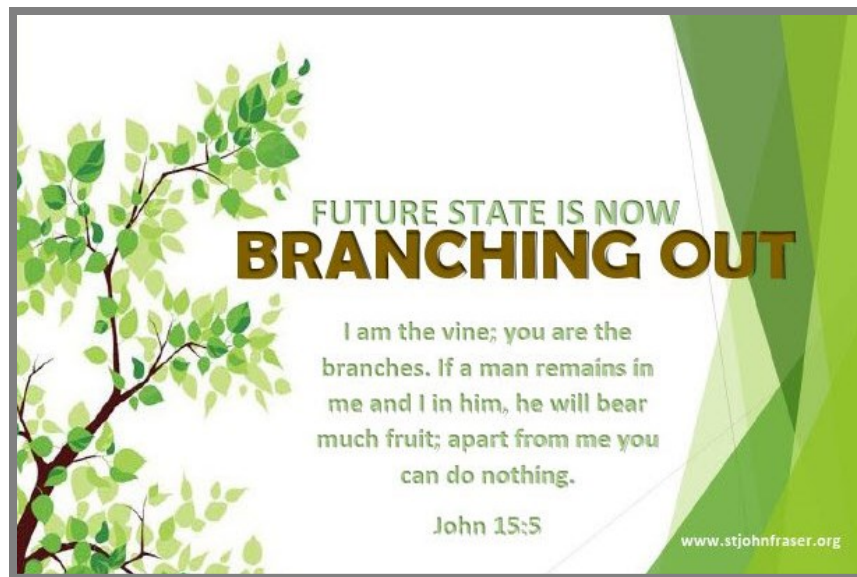


St. John Lutheran Church

October 2016 Newsletter



We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

STATEMENT OF MINISTRY

We who are redeemed by Christ gather around Word and Sacraments, strengthened to proclaim the saving Gospel to our community and the world.

Saint John is to be a caring, growing, spiritually dynamic, Bible-based Lutheran Church that is relevant to a contemporary society. Enabled by God's will and love, we will support several local, national and international mission efforts. We will also strive to develop a life-changing relationship with Jesus among our members and those without a church home in the Fraser area.

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**You can now find the newsletters
online at www.stjohnfraser.org**

The newsletter is published every month with the exception of July.

Please email your articles to **church-
info@stjohnfraser.org**
OR drop them off in the church office.

Please include contact information.
Due date for articles is 10th of the previous month.
Unsigned articles will not be published.

2016 - 2017 Faculty and Staff of St. John

Pastor Smith, Pastor Richert
Secretary: Deborah Shields
Bookkeeper: Marianne Grenier
Part-Time Agencies: Kristine Saunders
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Band Instructor: Brian Pollatz
School Secretary: Gayle Malesky
Principal: David Waltz
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Grade 7: Steven Schmit
Grade 6: Susan Machemer
Grade 5: Angela Swazey
Grade 4: Kristina Morrow, Athletic Director
Grade 3: Janis McGrath
Grade 2: Katrina Celmer
Grade 1: Susan Grams
Kindergarten: Wendy Topel
Preschool Director: Kelly Monroe
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Auxiliary Teacher: Doris August
Y5/SACC Director: Cathy Hunter
SACC Asst: Cassidy Sandifer, A. J. Stimac, Myranda Watson, Tina Schenk
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Asst. Cook: Dora Griffith
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Rev. Aaron Richert, Pastor: 248-786-7486
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School Fax: (586) 294-9565
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FROM YOUR PASTOR

Worship: Our Sabbath Rest

Rest From the Rollercoaster

Over the past few months we have been considering the depth of Sabbath Rest that our Lord gives us in worship. He gives us rest from guilt, anxiety, loneliness, and grief. What all these have in common is that they are emotions that we experience on a regular basis. Life is filled with emotions. A single day can be filled with tremendous joy and crushing sadness. Life is a rollercoaster of emo-



tions, of ups and downs, of quick sideways turns, and maybe even a turn or two upside down. In worship, our Lord gives us rest from being dragged around by our emotions. He gives us rest from the rollercoaster.

