

2017

March

St. John Lutheran Church

Houghton Lake, Michigan 48629

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Newsletter Items can be submitted by contacting the office or by email.

The View from Here

" Can the Reformation Message of the Gospel Matter Even Today?"



The Reformation is 500 years old this year, if you haven't heard. Martin Luther brought Christ back to the center of the theological universe, as Copernicus brought the sun back to the center of our solar system. The Reformation begun in 1517 is the movement based on an old, old message from the Word of God. 500 years is really old and we are blest to celebrate it! Does the Reformation message still matter today? Absolutely!! But, it is a bit more challenging today to get that message out. While it is true that times have changed and this is a different world than the one that was in Luther's day 500 years ago. But, for all the technology, all the so-called wisdom, we really haven't changed all that much.

In Luther's day, people had devised a plan to get right with God. They were constantly beaten down with the reality that they were sinners; they needed to make amends, if you will, with the righteous judge of heaven and earth. So, there was a system set up in the Roman Church to pay for your sins with indulgences, penances. Now, we are not as religiously guilty today, but we are still guilty and even many who aren't religious feel that just as in Luther's day.

With all the psychoses and problems, many today feel just as guilty as in Luther's day, thinking that they can do works of righteousness to overcome the big problems of the world, the big problems in their life. Their pride makes them think that they are ultimately in control. That might sound modern, but that's the oldest sin of all. But sadly, at the same time, most people don't believe or feel that they must get right with God.

This is not just a particular blindness of today. There were other times in history where people felt exactly the same way we do today. Nonetheless, we still have these things that overwhelm us, we feel judgments that are waiting for us, and we live oftentimes in the terror of our own mistakes. One different is that we just don't pay for it the way people of Luther's time tried to do it. For

instance, there are people today who actually feel more righteous than others because of the car they drive, the light bulbs they use, or the taxes they pay, and so much of that is the same about assuaging guilt. But here's the point; just as true, even that kind of guilt cannot so easily be dismissed. Even worse, that kind of guilt can also be used to manipulate us, not for our good but for our ill.

We sometimes yearn for leaders to solve all our problems ... that's another troubling similarity with the ancients. There are false messiahs then just like today. The Reformation message, then, was like a lightning bolt that hit the culture. It undermined all that public works righteousness stuff and said that the way to deal with real sin and guilt was to look to God in heaven Who had every right to judge, but instead came to save people by forgiving them as a gift of His grace in Jesus alone. And that message shocked the world and it changed the world too! Suddenly, life was no longer lived to just overcome guilt. God did that! Now it could be lived in His grace, to give Him glory, to serve others in His Name joyfully and to let God not only transform their lives, but even their communities as well. That understanding of what it means to get "right with God" by grace, through faith in Jesus alone, that is a whole new way to look at life.

It has led to many wonderful freedoms; but as sinful people, we've also taken it for granted. People have a hard time thinking about their powerlessness in dealing with sin and guilt as well as the wonderful potential when their lives are in Christ alone by grace. It seems we always find a way to get back into the same predicaments as in Luther's day.

So, that message would not only seem to be just as relevant as in the day of Luther, but perhaps even more so today. All this talk about being "***saved by grace alone through faith in Jesus,***" is really talking about what it means to ultimately be free. In Galatians 5 it says, "***It is for freedom that you have been set free, do not let yourselves again be burdened with a yoke of slavery.***"

As we're talking about this freedom, it's a real freedom that can't be bought, it can't be earned, and it can only be received by grace, and lived in grace, in joy, which makes it sound relevant to today. But it challenges our self-righteousness, our over-estimation of our self-sufficiency, and of course, it exposes our need for life on God's terms. It's just as needed today, just as powerful as ever, and just as available.

... That's the View from Here

Pastor Winter

News on Bible Studies .

Sunday Morning Adults



SMALL GROUP NEWS – The



Sunday 9:30 Small

Group finishing up ***A Man Named Martin, Part 1 – The Man,*** and will

continue with ***A Man Named Martin, Part 2 – The Moment*** in the weeks ahead.

Synopsis: In *A Man Named Martin - Part 2: The Moment*, viewers will witness the interplay of personalities and events that led to the Protestant Reformation. From Luther's inner struggles of conscience and faith to his call for debate with the Pope to his scathing rebuke of erroneous church practice, this installment examines the semi-scriptural and oft-times unethical teachings and doctrines of the late Medieval Church and how Luther addressed them. From purgatory, penance, and indulgences to the treasury of merits of Christ, Masses for the dead, and the institution of the Papacy, Luther – and other like-minded reformers – had a misinformation overload on their hands.

A cast of scholars and professional church workers share their expertise on the cultural and religious milieu in which Luther operated. A discussion guide, complete with numerous Internet links and helpful questions, assists viewers toward a deeper understanding of this critical period in the life of Christ's church on earth.

If you missed participating in this very interesting study on Thursday mornings, bring your coffee and join us.

PASTOR'S SUNDAY ADULT STUDY -

We're continuing "*A Longer Look at the Lessons*", digging deeper into the scripture lessons of each week. Come join us in the Luther Room beginning at 11:00am. Feel free to bring along your coffee, a treat, and a friend!



