

St. John Lutheran Church  
1710 5th Street South  
Fargo, ND 58103

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

‘THE HERALD’

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**St. John Office Hours:**  
*Monday-Thursday: 9am-4:30pm*  
*Friday: 9am-12am*

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St. John Lutheran Church

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[www.stjohnfargo.com](http://www.stjohnfargo.com)

The Ministry Team of St. John: All the People of God, along  
with

Rev. Nathan Keith, Rev. Brian Hansen, Pastors

Dawn Papenfuss, Director of Music/Organist

Rachel Coen-Tuff, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Jackie Jabens, Finance/Office Manager

Carly Rogne, Secretary Randy Shone, Custodian

Jana Bruhschwein, Preschool Director

Kellie Knodel, Cheryl Dietz, Katie Olson, Preschool Teachers

## 2016-2017 Council Members

Donna Wallgren President/Exec. Committee;  
Janis Keller V.P. for Ministries; Susan Quandt  
V.P. for Support; Dean Froslic Secretary;  
Rachel Rude Worship and Music; Jack Anderson  
Property; Aaron Nissen Property/Preschool;  
Tari Wieers Youth and Family; Shawn Vasichek;  
Larry Papenfuss.



St. John Lutheran Church

Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# THE HERALD

Volume 116, Issue 7

Community in Christ: Christ in Community

July 2016



## Sent to Serve!

**Seattle, Washington: July 23-31,  
2016**

In July there will be six St. John youth traveling to Seattle, Washington with Youth and family minister Rachel Coen-Tuff and another adult volunteer for our summer mission trip! While in Seattle they will be working with a number of organizations to serve the Seattle area. They will be working with homeless youth, serving food at a food shelf, working with Seattle parks and recreation and having a whole bunch of fun!

We are blessed to have this opportunity for our youth to serve God in this way. We thank the congregation of St. John for their generous gifts, and for keeping our mission trip group in their prayers while we are gone.

We are called to serve God and learn how to be the hands and feet of Christ.

**We are Sent to Serve Seattle!**

## Summer Worship Schedule

### **Sundays:**

1 Worship Service at 9:30 am!

### **Wednesdays:**

Evening worship at 6:30 pm  
through July

**No Wednesday Worship in  
August!**

Save the date: **St. John's**

**23rd Annual**

**CORNFEED!**

**Wednesday, August 10**

**5-7 p.m.**



A Note From the Pastor,

I hope that all of you are having a wonderful and blessed summer. Isn't it absolutely amazing how our lives can change over such a short period of time? Just think only months ago we were starting our cars and giving them time to warm up before we ventured off into the cold reality of winter. Now we're starting them early in the hopes of cooling them down before we take off into the warm realty of summer. Perception is really an incredible gift to have isn't it. Through perception we see the reality of the world around us in different and fascinating ways.

When I was young I was convinced that in order to go to heaven I had to live perfectly. I was convinced that God was writing down each and every one of my mistakes in the book of judgment. I worried incessantly whether or not I was being faithful enough to make it into heaven. I knew that God loved me but I was afraid that God's judgment would overrule God's heart.

I loved God but I lived my life in fear of God, for I was afraid my name was written in the book of Judgment and not in the book of life. However, after taking a Lutheran Theology and Tradition course during my sophomore year of College I discovered a new perspective. For the first time during this course I was exposed to Luther's concept of Grace. For the first time I had an opportunity to read the book of Galatians through a Lutheran Hermeneutical lenses and my perception on salvation changed.

During this class I was exposed to some of Martin Luther's ideas, most notably was Luther understands that we are saved by grace through faith. I think it could be said that Luther's understood that the Pauline epistles helped us to see that God's claiming and freeing love comes to us in and through Christ as free gift. Yet as human beings we have a problem with that idea. We become conditioned to believe that in this world, anything worthwhile has to be paid for or earned. And since a life in Christ is the best thing there is, how can it possibly be free? Human reason says, "It can't be free," and tries to go about earning God's favor. The following quote has been credited to Luther (although I couldn't find where) **"If God were willing to sell his grace, we would accept it more quickly and gladly than when he offers it for nothing."**

The most common kind of false teaching in the world makes God's love and forgiveness and acceptance dependent on your doing something, no matter how small that something may be. That's what happened to the Galatians: some-one came in and told them, "To be a real Christian, not only do you need faith in Christ, but you also need to follow the Jewish ritual of circumcision to be acceptable before God." <sup>3</sup>You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! <sup>2</sup>The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? <sup>3</sup>Are you so foolish? .....<sup>10</sup>For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law." <sup>11</sup>Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

You can't ever earn God's forgiveness, his favor or his good will through your own attempts at obeying his law. It just won't ever work. Christ is the one who sets you free from your slavery to sin and to a law you can never complete-ly keep. You don't find rest in God's law and in your own good works. You find true rest and peace in Christ.

