



2017

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

How is God With Us Today?



Why doesn't God perform miracles today like we read about in Scripture? That's a popular question, and I don't believe that he doesn't, but I do know that He performs miracles His way and not our way. Everything He does is for our good and our salvation. The problem is that people today are like the people in the Old & New Testaments. They want God to perform miracles to prove Himself to them. I occasionally hear people saying, "If only God would perform some miracle, some sign, or wonder, then I would believe." Many, even in the Bible, when God did perform a miracle, it really didn't make their faith any stronger.

Stop and think ... the same people who saw God part the Red Sea, later doubted whether God was able to give them food or water in the desert or conquer the inhabitants of the Promised Land. Jesus performed countless miracles, healed the sick, changed water into wine, fed 5,000 people with a few fish and biscuits, stopped a storm, walked on the water, yet the vast majority of people loved the miracles, but didn't believe in Him.

It's really no different today. Isn't it true God is still performing miracles today? We hear of cancer patients who couldn't be cured with any of today's treatments, but they're miraculously cured or lives are miraculously saved in terrible accidents. These miracles, however, are not the stuff on which we are to depend and place our faith. We rather depend on God's promises! We put our trust in His promises of unconditional love, forgiveness, strength, patience and peace even in times of trouble, illness and calamity. Sadly, people are amazed and perhaps even thankful for a while, but then they forget how God intervened in their lives.

There's something even more sad. We know that many of His miracles simply go unnoticed or they are denied. It's even more personal: Faith itself is a miracle and believers in Jesus know that whatever He does in our lives, the greatest miracle is that we'll live

forever with Him because we believe in Him. Our faith is not based on special miracles, it's based on the miraculous life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as God's gift of grace to all who believe.

God performed miracles in the Old Testament and Jesus performed miracles in the New Testament because the miracles were specific events to testify that God was uniquely in the world to save it. The miracles then were not extraordinary gifts because people had earned them or had

deserved them, but to prove to the people that it was God who was working among them in the person of Jesus.

Jesus was God in the flesh, among humanity to save humanity. Therefore, all the Old Testament miracles pointed to Him. The miracles that He performed testified that He was the Messiah who was come into the world to save it. Just listen to Acts 2:22, **"Men of Israel, listen to this. Jesus of Nazareth is a man accredited to you by God with mighty works, wonders, and signs."** So, these miracles were done to prove that God was God, Jesus was the Son of God, and the Father's work of sending his Son was the work to save the world. Therefore, we have no need of miracles to prove this. We now have all these miracles recorded for us in Scripture and the purpose of that writing is to point us to Jesus who is the greatest miracle of all. The message of Jesus has already been attested to, and accurately recorded in Scripture. The foundation of our faith is not the miracles that are performed, but the miracle, Jesus Christ who came to perform the miracle of our salvation. Knowing that, there's really no reason why we would need miracles today for God to prove himself. He's already done it and He's recorded it all for us to read in the Scriptures.

God still does perform miracles. There are times He alleviates suffering miraculously, protects miraculously, but even if that doesn't happen, He promises to never leave us, not forsake us, and literally resurrect us to an eternal life with Him where there'll be no more pain, sorrow, or death, and that miracle is certain for everyone today, everyone who believes. His miracles in the past pointed to Jesus. His Word today has the same power. Our faith is centered on Jesus and all that He has done for us.

That's the View from Here

Pastor Winter

News on Bible Studies.

PASTOR'S SUNDAY ADULT STUDY CONTINUES THIS SUMMER!



This entire Sunday School year

we have spent time taking "A Longer Look at the Lessons", during the Adult Bible Study time at 11:00am. What a joy it has been to spend time digging deeper into the



scripture lessons of each week with you. I'm going to begin "Jesus, Legend or Lord" next and hope you'll continue to join me. See you Sundays in the **Luther Room at 11:00** - *Bring a friend along with your coffee!* - Pastor

Ladies Bible Study Group:

Submitted by Monika Pfannes

We've begun our journey with Naomi and Ruth! We still have books available for anyone who would like to join us on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 6:30pm.



"The Girl's Still Got It – Take a Walk with Ruth and the God Who Rocked Her World" will take us through the summer and does not require you to be there every session. A reading guide is provided so you know what will be covered at each meeting. Still haven't joined us? We've got a seat waiting just for you!

News From the Branch –

Submitted by Glen Bromm-

KIDZ CHURCH

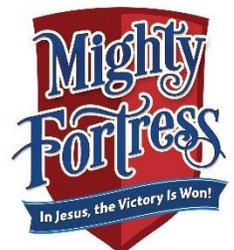
We had our last class of Kidz Church on Sunday May 21st. Our instructors and students are now on summer break. I wish to thank the parents who regularly brought their children to church so that we would have an opportunity to minister to them. I especially wish to thank our instructors who served the children and teens of our congregation.



Our planning for this summer's VBS session is continuing with a meeting on the evening of Monday June 5th at 7:30pm in the parish hall.

