St. John's Messenger

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

May

2020

From the Pastor's Study

Dear Friends,

We are certainly living in a strange time. It is not quite accurate to describe it as a unique time, but certainly strange. It is not unique in that many deadly pestilences have come upon humanity throughout history. However, it is unique to us, as few people alive today can remember the events of the 1918-1919 Influenza pandemic.

When the Influenza pandemic hit in 1918, Rev. Theodore Bretscher was the pastor here at St. John's. The congregation history simply recalls that he served from 1909 through 1922 and that he retired from physical exhaustion after many years of service. Of note during his time at St. John's was the introduction of Divine Services in the English language - although German services continued to be held until 1947. Perhaps it seems surprising that there is no mention in the congregational history about the congregation's experiences during the 1918-1919 pandemic. This deadly pestilence claimed the lives of 675,000 Americans and so it is unlikely that St. John's was unaffected.

As Americans now reflect on what they heard about this pandemic from older relatives over the years, many have come to realize that they weren't told much. That's the way it often is with experiences that are unbelievably painful, people don't talk much about them in the years which follow and they are forgotten. Go into nearly any cemetery in the United States which existed in 1918 and you will be surprised by how many gravestones you find that bear the death years of 1918 and 1919. I majored in history in college and learned very little about the pandemic - just some passing references as World War I was discussed. It was later when I was cataloging cemetery stones for a county historical society that I discovered how pervasive this deadly disease was. I marveled at family plots that contained the graves of multiple loved ones who died during this period. An elderly man who had been alive at the time of the pandemic told me of a family plot in one of those rural Pennsylvania cemeteries in which a large grave was dug in the churchyard for multiple family members who had died within days of one another. Their memory is marked by a long gravestone (erected in later years) that lists each of their names under the surname of the family.

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It will be interesting to see whether or not we speak freely in later years about our experiences during this pandemic. I am just as interested in what will be remembered as I am how much will be remembered and spoken of. In years to come, I pray that our reflections on this time will contribute to our Christian witness, as people remember how God upheld and cared for those who were suffering, how He renewed the Church's generosity in showing mercy to those in need, and how He provided opportunities for people to worship through the vocations of those who develop and operate technology. There, of course, will be those who mostly speak of their discomforts during this time, but I pray that many Christians will speak confidently about our Lord's gracious provisions during a very difficult time.

God's grace and mercy are seen everywhere. A man who is homeless told me last week about a doctor here in Beloit who came and picked him up in his car after he was bitten by something in the night. The doctor took him to his office/clinic and treated this man's wound and began the regiment of treatments he is undergoing. There must be thousands of stories like this circulating right now. God is certainly providing abundantly, even in a time like this. Do we see His hand? Can our neighbor?

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor

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 April 24, 2020 Communicator for the current quiz. Get your answers in by noon on May 1, 2020 to be in the drawing for the Culver's Card!

"As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the end of time he will stand over the dust."

(*Job 19:25 EHV*)

The Governor's directive makes clear that Pastor Roser's duties are necessary for the good of the community, and as his support staff, I will continue to assist as best I can. However, part of the ongoing effort to reduce the spread of the coronavirus is to minimize being in public . I will therefore only be in the office on Mondays and Fridays. On those days I will be concentrating on getting the audio out, producing the Communicator and the Messenger, and other tasks that cannot be done from home.
Stay safe and well. Berta Eddy, Administrative Assistant

Pastor Dennis Roser and Pastor Dan Eddy

together...and still 6 feet apart

St. John's Lutheran Church
and Messiah Lutheran Church
are streaming Worship live
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Social-distancing or self-quarantining for safety doesn't have to mean giving up your time with God and His Word. The interactive parts of the service will be shown on screen, so everyone can easily follow along.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranbeloit/
Youtube: https://tinyurl.com/stjohnsbeloit

Please join us. Your prayer requests will be included DURING WORSHIP!! Please PM your prayers of concerns or thanks either through St. John's or Messiah's Facebook pages, <u>before the Sunday Service</u>. Only first names will be used.

"Let us also consider carefully how to spur each other on to love and good works. Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have the habit of doing. Rather, let us encourage each other, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25 EHV).

<u>Important Request</u>

We don't have current email addresses for some of you. As right now we are communicating primarily by electronic means, it would be very helpful to update your information. If you have not been receiving emails from the St. John's office, I would ask you send your email address to me:
<u>officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com</u>
I will then update your file immediately.
Thank you.
Berta Eddy, Office Administrator

In our thoughts and prayers . . .

The family and friends of Oscar Wedel, the family and friends of Roger Willing, Carol Lowry, Paul Weber, Reverend Bill Wagner, Roger Nelson, Dan Carter, Katherine Petitt, Ruth Peterson, Karen Nohr, Brad Carter, Lester Nyborg, Paula Devlin, Keith Stowers, Ed Spychalski, Jon Turner, Bobbie Reynolds, Mike Papini, Tom Wulf, Doris Rindfleisch, Carl Colby, Joaquin, Sandy Smith, 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.
Dan Burrows, Alden Meadow Park , Clinton
Carol Gusk, Home
Donna Hall, Willowick, Clinton
Janice Hemerley, Autumn Lake, Beloit
John Kannengeiser, Home
John Marquardt, Home
Shirley Mathewson, Beloit Sr. Living
Vallie Nolta, Fair Oaks Rehab.& Health Care
Katherine Petitt, Green Knolls at Beloit
Ione Reetz, Home
Christine Ruckert, Autumn Lake, Beloit
Ed Spychalski, Home
Elinor Swain, Alden Meadow Park
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)

Women's Guild *News* *Respectfully submitted by Betty Pearson*

Our Scoopie Night fundraiser on March 31 and the April 2nd Women's Guild meeting were both cancelled due to the Pandemic Coronavirus Disease that has caused a lot of fears and cancellations. We will wait and see what can be rescheduled.