Ladies Bible Study Group:

Submitted by Monika Pfannes

We are finishing up our study "*Keep It Shut – Knowing what to say, How to say it, and When to say nothing at all!*" by Karen Ehman.

This proved to be another great study that will impact our lives long after that cover has been closed. We are now exploring options for our next study. Our "Small Ladies Group" has blossomed and we continue to learn from each other, support each other through prayer and look forward to this time spent together.



News From the Branch –

Submitted by Glen Bromm-

KIDZ CHURCH

Our k-3rd grade class has been studying love as found in our Christian faith. Mrs. Granica and Mrs. Doehring have been doing a fine job with this age group.



Last month I put out a plea for someone to serve as an instructor for our 4th-6th grade class. I am pleased to let everyone know that Pam and Rick Joles have come forward to serve our children. I am very grateful for their willingness to teach this class, please thank them when you have an opportunity as well as our other teachers here at St. John.

It would be neglectful of me not to also thank Louise Nagy who has been willing to fill in on short notice when an instructor was needed.

Our teen Bible study group has started a lesson on the Holy Gospels. This is the same study I offered a couple of years ago to members of our congregation. Attendance for our Kidz church ministry varies greatly from week to week. If young families don't come to our services we obviously won't have children in our classes. I ask everyone to make an effort to show interest in the children in our church and their parents. Let us always show the love of Christ as we gather on Sundays for worship and other events during the week here at St Johns. Please pray for our students and teachers that our efforts to preserve and expand Jesus' church bring fruits pleasing to God.

Yours in Christ
Glen Bromm

and our surrounding community and hope to put together a Competition Team for Summer/Fall 2017. We are always looking for more families to join in the fun as well as additional instructors. Interested? Give Kaitlyne Warmack a call at 989-965-1960 with any questions.



Those Who Serve...

Please submit names of those you know who are currently serving so we can print an updated, and accurate list for **2017**

News From . . .

The Outreach Team

Submitted by Barbara McIntyre



The Outreach Team will hold the bi-monthly Community Meals this month. This regular event is for congregation members and the community at large and is intended to provide a place for fellowship as well as outreach. We would be happy to see even more familiar faces on the serving and receiving side of the table. Come join us on March 8, 2017. As Lent will have begun, we would like to combined this dinner with our midweek Lenten Supper.

News From . . .

Ladies Aid & LWML

Submitted by Barbara McIntyre



What are you missing when you miss Ladies Aid/LWML meetings?
A Lot!

So what's a meeting like? – Many members bring a brown bag lunch at noon (or any time before the meeting starts) and spend time in friendship and fellowship. The meeting starts at 1:00 and lasts for approximately 1 hour. We learn, have fun, and share a spirit of giving. We also work on projects to benefit our local community. Those "Courage Bracelets" you've seen worn by those undergoing chemotherapy – we've made a few of those! We created

NEWS!

Submitted by Kaitlyne Warmack-

We started a new session the end of January and currently have 8 children and 4 adults/parents enrolled. Currently we are working on completing *The Plan* devotion.

We are very excited to continue to offer this excellent program to the members of St. John

handmade Christmas cards for nursing home and homebound parishioners which were delivered with fresh poinsettias. Ever hear of a Prayer Rock? – we made those wonderful little reminders to help us become prayer warriors for our families, our church, our country and ourselves. We have invited and enjoyed guest speakers, LaWanda North & Linda Larobardiere from Project HOPE. They gave us a presentation about the history & mission of that local organization (now called Roscommon County Food Pantry). On a far-reaching scale, our LWML group led us in making many beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

So what's coming up? In April, Sonya Springer-Fox will tell us about the KERYX Prison Ministry and there is much more planned for the rest of the year. Our final monthly meeting for this school year will be held at a local restaurant in June.

Remember – all ladies of St. John are automatically part of these groups and are invited to attend our meetings and activities. We would love to see you at our next meeting, March 2nd!



And during this Season of Lent, we will be collecting items for Project H.O.P.E. Please, if you can, bring any of the following products to one of the Midweek Services, and place it in the box(es) located under the coat rack by the restrooms.

During Lent the emphasis will be on the following items because they are not available thru government purchases:

Personal care items – Toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, feminine products.

Paper products – Kleenex, paper towels, toilet paper, NO diapers.

Cleaning products – detergent, dish soap, window cleaner.

Cereal – not Oatmeal

Side dishes – instant potatoes, rice dishes

Condiments – catsup, mustard, mayo, & relish

Hunger is real and it hurts. If you are blessed to have food on your table everyday, please remember those who are not. Thank you for your help and God Bless!

News From the Synod for Today's Families -

A Quarrelsome People

March 2017



My children always do what I say the first time I ask. No arguing, complaining, foot-dragging, laying-on-the-floor-whining. They just cheerfully accept my instruction and follow through immediately ...

... SAID NO PARENT, EVER.

Sometimes even the simplest, kindest request results in a dramatic meltdown of epic proportions. Asking a child to put on her shoes is pretty much akin to asking her to lasso the moon.

