

## WORSHIP AT ST. DYSMAS



When I was lonely, you offered me hope.  
forms. These forms are available on the Welcome Center.

**Completed forms must be returned to the church office no later than Monday, July 8th.** Thank you!

St. John is scheduled to worship with members of St. Dymas of South Dakota at the Main Prison, *on The Hill*, at the South Dakota State Penitentiary, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Visitors must arrive at the prison a little before 6:00 p.m. to meet the pastor in the lobby and provide a picture ID before being escorted in. All visitors are required to complete and sign 3



Please join us for a VBS Kickoff/Neighborhood **Ice Cream Social** on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>

immediately following the 5 PM worship service. Plan to attend worship with your family and friends and enjoy music from special guests Larry Olson and Karol Baer!

## *GET READY FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!*



On your mark! Get set! Go! At The Incredible Race, we will explore God's love for the nations as we travel around the world. We'll uncover fun clues, attempt fascinating challenges, and discover how the events that happened before, during, and after the tower of Babel have impacted the human race today! Grab your gear and prepare to set off on the race of a lifetime!

**Sunday, July 14 - Wednesday, July 17**  
**6pm - 8pm**

**Ages Pre-K through 5th Grade**  
***You can pre-register at:***

<https://stjohnlutheran.myanswers.com/incredible-race/>  
or pick up a registration form on the Welcome Center

*If you are able to help promote our Vacation Bible School at your work place or know of a business in the area that will put up a flyer, please pick one up on the Welcome Center. Thank you!*

## JULY 2019 / FROM PASTOR PAUL

"Rebellion against tyrants is obedience to God." With these and other words no less revolutionary, Ben Franklin fanned the fires of rebellion, which led to the establishment of the United States of America. We've all found the American Revolution captivating, but few have weighed its cost. While some still regard the freedom gained by the uprising a foregone conclusion, actual participation in the insurrection was tantamount to treason. How soon we forget that Franklin, Adams, Hamilton, Jay, Washington, et al, were traitors.

Our homeland was established by a cadre of "boat-rockers" who could no longer abide with "business as usual" in the British colonies. "We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately," said Franklin. The stakes of their action were staggering. You and I are only grateful inheritors of their harrowing – and thankfully, successful – gamble.

Two hundred years later, we still take for granted the success of the rebellion against the tyranny of the Crown. It's not unlike the usual ways we take for granted the rebellious message of the Nazarene, Jesus, while there's still a battle to be waged for people of faith. But kings and their political proclivities aren't the only tyrants with which Christ's followers wage, today. Today's tyrants include ignorance, arrogance, selfishness, fear, and outright hatred.

Jesus railed against those tyrants with all that was in him; the tyrants pushed back all the way to the gallows (Golgotha). His timeless message was subversive in its day, put into action as it was by those whom many an outsider came to refer to as "followers of 'the Way,'" who courageously emulated Jesus' "way" with outcasts, pariahs, undesirables, and untouchables by opening both their hearts and their doors even to outliers. Following or imitating "Jesus' Way" in the world is still subversive, two thousand years later. He invites people of all ages to renew and explore their faith in active, often radical ways. "If your neighbor asks you for your coat, give him your jacket, too." "Go and sell everything you own and give to the poor." "If you want to live, you must be willing to die. Take up your cross and follow me."

"The call of Christ is a summons to come and die," said Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was hanged by the Nazis for his subversion at the close of WW2." Obedience to Christ, while ultimately fulfilling, more likely than not, will cost a lot. Might even cost you your life.

Jesus continues to prod us, impelling those who will heed his voice and follow his lead to be subversives and revolutionaries – reframing our view of the world and our way in it as determined

**(Pastor Paul continued...)** disciples of Jesus and not mere acolytes to the sociological and cultural predilections of those who get the most votes. To wit, Martin Luther, another well-known revolutionary who knew a thing or two about stirring things up: "Let this world's tyrants rage. In battle we'll engage." And how shall followers of Jesus through St. John engage? By preaching and following Christ. Sometimes by renouncing the tyranny of the arrogant, the despotism of selfishness, and every expression of hate.

