

September 2023 Newsletter

Pastor's Message:

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the simplest scenes in the Gospel of John is also one of the best! In chapter 1, as Jesus is becoming known-Andrew brings his brother Simon to Jesus; Jesus "finds" Philip, and Philip goes and tells Andrew "We have found the Messiah!" To which a skeptical Andrew says, "Yah, right!" To which and undeterred Philip replies "Come and see!"

"Come and see" is an important piece of our faith vocabulary. It's our 'elevator speech', when we have a chance to speak a word for Christ or for the church. Not everyone is religious nowadays. Crowds of people are not rushing to the doors of most churches. But people are still open to an authentic sharing of faith and a genuine welcome into a community.

In this era of isolation and anxiety and uncertainty, the church still has a good part of what people and society needs! We have Jesus-who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We have the ability to welcome. We have the sacraments that we do believe make God's grace and presence real. We have friendship and fellowship to offer. We have something for the 'seeker' who is new and curious. And we have something for the lifelong Christian who is ready to go deeper in faith and service.

But what we also need is people who will dare to say to friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers, and acquaintances: "Come and see!" Come and see if St. John's might be a good fit for you or your family! Come and see how our Sunday School can welcome your kid! Come and see if our Pastor speaks any words of truth! Come and see how you might discover and use your God-given gifts!

And some of you are doing that! You newer folks are the best at that, because you're still excited about finding a church home! Keep it up! But all of us have a chance to say "Come and see! I'll meet you there for worship or for...." And, you can invite people to try out worship on Facebook or YouTube as well. I continued to be amazed at how many people learn of us through that resource.

September is the perfect time to try that "Come and see!" approach. Who do you know has a 7th or 8th grader who might try Confirmation Class on Wednesday evenings? Or Youth Group on Sunday evenings? Who could you invite to the Church Picnic on September 10? And fall is the perfect time to start something new: Men's Breakfast, anyone? A book study? An Outreach and Service Team?

Let's see what we, with the Spirit's help, can do! -Pastor Paul

Lutheran Disaster Response is a good way to help Maui fire victims and others! You can give with your church offering, or donate directly online at www.elca.org/disaster

We are Blessed to be a Blessing! That was our 'tagline' for years, and it's still true. Last year, we were blessed to pay off our building loan! This fall, we're going to ask you to share some special gifts with our Greater Milwaukee Synod's "Equipping the Saints" Appeal. We're also invited to support Michael Novotny as he begins a year volunteering with our ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission! Stay tuned!

July 2023 - Year to Date

+YTD General Fund

Receipts: \$ 134,186

Expenses: \$ 126,254

Thank you for your regular offerings and to those who have signed up for electronic giving.

+YTD Building & Grounds Fund:

Receipts: \$ 25,251 Expenses: \$ 23,313

+YTD Missionary Sponsorship:

\$ 5,981 Goal for 2023: \$6,000

+YTD ELCA Benevolence:

\$ 12,429 Goal for 2023: \$15,000

+YTD Good Samaritan (Needs some help!)

\$ 5,653 Goal for 2023: \$8000

Our Church Picnic is September 10th!

Put on your Hawaiian shirt and join us at our Hawaiian themed 2023 church picnic.

There will be one service at 9:45, followed by good food, fun games, prizes, and a basket raffle. We will provide the meat and beverages, so please bring a dish to share. Signup sheets are on display at the tropical table for basket makers, setup, kitchen help, help with games for kids of all ages, and more. All picnic proceeds will go the Lutheran Disaster Response ELCA, to help Maui. We're also going to offer "Bike Shop" services! Bring your bike for a quick tune-up before the Outreach for Hope Ride!

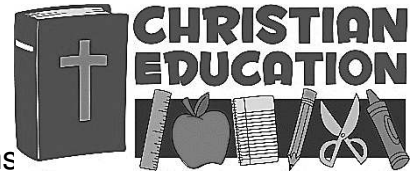
We are a Learning Church

Our Education Team is looking forward to Sunday School starting

September 17th with a Pancake Breakfast at 9am. Will you pray and consider

being a teacher? (This need not be an every-Sunday-job!) And, dads and teens

too! Confirmation class for 7th & 8th graders will begin Wednesday, September 13. Is there a new family you can invite? Talk with Christy Abt, Sunday School Coordinator for more information.