The benefit of worship does not depend on us or on our emotional experience; it depends on our Lord's Word of promise. And while the things of this life are fickle and full of change, the Word of our God stands forever. As one Christian author points out, regular worship attendance is similar to faithfully taking the medicine proscribed by a doctor, even if we don't always feel like it's working. In the end, worship is a medicine of sorts – it is the spiritual means by which the old sinful flesh is regularly put to death and the new creation of faith is regularly strengthened for loving service as a child of God.

Take, for example, the Confession of Sin. "The words describe the reality and the fact of our condition in relationship to God, regardless of what we might feel at the moment. It is a statement of faith, not of feeling, in which we admit that in relationship to God we are, in fact, miserable sinners." It is not important that I drum up a sufficient feeling of guilt or remorse, that I manipulate my emotions into *feeling* sorry enough. What matters is that I speak back to God the sure and certain word that he has revealed to me about my sin.

The same is true when it comes to the words of Absolution. Even if I don't *feel* particularly forgiven, even if I don't *feel* particularly joyful, the Word of God remains true. We are freed from the burden of trying to *feel* the right way and are called to trust the promise of God. The same is true of the Lord's Supper. Whether or not I feel particularly forgiven does not change the sure and certain promise of God that in that meal Christ himself is there for my forgiveness life and salvation. My emotional response does not determine whether or not my sins are forgiven in that Sacrament. The Word of God does. The promise of God is what matters. We are given rest from the rollercoaster.

It is not that emotions are bad or unrelated to worship. It is that they are unreliable. They change quickly and often. But the Word of God stands true. It is a sure and certain foundation, and it is the heart and soul of Worship. On those days where your worship is emotionally fulfilling, rejoice and thank the Lord for such a gift.

But on those days where your sadness makes it hard to sing for joy, where your gladness makes it hard to feel the depth of your sin, or where your or someone else's children make it impossible to feel anything but distracted and frustrated, then rejoice in your Sabbath Rest. You have rest from the rollercoaster. You have rest in the sure and certain Word of God. You have rest in worship.

¹ Richard Eyer *They Will See His Face: Worship and Healing*

² Eyer, p. 68

Pastor Richard

Lutheran Heritage Foundation
Worldwide Lutheran Translation Projects
51474 Romeo Plank Road (586)781-4286 Toll Free (800)554-0723
Macomb, MI 48042 Fax (586)781-7954 www.lhfmissions.org

Dear Children of the Reformation,

“For our sake He (God the Father) made Him to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Cor. 5:21

Reformation this year falls in close proximity to the final weeks before an election. It would have been a good time to write about the importance Luther gave to helping with government affairs. One of the last things he did in his life was to make a trip while sick to Eisleben in the dead of winter. He went there to deal with a squabble between the local nobility. It is ironic that Luther died while on a governmental diplomatic mission.

Let us, however, turn to another of Luther's interest - the topic pertinent for Reformation, justification, considered the most important teaching of divine revelation. It's in the realm Luther calls "the Great Exchange."

When the Lord forgives your sins, it's more than wiping the slate clean. He takes up the chalk and writes the perfection of Jesus. His perfect keeping of the Law. Jesus' perfection is imputed to your account. Here is how it is with Jesus: we give Him our sin, our punishment, our death, our grave, the wrath of God that we deserve; and He gives us His mercy and grace, His forgiveness, His eternal life, His name, His Spirit, His blessedness, His righteousness, and His perfection. That is a great exchange indeed.

The power of God's Word, the depth of our sin, and the death and resurrection of Jesus all come together in the doctrine of justification. Without the cross, there is no salvation. But the salvation won for sinners on the cross is not delivered to sinners through the cross.