So what do you have to do to get forgiveness? Absolutely nothing! As a sinner, you can't do anything to earn or deserve God's love. God simply gives it to you out of grace, as a gift, through his Holy Spirit. Christian faith simply means trusting God, and that's all. Through Christ, we are certain that we are forgiven, and certain that we have a place in Christ. And that perspective should inform the way we live our lives.

In Christ,

Pastor Brian

Did you know...

Bethany Retirement living will be offering upscale senior living in the exciting NEW Bethany Grace Pointe Apartments. Scheduled to open in September 2016, spacious one- and two-bedroom apartments will feature all appliances, most utilities, balconies, large open floor plans, under-building parking, access to the Town Canter amenities, and priority to move into higher levels of care when needed. If you are tired of mowing, painting and shoveling and wish to be part of the area's newest 55+ living opportunity, call 701-478-8910 for more information.

St. John Foot Care Clinic

Healthy Feet are "Happy Feet"

Let our volunteers pamper your feet and Sanford per-sonnel trim your nails. All while you enjoy coffee and visit with friends.

Especially helpful to those with foot-health issues.

Upcoming dates are Tuesday June 21 and July 19.

Call Cathy Chatelain 293-6772 or 261-2707.

Cost is \$16 paid  
to Sanford Home Health.

ST.JOHN RECEIVED

ELCA WORLD HUNGER CERTIFICATE

At the June 4-5 annual Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly our congregation was one of seven congrega-tions (out of 201) to receive an ELCA Worls Hunger cer-tificate recognizing our giving during the 2015 year. We were able to give \$16,589 or \$17.80 per baptized mem-ber. Only those congregations giving more than \$10.00 per baptized member were so recognized. If you wish to see the certificate, it is posted on the bulletin board out-side the sanctuary. Total giving during 2015 in our entire synod increased over 2014 by \$22,000 to \$198, 051. For our national ELCA the total was \$21,950,000! A new record since the formation of the ELCA in 1988. Our thanks to all those in the congregation who helped us gain recognition, more importantly how many more peo-ple in the world were able to receive food.



God's By Grace

In light of the Orlando mass shooting that occurred recently at a gay nightclub, killing 49 people and wounding 53 more, I felt that it was necessary to say that this is exactly why I find it beyond necessary for us to become an RIC church. This is the worst terrorist attack that has occurred in our country since 9/11, and it happened at a gay nightclub. While the attacker was not Christian, there were numerous supposed "Christians" that said or tweeted things such as "he was doing God's work".

Many of you know someone who is LGBTQ, but if you do not, just imagine how they must feel having one of the worst terrorist attacks in our nation's history perpetrated at a specifically gay nightclub, and then having fellow Christians praising the one who committed such an atrocity. Imagine there being a blood shortage due to such an atrocity, but their fellow gay men are not allowed to donate blood if they have had sex with another man in the past year—whether that is with a lifelong monogamous partner or not. Christianity has been complicit in harming the LGBTQ population in more ways than one. Whether it be from hateful pastors preaching damnation those who are LGBTQ while LGBTQ congregants sit in their pews, or LGBTQ youth led to depression and suicide in part due to how the Church has treated them, or parents sending their kids into conversion therapy to "cure" their child so that they "do not go to hell".

