St. John's Messenger

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



2020



From the Pastor's Study

Dear Friends,

Our gracious God equips His Church with everything needed to carry out His mission in the world. This is an important reminder for every congregation, as it is human nature for us to complain about the things that we lack. The Bible teaches us that we lack nothing, but because we do not always use God's gifts effectively, we sometimes think that we do.

An important challenge for every congregation is for us to consider the resources that God has given us and ask ourselves if we are using them effectively. Very often when we think that we need more resources what we really need is to rethink how we are applying those we have already been given. As the pastor of our congregation, it is my responsibility to lead us in being good stewards of God's resources within the congregation.

During the Advent season, I reflected on the gifts of our midweek Advent and Lenten suppers. These are important times of community-building and mutual care that are largely underused because they occur at night when many of our members are unable to be present. While these are great events for the 15 or so people who attend, the majority of our members do not participate. From a stewardship perspective, it is clear that we are not using those resources wisely. Each week, during Advent and Lent, members prepare delicious foods and those who attend set aside time to gather together - resources (given by God) are being expended. By no means is this a waste of resources, but those resources could be used differently in order to benefit a larger proportion of our members.

To that end, I have asked our Board of Elders if we might shift these resources of foodstuffs, time, and talents from midweek evenings to Sunday mornings. In this way, many more of our members will be able to take part in the fellowship and building up of our faith community. After discussion, we have decided to hold a Sunday morning brunch each month instead of having midweek suppers during Advent and Lent. Knowing that their elimination will significantly impact attendance at the midweek services, we are retiring the services with the intention of shifting those resources over to the Sunday morning worship service. Additionally, we are hoping that a reduction in the number of midweek services will boost attendance at our Thanksgiving eve, Christmas eve, Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday services. With the exception of Christmas eve, we really struggle to attract the attendance of our members on those special days. Hopefully, this change will assist our members in prioritizing their attendance on the sacred days of Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday.

(continued on page 2)

I met with our Fellowship Committee in order to seek their assistance in planning for the meals. I was very encouraged by their response, ideas, and willingness to serve. I notice on Sunday mornings that we do not have enough room in the narthex to accommodate everyone who would like to gather in conversation - which are missed opportunities for us. Additionally, it is very embarrassing for our congregation to host funeral visitations in the narthex with coffee stains on the carpet where the casket is placed and families greet their guests. To that end, I have asked the Fellowship Committee if we can host the weekly fellowship time downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Beginning this month (March), our fellowship time each week will be held downstairs following worship. On the first Sunday of the month, we will gather for coffee and treats in an open conversation style - meaning people can simply spend time in conversation with one another. On the third Sunday of the month, we will have our monthly potluck brunch. In order to keep this event from becoming stale, we will change up what we have, i.e. sometimes we will have breakfast items and other times we will have soup/sandwiches/etc. During the second and fourth Sundays of the month, we will gather for coffee and snacks, and then enjoy a time of small group and large group discussions on topics such as Advent and Lent. When there is a fifth Sunday of the month, we will try to offer a special activity in addition to coffee and treats.

In order to offer more people an opportunity to provide cookies, bars, etc. for our fellowship time, Berta has placed a signup sheet in the narthex. Each week will offer spots for two families to sign up. Each is asked to bring 2 or 3 dozen of their items. The items can be homebaked or store-bought - both are delicious!