To make a long *Letter from the Pastor* short: Jesus isn't for the faint of heart.

Ten years ago our neighbors to the west, the men and women and children of Mazjid Attakwa (*House of Piety*) began as a Muslim faith community on the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Street & Garfield Avenue. Bonnie Campbell, a follower of Christ through St. John and next door neighbor to Mazjid Attakwa, heard on the "community grapevine" that some, upset that a Muslim faith community had "moved into the hood," had planned to park their cars on Fridays at or before noon up and down the streets around the Mosque, so as to make access to worshipers gathering to say prayers as problematic as possible. (People who drove to Mazjid Attakwa would have to walk at least two blocks to get to worship.)

Bonnie, God bless her, wondered with others, under the circumstances, "WWJD?" finally drawing the conclusion that she (they) would take a stand. They would talk to neighbors, do what they could to thwart the strategy (ie. the cruelty of arrogance, the despotism of selfishness, the tyranny of hate). Bonnie said, No! Her devout desire to follow Jesus sent her out and into her neighborhood to talk with neighbors about what she believed were hateful intentions... and she and her neighbors prevailed. The boycott failed. But Bonnie told me later that some neighbors she'd known for quite some time and considered friends refused to talk to her anymore. Her stance cost her.

Ten years later this past May and June, I placed a message on St. John's electronic sign out on Western Avenue, wishing our neighbors at Mazjid Attakwa a blessed and fruitful Ramadan. Not two days later people posted on line their contempt for the message: "What in the world is a Christian congregation doing sending best wishes to a Muslim community? You call yourself a church?" I don't expect to see those who posted on line in worship at St. John anytime, soon, and frankly wonder (and worry about) what Christian community it is that they call home, remembering what Mahandas Gandhi said, that "He liked Jesus and would have gladly become a Christian... if it weren't for the Christians."

# ST. JOHN COMMUNITY CAR SHOW & PICNIC

**\*FREE ADMISSION\*FREE FOOD\***



Classic Cars & Special Interest Cars

Presented by: Great Plains Street Rodders

Sponsored by: St. John Amer. Lutheran Outreach Board

**St. John American Lutheran Church Parking Lot**

**Sunday, July 21st 4:00-7:00 pm**

Food will be served beginning at 5:00 pm

Sandwiches and Hot Dogs will be provide, as well as plates, cups and plastic ware.

*St. John members are asked to bring a Side Dish, Salad or Dessert to share*



**All are welcome!  
You are not only welcome...  
You are anticipated.**



All women are invited to attend the monthly Bible Study. Bible Studies are held the third Sunday of the month at 10:45am (following the worship service). The next study on July 21st is

titled “For just such a time as this: helping our voices bloom” (text Esther 4:14). In this session we’ll learn how, when the Jews are threatened, Ester uses her strong faith and the love of her people to embolden her to act. Through some clever schemes, intelligence and a realistic assessment of her situation, Esther is able to save her people. “For such a time as this” is Mortecai’s gentle reminder to Esther that God has placed her in the king’s court to use her voice. How might God be reminding us of our need to find our voice as we live out our faith?

The next Executive Board Meeting is August 26, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the church library.

## **WELCA Bible Study**

**Sunday, July 21 at 10:45 AM**

*(We will meet in the church Library)*

## **Interested in joining St. John?**



Join Pastor Paul on Sunday, **July 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m.** in the St. John Library for a brief conversation. Reception of New Members will be held Sunday, July 21, during the 9:30 a.m. worship service. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 336-3253.

The church office will be closed July 4<sup>th</sup> & July 5<sup>th</sup>. Normal office hours will resume Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>

## LWR (Lutheran World Relief)

In July, August and September we are collecting items for School Kits. Shop early for school supplies as they may be limited later on. Included in each kit is the following:

- FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, 8" x 10 ½"; **no loose leaf paper**
- ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ONE pencil sharpener
- ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers;
- FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink);
- ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ONE 2 ½" eraser

We could use your flannel sheets to make diapers! We are also asking for new or slightly used printed or colored sheets for the backs of quilts.