Imagine the Roman soldiers at the cross. They would be covered with the blood of Jesus. Were they saved because they touched the blood of Jesus? No. Jesus on the cross atones for our sins. On the cross, Jesus wins the forgiveness of our sins. But Jesus does not deliver forgiveness to us from the cross. Jesus has another way to get His forgiveness to us. It is delivered in the Word. Luther says this in a little essay titled "Against the Heavenly Prophets." Luther says: "Even if Christ were given for us and crucified a thousand times, it would all be in vain if the Word of God were absent and were not distributed and given to me with the bidding, "this is for you, take what is yours".

Dear reader, it is for you! The Gospel is a promise, the delivery of the Lord's death for sinners. The victory of the cross is delivered in the preached Gospel. This is the Good News. Nothing to do. No command. No work. No requirements. In fact, all commands and works are excluded. Everything is already accomplished. The Gospel is a promise. Salvation, therefore, is by faith.

And that's one great principle of the Reformation we celebrate.

By Faith,

Rev. Robert Rahn
LHF Founder

+Honorarium+

IN HONOR OF PASTOR RICHERT'S DECISION

TO STAY AT ST. JOHN for Branching Out

John Lembke

+Memorials+

IN MEMORY OF ALBERT & ROBERT DUSTERHOFT for Boar's Head

Margaret Dusterhoft

IN MEMORY OF ELEANOR AHRENS for St. John Lutheran Church

Pastor & Kenlyn Merrill

IN MEMORY OF HILDEGARD SCHWANDT for St. John Lutheran Church

Pastor & Kenlyn Merrill

IN MEMORY OF HILDEGARD SCHWANDT for Branching Out

Stephen Alampi

Josephine Bilotta

Jeffrey & Mary Renard

Richard Schwandt

Gerda & Manfred Wieczorek

IN MEMORY OF ELEANOR AHRENS for Branching Out

John Lembke

IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR LENTNER for St. John Choir

LeMoyne & Vera Waak

Remember our Shut-Ins

(Additional information about our Shut-ins is available to Saint John Members
by contacting the church office.)

MARIAN BUJAK
ALMA CHARLES
WILLIAM DEMPSEY
GERRY FRIEDEMAN
RUTH GUTOWSKI
FRED HAMANN
KEITH HARRIS
BILL HERTEL

GAIL HOLLAND
SHIRLEY KOLLMORGEN
AILEEN LIETZ
MARIE MATHEWS
HAROLD MAXWELL
JAMES MCINTOSH
VIRGINIA MELLAR
JOAN PENNANEN

DOLORES ROBERT
RAY SCHILLING
ROBERT SCHNEIDER
NANCY SCHULZ
DELANE SHIVERS
RUBY SINGEL
SALLIE WALUNAS
MILLIE WICHMAN

October Birthdays

October 1	Marie Taszarek
October 2	Glenn Dantes, Jeff Davis, Kenneth J. Frey, Christopher Johnstone, Sr., Duane Suluk
October 3	Jennifer Nestor
October 4	Margaret Dusterhoft, Robert Iwasko, Mackenzie Rahn
October 5	Jim Everett, Jacob Scalet, Natascha Smith
October 6	Nicole Drylie, Joyce Folcarelli, Kenneth L. Frey, Ronald Kirkman
October 7	Patrick Adams, Dennis Dryer
October 8	Marvin Asmus
October 9	Arthur Moore, Rich Schwandt
October 10	Allison Murdoch
October 11	Debra Klein, Jamie Primeau
October 12	Michael Klein, Kevin Nalezty
October 13	Chloe Houtos
October 14	Lindsay Binder, Marilyn Clausen, Shirley Marino, Duane Rieck, Heidi Schwark
October 15	Annette Braun, Keith Claeys, Gail Holland, Lawrence Schemansky, Sharon Suluk
October 17	Robert Ebbale, Sheila Green, Elizabeth Pruzinsky
October 18	Gregory Alter, Jr., Marian Bujak, Phyllis Bushe, Jennifer Dinkins, Paul Eschmann, Gloria Greiner, Janet Jensen, Melissa Lawrence
October 19	Erna Kusch, Rita Olsen
October 20	David Feldman, Irma Schurig, Claire Winter,
October 21	Jennifer Carr, Leigh Cesarz, Donna Devine, Charles Johnston, Argerlene Von Rusten
October 22	Amy Cairns, Lyndsay Day, Michael Mellar, Rebecca Osiborski
October 23	Kathleen Kivela-Arsenault, Robert Wier, Samuel Zink
October 24	Sara Gonzales, Angela Hoehner, Elaine L. Lodholz, Kenlyn Merrill, Patricia Minda, Megan Rouso, Martin Scherer, Robert Tokarczyk
October 25	Christina Busquaert, Mark Tatoris
October 26	Crystal Knowles, Barbara Uhl
October 27	Janie Peltz
October 28	Susan Creagh, Beth Hilt, Katie Rapley, James Shields, John Shields
October 29	James Misch, Cynthia Pastorius, Kristin Wulff
October 30	Charlene Massey, Kimberli Wood
October 31	Gertrude Hoeft