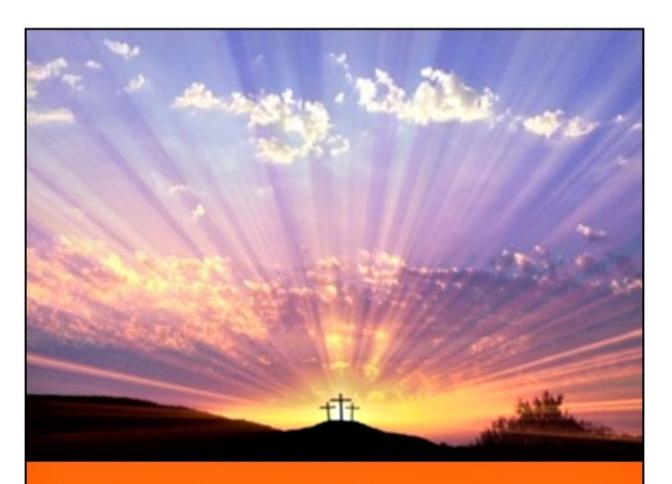
I recognize that change is always unsettling, and I ask for your patience and goodwill as we try something different. My hope is that this will strengthen the bonds of our fellowship and attract others to join us. These gatherings will not exceed 45 minutes, and normally we will be finished in 30. Since Easter occurs on April 12th this year, we will move the third Sunday brunch in April to our traditional pre-service breakfast on Easter; and have coffee and snacks on April 19. I want to close with one of my favorite pictures of the Church: "They continued to hold firmly to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers." (Acts 2:42).

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor

Caster Flower order forms
will be available from
Sunday, March 8th through
Sunday, March 29th. Help
beautify the Sanctuary for a
glorious Caster celebration!

Psalm 119:50 "This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life."



Please join us for regular Sunday Worship each week at 9:00 a.m., followed by fellowship downstairs.

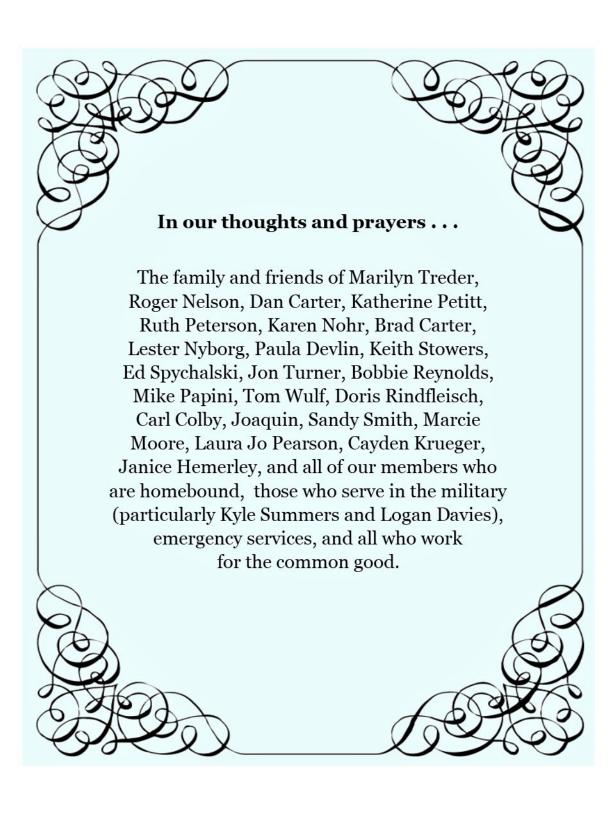
Holy Week Service Schedule:

Palm Sunday: April 5, 9:00 a.m. Worship

Maundy Thursday: April 9, 6:30 p.m. Worship

Good Friday: April 10, 12:00 pm, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Roscoe

Easter Morning: April 12, 7:45 am Breakfast; 9:00 a.m. Worship



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

Oscar & Mildred Wedel, Home

Roger Willing, Alden Meadow Park, Clinton

"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 Women's Guild meeting was held on Thursday, February 6th. The devotion was given by Dawn Roser. We were reminded that Scoopie Nights will be beginning next month on March 31st. This is a major fundraiser that makes it possible

for us to help our church and other worthy causes with their needs.

Garnet reported that in order to keep up with current prices with others who offer funeral luncheons, our price has been raised to \$5.00 per person. Our Sewing Guild has a need for small baby jackets and sweaters as we continue work on baby kits for Lutheran World Reliefs.

Doris Rindfleisch reported that the Salvation Army is in need of flour and other items used in baking. We voted to donate \$200.00 and will apply to Thrivent for matching funds. After closing with the Lord's Prayer, hostesses Garnet Bauling and Beulah Knutson served us delicious ice cream sundaes.