Outreach for Hope Ride, Run, Walk Event – September 30th

Join us on Saturday, September 30 for the Outreach for Hope 2023 Ride Run Walk, and help raise money for grants to central city congregations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod!

Our St. John's riders will join other ELCA friends from neighboring churches at Grace Lutheran/Grafton (715 6th Ave.) for a ride on the InterUrban bike trail. We need riders, people who will pledge gifts, and you can always volunteer to help the ride organizers-with water stops, traffic crossings, and so forth.

Don't forget to select our church so you'll be part of our team. Also, when you select that, be aware that you won't show up as being a part of that team for about 24 hours.

<https://give.classy.org/stjohns-jackson>

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will begin meeting again on September 14th at 1:00 at church. Anyone is welcome to join the group as they begin working on Personal Care Kits and discuss plans for future projects. Meetings are held every 2nd Thursday of month. Ruth Circle is collecting items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations.

Items needed: light-weight bath towels (dark colors preferred), bath-sized bars of soap in original package, toothbrushes (single in original package), metal nail clippers, a large sturdy comb.

Please bring items to church by Sunday, Oct. 15 and place them by the display in the Gathering Space.

St. John's Veteran's Group

Our next St. John's Vet's Group Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 12th at 9:00am at St. John's Church. We encourage both St. John's members and friends to attend our meetings. This is a great way to get together and share our experiences with other Veterans'.

ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission

Join us in supporting Michael Novotny as he embarks on a new mission. You can include your donation with your weekly offering and we'll make sure it gets to him.

I recently accepted an invitation to serve as a Young Adult in Global Mission volunteer with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Starting in August, I will be joining more than 85 other young adults in a year of service, walking alongside companions in the UK. When I accepted the invitation to serve as a Young Adult in Global Mission volunteer, I committed to raising \$5,000 toward my year of service. I have created this fundraiser to support me and the Young Adults in Global Mission program as we journey to do God's work throughout the world.

Will you help me reach my goal of raising \$5,000?

All contributions made through my fundraising page go directly to the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program, which in turn will help support me this upcoming year. It's amazing the difference your contribution can make, and I am so grateful that you will consider joining me in this journey.

Help support me by donating to my fundraising page today. (We can email you the long link to Michael's page).

*Thank you for your support!
Sincerely,*

Michael Novotny

Fellowship and Fitness Group

Fellowship, Fun and Fitness goal - God has given us amazing bodies that we need to take care of, especially as we age. We need to take care of our minds, balance, cardiovascular fitness and strength to ensure we are functional physically and mentally. The decisions we make today are going to directly determine how we function in our 70's and 80's +. We know it is easier to exercise with a friend. That's why we're starting this weekly exercise and fellowship group to make our fitness goals easier to achieve.

Dates: Every Wednesday at 9 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, beginning September 20th.

Who can attend: Everyone - church members, family and friends (male and female).

Activities: walking, kayaking, pickle ball, yoga and stretching, snow shoeing. We will use videos to supplement the curriculum when we are in the building, however we hope to be out and about frequently, and enjoying God's creation! Contact Robin Kutzora with questions: 414-467-9411.

Called to Serve

Readers

(8:00 Service)

9/3 Joel Heidtke
9/10 One Service at 9:45
9/17 Amy Reid
9/24 Lee Anne Runnells

(9:45 Service)

9/3 Sarah Murray
9/10 Reuben Heidtke
9/17 Meghan DeChant
9/24 Kierta Siegert

Ushers

(8:00 Service)

9/3 Joel Heidtke/Scott Novotny
9/10 One Service at 9:45
9/17 Joel Wolf
9/24 Tim Kiernan /Skip Bartelt

(9:45 Service)

9/3 Keith Heidtke
9/10 Joe/George Liberatore
9/17 Judy Henrichs
9/24 Brennan Family

Communion Assistants

9/3 Brennan Family
9/10 One Service at 9:45

9/17 Darlene Wanta/Staci Bohling

9/24 Lee Anne Rummels/
Laura Bartelt

9/3 Sarah Murray
9/10 Dianne
Liberatore/Amanda
Reinemann
9/17 Scott LeChant/
George Liberatore
9/24 Jim & Laura Hahn

September Anniversaries!