LWML Corresponding secretary Claudia Fairfield shared the following message from Barb Kaun President of the Wisconsin District:

Lenten blessings continue amongst Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) concerns. We continue to trust in the Lord. He has given us this organization of Christian women. Many of our LWML groups will decide to cancel their regular meetings for one or two months. Each of you is asked to continue the collection of mission offerings, and continue support of your home church as well.

If a zone rally is cancelled or postponed please contact VP of Communication Ruth Weckwerth ruth.lwml@gmail.com and Public Relations chairman Jennifer Olen olenjennifer@aol.com with the changes to assure website information can be updated to assist in publicizing to the women you serve.

Now, let's talk about what Lutheran Women in Mission seem to do best! Let's talk about how we can be of service to those who will need help more than ever. Can your group LWML group establish a system to identify those in need and reach out to them by phone, praying with them and for them?

You may notice that the convention registration form has been removed from the lwml-swd.org website until further notice. Plans are continuing for a convention gathering, and we expect registrations will again be collected after April 15. The convention manual will be posted in sections on the website early in April so delegates can prepare for voting on mission grant proposals and for the election of officers. Return often to the website for updates.

Together, we can meet the challenges this world throws at us. With the Spirit's help, we will find the opportunities our Lord puts before us to serve His people and share His Gospel. We will always remember, we are HIS!

Serving Gladly,
Barb Kaun
President - South Wisconsin District

Notice: The Sewing Guild is in need of used sheets of any size to use for quilt making. Also needed are small baby jackets and sweaters. Please bring your donations to the sewing room in the church basement.

SWD Financial Aid Available

Are you studying to be a full-time church worker, attending one of the Concordia Universities or Seminaries and are a member of an SWD LCMS congregation? If so, you may apply for District Financial Aid. Applications are due by May 15. Please visit the District website for more information and for the two required application forms - http://swd.lcms.org/resources/student-aid-applications/. If you have any questions, please contact Robin at the District office, 414-292-0741.

May Birthdays

1 Todd Peterson

2 Jeanne Ludeman

5 Harold Bauling

8 John Marquardt

Shirley Mathewson

9 Mildred Wedel

11 Dawn Roser

Lydia Wildauer

19 Delores Scharff

21 Grace Griinke

31 Sandy Saunders

Wedding Anniversaries

21 Leah and Nelson Cruz– Morales

28 Paul and Roxanne Klingenmeyer

Peter and Adriana Nattinger

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

The items they are most in need of are:

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

<u>All other items, of course, will be gratefully accepted</u> 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 and Fridays, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, or contact Pastor Roser to arrange a time. Thank you for your help.

"Amen I tell you: Just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me."

(Matthew 25:40 EHV)

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!

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.

Staff and Contact Information

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Mr. Isiah King, Principal

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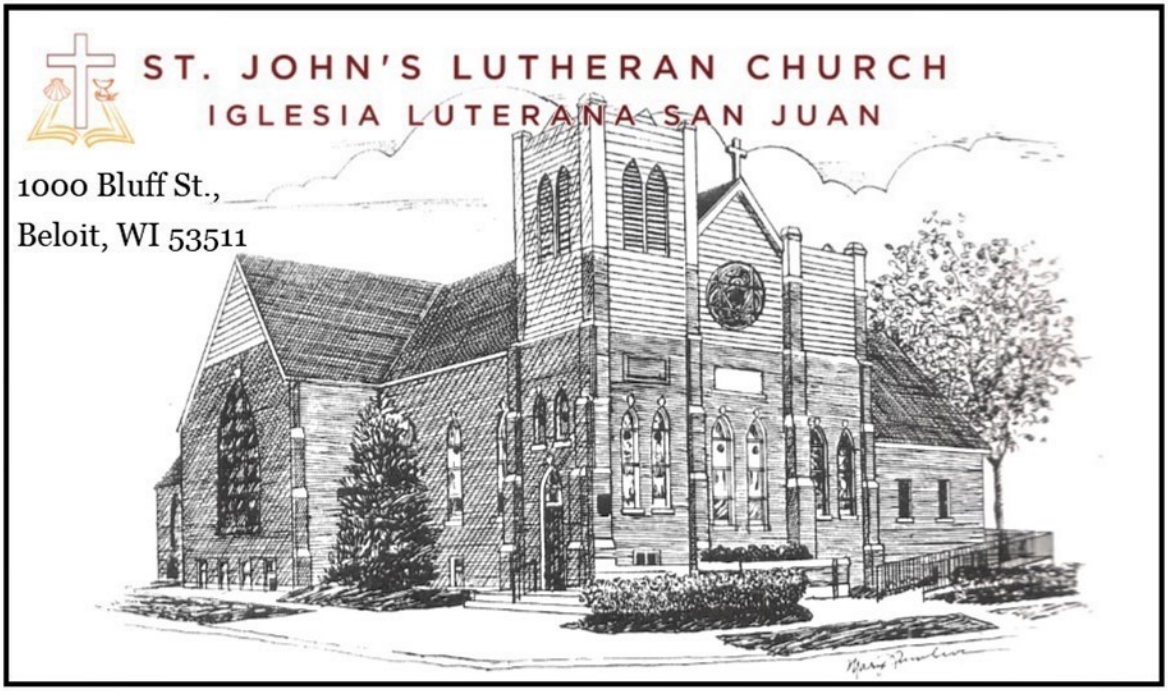
Mrs. Berta Eddy, Administrative Assistant

officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com

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

Happy Mother's Day
HER
CHILDREN RISE UP AND
CALL HER BLESSED
- PROVERBS 31:28 -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