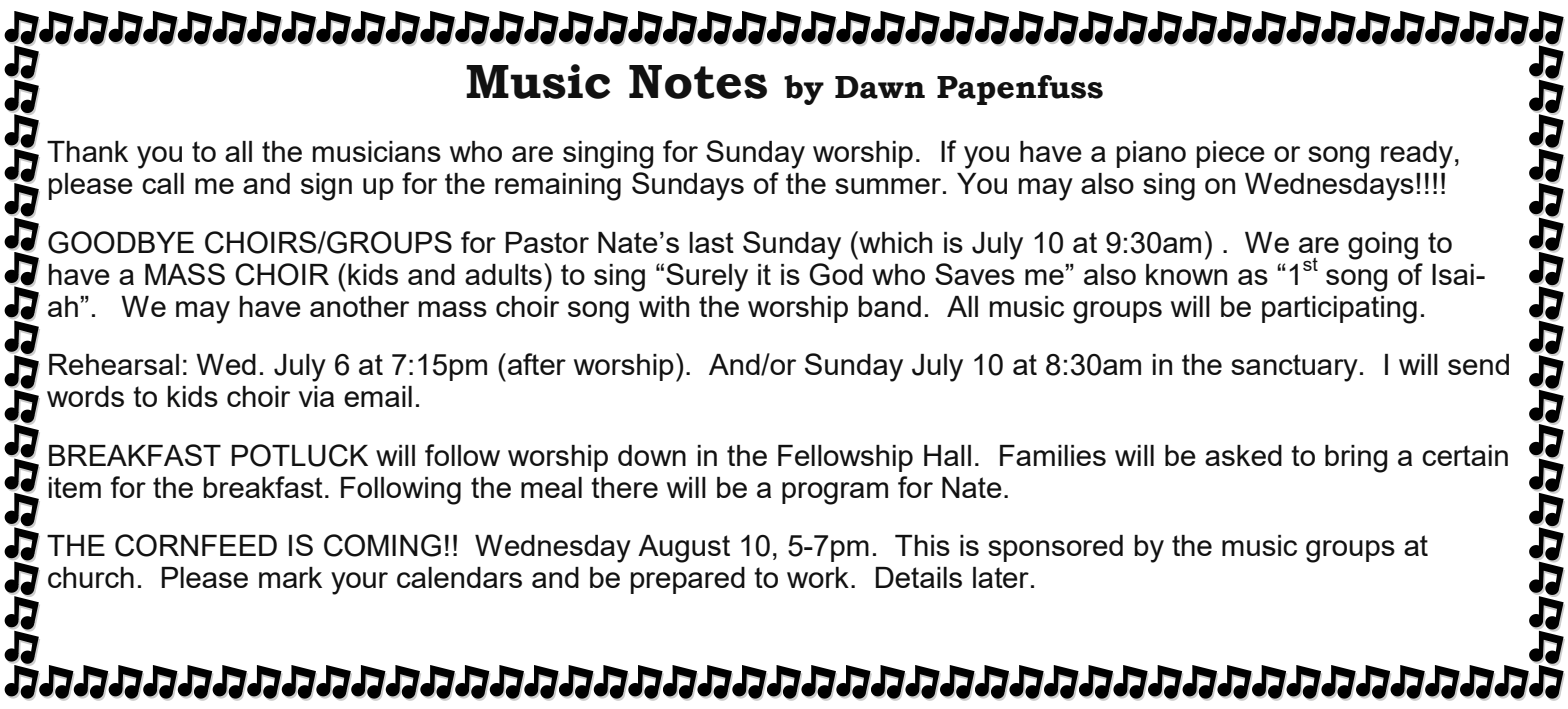
By becoming an RIC congregation we are saying that all are welcome. That we recognize the hurt that Christianity has caused the LGBTQ community and instead offer hope and healing. This is literally a matter of life and death. We can choose to work to end this cycle of violence and explicitly welcome those who are LGBTQ into our com-munity, or we can choose to remain implicit with our welcoming, which I would argue is not very welcoming at all. True welcoming requires action.

Church is a safe space for many of us. However, for many LGBTQ people, it is the complete opposite. And with events like this shooting in Orlando, a previously safe space has been taken from the LGBTQ community, and many do not feel safe. We on the RIC committee are working towards making our church a safe space for every-one, but with a focus on LGBTQ people due to events like these.

-Luke Papenfuss

If you have any questions or concerns about the RIC committee, becoming an RIC church, or LGBTQ related questions, feel free to contact me at [lpapenfu@cord.edu](mailto:lpapenfu@cord.edu). I'd be happy to meet with you, converse via email, what-ever works best for you.





Music Notes by Dawn Papenfuss

Thank you to all the musicians who are singing for Sunday worship. If you have a piano piece or song ready, please call me and sign up for the remaining Sundays of the summer. You may also sing on Wednesdays!!!!

GOODBYE CHOIRS/GROUPS for Pastor Nate’s last Sunday (which is July 10 at 9:30am) . We are going to have a MASS CHOIR (kids and adults) to sing “Surely it is God who Saves me” also known as “1<sup>st</sup> song of Isai-ah”. We may have another mass choir song with the worship band. All music groups will be participating.

Rehearsal: Wed. July 6 at 7:15pm (after worship). And/or Sunday July 10 at 8:30am in the sanctuary. I will send words to kids choir via email.

BREAKFAST POTLUCK will follow worship down in the Fellowship Hall. Families will be asked to bring a certain item for the breakfast. Following the meal there will be a program for Nate.

THE CORNFEEED IS COMING!! Wednesday August 10, 5-7pm. This is sponsored by the music groups at church. Please mark your calendars and be prepared to work. Details later.

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Rachel Coen-Tuff, Director of Youth and Family Ministry 701-232-8521, Rachel@stjohnfargo.com

Our youth and young adults today are increasingly becoming a more digital society. Our youth and children are spending more and more time watching television, playing on iPads and owning their own cellphones. When we become more aware in our church communities of the digital age we are better able to equip our youth and their families to take scripture out of a book and onto the screens of their technological devices.

