

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.

March 2017



From the Pastor's Study

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Dear Friends,

During the season of Lent we will continue our practice of gathering on Wednesday evenings for a fellowship meal and a prayer service. The suppers will begin at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall and then we will go upstairs to the Sanctuary for our service—which begins at 6:30 pm. Please feel welcome to invite your friends and neighbors to attend with you. Even if you are only able to attend one of these events (supper or worship), please join us!

Our sermon series for these services will focus on the six main parts of Luther's Small Catechism. I will begin the series on Ash Wednesday in order to allow for six Wednesdays prior to Palm Sunday. Given the themes of Ash Wednesday, it makes sense to focus on Confession that evening, and so this will be the one part that I am taking out of order from the rest.

1. March 1—Confession (Psalm 51) - Ash Wednesday service is at 6:30 pm. We will not have a meal.
2. March 8—Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17)
3. March 15—Apostles' Creed (Romans 10:5-13)
4. March 22—Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:7-15)
5. March 29—Holy Baptism (Romans 6:1-11)
6. April 5—Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-32)

If you do not have a copy of the Small Catechism, you can read it online or download it by going to <http://www.cph.org/pdf/223110.pdf>. If you would prefer to read it on your smartphone or tablet, you can do so by going to <http://catechism.cph.org>. If you are not online but would like to read the catechism, please let me know and it will be my pleasure to give you a copy. The catechism is not simply something which we need to

study in order to be confirmed as an adult member of the Church, but it is a rich resource for knowing God more deeply. It is also tremendously practical in teaching us how Christians live in light of Christ having paid for our sins by His shed blood on the Cross.

The catechism teaches us Who God is, who we are as children of Adam and Eve (sinners), who we are as the new creation which God has made us to be through our baptisms into Christ (saints), what God expects of us, how we are to treat our neighbor, how to pray, and most importantly how to be comforted by the forgiveness and eternal life accomplished for us by Jesus' death suffered in our place. This last one is brought about by "the means of Grace." This phrase is shorthand for how the Holy Spirit creates saving faith in Christ Jesus within us that we might trust in His death in our place and so receive the full pardon of the Father for our sins. This saving faith in Christ granted to us is a living faith, and like all things living, must continue to be fed, nurtured, and sustained. God does this through His Word, by Holy Baptism, and through the Lord's Supper. It is through these means that God does these great things in and upon us! The catechism helps us to grow in our understanding of these precious gifts and to trust in them more fully.

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor



Treasurer's Report

February 2017 Expenses

SWD Lutheran	\$1,050.00	Father & Son	\$800.00
Advanced	\$107.22	Charter	\$38.99
Big Radio	\$320.00	Concordia Publishing	\$83.82
Beloit Daily News	\$17.74	CPH	\$31.99
Tim Lawn Care	\$175.00	Alliant Energy	\$2,187.97
Maffets Ad	\$200.00	TDS	\$95.19
TH Stemper Co	\$37.74	Outreach (Edmundo Vicarge)	\$6,000.00
Great America Financial	\$266.09	Ink Smart	\$55.00
Beloit Utilities	\$220.07		
Concordia Plan Services	\$2,501.84		

Birthdays

03-01	Bob Burns
03-08	Katrina Roser
03-09	Rachael Mears
03-10	Kevin Rindfleisch Tim Drager
03-14	Christina Bickford
03-19	Lois MacGowan
03-21	Chris Peterson
03-22	Trey Griinke

Anniversaries

03-22 Ed & Linda Spychalski

Women's Guild News



Pets are a gift from God

“Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast,...” – (Proverbs 12:10 ESV)

A man wrote to a hotel where he wanted to go for vacation and asked, “Could I bring my dog? He’s very well behaved.” The hotel owner replied, “I’ve been operating this hotel for thirty years and in all that time I’ve never had a dog steal towels, bedclothes, silverware, or pictures off the walls. I’ve never had to evict a dog in the middle of the night for being drunk and disorderly, and I’ve never had one run out without paying the bill. Yes, your dog is welcome. And furthermore, if your dog will vouch for you, you’re welcome too.”