October, 2016

Saint John Lutheran Church—16339 Fourteen Mile Rd.—Fraser, MI 48026

Phone: (586) 293-0333 Fax: (586) 293-5442 Email: churchinfo@stjohnfraser

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 8/11 Worship@ 9am Coffee/Fellowship 9:30am Educ. Hour/Inq. Class	3 7pm Worship@	4 1pm Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30pm Fraser Villa 7pm Weeknight 7pm Evangelism	5 9am Costume Creat. 2:15pm Medilodge 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm PTL Meeting 7pm Elders	6 9:30am Quilters 6:30pm HB/Brass 7:30pm Adult Choir	7 12pm Merry Widows 2:50pm GS Daisies	8 8am Men's Bible Study 6pm Pinochle
9 8/11 Worship 9am Coffee/Fellowship 9:30am Educ. Hour/Inq. Class	10 11am Banners 7pm Worship	11 6pm Preschool Potluck 7pm Weeknight 7pm LWML 7:30pm Branching Out	12 9am Costume Creat. 1pm Merry Widows 6:30pm Bible Study	13 No School 11:30am 55+	14 No School 2:50pm GS Juniors	15 8am Men's Bible Study 9am Women's Retreat
16 8/11 Worship@ 9am Coffee/Fellowship 9:30am Educ. Hour/Inq. Class	17 1:30pm Shut-in Service@ 7pm Worship@	18 ?6:30pm MOPS 7pm Weeknight	19 2:15pm Medilodge 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm CDSB	20 6:30pm HB/Brass 7:30pm Adult Choir	21 No School 8am Rummage Sale	22 8am Men's Bible Study 9am Rummage Sale
23 8/11 Worship 9am Coffee/Fellowship 9:30am Educ. Hour/Inq. Class	24 7pm Worship 8pm Council	25 7pm Weeknight 7pm Banners 7:30pm Branching Out	26 1pm Merry Widows 6:30pm Bible Study	27 1pm 55+ (off site) 6:30pm HB/Brass 7:30pm Adult Choir	28 2:50pm GS Brownies 6pm Pumpkins on Parade	29 8am Men's Bible Study 9am LWML Rally
30 8/11 Worship@ 9am Coffee/Fellowship 9:30am Educ. Hour/Inq. Class	31 7pm Worship@					

{YOU}NIQUELY YOU



"Celebrating God's Creativity"

by Cindy Bultema

**Women's Conference
St. John Lutheran Church
Fraser, MI**

**October 15, 2016
9AM to 2PM
586-293-0333**

You are invited to a Women's Conference on October 15, 2016 at St. John Lutheran Church in Fraser. This conference will feature speaker Cindy Bultema (www.cindybultema.com) The program is titled (You)niquely You: Celebrating God's Creativity. It is based off of Psalm 139: 13-14 "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." We can allow circumstances in our life to make us better or bitter. Our lives begin to be affected in a positive way as we begin to receive and believe in God's love and purpose. For registration information, call 586.293.0333, see www.stjohnfraser.org, or visit St John Fraser on Facebook.

