

St. John's Messenger

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

FEBRUARY 2019



From the Pastor's Study

Dear Friends,

The school is coming and the church needs to get ready. After three and a half years of doing intentional outreach in two languages in the Beloit community, we have seen very little growth. However, we will soon have the opportunity to reach a whole bunch of students and their families. While my being involved in the school is critical to the congregation receiving new families, this is not the only piece which needs our attention. As I mentioned in a recent bulletin article, many evangelism experts are suggesting that Lutheran worship services - due to their complexity - are not the best entry points for prospective members. They suggest instead inviting guests to Bible classes, fellowship opportunities, service events, and small groups. The majority of our members do not regularly attend events in addition to worship - and so it follows that they are not going to be inviting their friends to join them at these gatherings.

Consequently, it is essential - CRITICAL - that we give serious attention to our worship services and how they can become an effective entry point for prospective members. I will be working very hard to invite and encourage our school families to visit us in worship. People who visit a church make a decision right then and there whether they will visit again. The hard reality is that if they visit our worship service and it feels too complicated to follow and uncomfortably foreign to them, they will not be back. This is one of the primary reasons why so many traditional congregations in our day are "circling the drain" while independent Bible churches continue to attract new people. I have studied these churches and how they operate over many years, and I can tell you that it is not the drums and guitars which do it - it's the intentional thought that they give to removing barriers that can prevent people who are unfamiliar with Christian worship from having a meaningful experience.

For a congregation's worship service to be meaningful to someone who is unfamiliar with Christian worship, we need to make sure that visitors have a fighting chance of following the service and understanding what we are doing. Using words like Agnus Dei and justification are sure to confuse the uninitiated. Fixing that problem is pretty simple: call the song "Lamb of God" and tell people that we are now in a right relationship with God because Jesus died the death we deserve. There are a lot of things that we can do to make our services a little less complicated for visitors while retaining the inherent beauty and depth of our worship.

I don't want us to panic, but I do want us to begin to feel an urgency to get on top of this. Unless something dramatic and unexpected happens soon, a lot of congregations in the US are going to close in the next five or ten years. It's not a prophecy - it's simple demographics. Congregations who are not attracting younger people in meaningful numbers now will not have a future. I believe that St. John's has enough strengths that this does not have to happen here. This article is not a "one and done" approach to the challenges which lay ahead. Instead, it is an introduction to a process which will begin to unfold in the coming months as we seek to transform how we engage visitors in our worship services.

We will not be abandoning the Lutheran liturgy or bringing in steel guitars, but we will be examining every aspect of how we do worship and looking for ways to make it more accessible to our guests. This need isn't limited exclusively to our congregation. The question before all of our congregations is: "which is greater, our love for how we have always done things or our desire to see the lost brought to saving faith in Christ Jesus?" You wanna take a guess as to which the Lord will be blessing?

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor

January 2019 Expenses

Charter Internet	\$ 38.99
Dimax	\$ 72.31
Great America	\$ 81.74
TDS Phone Service	\$ 107.66
Beloit Utilities	\$ 125.45
Alliant Energy	\$2143.00
Father & Son Cleaners	\$ 800.00
S. Wis. District	\$ 984.00
Badgerland Disposal	\$ 60.00
Concordia Publishing	\$ 30.64
Concordia Plan Svc.	\$2817.56
Rindfleisch Flowers	\$ 338.00
Office Supply Reimburse	\$ 55.05
Together In Mission	\$ 750.00





Special For Our Youth

Additionally, Pastor Roser will be taking a group of youth from St. John's to the **LCMS National Youth Gathering in 2019**. St. John's will most likely be registering with some other congregations in the Stateline area. While the cost of registration is \$365.00, plus transportation, lodging, and meals, families will only be asked to pay a \$25.00 registration fee per youth member attending. All other monies will come from fundraising. The event will be held from July 11 - 15, 2019. It is open to students entering 9th grade (or age 14) in the 2019-2020 school year through age 19. **The FAQs are located at <https://lcmsgathering.com/faq/>**

St. John's School Has a new Facebook page!!



Keep up to date on everything happening. You don't have to be a Facebook member to see it, but we appreciate it if Facebook members would give the page a "like"

www.facebook.com/stjohnslutherschoolbeloit

Please Be Aware

Pastor Roser will be out of town on Thursday, February 27th and Friday, February 28th. During that time if you are in need of immediate or emergency pastoral care you may contact Pastor Dan Eddy (Messiah Lutheran Church) at (314)-775-7371. He will be happy to assist you.





Our Women's Guild held the first meeting of 2019 on Thursday, January 3rd with Betty Pearson as acting President. Excused were President Garnet Bauling and Vice President Linda Spsychalski. Present were 10 members.

