the Culver's Card!

We gather for worship every Sunday morning at 9 am, whether in-person or on-line, 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!

Stay Connected!

Did you know if you miss a regular Sunday Worship Service, you can watch it in its entirety on YouTube!

Just use this link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw9-9SrlBpZwdB2bPj-7Stg

If you would like see links to Pastor Roser's blog, uplifting posts, occasional humorous posts, and reminders of upcoming events, check out the St. John's Facebook page. The posts are public, so you don't even have to be a Facebook member to see what's happening. The links are also available on our website.

Staff and Contact Information

Rev. Dennis Roser, Pastor

dennisroser@outlook.com cell: (608) 713-2050

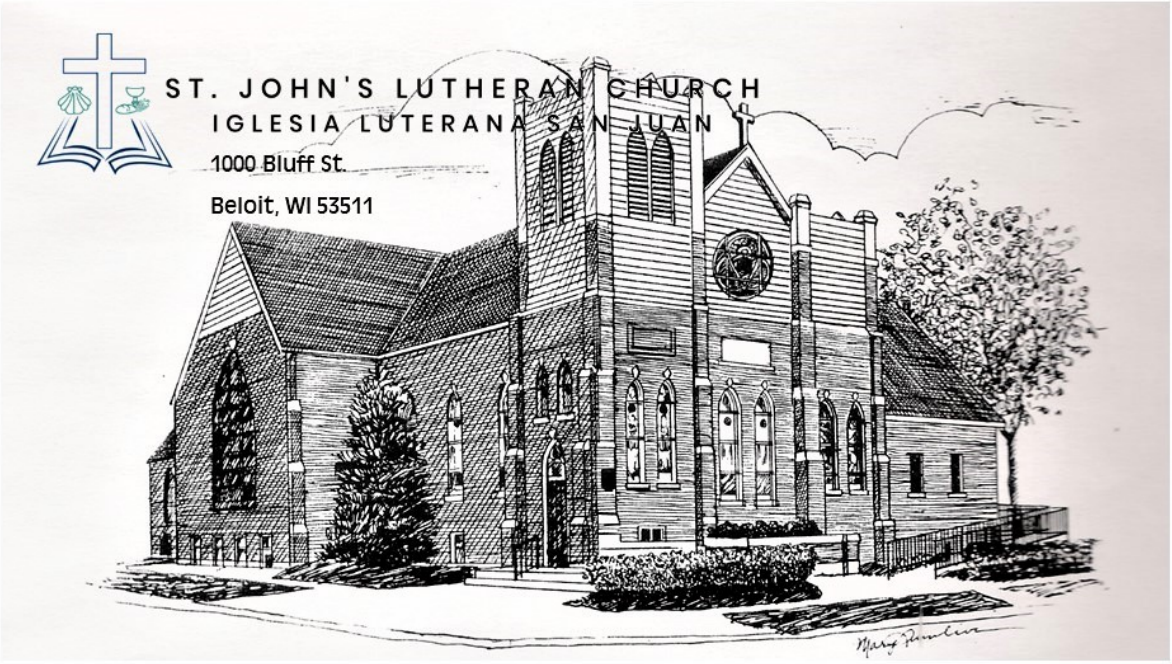
Mrs. Berta Eddy, Administrative Assistant

officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com

www.stjohnsbeloit.com
www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranbeloit/
www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranschoolbeloit
www.youtube.com/channel/UCw9-9SrlBpZwdB2bPj-7Stg

Annual Congregation Meeting
Sunday, January 17, 2021
2:00 pm

HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2021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IGLESIA LUTERANA SAN JUAN
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