The dates for VBS will be July 10th-14th. The theme this year will be "A Mighty Fortress" and we still need additional volunteers.

Anyone interested in helping out is invited to come to our next meeting. Yours in Christ
Glen Bromm





Come join us for our
**Open Shoot
 Summer Archery
 Session**

Every age – Every level welcome to join!

When & Where

~Saturday morning - 9:30am-11:30am

~Artesia Youth Park (Centershot location)



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**Questions? Call Kaitlynn (989-965-1960)
 or Alekz (989-329-7445)**

August 6th at 2:05pm. We had a great time last year, just talk to anyone who attended! More information to come and there will be a sign-up sheet on the back-bulletin board. Reserve the date for a fun Sunday of baseball and fellowship.

September 23rd is the date of the 2017 Family Fun Fest. This family fun filled event has grown so much since its beginning in 2013. Games, food, puppets, hay rides, Centershot just to name a few of the activities. All groups come – young, old, adults with kids, adults without kids, visitors from other parts of Michigan as well as other states. There is something for everyone. Plan to join us this year. And of course, volunteers are always needed and welcomed!

Because of so many planned activities this summer including the Church Picnic in August and Pastor's birthday/retirement party in September, there will not be a Christian Concert planned for this summer. Another concert will be on the 2018 calendar.

Next Outreach meeting is June 7th at 7:00pm.

News From . . .

Submitted by Barbara McIntyre



**Ladies Aid &
 LWML**



In April and in May, we had two amazing speakers sharing two different stories of missionary work. Sonya Springer gave a presentation in April of the prison ministry she is involved, Keyrx Prison Ministry. Keyrx Ministry is a layman led, non-denomination, non-profit Christian based organization. Volunteers go into prisons for several days to share God's Word and love with the residents of the prison. Sonya has been a volunteer for several years. If you have a chance, ask her about Keyrx. She is a wealth of information and would love to share.

In May, Sandy and Janette Keinath (same last name but not related) spoke to our group about their missionary trip to Jamaica on behalf of M.O.S.T. ministries. They shared a power point presentation about the beauty and poverty of the country. Sandy and Janette worked with others to provide eye exams and give eyeglasses. It was amazing to see the reactions of the people as their vision was improved.

News From . . .

The Outreach Team

Submitted by Barbara McIntyre

The team met on May 3rd to plan events for the rest of the year. It is going to be a busy and exciting 2017! The Community Dinners are scheduled for the following dates: July 12th – hamburgers and hot dogs, September 13th – Tacos, November 8 - beef stew. These meals will of course include side dishes, desserts, and drinks. Please join the crowd and have a great meal – no cooking or clean-up for you!

Strawberries, ice cream and Ken Vest's famous homemade shortcake is tentatively scheduled to be served after the June 17th Saturday night services at the Garden. The date depends on "Are the strawberries ready?" Watch the bulletin for updates. This delicious event is co-sponsored by Outreach and Ladies Aid.

The 2nd annual baseball outing to see the Loons play Fort Wayne at the Dow Diamond is



Our last meeting of the year will be held at Buccilli's Pizza on Wednesday, June 1st at noon. Because we ran out of time at our May meeting, sharing Memories of Mom will happen at the June meeting.

News From the Synod for Today's Families -

Catching Some Zzz's

June 2017



I don't know about you, but for my family, Sunday is perhaps the most stressful day of the week. Getting everyone up and out of the house in time for Bible study and Sunday School is no small feat. Making it through the Divine Service feels like running a marathon (was it really just *one* hour?), and keeping track of little people during coffee hour while still holding a conversation or two can be just plain exhausting. Then there's lunch, which is always a rush, and late nap times that often turn into no nap times. Is it dinner yet?

Yes, Sunday can be a bit of a battle. And that's weird, because doesn't God expect Sundays to be for rest? I mean, after He went around creating the world, He rested on the seventh day. Took a snooze, relaxed, breathed in deep, and just sat back to enjoy all He'd done those previous six days.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all His work that He had done in creations. (Genesis 2:1-3)

So why is it that, for us, Sundays are often more work than other days? Sometimes it feels like it just isn't worth all the effort, especially if all God really wants is for us to "rest" instead of engage in another busy day.

Perhaps it's all about expectations ... as in, changing our expectations.

The Third Commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy," isn't just God's prescription that we catch some zzz's once a week. Rather, it's a day set aside for receiving. Even though it sometimes feels as if we're *doing*, our Lord has given us a day to gather together for

the sole purpose of *receiving* what He has to give, namely, Word and Sacrament.

The truth is, apart from being in church, there is no Sabbath rest. Getting sleep for the body or finding ways to keep our blood pressure low is no match for the Sabbath that is found only in the absolution of sins, the hearing of the Gospel, and the taking and eating and drinking of the Supper. It may take a lot some days to get to the place where those things are given out, but once you're there, true rest is available and abundant like nowhere else on earth.