I don't know about you, but when I read in the Book of Exodus about the people of Israel, I can't help but identify with poor Moses leading those whiny, complaining Israelites. You see, my oldest is three years old (also known as a "threenager"). I know it's not just three-year-olds, though. It's children. They are what Scripture might call a "quarrelsome people," just like the people of Israel. Exhibit A:

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of

Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" (Ex 17:1-7)

As they grow and learn, our children test us. We tirelessly teach them to be grateful, compliant, and good-natured. They push back, they quarrel with us, and we stand firm. Like God through Moses, we keep providing for their needs, looking forward to the day that it will all click.

It's not just children who are quarrelsome, though; it's all humans. As God's fallen yet redeemed people, we test God, we push back, we quarrel with Him, and yet He stands firm. He provides for our needs – and then some – and looks forward to the day that we will be together with Him in perfect harmony.

As we deal with our own little quarrelsome people day in and day out, we remember to give them that same mercy and grace that our Lord offers to us. Through Christ, we are forgiven for our quarreling and even for our own arguing and complaining, foot-dragging and laying-on-the-floor-whining. And so we get to forgive our little ones (and even our big ones) and continue to be steadfast parents, following in the footsteps of our heavenly Father, who never gives up on His quarrelsome people. Because whining or not, they are His.

Author: Dcs. Jennifer L. Miller
 Scripture quotations from the ESV Bible, copyright ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

News From the Synod to help make all who enter here feel welcomed ...



5 Critical Attitudes

to Instill in Your Greeters, Ushers, & Regular Attendees to Welcome Guests

Every Sunday is a special opportunity for congregations to welcome guests into their worship services. These individuals may be extended family members, inactive members, former members, or random guests

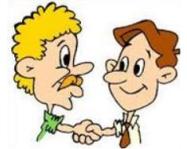
from the community. They may be there because of the wishes of a grandparent, or they are home for the holidays and it's expected, or maybe they are trying to impress potential in-laws. Their visit could be simply a family tradition. Guests might also want to make a fresh start or may be honestly searching for God.

How can we effectively connect, or reconnect, these guests to Jesus and His church and help them feel truly welcome?

Careful planning of the worship service and sermon preparation to be as inclusive as possible is certainly necessary. However, other approaches are also critical for guests to feel truly welcomed. Here are five attitudes to share with your greeters, ushers, and regular attendees:

1. An attitude of welcome is different than friendly. Most congregations are friendly.

They may be friendly with each other, but not necessarily welcoming to someone coming from the outside. What's the difference between being friendly and welcoming? A smile is friendly; a handshake with an introduction is welcoming.



2. Risk your own comfort zone by introducing yourself before asking who they are. Lead with a handshake, look them warmly in the eye, and say, "Hello, my name is _____."

I recognize (or do not recognize) your face, we're so glad you are here, what's your name?" Engage them in light conversation by asking a simple friendly lead-in questions such as: "Do you live in the area?" "How did you hear about our services?"

Engage them in light conversation by asking a simple friendly lead-in questions such as: "Do you live in the area?" "How did you hear about our services?"

3. Assume no one knows where the restroom is located! Take a look at your signage; if the restroom is not clearly marked, consider a sandwich board with directions aptly placed. Help people out; give them a shot at finding the restroom themselves without having to ask.

Help people out; give them a shot at finding the restroom themselves without having to ask.



4. **Be willing to sit with them and guide them through the service as needed.** Here is where you are going to enlist not only your greeters and ushers, but your regular attenders. They can be a big help in not only offering a warm welcome, but helping visitors feel comfortable with service folders, hymnals, or the elements of worship like the offering and/or communion.



5. **Introduce them to at least one or two other individuals or families. Introducing them to the pastor doesn't count.** This can be a powerful connection. Through your conversation find something similar with someone else in your congregation and introduce them to each other, just so they have one more touch. One pastor has half of the ushers and greeters wear badges to signify their responsibility. The ushers and greeters who are not wearing the badge are still doing their job, but the guest does not know. This type of serving has a completely different impact, because it is not perceived as a responsibility or obligation.



These are not the only attitudes to provide a welcoming spirit in your people; there certainly are many others. But share these points with your congregation several times a year during your regular worship, weeknight services, Bible studies, meetings, or other gatherings to prepare your people to be truly receptive and welcoming.

The best gift you can give guests is certainly connecting them to Jesus; and so is the gift of a genuine warm welcome.

This article appeared in the February 2017 issue of *Michigan In Touch*, p7 and excerpted from a Webinar entitled *Welcoming Those Who Visit Church at Christmas*, hosted by Rev. Dr. Robert Kasper, Rev. Dr. Richard Wolfram, and Rev. Galan Walther.

News From CEF. . .

Seven Ways to Remember Your Favorite Ministry or Charity



Have you ever considered including those ministries most important to you in

your Estate Plan? There are many ways to remember ministries in your plan, only a few of which involve any expense or professional fees. You may wish to consider one of the following options:

1. Amend an existing Insurance Policy to add Your Favorite Ministry or Charity as an additional beneficiary, or simply purchase a new one for their benefit.
2. Visit your personnel office and ask to amend your group life insurance policy or retirement plan to add Your Favorite Ministry or Charity as one of your beneficiaries.
3. Instruct your lawyer to prepare a simple, inexpensive codicil to your existing Will or Revocable Living Trust, creating a bequest for your favorite ministry or charity.
4. If you are over 65 and disappointed with the income you are receiving from your long-term stocks or your certificates of deposit, consider the benefits of placing some of your assets in the Charitable Gift Annuity. Most likely, your lifetime income would increase. In addition, you would avoid capital gain taxes and receive a current income tax deduction for a portion of the gift. After your death, the remaining principal would be given to the ministry or charity that you designate.
5. Deed your house to your favorite ministry or charity and continue to live in it. Your income tax savings from the gift may cover the legal costs.
6. Leave written or verbal instructions for your surviving spouse to include your favorite ministry or charity when redrawing his or her will.
7. If you have a sizable estate, you may consider a Charitable Remainder Trust that will pay a lifetime annual income to both of you, provide an income stream for a period of years to your children or grandchildren, before providing a significant gift to your favorite ministry or

charity. The Charitable Trust will create a current charitable tax deduction for you.