Shipping note: LWR's approximate cost to handle and ship 1 personal care kit is \$2.65, which includes the addition of a tube of toothpaste at time of shipping.

39 quilts were packed up on June 5<sup>th</sup> to ship to LWR. Thank you to Dave Erickson for delivering the boxes to Parker Transfer!

We welcome new friends to join us at any time, no quilting experience necessary.

Remember, we are always collecting Box Tops for education and pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House. They can be left in the kitchen in the marked containers.

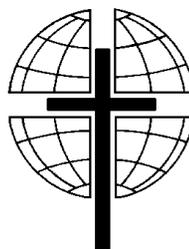
Thank you for all the recent donations and your continued support.

Barb Buchanan and Ann Mortenson  
Co-Chairs of Mission Action Service Group

## OLDER & WISER LUTHERANS

The Owls (Retirees) usually meet the second Monday of each month at **10:00 a.m.** Come join the group ... even if you are not a regular attendee. Come for coffee & fellowship. This month they are meeting on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> in the St. John Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

## July Mission Globe



July's Mission Globe Recipient is the congregation of Mazjid Attakwa (House of Piety), St. John's neighbor to the west (701 S. Garfield Avenue), whose membership is just completing a capital campaign to finance its new expanded facilities. We've had meetings together in our respective facilities, co-hosted neighborhood ice-cream socials, joined together in raking up the Garfield Neighborhood, and mentored students together at Garfield Elementary School. The July Mission Globe gives us the opportunity to express our gratitude for a very creative collaboration and put into concrete action our heartfelt desire that we continue together in the care of our Garfield Neighborhood. Offerings will be received throughout the month of July to encourage Mazjid Attakwa's work in the neighborhood. You are welcome to make a contribution, *above and beyond your regular giving*, in the globe at the back of the sanctuary. Please make checks payable to St. John Special Funds. Thank you.



St. John members and craftsmen, DuWayne Andersen, Ron Barber, Jeff Nyhaug and LaVern Thompson will be displaying some of their woodworking projects in the Fellowship Hall before and after worship service on **Sunday, July 21st**. Come and See! Also on display will be two gift baskets for silent auction. Proceeds from the basket auction will go to our Harvest Festival.

***We will have other St. John members displaying their works throughout the year! Watch for details in Newsletters and Announcements! Thank you to our Fellowship Board for arranging these events!***



*Robert and Donna Fetters will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with an Open House on Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, from 2-4 PM in the St. John Fellowship Hall. You are invited to come help commemorate this milestone!*



*Come celebrate with Rod and Joni Carlson on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, as they renew their vows during worship on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! You are then invited to stay for an open house from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.*



## From the Library



We have recently catalogued several new books. They are now on display in the library. I want to read them all! I hope you find some of them worth reading. There are a variety of topics. Here is just a sampling of them.

Sold- human trafficking in India

Hidden Figures-black women of mathematics who helped win the space race

Girl in Transition-Chinese /American coming of age story

Prairie Fires- American Dreams of Laura Wilder

A Week in Winter-Bed and Breakfast in Ireland

Orphan Train- trains from the East coast to the Midwest carry thousands of abandoned children whose fates would be determined by pure luck

Some of these have been made into movies. You may have seen them. I have watched a few. It is always good to read the book before or after seeing the movie. Here is your chance!

The book I just finished reading is The Best of Me by Nicholas Sparks. It tells the story of a teen love in which events allows the two to meet twenty years after they split up. In a series of flashbacks, we learn some of what occurred in the between times. He came from a "bad family" and she came from a well-to-do one. Their past comes to a meeting point in surprising ways. In true Spark's fashion, you come to fall in love with some characters and despise others. This book makes one think of how our lives may have been different, and keeps us yearning for second chances.

