

THE VOICE

*St. John is called by Christ to be a Sanctuary
that Welcomes and Serves All*

August 2016

When Your Pastor Says “Yes!”

For in [Christ] every one of God’s promises is a “Yes.” – 2 Corinthians 1:20a

In his small catechism, Luther discusses the “Office of the Keys” as it relates to the Sacrament of Confession and Forgiveness. Through the Holy Ministry, God declares the forgiveness of sins to those whose consciences are troubled, and puts forth the need for repentance for those who are complacent in their sin. A broader way of saying it is that God has given pastors authority both to say “No” and to say “Yes.” But “Yes” is the more ultimate of the two responses. Even when we are called on to say “No,” it is ultimately so that we can hear God say “Yes!” to something far better than what we had in mind.

Last month, I shared with you my thoughts on how pastors are sometimes charged with saying “no.” Hard words to digest, perhaps, but important things to think about. Now let’s do something more fun. Let’s think about the ways in which your pastor is called upon to say “Yes!”

- “Yes” when you bring your child, your sibling, your spouse, and present her for Holy Baptism, that she can be joined to Christ and find her life in him.
- “Yes” when your pastor finds time to talk with you, when it doesn’t seem like life is going your way, and you wonder if God even cares.
- “Yes” when you find someone you want to share your life with, and you bring that person before God’s altar to enter a self-sacrificial covenant of unconditional love with them.
- “Yes” when you have creative ideas for ministering to God’s people in our congregation, community, and world, and seek support in carrying that out.
- “Yes” when your conscience is troubled by sin, and your pastor has the privilege of declaring to you God’s forgiveness.
- “Yes” when you wonder if God really loves you!”
- “Yes” when, in the face of violence, racism, terrorism, bigotry, anxiety about economics, climate change, the political climate, you wonder if God is still active in the world today.

I don’t know if it’s the most important part of a pastor’s job, but one of the funnest anyway, is when we get to lead God’s people to explore what it means when God says “Yes!” And in Jesus Christ, God’s promise is always “Yes!”

Pastor Bill+

Pastor Bill and Pastor Lauren will be Gone! through August 10

Pastor Lauren will be on sabbatical July 11 through October 10, and Pastor Bill will be taking his vacation to be with her and the kids on a family road trip from July 11 through August 10.

In their absence, worship, ministries and other activities will proceed as usual. Marge will take over preaching duties, except on July 17 when we have a special treat: Bishop Donald Kreiss will come and preach for us.

Please contact the following people if you have questions or concerns:

- ◆ ◆ Troy Nelson - issues related to Worship and Music
- ◆ ◆ John Dresden or Ashleigh Altemann - issues related to Education and Faith Formation
- ◆ ◆ Stella Weller - issues related to Community Outreach
- ◆ ◆ Bill Halvangis - issues related to Service ministries
- ◆ ◆ Kari Varns or Ashleigh Altemann - Vacation Bible School
- ◆ ◆ Larry Urevig - facilities needs
- ◆ ◆ Ed Kramer - budget questions
- ◆ ◆ Marge Sellers - pastoral needs
- ◆ ◆ Marie Cook - all other needs; she will direct you to the appropriate contact

The Kirsh-Carrs have made it to Alaska!



The Kirsh-Carrs are currently enjoying the wonders of Alaska.

Remember the sign we all signed at the 4th of July Picnic? They've posted it in the Signpost Forest at Watson Lake in the Yukon.



Ministry Spotlight

Prayer Shawl Ministry - This ministry was initiated at Bethlehem Lutheran Church to make shawls for God's children in need of prayers and a hug from God. They are an expression of Jesus' command to "Love one another as I have loved you." (*John 13:34*) The Prayer Shawls, which are blessed, are given as a GIFT TO ALL, members of St. John or not.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

When a recipient receives and wears a shawl it provides not only warmth but also the comfort provided by the blessing of the congregation and the prayers of the hands that created it. Shawls are given to those who are sick, troubled or suffering from grief. They are a symbol of the love and caring Jesus offers to all who suffer.

Knitters and crocheters meet in the Library at 1:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month to knit, crochet, pray, enjoy fellowship and have coffee and dessert. All are welcome to join this ministry. If you don't already knit or crochet, instruction will cheerfully be provided.