And so we press on. We know from the catechism that we keep the Sabbath holy by holding sacred God's Word and preaching, and by gladly hearing and learning it. We might pray for patience and wisdom as we prepare ourselves throughout the week to receive that Sabbath rest, even when it doesn't *feel* like rest. We also pray for endurance to continue joyfully receiving all that our Lord has to give in the midst of chaotic mornings, interrupted sermons, and rushed meals.

And when we fall short of joyfully receiving this Sabbath rest? Christ forgives us for that too. He never rests from giving us the forgiveness we need and proclaiming that forgiveness to us over and over again, every Sunday.

So keep it up, dear Christian. Continue bringing your family to church. It's the best way to find true rest.

Author: Dcs. Jennifer L. Miller

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News From Lutheran Witness ...

Article from *The Lutheran Witness*, May 2017, written by Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, president of the LCMS Missouri District.

Seed of the Church

In the year 197, the Early Church father Tertullian of Carthage wrote, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." More than 1,800 years later, Tertullian's home is found in modern day Tunisia, where Islam is the official state religion and Christians total fewer than 25,000 in a nation of more than 11 million. Like much of Northern Africa and the Middle East, Christians in Tunisia often live in fear of violence and isolation. But the Church is coming to the aid



of our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ in places all over the world.

Last summer's LCMS Synod convention passed Resolution 3-03, "To Encourage Synod to Educate about and Advocate for Persecuted Christians," by a vote of 782-1. The resolution calls on the Synod "to encourage pastors and congregations to be better informed about the issue of worldwide persecution of Christians."

While much of Lutheran Hour Ministries' (LHM) global work focuses on sharing the Gospel with individuals who have not heard the Good News, it operates in many countries where opportunities exist for sharing hope with Christians living in situations that often seem hopeless. This is the case in Lebanon, where LHM is working among Syrian and Iraqi Christian refugees. The Christian population has shrunk from 2 million to fewer than 500,000 in less than five years in Syria and from 1.5 million in Iraq to fewer than 250,000 in less than 15 years. The director of LHM – Lebanon shared an example of what Christians often face in the Middle East, writing in 2015, "All the villages of the Nineveh valley are now empty. There is no one left. All the Iraqi Christians were forced to quickly leave the land of their ancestors without being able to take anything with them. They were given a 48-hour ultimatum to convert to Islam, pay the gizya (high tax per person) or leave. The only other outcome was certain death.

Through a partnership between LHM and the Synod, LHM staff members in the Middle East (where there are more than two million Syrian refugees) have connected with thousands of displaced Christians in refugee camps to provide food, medicine, blankets, diapers and formula for infants as well as New Testaments and Arch books.

The Synod is also assisting international partner churches in resettling refugees, which could mean that congregations can sponsor specific refugees. The Rev. Bart Day, executive director of the LCMS Office of National Mission, noted, "There are great opportunities to help our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world, but we can especially give hope to those displaced Christians in places like the refugee camps in Lebanon.

The Center for the Study of Global Christianity reports that there were 90,000 Christian martyrs in 2016. However, our Lord continues to preserve

His Word among us even in the midst of persecution and martyrdom. Lutheran Hour Ministries' Rev. Peter Kirby, regional director – Europe, said, "While you would think that persecution would have a negative effect on Christianity, we see quite the opposite. It really does open doors for the Gospel."

News From . . .

The Church Office

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Friday: 9:00am – 12:00pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

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June Coming Attractions....

Save the Date....

(Times can be found on the Calendar)

- June 01 – Ladies Aid Lunch at Buccilli's
- June 03 – Adopt-a-Highway (M-55)
- June 04 – ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING
- June 06 – Sandy Akin Student Auditions
- June 07 – Outreach Meeting
- June 08 – Ladies Bible Study
- June 08 – Elders Meeting
- June 10 – Adopt-a-Highway (Reserve Rd)
- June 14 – Board of Directors Meeting
- June 18 – Father's Day
- June 22 – Ladies Bible Study
- June 23 – Newsletter Article Deadline
- June 27 – Pastors' Winkel

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

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 Mission Field

Dear ST. Johns Luther Church,
"THANK YOU" so much for the money you put into the Interact Organization! We have put it towards the Trip to EL Salvador. And your contribution has made a big difference. You have jump-started us on our goals which help the ones who need it most. Because were just a group who want to help those who need it most. I'm happy this letter will get to you so know that you did help out. Because thats always reassuring sometimes. So I would like to thank YOU again for your gratitude.

Sincerely,
Chloe C. Kuyal



-TO Unknown,
Thank you whoever sent the 20 dollars in an envelope; in the Church Mail box. Though I can't send this thank you to you personally I would like to say from the behalf of the Interact Association THANK YOU! Your money is sending more and more of us to El Salvador to help the needy. Anything you send we will try to use for the good of the association. So thank You again for the money "Unknown", and I hope this letter gets to you

-From,
Chloe C. Kuyal



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES

"I have plans for you," declares the Lord,
"Plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you a hope and a future."
(from Jeremiah chapter 29 verse 11)





LADIES AID/LWML MEETING – May 18, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Barb McIntyre, meeting turned over to Pastor.