There are many ways to benefit your favorite ministry or charity through planned gifts, some of which will provide you with positive benefits during your lifetime, reduce the amount of taxes that may be paid, and support the institutions that are most important to you.

Bill Burmeister Church Extension Fund –
Michigan District 800-242-3944
bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org

This document is provided to assist you in your estate planning process and is not meant to offer financial or legal advice. Please contact your Attorney or Financial Advisor to obtain appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances.

News From The Creation Museum. . .

Taken from *Answers in Genesis*, volume 24 · issue 1, p5



A monthly newsletter equipping Christians to uphold the authority of the Bible from the very first verse
Lighting a New Reformation (March 2017) · volume 24 · issue 1



“Here I Stand ...”

GOD’S WORD IS TRUE from the very first verse. It’s the starting point that sits as the foundation of our worldview. God has revealed His truth to us through His Word, and we must evaluate the world around us in light of that reality. We begin not with the word of man, but with the inerrant Word of God.

Since the Bible is our authority, the Creation Museum explains how God’s Word comes to us through human authors. We also look at the attacks on Scripture throughout the ages, and how each of the attacks is rooted in the question that the serpent asked in the garden: “Has God indeed said?” (Gen 3:1).

One very important exhibit, especially in light of the 500th year anniversary of the Reformation, alludes to Martin Luther symbolically nailing the 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg.

Visitors will notice, however, that the scroll itself does not show the 95 theses. Instead, it shares the well-known quote from Luther’s speech at the Diet of Worms in 1521:

Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves). I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me. Amen.

The rallying cry of the Reformation was *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone). In 2017, may that be the rallying cry for God’s people as well. In all of our thinking, may we be “bound by the Scriptures” and may our “consciences be captive to the Word of God.” Amen



Reformation 500!

March Coming Attractions...

Save the Date...

- (Times can be found on the Calendar)
- Mar 01 – Ash Wednesday – Lent Starts
Service with Holy Communion
 - Mar 02 – Ladies Aid/LWML
 - Mar 02 – Elders Meeting
 - Mar 04 – Centershot at Artesia
 - Mar 08 – Midweek Lent Service 2 & Community Meal
 - Mar 08 – Board of Directors Meeting
 - Mar 09 – Ladies Bible Study
 - Mar 13 – RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
 - Mar 15 – Midweek Lent Service 3
 - Mar 19 – Students of Mrs. Sandra Akin
Annual Piano/Organ Recital
 - Mar 22 – Midweek Lent Service & Chili Cook-off!!!
 - Mar 23 – Ladies Bible Study
 - Mar 24 – April Newsletter Deadline
 - Mar 28 – Pastors’ Winkel
 - Mar 29 – Midweek Lent Service 5



Don't forget to join us for Fellowship Between Sunday morning services!

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed
Please sign up in the Kitchen



News From . . .



The Church Office

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERIES

The Salutory Gift

The Lord's Supper



Within the solemn halls of the Lenten season, we gather around God's Word in repentance of sins, preparation for our Savior's sacrifice, and thanksgiving for the crucifixion's redemptive power. The theology of the Lord's Supper mirrors this Lenten pilgrimage in many ways.

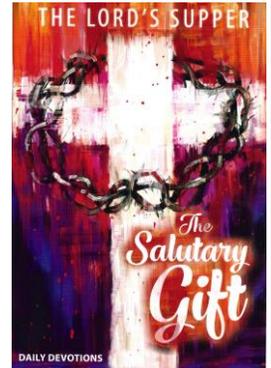
Each weekly theme in *The Salutory Gift* reveals a host of approaches for understanding the same sacramental gift: life-giving fruit, nourishment, healing, communion with the saints, a priestly meal, the feast of victory, and more. Meditate upon these beautiful, biblical images of the Lord's Supper drawn from throughout the Old and New Testament. Each distinct image brings you to your knees in recognition and gratitude or the chief blessing of this Sacrament as described again and again in Scripture: the forgiveness of sins.

Join us beginning this Wednesday evening for a meal at 5:30 and Spiritual Food, the Word of God, at 7 p.m. Our themes during Lent are as follows:

Ash Wednesday	"Life-Giving Fruit"
Midweek #2	Bread from Heaven
Midweek #3	Healing Medicine
Midweek #4	Blest Communion
Midweek #5	Rest for the Weary
Midweek #6	Nuptial Feast
Maundy Thurs	Covenant Meal
Good Friday	Sacrificial Banquet
EASTER	Feast of Victory

We begin our evening of Praise, Prayer & Worship with Fellowship over a meal beginning at 5:30pm. The menus have been decided for this year and sign-up sheets have been posted on the bulletin board by the drinking fountain.