Daughters of the King...Lydia Seeker

In the Word

"One who heard us was a woman named Lydia...who was a worshiper of God." (Acts 16:14)

Of the Word

Lydia was a prosperous businesswoman who sold purple cloth in the busy seaport of Philippi. Her business catered to society's privileged. Being a Gentile convert to Judaism, Lydia apparently sought more from life than a career and associating with the rich. Upon hearing Paul's preaching The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ... she and her household were baptized ... (Acts 16:14b, 15a).

Lydia stands as a role model for today's busy woman. She ran a business and a home but she also sought out God and His teachings. Through her example God's Word came to her whole household. She showed her faith was real when she opened her home to Paul and his companions. What a blessing it must have been for this seeker to be able to dialog with these men about her Lord Jesus!

"And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you" (Luke 12:29, 31)

Walking with my Lord

Almighty God, kindle a desire within me to seek Your will above all else in my life. In Jesus' loving name. Amen

(Mustard Seed: Daughters of the King. Marcia Gomulka and Myrna Lou Meyer, authors. www.lwml.org)

Notice: The Sewing Guild is in need of used sheets of any size to use for quilt making. Please bring your donations to the sewing room in the church basement.

In the Event of Inclement Weather

Snowy days and other winter weather conditions can present motorists with risks that should be avoided whenever possible. To that end, we urge our members to exercise caution when choosing to attend worship and other parish activities during such conditions. Since we have no way of alerting all worshipers of cancelations, I do not cancel worship services. Of course, exceptions to this policy will be made when there is a safety concern in the building, itself. However, I do not want worshipers and worship leaders to "gamble" with their safety, and perhaps their lives, in order to attend worship when roadway conditions advise against it. This is to say, regardless of the weather, I will always be present to offer worshipers God's Word through Scripture reading and preaching, and the Lord's Supper. This does not mean that anyone else is expected to be present when weather conditions present serious challenges to your safe arrival. In terms of other activities, we will make every possible effort to inform members of cancelations.

March Birthdays

29 Cindy Mitchell

- 1 Dorothy Bushaw Robert Burns
- 4 William Vander Kooi
- 8 Katrina Roser
- 9 Rachael Mears
- 10 Kevin Rindfleisch Tim Drager
- 14 Christina Bickford
- 21 Chris Peterson
- 22 Trey Griinke





Wedding Anniversaries

22 Ed and Linda Spychalski

Two Chances This Month to Help St. John's Groups... Just By Eating!!



Scoopie Night
Tuesday, March 24, 2020
4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Culver's
2676 Cranston Rd (Beloit)

The St. John's Youth will be helping to serve the orders
Tuesday, March 24 at Culver's in Beloit. Culver's will generously
donate a portion of the evening's proceeds toward the
Youth's trip to the National Youth Gathering during the summer
of 2022 in Houston, Texas. Please come out support them.
All you have to do is eat something!!



Scoopie Night Tuesday, March 31, 2020 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Culver's 2676 Cranston Rd (Beloit)

The St. John's Women's Guild will be helping to serve the orders Tuesday, March 31 at Culver's in Beloit. Culver's will generously donate a portion of the evening's proceeds toward the projects of the Women's Guild. Please come out support them. All you have to do is eat something!!



Featuring:

Basket
* Refreshments

Celebrate Easter on a walkthrough tour of the Easter story with an egg hunt at each stop. Tours will be separated by families, so adults are more than welcome to participate.

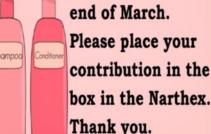
Come join us for Easter Eggstravaganza 2020!

Saturday, April 4th. 1-3pm @ Messiah Lutheran Church 1531 Townline Ave. Beloit, WI

Rain or shine!!!

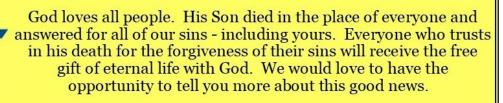
Hosted by Stateline Youth Group

The St. John's Women's Guild is collecting shampoo and conditioner on behalf of Caritas from now until the



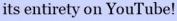
We gather for worship every Sunday morning at 9 am, and everyone is welcome!

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.



Where everyone is invited, and Jesus is Lord!

Did you know if you miss a regular Sunday Worship Service, you can watch it in





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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