Pastor's devotion was based on 1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen race, royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, that you may proclaim the excellences of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (we need to show who Jesus is!!). Hymn of the day was #648.

Roll call was taken with 15 members present. We had 2 guests, Sandy & Janette.

Treasurer's report shows a beginning balance of \$4,908.72, interest 8 cents, expenses total \$106.00. The proceeds from the rummage sale and bake sale will be added next month.

Happy Birthday wishes for Louise Ticknor.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- On Saturday, June 17th the Outreach Team will have a Strawberry Social at the church property after service. Erma will be picking up strawberries.
- On July 22 & 23 we will have another Bake Sale
- On Sunday, May 21, Sam & Brooke Orozco will be speaking. They are from the "Latino Mission Society." We have contributed to them in the past and a motion was made by Sylvia, second by Betty, to give them \$250.00. Motion carried.
- Barb McIntyre will be leaving after the June meeting. Arlene Shull said she would take over until the September meeting, then we will need a new president.

LWML

- Bakers for Sunday will be Erma and Barb McIntyre. Betty and Barb will serve.
- Sylvia mentioned good news about mite box offerings surpassed their goal by \$100,000, total received was \$2,907,904.23 (GOOD NEWS!!!).

During the meeting we had a special presentation from Sandy and Jeanette, two short term missionaries. We saw a video on their trip to Jamaica, their host for the trip was Lutheran Hour Ministries. It was a very interesting video and well presented. We thank all who serve our God!

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Note: Next meeting will be June 1, 12:00pm at Buccilli's Pizza.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Serniuk in Carol Andrews absence.

Ruth Serniuk

Minutes subject to approval.

**St. John Lutheran Church Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2017**

Members Present:	President – Jim Mueller Vice-President – Jeff Krentz Treasurer – Erma Stevens Secretary – Monika Pfannes, sub for Jane Board of Christian Education – Glen Bromm Board of Elders – Peter Daellenbach Board of Evangelism – Board of Stewardship – Jim French Board of Social Welfare – Paul Reda Board of Trustees – Marlin Shull Spiritual Leadership –	Absent:	Jane Radulski Barb McIntyre Pastor Winter
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Guests: Gerry Andrews, Paula Fuller, Arlene Shull, John Sommers, Kaitlyne Warmack

President Jim Mueller called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Glen Bromm opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer as Pastor is on vacation this week.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Glen Bromm, second by Erma Stevens, to accept the minutes of the April 12th board meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Erma Stevens explained that \$50,000 was moved from the General Fund Savings into a 12-month Fixed Rate CD through Church Extension Fund at an interest rate of 1%. A motion was made by Jeff Krentz, second by Paul Reda to accept the April 2017 Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

Board Reports:

Board of Christian Education:

Creation Museum & Ark Encounter: Glen Bromm estimates the cost to send two of our confirmed teens and their parents would be approximately \$540. Included in this estimate is the cost of one Combo Ticket per person at \$60/each (\$240/Family of 4). The Combo Ticket allows the holder 1 day at the Ark Encounter and 2 days at the Creation Museum and was the best value for these attractions. Hotels range from \$90/night to \$110/night. Allowing a 3 nights stay at an average of \$100/night, lodging is estimated at \$300. Per Erma, money for this trip could be taken from the existing Youth Fund. Marlin Shull asked about the other confirmands. Glen would like to extend the same offer to them. Discussion followed regarding whether or not we would be establishing a precedent for future confirmation families. A motion was made by Glen Bromm, second by Paul Reda, that a policy be established to provide the cost of tickets for entrance to the Creation Museum & Ark Encounter for each confirmand plus 1 Adult (total 2 tickets per confirmand) and also include the cost of lodging not-to-exceed \$100/night with a maximum of 3 nights (\$300) per family. No additional expenses to be included. Motion carried.

Kidz Church & VBS: May 21st will be the last day of Kidz Church for this school year. We will resume in September. A second organization meeting was held regarding VBS, supplies for crafts are to be submitted to Monika and ordered by next Monday.

Board of Elders: The elders approved two applicants for membership, John & Rosemary Schalk, at their May 4, 2017, meeting. Mike Michaelson will be their elder.

Board of Evangelism: Glen Bromm reported that the Community Meal this evening served 74 meals with 38 meals severed to non-church members. Several teens were in attendance and Glen did take a family on a tour of the church who expressed an interest in attending services.

Board of Stewardship: Jim French opened the floor to guests with questions regarding the proposed budget.