A companion daily devotional booklet entitled: "*The Salutory Gift – The Lord's Supper*" will be available for your daily use at home in the narthex and parish hall.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Newsletter Items can be submitted by contacting the church office or by email and should be submitted by the 3rd Friday of each month.

News From the Airwaves -

You can find them on your dial ...

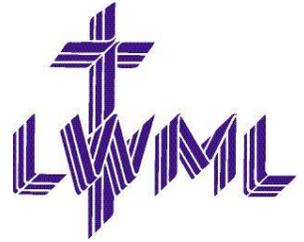
Lutheran Hour Ministries broadcasts out of the following stations:



Station	City, State	Freq/Band	Day, Time
WSAM	Saginaw	1400 AM	Sun 8:30a
WFCX	Traverse City	94.3 FM	Sun 7am
WFDX	Traverse City	92.5 FM	Sun 7am

you can also listen online at: www.lutheranhour.org





LADIES AID/LWML MEETING – February 2, 2017

February meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. The hymn for the day was “Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”. Pastor based his devotion on Lamentations 3:18-26.

Roll call was taken with 13 members present.

A motion was made – by Ruth Serniuk and seconded by Erma Stevens to accept the minutes for January as presented. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s report shows a beginning balance of \$5406.54, income \$47.09, expenses of \$574.08 and an ending balance of \$4879.55. CEF - \$3213.94. Petty cash - \$2.70.

Happy February birthday to Violet Gonzales, Dorothy Sommer and Sylvia Tumath.

Thanks to Barb Duwe and Judy Winter for our delicious ice cream sundaes today and also to Betty DeWitt for helping out.

OLD BUSINESS – None today.

NEW BUSINESS – None today.

LWML

Treasurer’s report – as presented by Denise Reda, for the month of December, 2016, shows a beginning balance of \$1165.98, income of \$144.00, expenses of \$197.25 and an ending balance of \$1112.73 and for the month of January, 2017, a beginning balance of \$1112.73, income of \$86, expenses of \$200.00 and an ending balance of \$998.73. CEF

Quilting Day – will be held Thursday, February 16 after Bible class at 10:00 A.M.

Bakers – for LWML coffee hour on Sunday, February 19 will be Carol Andrews, Arlene Shull, Erma Stevens, and Debra Tate.

Personal Care Kit – items were displayed. We hope to have 20 kits ready for the Spring Rally in Oscoda in May.

National LWML Convention – will be held from June 22-June 25 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Theme is “Jesus Christ Above All”.

We closed our meeting at 1:30 with the Lord’s Prayer.

Our next meeting will be held March 2. Please come to enjoy fellowship and your sack lunch, with dessert provided, between 12:00 – 1:00 P.M. and meeting beginning at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Andrews

Minutes subject to approval.

St. John Lutheran Church Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2017

Members present:

President, Jim Mueller

Vice-president, Jeff Krentz

Treasurer, Erma Stevens

Secretary, Jane Radulski

Board of Christian Education, Glen Bromm

Board of Stewardship, Jim French

Board of Social Welfare, Paul Reda

Spiritual Leadership, Pastor Winter

Board of Evangelism: Gerry Andrews for Barbara McIntyre

Board of Elders: Peter Daellenbach

Board of Trustees: Marlin Shull

Guests: Monika Pfannes, Carol Newman, Sally Johnson, Paula Fuller, Fred Kleinert, Kaitlyne Warmack

President Jim Mueller called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

Pastor Winter read a section of Scripture from Hebrews 10, 19-31, a devotional and a prayer.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Glen and seconded by Jim French to accept the previous month's minutes as presented. Motion carried. A motion was made by Glen and seconded by Erma to accept the minutes from the special meeting (regarding the renter). Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Jim French and seconded by Jeff to accept the report as presented; motion carried.

Board of Christian Education: Glen reported that Pam Joles has agreed to be a Kidz Church teacher; she will be teaching the 4/5/6th grade class. Rick Joles has also volunteered to help. Kaitlyne Warmack is working with the Center Shot program and wants to take over the leadership. We are excited to have a young person in a leadership role such as this. It is not a St. John program, so there is no need to have BOD approval. Glen will contact the Center Shot president to find out where to send a budget refund.

Board of Elders: The Elders would like to remove Sharron Brown, Howard & Liz Foley, and Shirley Brushaber from the roles. They would also like to add David and Margaret Rickwalt to membership. A motion was made by Peter, seconded by Paul, to approve the removal; motion passed. A motion was made by Peter and seconded by Jim French to approve the addition; motion passed.

Glen is doing well with his studies to be a Deacon. A lengthy discussion centered on his future participation in the life of St. John. He will be meeting with District officers on March 7 to get approval for an early commencement; if this is approved, he will have a ceremony at St. John, and will serve under the supervision of Pastor Winter. For instance, he will be leading the junior confirmation class in the fall, so that they have continuity after Pastor retires. However, it was felt that there should be additional input from the Elders, and eventually the congregation, as to his duties in the future. Our Interim Pastor and eventually our new Pastor will also have a say in this decision. There will be a special Elders meeting on February 22 at 7:00pm to discuss the situation further. The BOD members are encouraged to attend.