(Registration form also on next page)



Cindy Bultema

Cindy Bultema loves the Lord, loves life, loves her family, and loves to celebrate!

With over 15 years in ministry, Cindy has trained leaders and created programs within a variety of settings.

Her previous work experiences include working for Bethany Christian Services with adolescent sexual offenders, developing and supervising a transitional housing program for homeless teen moms and their kids, as well as coordinating a state licensed child care program.

In 1999, Cindy was hired as the founding Director of Children's Ministries at a Grand Rapids area mega-church, leading the transition from being a one person department to overseeing 12 staff, equipping 1,000 volunteers, and ministering to 2,700 kids every weekend.

Cindy is now a popular women's speaker, author, and Bible teacher.

October 15, 2016

Registration: 8:00AM

Continental Breakfast

Session I starts promptly at 9:00AM

Browse Vendors: 11-11:45AM

Lunch Served at Noon

Session II starts promptly at 1PM

Don't Delay Register by September 15, 2016

**Cost is \$30 if registered by September 15, 2016
After \$40**

Send Registration to: St. John Lutheran Church 16339 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48025-362

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Information: phone and/or email _____

Church Affiliation: _____

Registration fee: \$30 before September 15, 2016 \$40 thereafter

Checks made payable to: St. John Lutheran Church

Memo: Womens' Ministry

RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

FRIDAY, October 21st 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Early Bird 8:00a.m. \$1.00 Entrance Fee)

SATURDAY, October 22nd 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. half price and bag sale

We need everyone's help to sort and set up! Your donations, such as: clean clothes, toys, household items, books, furniture, tools, sports equipment, and plants are needed. All donations should be in good condition and working order. We request that you would please pin all matching outfits together. We also need brown paper grocery bags for the sale. Lunch will be provided for all workers. We will give you a tax receipt upon request.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT: LARGE UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE, BABY CAR SEATS, COMPUTERS AND PRINTERS, TEXT BOOKS AND ENCYCLOPEDIAS. WE WILL ACCEPT ONLY CABLE READY TELEVISIONS THAT ARE UNDER 10 YEARS OLD.

BRING DONATIONS TO THE GYM ON:

Tuesday, October 18th from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday, October 19th & 20th from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

SORT AND SET UP: October 19th & 20th from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to make pick-ups, monitor the school hallways, unpack bags, sort, and fold clothing, work during the sale and pack up leftovers on Saturday at 1:00 p.m.. Please sign up on the Rummage Sale sheets in church by the mailboxes.

ATTENTION YOUTH: For those of you interested in earning NOAH, JOY, National Honors Society or Community Service hours, this is a great opportunity to earn some extra hours!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CALL Marilynn (586) 293-7477 or Heidi (586) 268-2029

Many donations are needed for the Bake Sale held during our Rummage Sale. We appreciate donations of homemade cakes, cookies, pies, bread, jam, jelly, candy or fudge. We have had many people ask for sugar free baked goods, that diabetic people can eat. These goodies would make our bake sale a huge success! Please label and price your baked goods. All proceeds from the bake sale go back into the church treasury. Please bring your baked goods to the kitchen on Thursday, October 20th or Friday morning October 21st.

Prior proceeds from the Rummage Sales were used for Church Debt Reduction, electrical upgrades, school ovens, refrigerator, ice machine, windows and bleachers, serving carts, coffee maker, handicap door opener for church entrance, floor scrubber, kitchen counter top, porch repairs, roof repairs, parking lot repairs, and lights, card tables and eight foot tables, printer and folding machine for church office, computers for pastors, seminary students, church and school entrance mats, and remodeling bathrooms in the basement.

Marilynn Wright

Thank You To Our Newsletter Sponsors



JIM SHIELDS
PHOTOGRAPHY



JIM SHIELDS
PHOTOGRAPHER

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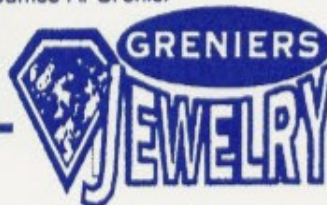
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