Stop by the library and check it out!

Linda the Librarian (Linda Weber)

## Church League Co-Ed Softball



Games are played on Mondays  
Sherman Park (West 12<sup>th</sup> St. & Kiwanis Ave.)

*Check the Newsletter Calendar  
for time and Diamond assignment.*

**Come & Cheer the Team!**



St. John Congregation,  
 Thank you for your investment in keeping children safely connected to their families at Family Visitation Center. Because of you and your monetary gift, Kenny and Paige now safely see their Mom every week at FVC after a 9 month gap. Again, thank you for moving FVC's mission forward.  
 Cindy Oberg, Member of the Board

Thank you so much to Pastor Paul for all the visits, words of encouragement, prayers and for bringing communion while I was in the hospital. Thank you also to Karen Brandts for her visits and for brightening my day. Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. It kept me warm in the air conditioning and with the prayers that came with it. Thank you to the congregation for all the prayers!  
 Gayle Grothe (Joanne Pesicka's sister)

Thank you to the Endowment Committee for the financial scholarship and to the congregation for their continued prayers and support as I begin my 2<sup>nd</sup> year at USD.  
 Matt Pesicka

I would like to thank everyone for all the thoughts and prayers for me. Also, thank you to Pastor Paul for his prayers and visits. I'm very blessed to have my St. John church family.  
 Arlene Thyberg

**NOT ABLE TO WORSHIP ON SUNDAY?**  
**SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP**  
**5:00 P.M.**

**M.A.R.V. TALKS**  
**Mission & Action / Reset the Vision**  
**M.A.R.V talks will resume in September!**



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Nancy, Becky, Julie, Barb, Richard, Paula, Tondi, Steve, Aaron, Rachel, Mican and Janea for all your help in making our rummage sale a success. A special thank you to everyone who donated items for the youth to sell and to those who came to shop. Without all of your help, our rummage would not be a success. Our total for this year was \$743.25.

Thank you to Dave and Su Ericksen for cleaning after the rummage sale, to Joanne for keeping us supplied with money, to Pastor Paul for all your encouragement.

Thank you Pastor Paul, Nancy, St. John Congregation and youth for a great trip to Washington D. C. Without your prayers and contributions we would not be able to attend these great summer servant projects.

Belva Kurtz, St. John Youth Director

I would like to thank by St. John Family for the generous scholarship. I am beyond grateful for the help you are giving me to turn this passion into a career as a veterinarian. I am thankful for your help. Thank you again for these wonderful acts of kindness, and you have my deepest gratitude.

Tyler Kurtz

|                    |                      |     |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----|
| <b>JUNE STATS:</b> | Families             | 380 |
|                    | Baptized Membership  | 687 |
|                    | Confirmed Membership | 564 |

*(Statistics as of 6/22/19)*

**FUNERALS**

*Patricia McCain  
 Linda Gerlach*



*- In memory of Robert Hansen: \$25 Lutheran World Hunger*

**Other Gifts:** \$40-The Banquet; \$250-Gift for Youth; \$817.00-Mission Globe for Pine Ridge Hygiene kits; \$30-St. Dymas; \$20-Rosebud Ministry

## ST. JOHN GENERAL FUND – May 2019

*Harley Shafer, Treasurer*

|                          |                             |    |             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----|-------------|
| BALANCE ON HAND          | 5/1/2019                    | \$ | 11,383.13   |
|                          | Total Receipts for Month    | \$ | 24,460.73   |
|                          | Total Cash on Hand          | \$ | 35,843.86   |
|                          | Less Expenditures for Month | \$ | (26,378.21) |
|                          | From Capital Fund Payable   | \$ | -           |
| BALANCE ON HAND          | 5/30/2019                   | \$ | 9,465.65    |
| Harley Shafer, Treasurer |                             |    |             |

| EXPENSES                  | THIS MONTH PAID | YEAR TO DATE PAID | ANNUAL BUDGET |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Our World Mission         | \$ 1805.00      | \$9,065.00        | \$ 21,700.00  |
| Pastoral Ministry & Staff | 21,999.55       | 109,648.44        | 282,743.00    |
| Worship & Service         | 1,184.53        | 8,525.60          | 31,075.00     |
| Our Church Home           | 1,389.13        | 17,214.39         | 49,600.00     |
|                           | <hr/>           | <hr/>             | <hr/>         |
| Total Expenditures        | \$ 26,378.21    | \$144,453.43      | \$385,118.00  |