Sept. 2 Lucas & Nicole Lemberger – 6 years
Sept. 3 Jim & Amy Meyers – 29 years
Sept. 5 Britton & Katie Schott – 8 years
Sept. 8 Matt & Rebecca Hauser – 5 years
Sept. 10 Shad & Kristy Young – 18 years
Sept. 11 Dennis & Carol Heider – 58 years
Mike & Keri Kraus – 30 years
Sept. 13 Rick & Gale Loehrl – 43 years
Mike & Jenny Starzman – 27 years
Sept. 15 Roger & Donna Lamberg – 62 years
Eric & Jennifer Olafsson – 22 years
Sept. 16 George & Dianne Liberatore – 51 years
Sept. 17 Ken & Kären Keel – 63 years
Paul & Katie Ziemer – 7 years
Sept. 20 Hank & Eileen Dieringer – 65 years
Rich & Cindy Uhlig – 15 years
Del & Sue Worden – 15 years
Sept. 24 Scott & Pam Adams – 40 years
Charlie & Kristin Jones – 7 years
Sept. 27 Dan & Eileen Mack – 26 years
Sept. 29 Aaron & Tracy Weninger – 11 years
Kyle & Jennifer Binversie – 11 years
Sept. 30 Roy & Mary Glocke – 51 years
Scott & Beth DeChant – 28 years

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Sept. 1 Chace Stockhausen
Sept. 2 Judy Durr
Sept. 3 Steve Henrichs
Elizabeth Kison

September Birthdays

Sept. 4 Kaycee Binversie
Becky Ziemer
Jack Stern
Sept. 5 Paul Mittermaier
Sept. 6 Ron Jonas
Ashlyn Muller
Angela Pickart
Sept. 7 Bruce Beuscher
Beth Dechant
Terry Legate
Jennifer Olafsson
Amy Reid
Sept. 8 Lisa Brennan
Butch Callum
Eileen Dieringer
Chris Guslick
Rick Guslick
Geraldine Michalski
Sept. 10 Debbie Gramza
Bently Duck
Sept. 12 David McFadden
Sept. 13 Joe Liberatore
Jack Lippold
Sept. 14 Tracey Corlett
Sept. 15 Emmaline Guslick
Sept. 16 Terry Christopherson
Lydia Hauser
Sept. 17 Del Worden
Sept. 19 Brittany Stockhausen
Sept. 20 Scott Reid
Sept. 21 Barb Jonas
Ann Radloff
Sept. 22 Joel Heidtke
Maryrose Leist
Kaylee Brice
Sept. 24 Scott Anders
Warren Scheunemann
Sept. 25 Larry Hillyer
Sept. 26 Garry Basing
Sept. 27 Jackie Dhein
Duane Plath
Sept. 28 Peter Jackson
Sept. 29 Jessica Frank
Karen Kraemer
Lindsey Stern
Arleen Ziemer
Sept. 30 Barbara Hillyer
Bonnie Puestow

St. John's Lutheran Church
2881 Division Rd.
Jackson, WI 53037

At St. John's we're privileged and challenged to *Welcome, Worship, and Witness* in Christ's name. Thank you for being part of this faith community and for the serving you do to the glory of God!

Visit us at www.stjohnsjackson.net
Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/stjohnsjackson
Pastor Paul Mittermaier – pastorcarguy@gmail.com
Office hours: M-F 9:00am-1:00pm 262-677-3176
officestjohnsjackson@gmail.com
Worship Services: Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8 & 9:45 am with Holy Communion
Facebook Live at 9:45 am on Sunday