Board of Evangelism: No report

Board of Stewardship: The Audit Committee spent many hours working on the audit. (See attached letter.) They also met with Monika and the Trustees. The Board felt that the suggested inventory was a good idea, and will proceed with it.

Board of Social Welfare: Paul received a request for help, but when he attempted to contact the individual, there was no return call.

Board of Trustees: There have been no problems in the past month. They did attend to several small items at the rental house. The renter has completed the inventory, and was very thorough. We have one month's rent and a security deposit.

Pastor's Report: Pastor distributed information on the IIM pastor. See attached.

Old Business: Kaitlyne reported that Center Shot will be going back to the first devotional. They will be breaking for summer, and returning in the fall. More ads, in schools and area churches, would be helpful. She requested \$1100 to cover additional new targets, supplies, etc. They could still use more instructors; a notice will be placed in the bulletin.

New business: Marlin reported that the basement storage room is in need of a good cleaning. He will contact others concerning VBS supplies, old records, etc.

The BOD discussed sending Monika to a conference for church office staff in Frankenmuth, April 23 – 25. Cost of the conference is all-inclusive, and is \$200. Jim Mueller suggested that we include \$50 for gas and incidentals. A motion was made by Erma and seconded by Peter to send Monika to the conference; motion passed.

Correspondence: Thank you notes were received from Jim Leedy and the Michigan District, LCMS. There was also information from Integrity Financial Planning, which was tabled for future discussion.

Glen made a motion to adjourn (seconded by Erma); the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm following the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Radulski

Minutes are subject to approval at next meeting

St. John Lutheran Church
 Fiscal Year 2014-2015
 July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017
 Month Ending January 31, 2017

SALARIES

	<u>Jan 2017</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Pastor's Salary	\$ 4,540.00	\$ 31,774.00	\$ 54,474.00
Pastor's Housing Subsidy	600.00	4,200.00	\$ 7,200.00
Pastor's Retirement & Ins.	2,431.96	16,642.97	\$ 29,382.00
Pastor's Social Security	-	4,168.00	\$ 8,334.00
Car Displacement	400.00	2,800.00	\$ 4,800.00
Car Expense	32.00	599.74	\$ 2,000.00
Employees Social Security	577.22	1,700.44	\$ 3,050.00
Organists	473.44	3,335.08	\$ 7,500.00
Secretary	2,339.20	9,738.46	\$ 15,450.00
Custodian	1,162.42	5,569.02	\$ 8,975.00
Guest Preachers	-	-	\$ 1,000.00
Total Salaries	\$ 12,556.24	\$ 80,527.71	\$ 142,165.00

PROPERTY

New Property Expense/Improvement	\$ 22.57	\$ 410.24	\$ 1,000.00
Equipment Purchases	901.00	1,574.99	\$ 3,000.00
Supplies Lawn & Repairs & Snow plowing	650.72	4,458.94	\$ 7,000.00
Electricity	521.87	3,289.43	\$ 5,500.00
Telephone	159.29	1,114.38	\$ 2,200.00
Fuel-DTE Gas	216.00	1,512.00	\$ 4,750.00
Sewer Usage	198.00	594.00	\$ 800.00
Disposal	86.65	597.38	\$ 1,050.00
Insurance	-	-	\$ 5,000.00
Total Property	\$ 2,756.10	\$ 13,551.36	\$ 30,300.00

Charities

Synod's Work	\$ 800.00	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 9,600.00
T.I.M. (Pastor Mahlburg)	750.00	1,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
Lutheran Home & Family Services	-	-	\$ 500.00
Social Welfare	102.97	126.91	\$ 1,000.00
Community Fund	-	-	\$ 200.00
Lutheran World Relief	-	500.00	\$ 500.00
Katie Conference Endowment Fund	200.00	200.00	\$ 200.00
Local Charities	-	-	\$ 500.00
Lutheran Hour Ministries	-	500.00	\$ 500.00
Sowers Fund	-	-	\$ 500.00
Miscellaneous Charities	-	50.00	\$ 500.00
Veterans of the Cross	-	-	\$ 500.00
L.A.M.P.	-	-	\$ 500.00
Roscommon County "I AM" 4 Life	-	-	\$ 500.00
Lutherans for Life	-	500.00	\$ 500.00
Total Charities	\$ 1,852.97	\$ 8,976.91	\$ 19,000.00

Special Projects

Major Repairs	0	0	\$ 2,000.00
Total Special Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00

CHURCH SUPPLIES

Bulletins & Worship Aids
Altar Guild
Postage
Office Supplies
Portals of Prayer
Confirmation Materials
Sunday School & VBS
Puppet Ministry
Praise Team
Total Church Supplies

	<u>Jan 2017</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
\$ 554.13	\$ 3,263.34	\$ 4,800.00	
-	805.30	\$ 2,000.00	
7.15	288.96	\$ 750.00	
855.96	8,237.66	\$ 12,500.00	
-	432.00	\$ 900.00	
-	220.00	\$ 600.00	
85.89	387.88	\$ 3,000.00	
-	146.86	\$ 500.00	
-	-	\$ 600.00	
\$ 1,503.13	\$ 13,782.00	\$ 25,650.00	