If you know of someone in need of special care and prayers, please contact Catherine Federspill and a Prayer Shawl will be provided along with an enclosure card. Or you can take a shawl from the rack in the narthex. All the prayer shawl ministry requires is that you sign the book listing who the recipient is and who has taken the prayer shawl. When you pick up a shawl, the prayer shawl members pray for the person receiving the shawl. If you have questions or would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Barb Allen.

Altar Ministry - When you walk into church on Sunday, the paraments are hanging on the altar reflecting the color for the season, the communion elements are on the altar and the flowers are on the chancel. Ever wonder how that happens? The Altar Guild provides this very important service by preparing the worship space prior to each service and caring for the furnishings used in the worship service. This includes:

- preparing communion elements (wine, juice, wafers)
- placing the paraments (hangings) appropriate for the season on the altar and pulpit
- placing the chancel flowers
- decorating the chancel for festival services such as Easter, Christmas and Thanksgiving
- maintaining communion chalices, patens, trays and linens; candles; paraments and banners; lay assistant robes.



It sounds like a lot of work, but it is a chance to meet new people and, as the saying goes, "more hands make light work". The guild members are divided into three teams, each work for a month at a time and serve as a unit or as they feel comfortable dividing the responsibilities.

Without the Altar Guild, there would be no communion on Sundays. Want to help? Even if you are not able to commit to one of the teams, any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Both men and women are necessary for this ministry. (Couples would be ideal!) Some of the work requires minor lifting and moving of altar items. Typically any work done is completed in about two hours per week, one hour before and one hour after the service.

If you have questions or would like to participate in this ministry, contact Shirlee Korte or Pat Gransee.



Beverly Gerhard, Board Member

Beverly was born and raised in Detroit. After graduating from Henry Ford High School, she attended Eastern Michigan University, graduating with a BS in Elementary Education, and later a MA in Reading. She took a job with the Inkster Public Schools, where she worked for 39 years until her recent retirement. For 31 years she taught elementary school. She loved teaching, and was totally committed to her students. “When I started there, they had buckets everywhere, there was rain coming in, they had no textbooks... I fought hard for those children. Eventually they built us a new building. It was challenging and we made some great gains.”



The last 8 years before she retired, she was a school principal, first at Baylor-Woodson Elementary and then at Blanchette Middle School. In her 6 years at Baylor-Woodson, enrollment grew from 250 to 650 students, test scores rose, and in 2011 she was honored to go to Washington to receive a “Dispelling the Myth” award (the myth being that children of low-income or minority students cannot achieve) for her school’s achievements. Baylor-Woodson was one of only four schools so honored. In 2013 the Inkster Public Schools were closed, so Beverly retired and dedicated her time to her father until his demise in 2015.

Beverly grew up in Lutheran Church of the Atonement in Detroit. When it closed, her parents, Bob and Marian Brown, looked for a church, found St. John and felt a great welcome. Beverly and her daughter attended Prince of Peace in Westland (now closed). Beverly came to St. John in 2002 after her mother passed away following a long illness. She started to attend with her Dad and found a welcome here, just as he had years before.

Asked what St. John means to her, she says, “It gives me all of my spiritual hope for the future and guidance to continue following in God’s light. It has given me friendship and compassion from others, especially all of those years when Mom was ill and the women would come to visit. Pastor Cave was there constantly.” Serving on the Board is an opportunity to “give back to the congregation after all it gave me during those hard years of illness and death.”

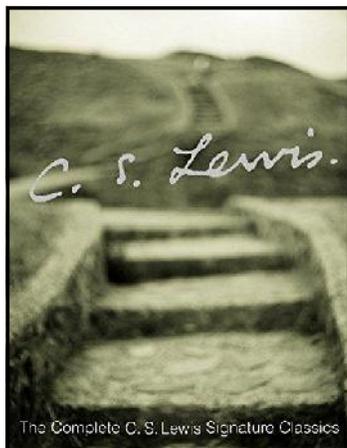
Beverly and Rick, her husband of 39 years, are currently living in Whitmore Lake, where they are enjoying condo living and being closer to their daughter Kristin’s home in South Lyon. Because God has been such a strong support during her life’s challenges, she hopes serving St. John as a Board Member will bring her closer to supporting God’s people.