Interim Pastor Line Item: Question presented regarding the amount shown for the Interim Minister and how that was established. Jim explained that the actual amount is unknown, but is based on a best-guess estimate and approximately 50% of Pastor's salary. Actual cost will hopefully be less. Question was then presented on whether an Intentional Interim Minister was required. Jim Mueller explained it is in order to have help from the Synod during the call process. As a congregation we could undertake the search for a new pastor on our own, but we would then truly be on our own. Other congregations have found this approach results in a longer vacancy period. Congregation members are being encouraged to attend the May 22, meeting with Pastor Wolfram who will explain the upcoming process.

Projected Income: Question presented regarding why a line item showing projected income is omitted from the budget. How does the congregation know how much to give if no estimate of income is given. Discussion followed regarding pledge drives, etc. The board explained that the bottom line of the budget is the amount that is being estimated as income. The budget is constructed based on current year costs, historical trend of income/expense and then amounts are established not-to-exceed the estimated income. As we are a free-will donation organization, it is difficult to estimate exactly how much income will be received during a 12-month period. The Budget Committee works to bring a reasonable and accurate budget before the congregation for vote.

Income Shift: Question presented as to why the Office Supplies budget was cut \$7,500 and a Technology Fund Line Item was inserted for the same amount. The board explained that as the new printer/copier in the church office is under lease with a service contract, a line item has been designated for that expense. Office supplies no longer need to include the cost of toner as that is part of our lease and therefore the cost of true office supplies is significantly lower.

Retirement Party: Question presented if the board truly expects to spend \$15,000 on the retirement party. The board explained that the amount includes an estimated \$10,000 for catering (\$20/person with max of 500 people attending), but actual cost should be significantly lower as current estimated costs are between \$13-\$18/person and 400 guests are anticipated. Final cost will be obtained upon selection of the menu by Pastor and will be returned, per the agreement, by July 15. A final guest count will be given to the caterer by August 30. The catering agreement was then reviewed and approved with a \$100 deposit check payable to Dawn's Fresh Catering (Dawn Ebels, Owner) to be sent to secure the September 9, date. A motion was made by Marlin Shull, second by Paul Reda, to accept the Dawn's Fresh Catering agreement as presented. Motion carried.

Jim Mueller thanked Jim French and the committee for their time and hard work putting the budget together.

Board of Social Welfare: Paul Reda reported that no requests for assistance were received this past month.

Board of Trustees: Marlin Shull reported that the basement clean-up resulted in two-thirds of the items being removed. The landfill refused the Styrofoam items so an alternate disposal method is being researched. June 1 will be a hazardous waste disposal day in Denton Township so the trustees will work to have the Styrofoam disposed then.

Pastor Winter: As pastor is on vacation this week, Jim Mueller read a letter from pastor requesting a monetary gift be made to the Latino Mission Society (Sam & Brooke Orozco) in addition to the Free Will Love Offering that will be collected at the May 21, Church

Services. Erma Stevens suggested the gift be taken out of the Miscellaneous Charity Fund. A motion was made by Glen Bromm, second by Erma Stevens, that a \$250 monetary gift be given to the Latino Mission Society from the Charity Fund. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- *Washing Machine Repair* – Hometown Heating & Cooling did send a hand written bill for the \$125 charge as detailed in last month's minutes. A motion was made by Glen Bromm, second by Peter Daellenbach, that a check in the amount of \$125 be sent to Hometown Heating & Cooling to pay the invoice in full and that the meeting minutes are to reflect that due to the unprofessional conduct of this company over the past months, St. John Lutheran Church will not contact Hometown H&C for any future work.
- *Garden Security* – Last September & October, there was discussion regarding thefts that had taken place at the garden and whether a security system should be obtained. Marlin had done leg work looking at options. It was proposed that we wait to make a decision until after this year's harvest season. A motion was made by Glen Bromm, second by Erma Stevens, to rescind the motion from last September 14, that the Trustees look into some form of security. Motion carried.
- *Deacon-in-Training* – Jim Mueller brought a request before the board regarding the Deacon's Conference that Glen Bromm will be attending at Camp Arcadia in September. As the conference allows spouses to attend, a motion was made by Peter Daellenbach, second by Jeff Krentz, that the church approve an additional \$70 toward the cost of the conference allowing Dee Bromm to accompany her husband. Motion carried.
- *Deacon-in-Training* – Jim Mueller asked Glen Bromm to step out of the meeting while a brief discussion was held regarding mileage reimbursement. At this time Glen will continue to function under "Training" status and there will be no mileage reimbursement through the end of 2017. This issue will be revisited after January 1, 2018, and will be dependent on other factors including the desires of the Interim Minister assigned to our parish. The board stands in agreement.

