St. John's Messenger

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



2020



From the Pastor's Study

Dear Friends,

During the last three months, nearly every congregation has needed to develop an online presence in order to serve its members and others. We were very fortunate to already be up and running with livestreaming our Sunday service. God blessed us through

the generosity, expertise, and efforts of many members and friends who made our multi-camera setup a reality. What a blessing it was for all of this to be in place before we had to discontinue in-person worship here at St. John's!

I have been learning a lot about doing ministry online and have enjoyed experimenting with new technologies. Although it appears that in-person worship is going to be a possibility for us in the coming weeks, I am expanding what we are offering online rather than discontinuing what we have been doing. It might seem natural to scale back what we are doing digitally as we prepare to reoccupy our physical presence here at St. John's, but to do so would be a mistake. We have not gathered in person here at St. John's in 12 weeks and a lot of things in our society have changed during this time. In fact, in many ways, the COVID crisis has acted as an accelerator for changes that were already happening. Prior to the shutdown, an increasing number of people were beginning to choose digital interactions over in-person ones; more people were choosing on-demand television content over programs that one needs to make themselves available for; and the trend towards fast-food delivery services such as Grubhub, Door Dash, and Uber Eats was exploding. The current crisis accelerated these trends to warp speed. If things were already moving in these directions, what has happened in the last 12 weeks has moved them further along and a reversal is unlikelv.

I pay attention to the blogs of church leaders who have a track record of equipping their congregations in reaching those who are not active in Christian congregations. The experts I follow have convinced me that a shift has occurred during the last

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three months. A shift is different from an interruption, in that things do not go completely back to the way they were previously. Yes, we will still continue to gather for worship in our building, we will continue to have in-person Bible classes, and youth events will continue to be scheduled - but if we are going to continue to be effective in reaching others in the new reality (whatever that will look like) we will also need to be active in online ministry. Many people who are not members of St. John's have become active in our online ministry - which is the mission of the Church. It is unlikely that they will immediately start attending our in-person worship when it resumes. However, that doesn't mean that they never will. I am learning that online ministry is now replacing many of the previously-physical ways that we would introduce people to our congregation and welcome them in. It is quite common for people to participate online in a congregation's life long before they arrive in person. Additionally, we are now serving the spiritual needs of many members who for a variety of reasons are unable to be present on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am or 5:30 pm on Wednesdays when we have Bible Class.

There have always been churches who are growing and those who are declining. More often than not what has distinguished them is that those who were declining were attempting to freeze the life of their congregations in time - mostly the glory days of their history. I am excited by the opportunities that are before us to connect others with Christ Jesus. As a physical congregation with a limited digital presence we were struggling, but I am convinced that as a congregation with a vibrant physical and digital presence we are going to thrive. The new normal that will emerge over the next several months is anyone's guess, but I am confident that we are ready for it!

While we have content available in a variety of locations on the web, the three most important for you to know and share with others are the following:

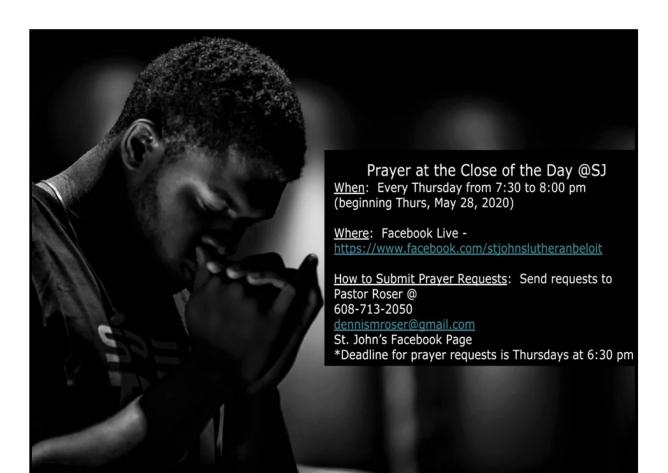
SJ Homepage: https://www.stjohnsbeloit.com SJ YouTube: https://tinyurl.com/stjohnsbeloit

SJ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranbeloit/?fref=nf

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor

Pastor Roser, the Church Council, Elders, and other leadership have, after careful consideration and full discussion, have decided to return to limited in-person Worship on Sunday, June 21. St. John's will be using the health and safety guidelines of the city, the county, and also the church's district. Please see the May 29th Communicator for details.



Who Wants to Win a Culver's Gift Card?