THE VOICE



Charles Fox Library Acquires Complete C.S. Lewis Signature Classics

Now gracing our library collection is The Complete C.S. Lewis Signature Classics (HarperOne, 2002), which features a compilation of seven treasured and inspirational works by one of the intellectual giants of the twentieth century, including:



Mere Christianity

The Screwtape Letters

The Great Divorce

The Problem of Pain

Miracles

A Grief Observed

The Abolition of Man

Clive Staples Lewis (1898-1963), arguably among the most influential Christian writers of his day, was a Fellow and Tutor in English Literature at Oxford University until 1954, when he was unanimously elected Chair of Medieval and Renaissance Literature at Cambridge. He was the author of more than thirty books. Lewis' writings offer wisdom and calm in our increasingly hectic world, and are laced with lucidity, warmth and wit as well as hope and a deep understanding of human nature.

For "Young America," we have received two children's books written by Elise Parsley, a grand-niece of Ward and Lorraine Varns, who have graciously donated them to us. If You Ever Want to Bring an Alligator to School, Don't and If You Ever Want to Bring a Piano to the Beach, Don't (Little, Brown & Co., 2015) are delightfully illustrated and fun for summer reading. Enjoy!

The Library Committee would like to express its deep appreciation to Bethlehem Church for the gift of the handsome bookcase now being housed in the foyer, one of a number of valued pieces of furniture and artwork which add so much to the beauty of our church.

Join us August 14 for a Very Special Preacher!



Rev. Mike Ward

On Sunday, August 14, Rev. Mike Ward will be with us as our guest preacher. Pastor Mike is bidding on guiding our upcoming capital campaign and this will give us a chance to get to know him better. He really wants to get to know us better, too! To facilitate that, Pastor Mike will lead a Coffee and Conversation hour from 8:45-9:45 and again from 11:15 to noon. Please attend whichever session suits you best, or come to both. During each session, Pastor Mike will share what he hopes to see as the outcomes from our capital campaign, and he also wants to hear our dreams for the future of the congregation and what we want from the appeal.

As a parish pastor, Mike was part of two congregational capital campaigns that he describes as “not fulfilling.” Neither raised much money and both failed to help people grow in their spirituality — a double failure. Today, Mike does this work because of what Jesus says in *Matthew 6:21*: “...for where your treasure is, there will your heart will be also.” Pastor Mike wants to help assure that congregations have the hearts of their members. Mike has seen campaigns transform congregations and energize people for a common cause and that is his prayer for us.

Pastor Mike is a 1997 graduate of Trinity Lutheran Seminary. He has been married for 23 years and has two children. His daughter just started college this summer. Mike is the fourth partner in the 40-year history of the consulting firm that he is part of and works with synods, congregations, camps and seminaries. He once helped a cat shelter raise \$1 million as a favor to his mother. In his free time, Mike is a beekeeper and currently cares for 13 hives.

Schedule for the day:

- 8:45 am: Coffee and Conversation
- 10:00 am: Worship with Mike preaching
- 11:15 am: Coffee and Conversation
- Noon to 1:30: Steering Team meeting #1

Going on Vacation?

Your church is still here for you!

You can continue your gifts even when you're not here.

- • Mail your checks to the church office. (23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, 48335)
- • Give online. You can even set up automatic giving! Look for the link on the St. John website (www.stjohn-elca.org)



THE VOICE

Prayer Concerns



Members: Ron Fischer, Eli Davis, Mary Bennet, Bev Riegal; Mary Bosanko; Carol Sterling, Prudence Hogrefe; Selma Ballach; Sandra Borsvold; Brent Canup, Shirley Dabich; Eunice Gould; Jim Grudt; Jordis Johnsen; Tammy Kilpatrick; Evelyn Kivi; Beverly Kirsh; Dagmar Malstrom; Milda Mattila; Lillian Niemi; Jodi Oulette; Noreen Rudorffer; Gladys Saari; Joan Simonson; John Stenson; Lucie Stricker; Marion Suckow; Howard Skovlund; Betty Waber; Jessica Ward; Elve Wiggins.