Solomon writes, “The godly care for their animals.” Ever consider godliness from that perspective? Maybe you’re thinking, “This doesn’t sound too spiritual.” Think again! “Every good gift...is from above, and coming down from the Father” (James 1:17).

Many a grieving heart is comforted by a pet whose love and loyalty makes their loss more bearable and helps them to go on. Did you know people with pets live longer, stay healthier, recover faster, and experience less depression?

Who will ever forget the dogs on 9/11 as they searched through the carnage of the World Trade Center, howling in distress because they couldn’t rescue those who perished? And how about the skilled dogs that gives sight to the blind and visually impaired? That sounds pretty spiritual, right? When God created our pets He said, “It [was] good.” Why did He say that? Because they have the virtues of mankind without its vices. So let’s recognize them as a gift from God, be grateful for them, and take good care of them!

TheEncouragingWord.org

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We offer our prayers and congratulations to Betty and Bill Pearson upon the birth of their new great-grandson, Cole Knight. Cole weighed 7 pounds at birth. His parents are Shaun and Stephanie Knight and his big sister is Gianna Knight. Proud grandmother is Shirley Pearson Lins.

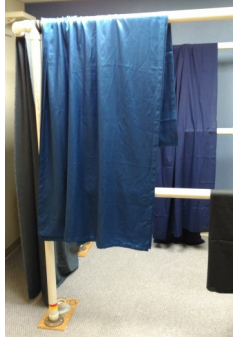
We continue to seek tenants for our school building. Prospective tenants must be a community agency, non-profit organization, school, or a daycare center. This is due to our zoning designation as "Public Lands and Institutions." This zoning designation does not offer any exceptions for the operation of private businesses on the premises. All utilities except telephone are included. Free public Wi-Fi is provided. The available rooms are: 2 rooms of 23' by 32', 2 rooms of 33' by 25', and 2 rooms of 32' by 25'. The rent for each room is \$350.00 per month. We also have one office of 19' by 9' with an alcove of 5' by 5.5' for \$100 monthly. Off-street parking is available in our parking lot. Prospective tenants are invited to call Pastor on his cell phone at 608-713-2050.

We are delighted to announce to you that we are now being served by a part-time vicar who is originally from Mexico. His name is Vicar Edmundo Rosales. He will be with us every Thursday for two years. His vicarage experience will include service not only at St. John's, but also in Our Savior, Burlington; Holy Cross, Racine; and Santa Cruz, Racine. We are receiving him as a part-time vicar through our partnership with CPTLN. Our congregation council has contributed \$6,000.00 from the Outreach Fund to support Edmundo's vicarage. Other sources of support include the other three congregations where Edmundo is also serving, the District, CPTLN, and an LCMS organization called "Soldiers of the Cross." His vicarage will provide him with a compensation package of \$27,500.00 annually. Since we will not be incurring any additional expenses for Edmundo's work among us, I do want to encourage all of us to extend some generosity to Edmundo when possible. Perhaps you received a gift card for Christmas which you have no desire to use. If this is the case, placing that in a small envelope with a note of encouragement to him would mean a great deal. In addition to being immersed in ministry among our English-speaking members and culture, Pastor will be tutoring him in the preparation and delivery of sermons. He will be assisting us in reaching out to our neighbors who are Hispanic. It is our hope that within a few months we will be offering Bible study in Spanish to individuals and families at St. John's. Vicar Rosales will be attending Sunday morning worship with us at St. John's on Sunday, April 2. This will give everyone an opportunity to meet and learn more about him. Please mark your calendars so that you can be with us on this special Sunday!

Please add Vicar Rosales to your prayer list, as well as his family. He and his wife Beatriz have four children: Jose who is 20, Amy who is 14, Oscar who is 10, and Ruby who is 5.

We are delighted to announce that Bill Pearson has been elected Chairman of the Board of Elders. Please keep him in your prayers as he carries out the duties of his office.