One way we can increase our digital awareness is to increase our usage of online resources for youth. A daily devotion online can be a way for youth to start their day with God. Finding ways for youth to connect online with other Christians provides for kids and their parents to enjoy a connecting with other people from all around the country not just in the church.

Images are another way our society is becoming more and more digitized. When we can correlate images of our world into the church we are able to better draw a connection between our world and our faith. When we use images and scripture we are bringing God and the digital age together in the same place for youth and their families to come to the understanding that faith and Facebook can be used together.

Rachel Coen-Tuff

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

To all of the volunteers that came together for this fun filled week full of learning and faith!

We couldn't have done it without you! From the coordinators, to the planning committee, decorators, crafters, group leaders, and all those in-between. VBS Cave Quest 2016 was a blast and a wonderful experience for all who attended! What a wonderful example of how God's love can bring us all together to put on an event our children will remember for years to come!

ST. JOHN FOUNDATION REPORT

At the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the St. John Lutheran Church Foundation Board, whose current members are James Botnen, Heidi Twedt, Pat Pobst-President, Rachel Gehrig-Treasurer and Julie Kloster-Secretary, funding was approved as follows:-\$476 to each of the three applicants to the Phyllis Asleson Scholarship Fund, all participants in the worship-ing community of St. John, for a total distribution of \$1,428 this year.

The board has disbursed a total of \$5,429 to fund various projects, or-ganizations and scholarships so far this year. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the St. John Foundation to support contin-ued outreach giving.

If you have a project or a special need, please consider making a fund-ing request. Funding request forms are available at the church office or by email ([jjabens@stjohnfargo.com](mailto:jjabens@stjohnfargo.com) or [office@stjohnfargo.com](mailto:office@stjohnfargo.com)).

The foundation board’s next meeting is scheduled in September 2016.

Youth & Family

July 10th-15th Bible Camp

July 17th Campfire Worship & S’mores

July 20th Middle School Water Fun

July 23rd-31st High School Mission Trip

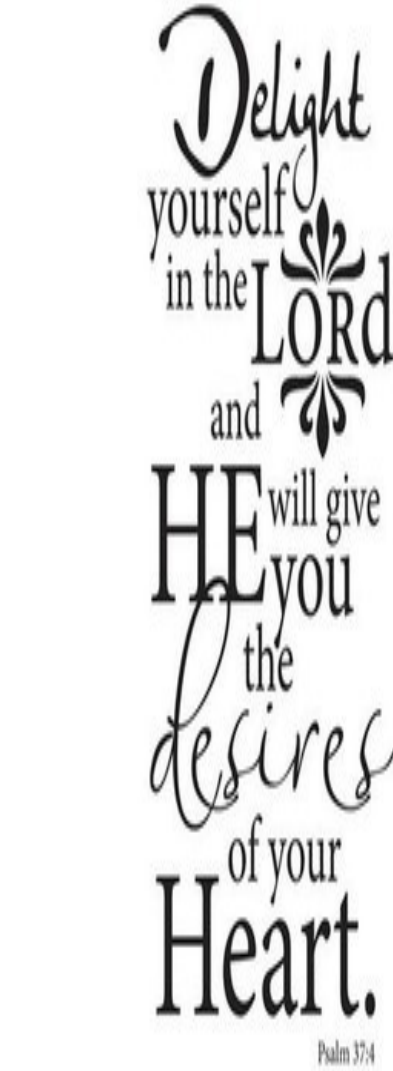
August 14th Outdoor Movie Night

August 19th Middle School Bowling

August 18th 3rd-5th Grade Event

August 21st Welcome Back! Picnic in the Park

September 11th Rally Day!



Memorials and Honorariums

Capital Appeal Fund:

From the Estate of Mary Ann Huebener

General Memorial Fund:

In Memory of Jack Gruhl:

Fred & Judy Haugo, Ruth Kautzman, Donna & Roland Enstad

Good Samaritan Committee Fund:

In Memory of Jack Gruhl:

Dick & Diane Stenberg

Mary Ann Walen, Jeri Ekstrom - *specifically for the Young at Heart Club*

Mavis Lura, Jane Nissen - *specifically for the Foot Care Clinic*

Special Music Fund:

In Memory of Dee Olson:

Mary Ann Walen

St. John Foundation:

In Memory of Jack Gruhl:

Adelle Salvesson

Stephen Ministry Fund:

In Memory of Jack Gruhl:

Gini & Dave Duval

In Memory of Bill Slanger:

Gini & Dave Duval