New Business:

- *Deacon-in-Training* – Glen has asked for permission from the Board to use one of the available classrooms as an office/study. He would provide his own desk. He would like to use the classroom currently set aside for upper-elementary Sunday School students and which is not being used. He would like it to be repainted to lighten up the space and the sofa removed. After discussion a motion was made by Peter Daellenbach, second by Marlin Shull, that Glen be allowed to use a portion of the room for a desk and file cabinet. No repainting at this time, the sofa is to remain at present and the Sunday School table and chairs will remain so the room can be used as intended. Motion carried
- *Election of New BOD Members* – Jeff Krentz reported he has secured 2 additional candidates for the up-coming election to fill the required 5-person ballot. Mike Michaelson and Monika Pfannes will be included with the following incumbents up for re-election: Jim French, Jeff Krentz, and Marlin Shull.
- *Retirement Party* – Kaitlynn Warmack gave an update on preparations. Mid-State Rental is requiring a 50% deposit (\$350) to reserve the 20' x 40' party tent, 200 folding chairs, 20 tables and bounce house for the September 9, date. A motion was made by Glen Bromm, second by Erma Stevens, that the Board approve the \$350 deposit to Mid-State Rental to reserve the date for the rental items. Motion carried.

The Shuttle Bus was also discussed and Kaitlynn will be contacting the Credit Union, manager of Family Fair Market, and also realtor handling the Old McDonald's property to inquire about use for parking that day. A suggestion to use the church parking lot and just shuttle guests to the property from there was presented. In the interest of time, further discussion will take at a future meeting when costs are available.

- *Water Softener/Iron Filter* – Marlin Shull has received a request to look into the cost of obtaining a system for the church to help with the staining that is occurring in the kitchen and restrooms. Marlin will look into available systems and report to the board at a future meeting.

Correspondence: Two thank you notes were received and read from Chloé Koupal.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm and closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monika Pfannes for Jane Radulski

Minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting.

St. John Lutheran Church
Fiscal Year 2016-2017
July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017
Month Ending April 30, 2017

SALARIES

	<u>April 2017</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Pastor's Salary	\$ 4,540.00	\$ 45,394.00	\$ 54,474.00
Pastor's Housing Subsidy	600.00	6,000.00	\$ 7,200.00
Pastor's Retirement & Ins.	2,431.96	23,938.85	\$ 29,382.00
Pastor's Social Security	-	6,251.00	\$ 8,334.00
Car Displacement	400.00	4,000.00	\$ 4,800.00
Car Expense	76.10	777.40	\$ 2,000.00
Employees Social Security	577.28	2,277.72	\$ 3,050.00
Organists	775.05	5,070.57	\$ 7,500.00
Secretary	1,692.52	13,439.32	\$ 15,450.00
Custodian	1,162.42	7,813.02	\$ 8,975.00
Guest Preachers		-	\$ 1,000.00
Total Salaries	\$ 12,255.33	\$ 114,961.88	\$ 142,165.00

PROPERTY

New Property Expense/Improvement	\$ 22.55	\$ 477.95	\$ 1,000.00
Equipment Purchases	-	3,886.19	\$ 3,000.00
Supplies Lawn & Repairs & Snow plowing	460.02	5,840.38	\$ 7,000.00
Electricity	451.68	4,607.23	\$ 5,500.00
Telephone	168.82	1,601.28	\$ 2,200.00
Fuel-DTE Gas	254.00	2,198.00	\$ 4,750.00
Sewer Usage	198.00	792.00	\$ 800.00
Disposal	100.63	880.62	\$ 1,050.00
Insurance	-	4,268.00	\$ 5,000.00
Total Property	\$ 1,655.70	\$ 24,551.65	\$ 30,300.00

Charities

Synod's Work	\$ 800.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 9,600.00
T.I.M. (Pastor Mahlburg)	750.00	2,250.00	\$ 3,000.00
Lutheran Home & Family Services	-	-	\$ 500.00
Social Welfare	-	126.91	\$ 1,000.00
Community Fund	-	-	\$ 200.00
Lutheran World Relief	-	500.00	\$ 500.00
Katie Conference Endowment Fund	-	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	500.00	\$ 500.00
L.A.M.P.	-	-	\$ 500.00
Children's Assessment Center	-	-	\$ 500.00
Lutherans for Life	-	500.00	\$ 500.00
Total Charities	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 12,626.91	\$ 19,000.00

Special Projects

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

St. John Lutheran Church
 Fiscal Year 2016-2017
 July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017
 Month Ending April 30, 2017

CHURCH SUPPLIES

	<u>April 2017</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Bulletins & Worship Aids	\$ 153.98	\$ 4,188.02	\$ 4,800.00
Altar Guild	137.11	1,290.41	\$ 2,000.00
Postage	98.00	540.55	\$ 750.00
Office Supplies	827.38	11,056.29	\$ 12,500.00
Portals of Prayer	-	648.00	\$ 900.00
Confirmation Materials	-	552.29	\$ 600.00
Sunday School & VBS	-	613.95	\$ 3,000.00
Puppet Ministry	-	146.86	\$ 500.00
Praise Team	-	-	\$ 600.00
Total Church Supplies	\$ 1,216.47	\$ 19,036.37	\$ 25,650.00