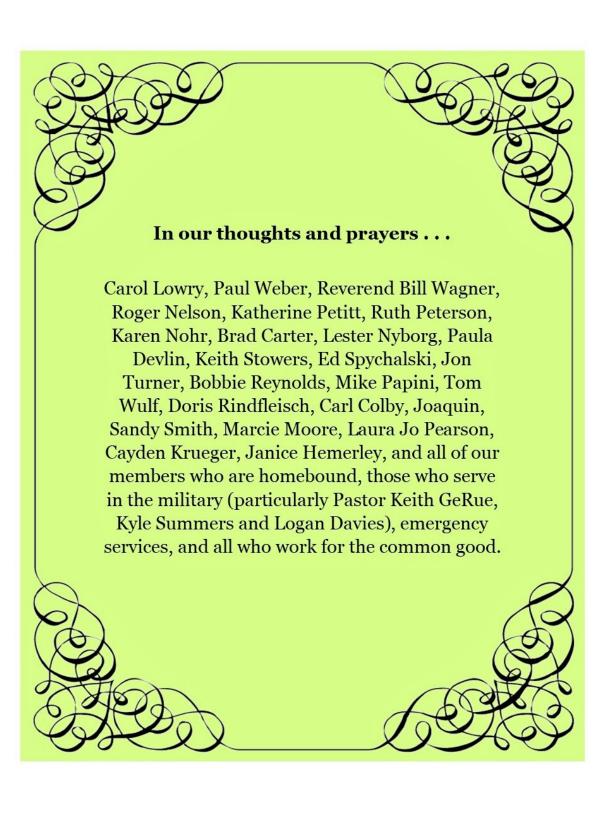
We have a number of avenues to keep you apprised of the opportunities and events here at St. John's: The monthly Messenger, the weekly Communicator, the Facebook page, the Web page, the Sunday Bulletin, and (first and foremost) the Worship service. Many times we will repeat the information in more than 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 May 29, 2020 Communicator for the current quiz. Get your answers in by noon on June 5, 2020 to be in the drawing for the Culver's Card!



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



Living as A Woman in Mission: The Least of These

In the Word

(Jesus says,) "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me" (Matthew 25:35-36).

Of the Word

"...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40b).

Who did Jesus mean by the least of these? When you work at the community pantry, feed the hungry, or bake cookies for vacation Bible school, you are serving the least of these. When you pour cold water for your toddler, aged parent, or nursing home resident, you are serving the least of these. When you donate time and money at the homeless shelter or the pregnancy center, you are serving the least of these.

When you volunteer your time at the local thrift shop or when you make warm quilts for the needy, you are serving the least of these. When you send a card, make a hospital call, or sit with a dying friend, you are serving the least of these. When you mark Bibles for prisoners or pray for those who are incarcerated, you are serving the least of these.

Serving the least of these may be no more than lending a hand, giving a smile, or sharing a burden. The service is a heartfelt response to the love Jesus has poured on us.

Walking with My Lord

Lord, help me to look for opportunities to serve others. Help me to remember that my service is actually a gift to You and a response to the love You have given to me. In Jesus' name. Amen

Mustard Seed: Living as a Woman in Mission. Author: Myrna Lour Meyer. www.lwml.org

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.

Registration for St. John's 2020-2021 School Year

It is my privilege to serve as the principal of St. John's Lutheran School. We are in preparation for the 20-21 school year, and we're adding a grade. Seats are still open in grades 4K-5th grade. Please consider following our facebook page and sharing information with families looking for a Christian education. The WI choice program enrollment has ended but we are still accepting families that are interested through scholarships. For more information please contact our school office at 608-713-1400 or email me, Isiah King, at king@luminschools.org.

Important Request

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: officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com
I will then update your file immediately.

Thank you. Berta Eddy, Office Administrator

|--|

5 Eric Nohr

8 Marcia Stenberg

9 David Koebernick

Becky Steiner

16 Danielle Peterson

Joyce Nelson

21 Joyce Monroe

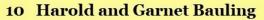
24 Roger Stenber

26 Katrina Vander Kooi

30 Autumn Mears



Wedding Anniversaries



13 Mark and Kimberly Baker

25 Don and Nancy Nohr

28 Micah and Robin Wildauer

29 John and Ruth Kannengeiser



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

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 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, whether inperson 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!

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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Mrs. Berta Eddy, Administrative Assistant

officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com

www.stjohnsbeloit.com

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www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranschoolbeloit

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