Friends, and Family: Mary Lorene Feil (Weller), Richard Dale (Dale) Debbie Lipinski (Holland), Paul Gateman (Pastor Zion Ferndale); Richard Kahlenbeck (Allen); Paul Smith (Varns) Katie Carvenale (Shelton); Tom Healey (Blaker): Taylor Janssen (Craig); Dara Sperstad, (Grudt); Julian Quandahl, Dennis Hagen, Ruth Weber, (Hagen); Kathy Best (Johnsen): Lauren Burt, (Johnston); Heather Kilpatrick, Lexi Meyer (Kilpatrick): [Danae Jordan, Carole Doll, (Kirsh-Carr)]: Don Korte, The Korte/Luther Families; (Korte): Julia Heath (McDowell): Judy Miller (Oates): Kathy Alferink, (Sailus); [Mike Gibbs, Amanda Shelton, (Shelton): Fred Efros, (Varns); Anita Zimmerman, Brandon Wellbaum.



Serving in the Military including overseas: Adam Craig; (The Craig Family); Ben Klimczak (Brundage); Cody Hedger, (The Hedger/Korri Family); Matt Ferris (Hogrefe); Jim Peaugh ~USN Chaplin; Jacob Stanton (Stanton); Staff Sgt. Michael J. Kalabsa (Kilpatrick); Seaman Paul Ludlam (Kilpatrick); Jacob Smith (Kelly); McCoy Sloan, (Kirsh-Carr), Brandon Blake (Kirsh-Carr), Evan Whitbeck, Todd Truran (Bosanko); Donald Roseen; (Tupper/Dresden); Steve Parisi (Holland).

Please send prayer list updates to the church office at om@stjohn-elca.org.

Many Thanks to Pat Gransee and Marlou Grudt for sending out cards to the people on our prayer concerns list. If you have someone on the list to whom you would like a card sent, contact the office. Thank you!

THE VOICE



8/1 Zachary Switzer
 8/2 Elaine Anderson
 8/3 Clara Sparling
 8/4 Barbara Dilland
 8/5 Ralph Dingle
 Kenneth Roberts

8/6 John Allen
 Christopher Blaker
 8/7 Nicholas Kirsh-Carr
 8/8 Ellen Almquist
 8/8 Judy Lama
 8/9 Hannah Nelson
 8/9 Jessica Palarchio
 8/10 Kevin Blanck
 8/11 David Stenson
 8/13 Betty Waber
 8/15 Leila Malmstrom
 Judith Merrell
 8/17 Ryan Nelson

8/18 Sarah Taube
 8/19 Kim James
 8/20 Carolyn Elian
 8/21 Carol Sterling
 8/23 Graham Pardonnet
 8/24 Larry Craig
 8/25 John Dilland
 8/26 Erin Davis
 8/28 Elve Wiggins
 8/29 Rob Stauffer
 8/31 Elizabeth Turton

If you have a birthday in this month and your name was omitted please check with the church office to make sure that your information is correct and up to date in the records.
 Happy Birthday.

In preparation for the 2017 Church Directory and in getting Church Windows up to date there are Blank Data Entry Forms at the Information desk. A form needs to be completed for each family member so that we can have complete information for each family member. I am missing some members birth date information and that is why you are not included in the monthly birthday listings. I am missing most information from new members and so you are not included in any church mailing and not on the one call list. Please everyone complete a form. They may be placed on the desk in the office, mailed to the church office or scanned and emailed to om@stjohn-elca.org. I printed them on each side of the paper so two can be done with one sheet. Thank you for your cooperation.



THE VOICE

**Thank
You** 

To my many dear friends at St. John Church.

My first visit to St. John was on the last day of August, 1961. We had just moved into our newly built home on Schulte. Two of our three children were ready to start Longacre School, Don into first grade, Debbie into Kindergarten, and Lynne was 2 1/2 years old. My Dad (80 years old) was living with us then because Mom had died the year before.

Bob suggested I try out the new little church around the corner on Gill Road while he showed the kids and Dad around the other corner to the Library and Civic Theatre. God's plan for us was developing.

Pastor Charles Fox visited us the next Wednesday and a wonderful new chapter was beginning in our life! (Pastor always said Bob was the only person he knew who counted his steps to the library)

Blessing upon blessing have been ours through St. John's welcoming and the many wonderful friendships that have developed here.

Thank you all for your loving gifts and cards and your presence at my 90th Birthday celebration.

"There's no time like the present. No present like time..."

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present."

God's Blessings on you all!