The ladies of Saint Johns' sewing guild have graciously agreed to perform all of the sewing work needed for the installation of backgrounds and curtains for our puppet stage. We are very grateful for their generosity in sharing their time and talents in this way and for their donation of all of the material! It will be beautiful when they are finished.



As you are aware, it is vital for our congregation to become more effective in reaching individuals and families. One of the things which is very important to families with small children is a congregation's nursery. Nurseries must be clean, attractive, and safe. We are very fortunate to have a wonderful space downstairs for our nursery and the carpeting is first-rate. However, much needs to be done in order to update this space.



The Board of Trustees have given Pastor permission to lead us in purchasing needed items and soliciting contributions from the congregation in order to accomplish this project. This space will no longer be available for usage by tenants and others outside of the congregation. We can make our nursery much more inviting by adding attractive wall decorations, placing some play carpets on the floor, purchasing some really nice toys, adding a changing table & crib, and installing a speaker that will allow parents who choose to do so to take their children down there to play and still hear the service. There was once speakers in the nursery for this purpose, but they are no longer in place. There is a speaker in the corner of the Fellowship Hall which no longer works, but its wiring will be a big help to us in installing new wiring down in the nursery.

One of our members whose vocation is in early childhood learning is going to advise us in the project. Laws change pretty frequently in terms of what is allowable and so she will be able to assist us in making good choices. If you have purchased items for infants and children recently you know how expensive these things can be. However, when trying to create a welcoming and attractive space, there is no substitute for purchasing quality items. If you would like to donate to this project, please write "nursery" in the memo section of your check. We are going to create a tasteful poster with the names of those persons in whose honor or memory all donations of \$100.00 or more are given. We are hoping to transform the nursery by Easter!



**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, Beloit Senior Living

Nadine Polzin, Home

Josephine Rhode, Alden Meadow Park

Anna Rumery, Willowick Assisted Living

Betty Steuck, Riverside Terrace

Russell Ultsch, Premier Rehabilitation

Kay Wells, Cedar Crest Apartments

Dan Burrows, Alden Meadow Park

Connie Fast, Home

Donna Hall, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.

Joanne Hildebrandt, Azura Memory Care

John Marquardt, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.

Joyce Nelson, Home

Ione Reetz, Home

Christine Ruckert, Premier Skilled Nursing

Marcella Savage, Home

Marilyn Treder, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.

Audrey Weiss, Riverside Terrace



Peter Fast, Jean Bickford, Diana Walter, Dorothy Dooley, Betty Steuck, Marcella Savage, Rev. Roy Jacob, Russell Ultsch, Donna Hall, Bruce Mielke, Joyce Nelson, Laura Jo Pearson, Marilyn Straw, Marjean Rath, Cayden Krueger, Nadine Polzin, Janice Hemerley, Hope Ann Block, and all of our members who are homebound. Additionally, please pray for the protection of all of those who serve in the military.

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	2 1:00 pm LWML Meeting 6PM Youth Choir	3	4 10:30 AM Choir
5 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	6 1PM Women's Bible Study	7 9:30 Women's Bible Study	8 9AM Sewing 5:30 pm Lenten Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Service	9 6PM Youth Choir	10	11 10:30 AM Choir
12 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	13 1PM Women's Bible Study 6PM Catechism	14 6PM Board of Trustees	15 5:30 pm Lenten Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Service	16 6PM Youth Choir	17	18 10:30 AM Choir
19 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	20 10 AM Finance Board Meeting 1PM Women's Bible Study 6PM Board of Elders	21 9:30 Women's Bible Study 5 PM Personnel Planning Comm	22 9AM Sewing 5:30 pm Lenten Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Service	23 6PM Youth Choir	24	25 10:30 AM Choir
26 9AM Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	27 1PM Women's Bible Study 6PM Catechism	28 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6PM Parish Council Meeting	29 5:30 pm Lenten Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Service	30 10 AM Woman's Guild Board 6PM Youth Choir	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:
dennismroser@gmail.com

Our address:

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Visit us on the web:

www.stjohnsbeloit.com

Facebook:

<http://tinyurl.com/z7xexdy>



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PLACE
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HERE