MISCELLANEOUS

Conferences	\$ -	\$ 1,095.17	\$ 2,000.00
Evangelism	102.00	947.83	\$ 1,000.00
Outreach	182.00	1,225.41	\$ 1,000.00
Centershot Ministries	35.00	1,109.05	\$ 1,000.00
Coffee & Donuts	250.42	1,641.74	\$ 2,400.00
Other Miscellaneous	234.12	3,209.26	\$ 4,500.00
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 803.54	\$ 9,228.46	\$ 11,900.00

TOTALS - MONTH / YEAR TO DATE / BUDGET

\$ 17,981.04	\$ 180,405.27	\$ 231,015.00
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INCOME SUMMARY

Worship Services	\$ 22,699.33	\$ 172,670.03	Income / Expense Comparison Current Month \$4,972.55 Year To Date \$5,104.14
Coffee & Donuts	249.00	1,687.41	
Interest	0.26	3.88	
Donations	-	865.00	
Miscellaneous	5.00	74.81	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 22,953.59	\$ 175,301.13	

CHECKING ACCOUNT

	<u>Previous Balance</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$ 10,510.78	\$ 22,953.59	\$ 17,981.04	\$ 15,483.33

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund Savings	\$ 10.86	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 78,865.15
Teddy Bear Fund	\$ 0.20	\$ -	\$ 2,880.26
Improvement Fund	\$ 51.43	\$ -	\$ 6,956.02
Memorial Fund	\$ 25.54	\$ -	\$ 8,064.21
Univ/Sem Ed Fund	\$ 0.22	\$ 900.00	\$ 2,386.75
Youth Fund	\$ 2.45	\$ -	\$ 5,045.92
Bell Choir Fund	\$ 0.16	\$ -	\$ 2,312.01
Flower Fund	\$ 243.52	\$ 436.50	\$ 76.37
Parsonage	\$ 750.50	\$ 66.00	\$ 22,736.62
School Bldg. Fund	\$ 0.14	\$ -	\$ 1,999.34
Thrivent Choice Funds	\$ 0.34	\$ -	\$ 5,015.57
Choir Fund	\$ 0.04	\$ -	\$ 552.18
Kidz Church/VBS	\$ 0.01	\$ -	\$ 159.87
Together In Mission (T.I.M.)	\$ 81.13	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,274.99
Praise Team Fund	\$ 0.01	\$ -	\$ 180.33
Centershot Ministries	\$ 0.06	\$ -	\$ 841.88
Outreach Team	\$ 0.06	\$ -	\$ 859.15
Building Fund	\$ 0.41	\$ -	\$ 6,031.03

Church Extension Fund-Dedicated Fund Balance	\$ 1,419.75
Church Extension Fund-One Year Fixed Rate Note	\$ 16,432.91
Church Extension Fund-One Year Fixed Rate Note	\$ 23,835.15
CEF 12 Month Fixed Rate	\$ 50,000.00
Credit Union Savings Account	\$ 2,114.70
2 Year Fixed Rate Note	\$ 49,418.28

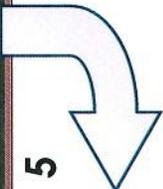


2017 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Jacqueline Jammer	2 Kayla Doehring Krista Doehring Don & Dawn Lingenfelter - 28 yrs	3 Dennis Dusseau John & Carol Gottschling - 56 yrs
4 Lily Akers Kirk Koupal	5 Matt & Anna Stogiera - 13 yrs	6 Franklin Spiess Donald Wolf	7 Keith Pfannes	8 Matt Barrow Dave & Margaret Rickwalt - 49 yrs	9 Nancy Schuneman	10
11	12 Anna Stogiera	13	14 Carrie Schmidt Roger Weiss Jeff & Lynne Fossitt - 37 yrs Larry & JoAnn Gall - 59 yrs	15	16 Connie Janik Frank Ticknor	17
18 Gary Malcho	19 Art Ketelhut Bob & Martha Cook - 41 yrs	20 Marilynn French	21	22	23 Sally Johnson Rick & Jane Radulski - 11 yrs	24 Becky Greger Woody & Janice Holbrook - 50 yrs
25 Arlene Shull	26 Tammy Mitchell Roy & Phyllis Garland - 13 yrs	27 Lois Pike George & Marilyn Meyers - 53 yrs	28 Nathan Hanovich Ken Vest	29 Helen Gretzinger Glenn & Barb Ruhlig - 60 yrs	30 Rosemary Schalk	