Sincerely,

Shirlee Korte, Don, Mary Ann, Deb, Lynne, and my eight grandchildren



**ANNUAL ST. JOHN TIGER BASEBALL GAME
FRIDAY NIGHT AUGUST 19th
TIGERS VS BOSTON RED SOX
\$36.00 Per Ticket**

THE VOICE



Women
of the
**EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

July 13, 2016

St John Lutheran Church
Women of the ELCA
23225 Gill Rd
Farmington Hills, MI 48335-4135

Dear St John Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA,

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Women of the ELCA with your recent gift of \$1,146.00. Your faithful generosity makes a real difference. Thank you.

Thanks to your support, Women of the ELCA is always busy with life-changing ministry in congregations, synods and throughout the church. Synodical women's organizations are meeting in convention throughout the summer and fall, electing officers and choosing voting members for our churchwide triennial convention. The churchwide staff of Women of the ELCA is working on new resources for you to use, including an e-newsletter from *Gather* magazine. And you know how much is going on in your congregational units!

In the meantime, your churchwide board and staff members are working on the Tenth Triennial Gathering to be held in Minneapolis, Minn., July 13-16, 2017. Keep an eye on www.welcag.org for more information as it becomes available.

Your generosity makes all this possible, and so much more. Thank you. To learn more about our ever-growing work together, please see www.womenoftheelca.org.

Your giving really does make a difference. Thank you.

With gratitude,

Linda Post Bushkofsky
Executive Director

P.S. Your itemized receipt appears on the reverse side of this letter. If this acknowledgment does not agree with your records, please contact Vanessa Davis-Bragg by telephone at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2702, or by email at vanessa.davis@elca.org.

8760 West Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631-4101

800-638-3522, ext. 2700
773-390-2700
fax: 773-390-2418

www.womenoftheelca.org



2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9:00AM 7:00 pm Men's Basketball	2 State Primary Election BAC 6:00am VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9:00AM	3 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9:00AM Bride Prep in Music Room 2:00 pm 7:00 pm Men's Basketball	4 8:00 Men's Breakfast @ Eddies VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9:00AM	5 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9:00AM	6
7 10:00 Worship 4:00 pm AA	8 10:00 Quilters Noon Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Men's Basketball	9 1p Prayer Shawl Ministry	10 7:00 pm Men's Basketball	11 8:00 Men's Breakfast	12	13 Building Use MPR 6pm
14 10:00 Worship 2:00 pm Medilodge 4:00 pm AA	15 10:00 Quilters Noon Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Men's Basketball	16	17 7:00 pm Men's Basketball	18 8:00 Men's Breakfast	19	20 11:00 am Memorial Service for Jim Atkinson
21 10:00 Worship 4:00 pm AA	22 10:00 Quilters Noon Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Men's Basketball	23 1p Prayer Shawl Ministry	24 7:00 pm Men's Basketball	25 8:00 Men's Breakfast	26 ***VOICE ARTICLES DUE***	27 Building use MPR 6pm
28 210:00 Worship 2:00 pm Medilodge 4:00 pm AA	29 10:00 Quilters Noon Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Men's Basketball	30	31 10am—11 am 7 pm—8 pm RHG Orientation 7:00 pm Men's Basketball			

St. John Lutheran Church
23225 Gill Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI 48335

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This issue was mailed on July 28, 2016

St. John Lutheran Church

23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335

248-474-0584

email: om@stjohn-elca.org ~ www.stjohn-elca.org

Pastors Lauren and Bill Kirsh-Carr

STAFF

Troy Nelson ~ Director of Music and Worship
Marie Cook ~ Office Manager
Larry Urevig ~ Resource Coordinator
Stella Weller ~ Dir. of Community Outreach
Christian Matjias-Mecca ~ Organist/Pianist
JoAnn Adams ~ Handbell Choir
Marge Sellers ~ Ministry Associate
Ashleigh Altemann ~ Dir. of Youth and
Family Ministry

BOARD MEMBERS

David Androvich
Jackie Craig
Beverly Gerhard
Craig Henriksen
Michael Kennedy
Diane Rinehart

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Resource ~ Ed Kramer
Education ~ John Dresden
Fellowship ~
Worship ~ Troy Nelson
Outreach ~ Stella Weller
Service ~ Bill Halvangis
Communications ~ Elaine Pearson

The Staff at St. John is here to serve you. If you have questions or concerns,
please give us a call; we will be happy to talk to you.