MISCELLANEOUS

Conferences
Evangelism
Outreach
Centershot Ministries
Coffee & Donuts
Other Miscellaneous
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS

\$ -	\$ 846.17	\$ 2,000.00
96.70	716.93	\$ 1,000.00
102.17	966.67	\$ 1,000.00
-	-	\$ 1,000.00
151.80	1,058.00	\$ 2,400.00
284.84	2,756.03	\$ 4,500.00
\$ 635.51	\$ 6,343.80	\$ 11,900.00
\$ 19,303.95	\$ 123,181.78	\$ 231,015.00

TOTALS - MONTH / YEAR TO DATE / BUDGET

INCOME SUMMARY

Worship Services
Coffee & Donuts
Interest
Donations
Miscellaneous
TOTAL INCOME

			Income / Expense Comparison
\$ 16,614.60	\$ 118,817.50		Current Month
175.00	1,151.36		\$2,387.76
0.44	2.89		Year To Date
100.00	815.00		\$2,333.22
26.15	61.81		
\$ 16,916.19	\$ 120,848.56		

CHECKING ACCOUNT

	Previous Balance	
General Fund	\$ 20,641.96	

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Balance</u>
\$ 16,916.19	\$ 19,303.95	\$ 18,254.20	

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS

General Fund Savings
Teddy Bear Fund
Improvement Fund
Memorial Fund
Univ/Sem Ed Fund
Youth Fund
Bell Choir Fund
Flower Fund
Parsonage
School Bldg. Fund
Thrivent Choice Funds
Choir Fund
Kidz Church/VBS
Together In Mission (T.I.M.)
Praise Team Fund
Centershot Ministries
Outreach Team
Building Fund
Church Extension Fund-Dedicated Fund Balance
Church Extension Fund-One Year Fixed Rate Note
Church Extension Fund-One Year Fixed Rate Note
CEF 24 Month Step-up Note
Credit Union Savings Account
2 Year Fixed Rate Note

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Balance</u>
\$ 8.97	\$ -	\$ 81,508.51	
\$ 0.24	\$ -	\$ 2,879.60	
\$ 41.56	\$ -	\$ 6,807.50	
\$ 0.65	\$ -	\$ 7,537.44	
\$ 0.34	\$ 900.00	\$ 3,286.00	
\$ 2.66	\$ -	\$ 5,038.00	
\$ 0.19	\$ -	\$ 2,311.48	
\$ 90.03	\$ -	\$ 454.29	
\$ 1.66	\$ 237.89	\$ 19,887.61	
\$ 0.16	\$ -	\$ 1,998.88	
\$ 0.41	\$ -	\$ 5,014.43	
\$ 0.15	\$ -	\$ 552.05	
\$ 0.01	\$ -	\$ 157.84	
\$ 110.16	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,313.61	
\$ 0.01	\$ -	\$ 180.30	
\$ 100.05	\$ -	\$ 753.70	
\$ 24.07	\$ -	\$ 828.46	
\$ 3,000.25	\$ -	\$ 6,029.66	
		\$ 1,417.30	
		\$ 16,432.91	
		\$ 23,835.15	
		\$ 46,324.00	
		\$ 2,113.02	
		\$ 49,296.73	

March 2017

Events & Happenings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30 - Lenten Supper 7:00 - Lent Service with Holy Communion "The Salutory Gift - Life-Giving Fruit"	2 12:00 Ladies Aid/LWML 4:15 - Confirmation 4:45 - TOPS 6:00 - Praise Team 7:00 - Elders	3	4 10:00 - AA 10:00 - Centershot
5 "Life God's Way" 8:00 - Blended Service 9:30 - Divine Service w/ HC Kidz Church/Bible Study 11:00 - Adult /Teen Bible Study	6	7 10:00 - AA	8 9:00 Trustees 5:30 - Lenten Supper 7:00 - Lent Service "The Salutory Gift - Bread from Heaven" 8:00 - Board Mtg	9 4:15 - Confirmation 4:45 - TOPS 6:30 - Ladies Bible Study	10	11 10:00 - AA 10:00 - Centershot
12 "ReBorn Free" 8:00 - Blended with Communion 9:30 - Divine Service Kidz Church/Bible Study 11:00 - Adult /Teen Bible Study	13 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 12:30 - 6:00 Set Up - 9:30am Tear Down - 6:00pm	14 10:00 - AA	15 5:30 - Lenten Supper 7:00 - Lent Service "The Salutory Gift - Healing Medicine"	16 4:15 - Confirmation 4:45 - TOPS 6:00 - Praise Team	17 	18 10:00 - AA 10:00 - Centershot
19 Glenn Bromm - Guest Speaker 8:00 - Blended Service 9:30 - Divine Service Kidz Church/Bible Study 11:00 - Adult /Teen Bible Study <i>Students of Mrs. Sandra Akin</i> <i>Recital in the Sanctuary - 3:00 pm</i> <i>All are Welcome!</i>	20	21 10:00 - AA	22 5:30 - 2 ND ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF 7:00 - Lent Service "The Salutory Gift - Blest Communion"	23 4:15 - Confirmation 4:45 - TOPS 6:30 - Ladies Bible Study	24	25 10:00 - AA 10:00 - Centershot
26 "A Divine Bogeyman-Not!" 8:00 - Blended with Communion 9:30 - Divine Service Kidz Church/Bible Study 11:00 - Adult /Teen Bible Study	27	28 10:00 - AA	29 5:30 - Lenten Supper 7:00 - Lent Service "The Salutory Gift - Rest for the Weary"	30 4:15 - Confirmation 4:45 - TOPS 6:00 - Praise Team	31	