Doris Rindfleisch gave a devotion titled Blue Violet Jelly. The next LWML event will be the Spring Rally on April 24th here at St. John's. We will soon be busy with the planning. A motion was made by Jeanne Ludeman for our Women's Guild to sponsor three CD Ministries for Oct. 20, Feb. 3 and December 29. It was seconded by Kathy Carter. The motion was carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer and then enjoyed a delicious dessert and coffee served by hostess Dawn Roser.

Begin with God.....He is comfort

In the Word

My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life." Psalm 119:50

Of the Word

Wouldn't it be fantastic to be comfortable all of the time? In our everyday lives we want to have comfortable shoes, comfortable beds, comfortable temperatures, comfortable friends. We even have our own special comfort foods. But, alas, being comfortable all of the time just isn't "real." Aches and pains come our way as do old age, job losses, broken-down communications, suffering, and even death. These are the times we can turn to God knowing that only He can comfort our innermost being. The comforting "things" of this world are only temporary fixes, but God's comfort lasts.

Praise be to ... the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).



Walking with My Lord

My dear Father, I sometimes come to You with a heavy heart and in need of Your comfort. I know that You love me and will never leave me, but at times I feel You are so far away. Lord, forgive my weakness and doubt. Help me in these times to lean on You and renew me with Your Holy Spirit. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Mustard Seed: Begin with God - Authors: Marcia Gomulka, Dcs. Betty Knapp, Myrna Lou Meyer. 10/28 ©2007 www.lmwl.org

February Birthdays

1 Bill Cunningham

Daniel Giannone

2 Daniel F. Bottoom

8 Sidney Roser

11 Brian Giannone

14 Mindee Larson

Sheila M. Combs

16 Dorothy Smith

17 Oscar Wedel

Pam Ann Levan

18 Mike Monroe

21 Bev GeRue

22 Ashely Peterson

Bob Bue

25 David Carter

Sandy Buresh

27 Kayla Thompson

28 Annika Gill

Kylie Thompspon

(29) Marlene Nolta



Wedding Anniversaries

No February anniversaries, but everyone can celebrate their love and commitment on Valentine's Day!

Change the Date!!



The new Men's Bible Fellowship is changing the schedule. This monthly event will now be held on the **first THURSDAY of each month from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**.

It's open to all men in our congregation (and their friends) ages high school through retirement. We will begin with a meal and then a Bible study. The church will provide the meal and we will simply ask for free-will offerings to help underwrite it.

*“Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”*

(Matthew 4:4 ESV)



Congratulations to Aaron Bartz who graduated from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse this past December with his bachelor's degree.

Holy Socks!!

The "Holy Socks Puppet Ministry" at St. John's is doing well. We've even uploaded video to YouTube. In the coming months, we will be offering periodic presentations during Divine Service. We meet every Sunday after worship. Children and youth of all ages are invited to join us.

If you would like more information, please let Pastor Roser know.



Friday, February 1st
4:00pm-7:00pm

OPEN HOUSE

St. John's Lutheran School
1000 Bluff Street
Beloit, WI 53511
608-346-8411



LUMIN Schools
St. John's Lutheran

ABOUT US

St. John's Lutheran School is a safe, Christian school focused on educational success, leadership development, and spiritual growth. We are developing Christian Leaders and Learners in Beloit. We are enrolling 4k through 4th grade for the 2019-2020 school year, with a subsequent grade added each year up to grade 8.



Open Enrollment

February 1st through April 20th is our open enrollment period. We will be able to assist you with the enrollment process at our school. We will have chromebooks available for use.

for more info


www.luminschools.org

Results-Driven School

- ✓ High Quality Academics and Faith Instruction
- ✓ Full Day 4K and 5K, and grades 1-4
- ✓ Full year or more of growth in reading and math
- ✓ Individual and small group instruction
- ✓ Focused on college and career readiness for children

CONTACT US
FOR MORE INFO

(608) 346-8411

A decorative border of black scrollwork surrounds the text. The scrollwork is most prominent in the corners, forming a frame around the central text. It consists of intricate, swirling lines that create a sense of movement and elegance.

In our thoughts and prayers . . .

Oscar Wedel, Garnet Bauling, Larry Nolta, the Beckes family, Paige Reetz, Rev. Jim Klug, Kathi Mielke, Bobbie Reynolds, Joan Topham, Mike Papini, Tom Wulf, Doris Rindfleisch, Jessica Ramsey, Verna Purdom, Rev. Scott Herbert, Alexa Gill, Jerry Straw, Lisa Russell, Ed Spychalski, Carl Colby, Frank Voss, Joaquin, Elisabeth Kassal, Sandy Smith, Marcie Moore, Jean Bickford, Rev. Roy Jacob, Bruce Mielke, Laura Jo Pearson, Cayden Krueger, Janice Hemerley, and all of our members who are homebound. Additionally, please pray for the protection of those who serve in the military (particularly Kyle Summers and Logan Davies,) emergency services, and all who work for the common good.