Events & Happenings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS MEETING! The Annual Voter's Meeting will be held Sunday, June 4, 2017 at 11:00 am. Weekend Service Schedule is as follows: Sat., June 3, - No Saturday Service this Week Sun. - June 4, ONE Service only at 9:30 with Communion						
4 Spirit Help 9:30 - Divine Service w/Communion 11:00 - ANNUAL MEETING  2:00 - Reveal Party	5 	6 10:00 - AA 1:30 - 8:00 S. Akin Auditions	7 9:00 - Trustees 7:00 Outreach Team Meeting	8 9:00 - Adult Bible Study 4:45 - TOPS 6:30-Ladies BibleStudy 7:00 - Elders	9 	10 8:30 - Adopt-a-Hwy 10:00 - AA Open Shoot Archery 7:00 Worship Service with Communion
11 The Holy Trinity 8:00 - Blended with Communion 9:30 - Divine Service	12	13 10:00 - AA	14 9:00 - Trustees 7:00 - Board of Directors Meeting	15 4:45 - TOPS 6:00 - Praise Team	16 	17 10:00 - AA Open Shoot Archery 7:00 - Worship at The Garden Strawberry Social
18 Death Without Dignity 8:00 - Blended Service 9:30 - Divine Srv w/Communion 	19	20 10:00 - AA	21 9:00 - Trustees	22 4:45 - TOPS 6:30 - Ladies Bible Study	23 	24 10:00 - AA 7:00 Worship Service with Communion
Monika on Vacation - Church Office Closed						
25 Dream Weaver 8:00 - Blended with Communion 9:30 - Divine Service Monika on Vacation - Church Office Closed	26 Monika on Vacation - Church Office Closed	27 10:00 - AA	28 9:00 - Trustees	29 4:45 - TOPS 6:00 - Praise Team	30	

SERVING THE LORD IN
SRI LANKA
NEWS FROM THE MAHLBURG FAMILY



May 2017

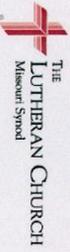
smahlburg@yahoo.com



Sri Lanka is an independent island nation just off the coast of India
THE PEARL OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

Sri Lanka is an incredibly diverse country in many ways. They have a long history, ancient ruins, modern wonders, and much more. Here is a list of few facts about Sri Lanka

- A little larger than W. Virginia
- Population of 20+ million
- Mid-High 80's all year
- Highest biodiversity density in Asia
- #1 exporter of tea in the world and coastal areas under Portuguese, then Dutch, then British control.
- Called Ceylon under British rule
- Changed name to Sri Lanka in 1972
- 70% Buddhist, 13% Hindu, 10% Muslim, 7% Christian



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to newsletter@lcmns.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

And the country is...
Sri Lanka



Colombo, Sri Lanka

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. Acts 16:9-10

We did not receive a vision in the night. We did receive our reassignment. The Lord is bringing us to Sri Lanka. We are humbled and excited to be a part of God's work in Sri Lanka. So, we will go to Sri Lanka to preach the Gospel as God has called us.

Steven seeks to build and maintain relationships with the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka. This partnership consists of 13 congregations of around 500-800 members. They are served by 3 pastors and 7 vicars. Steven will support and encourage the church leaders and congregations in Lutheran doctrine and practice.

He will work with other LCMNS

missionaries to provide pre-seminary training. Currently, there are 4 pre-seminary students. Following their pre-seminary training, they will attend seminary in India.

In addition, Steven serves as a pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Mission Church in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo. He will provide pastoral care to English speaking Sri Lankans and to expatriates.

Steven is excited to learn the languages and the culture. He will learn the Tamil language at first. Later, he will learn Sinhalese. Both are official languages of Sri Lanka. Learning the languages and culture will be a great aid for sharing the Good News that Jesus died and rose from the grave to redeem us from all sin from death, and from the power of the devil.

The whole family is excited and nervous about this move. We know that we are in your prayers and in the Lord's hands. Thank you for your continued support.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Duncan who has been suffering from headaches for over a month.
- A smooth and speedy visa process.
- Strength and wisdom as we prepare to deploy.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The hope and comfort we have in the resurrection of Jesus.
- Our international mission staff, who do so much for God's mission work which too often goes unnoticed.
- Our assignment to Sri Lanka

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage us and support us

Family Update



My how they are growing

There is never a dull moment. With five children, there is always something happening.

AUTUMN

She applied and was accepted to special art program at Fomdoome University. This met on Saturdays March-May.

LIBERTY

Went with a friend to a sci-fi convention Chicago to meet some of the actors from Agents of Shield.

SKYE

Attended an Anime convention in St. Louis with a good friend.

ROSE

She was chosen to sing a solo in her integrated arts performance.

DUNCAN

He has been suffering with painful headaches for over a month. Doctors have prescribed several medications, but none of them seem to have helped. We have not been able to find any environmental factors as a cause. On May 9, he will be seeing a pediatric neurologist. Please pray that we can find a cure soon.

MARTHA

She continue to volunteer once a week at the International Center, our church's headquarters. Most of her time is spent caring for our children.

STEVEN

He is spending two weeks in Tennessee visiting congregations and sharing with them about the mission work we have been called to do.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Blog: MissionsSriLanka.wordpress.com
Twitter: twitter.com/MahlburgMission
Facebook: facebook.com/groups/missionsSriLanka



-In Service to Christ-Steven & Martha, Autumn, Liberty, Skye, Rose, & Duncan

To support the LCMNS through the work of Steven Mahlbürg, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 68861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Mahlbürg, Sri Lanka." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMNS website, on my online giving page at lcmns.org/Mahlburg.



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcmns.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."