### Special Funds – May 2019

*Joanne Pesicka, Treasurer*

|             |             |                      |             |
|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Angel Foods | \$1,191.30  | Education Designated | \$ 4,175.17 |
| Barnabas    | \$524.64    | Food To You          | \$ 1,153.39 |
| Banquet     | \$ 3,406.53 | Memorial Garden      | \$ 6900.01  |
| Contingency | \$ 262.67   | Rosebud              | \$ 2,155.73 |

| Capital Fund Statement   |  |              |                     |
|--|--|--------------|---------------------|
| Mary Johnson, Treasurer  |  |              |                     |
| <b>SAVINGS BALANCE</b>   | May 1, 2019                                      |              | \$60,611.33         |
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>  |  |              |                     |
|  | Memory of Marlys Shaif                           | \$100.00     |                     |
|  |  | \$0.00       |                     |
|  | Interest   | \$0.00       |                     |
|  | <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>                            |              | <u>\$100.00</u>     |
| <b>EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS</b>  |  |              |                     |
|  |  | \$0.00       |                     |
|  | <b>TOTAL EXPENSES &amp; WITHDRAWALS</b>          |              | <u>\$0.00</u>       |
| <b>SAVINGS BALANCE</b>   | May 31, 2019                                     |              | <u>\$60,711.33</u>  |
| <b>CHECKING BALANCE</b>  | May 1, 2019                                      |              | \$111.48            |
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>  |  |              |                     |
|  |  | \$0.00       |                     |
|  | Interest   | \$0.01       |                     |
|  | <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>                            |              | <u>\$0.01</u>       |
| <b>EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS</b>  |  |              |                     |
|  |  | \$0.00       |                     |
|  | <b>TOTAL EXPENSES &amp; WITHDRAWALS</b>          |              | <u>\$0.00</u>       |
| <b>CHECKING BALANCE</b>  | May 31, 2019                                     |              | <u>\$111.49</u>     |
| <b>CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT</b>  |  |              |                     |
|  | Mission Investment Fund; 2.23%; maturity 1/25/24 | \$102,248.72 |                     |
|  | American State Bank; 2.7%; maturity 3/3/21       | \$101,351.01 |                     |
|  | American State Bank; 2.14%; maturity 10/3/19     | \$50,539.38  |                     |
|  | <b>TOTAL CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT</b>              |              | <u>\$254,139.11</u> |
| <b>TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS</b>   | May 31, 2019                                     |              | <u>\$314,961.93</u> |
| <b>PAYABLES</b>  |  |              |                     |
|  | Transfers from General Funds (end of year)       | \$47,000.00  |                     |
|  | Transfers to General Fund 2019                   | -\$10,000.00 |                     |
|  | <b>TOTAL PAYABLES</b>                            |              | \$37,000.00         |
| <b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>  |  |              |                     |
|  | Elevator Funds for maintenance                   | \$6,853.08   |                     |
|  | <b>TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>                    |              | \$6,853.08          |
| <b>TOTAL AVAILABLE CAPITAL FUNDS</b>   | May 31, 2019                                     |              | <u>\$271,108.85</u> |
|  | 5% of 2019 budget                                | \$19,255.90  |                     |
| <p><i>St. John Policy #5: The Capital Funds Account shall maintain a minimum balance amounting to 5% of the annual congregational budget. Any transfer of money from the Capital Fund to the General Fund shall have Council approval.</i></p> |  |              |                     |