March 12 - Daylight Savings Time Begins! Spring Forward

March 2017

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Shirley Hawkins	4 Sandra Arnold Donna Ewing Paula Fuller Emily Pedersen Jane Radulski
5 Kenneth Hanovich	6	7 Sharon Meinecke	8 Lewis Ernst	9 Carol Mead	10 Bill & Barb McIntyre - 33 yrs	11 Kim Barnes
12 Lori Friend Marilou MacKenzie Russ Nieman Dixie Rader Sue Southworth Lynn & Debra Tate -11 yrs	13	14 Fred Ebel Naomi Mason Calvin Warmack - 3 yrs	15 Connie Dusseau	16 Dale Mollard	17 Wendy Churchill Jane DeGroot Michael Faust Chuck Lowery Rita Outman	18 George Dougherty
19 Jackie Ruppert	20 Stan Christler Carol Nieman Rick & Pam Joles -41 yrs	21 Gail Kukuk	22 Roger Warmack	23 Erma Stevens	24 Holly Mueller	25 David Hanovich Sally Patterson
26 Michaela Peer	27	28 Betty DeWitt Gerald Timmins Kathryn Timmins	29 Darrell Dengler Marilyn Eisbrenner Kay Kleinert	30	31	

March 2017

PRAYER GUIDE FOR LWML MISSION GRANTS

Lutheran Youth Corps

PRAYER #1

Heavenly Father, You have led the church in providing means and resources to assist parents in raising their children to know You as the one true God. Please bless this initiative aimed at providing young adults the opportunity to serve You in needed areas and communities. May those chosen to participate come to know and understand their vocational callings and how this vocation will allow them to continue to share Your love through the many facets of the lifetime You have prepared for them here on earth. These things we boldly ask in our Savior's name. Amen.

PRAYER #2

Lord, You have called us all to be Your witnesses. Many of our young adults desire to serve through our synod. Thank You for the foresight of those who began this initiative to provide this opportunity for them. We ask Your continued guidance for the staff and participants and may they remain steadfast in proclaiming Your goodness and favor. In all things, Lord, keep them mindful that all is possible through You, and all is to Your glory and honor alone. Amen.

PRAYER #3

Dear Lord, What blessed opportunities the Lutheran Youth Mercy Corp will provide young adults who may still be seeking their place in the professional world by enabling them to focus on their own spiritual growth as they serve others through acts of mercy. We have been blessed with a generation of young people who have come to understand and know the joy of serving others and the impact this service will have on those less fortunate. More importantly, they are willing and ready to share the good news of salvation with those with whom they come into contact. Thank You for giving us these willing and able workers, and we ask Your blessings on their service. Amen.

PRAYER #4

Lord God, We ask Your blessings on the young adults who are so willingly giving of their time and talents to serve others. We also ask for Your protection as they commit to serve in areas that may hold unknown dangers. Keep their bodies strong, their minds clear and their hearts ready for what is in store. It will not be easy Lord, for there are many unknowns in front of them, but with Your full armor, the adversaries will not prevail. Your glory and honor will indeed be declared. These things we ask in the name of Your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

www.lwml.org/missions

PLEASE FOLD OR CUT THIS GUIDE ON THE DOTTED LINE,
AND KEEP PRAYER GUIDE IN YOUR BIBLES
FOR DAILY MISSION SUPPORT REMINDERS.

MISSION GRANT STORY

Lutheran Youth Corps \$25,000

"There is an ever-growing number of LCMS college students and young adults joining the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps. They say 'We would do it with the church, but there is nothing for us to do.'" This quote comes from the executive director's office of LCMS Office of National Mission. Hearing the desire of Lutheran youth wishing to serve with LCMS guidance, the Lutheran Mercy Youth Corp initiative was born.

Youth attending the National Youth Gathering of the LCMS have voiced a desire to be of service to the church in a deeper level. Many young adults wish to utilize the time between high school and college or college and the start of full time employment serving in their communities. Lutheran Mercy Youth Corp will provide these students with the opportunity to live and serve in urban or underserved communities. This experience will engage the youth and connect them to ongoing opportunities to be Christ's witnesses in acts of mercy for the world. The program will also expand the young people's understanding of life's vocation and the important part service to others and sharing the Gospel plays in fulfilling their vocational call. For the young adults who have yet to settle on a vocation, this provides time for life experiences and possible connections with various employment opportunities.

The time frame for their service will range from three months to one year. Prior to departure, students will receive training which will include theological foundation, relational training and other areas specific to the work they will be asked to perform. Once ready for service and assigned, the students will reside in an intentional community of their peers with a professional church worker serving as a proctor. They will be connected to a local congregation for Word and Sacrament and daily devotions to enable them in remaining faithful to the commitment. More information is available at: www.lcms.org/young-adult-corps.