Our Homebound Members

Beverly Bingham, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.
Sandy Buresh, Fair Oaks Health Care Center
Dan Burrows, Alden Meadow Park
Ivan Drake, Home
Connie Fast, Home
Donna Hall, Willowick in Janesville
Joanne Hildebrandt, Azura Memory Care
John Marquardt, Home
Shirley Mathewson, Beloit Sr. Living
Ione Reetz, Home
Christine Ruckert, Premier Skilled Nursing
Anna Rumery, Willowick in Clinton
Ed Spychalski, Home
Betty Steuck, Riverside Terrace
Elinor Swain, Alden Meadow Park
Marilyn Treder, Pioneer Court
Oscar & 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)



2019 is here!

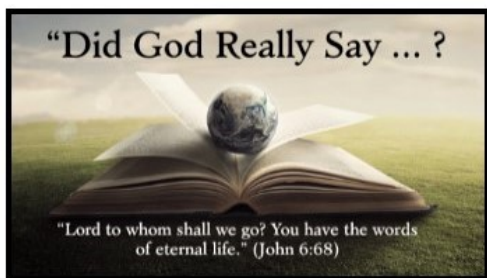
If you would like to sponsor either the CD Ministry or provide Altar flowers, the sign-up sheets for the new year are available in the Narthex.

DartBall

There is a full schedule of dartball games, opponents, and locations posted on the bulletin board in the office.



“Did God Really Say ... ?



2019 Lutherans for Life of Wisconsin Essay Contest

For students in Grades 6 through 12, any Lutheran student or student in a Lutheran school is eligible. Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the 2019 Conference theme: “Did God Really Say...? and Conference Bible verse: “Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68). Not incorporating the conference verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.

Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words.

Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words.

Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word via email to LFLofWIEssay@gmail.com by March 15, 2019. There will be a \$150 prize for each of the two categories for the LFL of Wisconsin Essay Contest. The two winners will advance to the national contest.

Full rules are available in the church office window.

***“Whoever gives thought to the word will discover good,
and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord.”
(Proverbs 16:20 ESV)***

What do you recommend for a 625th wedding anniversary?

JEWELER

LIFE IN OLD TESTAMENT TIMES.

Cartoonist signature

**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!

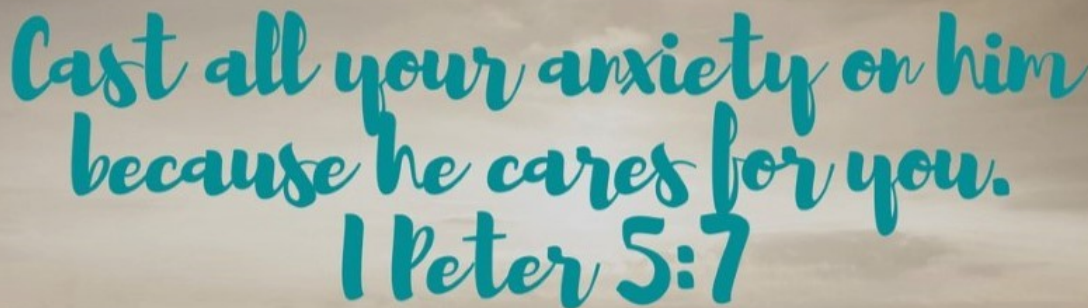
Just use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw9-9SrlBpZwdB2bPj-7Stg>



facebook

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.

*Cast all your anxiety on him
because he cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7*





Do you need help getting meals or know someone who does?

Contact Beloit Meals on Wheels

Beloit Meals on Wheels delivers nutritious meals directly to our client's homes. We serve clients age 60 and older, who are home bound and not driving, and

live in the Beloit area. Depending on the need, home-delivered meals can be on a short- or long-term basis. Menus are developed by a registered dietician to ensure meals meet 1/3 of the Recommended Daily Allowance for seniors and our food is prepared by Best Events Catering. In addition to home-delivered healthy meals, our clients receive a daily visit from our friendly volunteers. Signing up is easy! For more information, contact us at 608-362-3683 or visit us online at www.beloitmealsonwheels.org

Staff and Contact Information

Rev. Dennis Roser, Pastor

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Mr. Isiah King, School Administrator

king@luminschools.org (608)-346-8411

Mrs. Berta Eddy, Director of Communications

officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com

Mr. Bill Cunningham, Director of Music

Mr. Jeff Vander Kooi, Facility Maintenance

Mrs. Monica Vander Kooi, Church Treasurer

Mr. David Koebernack, Sound Technician

www.stjohnsbeloit.com

www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranbeloit/

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www.youtube.com/channel/UCw9-9SrlBpZwdB2bPj-7Stg



"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
IGLESIA LUTERANA SAN JUAN

1000 Bluff St.,
Beloit, WI 53511



Mary Fowler