

The Encourager

Spurring one another to love and good deeds

Celebrating 25 years of Service

by Deaconess Lauren Olsen

It is amazing that of the 28 years that I have served as a deaconess, 25 has been here among the people of St. John's. When I came to St. John's 25 years ago, I was still a fairly new deaconess, I had served my internship in Detroit, my first position in Plainfield, New Jersey, my second at Concordia University (it will always be River Forest to me) and Messiah by (Midway Airport).

As I think about my time as your deaconess, there are many memories that I reflect on:

- ❖ Church picnics in the pasture- worship, great food, games and fellowship.
- ❖ Youth activities- Sunday Morning Bible Study, National Youth Gatherings, scavenger hunts, retreats, Servant Events (remember when we went to West Virginia and our sleeping quarters was a former funeral home or in South Dakota sitting in the hall singing hymns during a tornado siren), fund raising, rafting in Wild Rose Wisconsin, Crystal Ball.
- ❖ Going to San Antonio for Stephen Leader training, training Stephen Ministers, and organizing continuing education, and serving as a Stephen Minister.
- ❖ Small group Bible studies-the idea was to gain experience in a small group and then multiply to form more small groups, but you all loved being together and studying God's Word...you just had to stay together for at least 9 years (BLT)!
- ❖ Women's retreats-remember the time we tried to have a silent retreat? We of course did a chocolate retreat, and a Spa retreat. We've retreated at Walcamp, in Elburn at the Deaconry, at the Stronghold, in Lake Geneva, and at hotels.
- ❖ Evangelism and outreach- Friendship weekends, Expo, Car Shows, Connecting Committee Vacation Bible Schools, Little Blessings, Sports Camp (In His Name we play!), Upward Soccer, English as a Second Language.



- ❖ Friendship Club Trips—always an adventure, good sharing, learning new things, serving then the group became the JOY Group (Jesus Older Youth)—we still travel, eat and serve.
- ❖ Coming along your side—for many of you as you have had challenges in your life, I have had the privilege to pray with you before surgery, to listen, and to be there in tough times as well as celebrations.

In all of this, I am sure I have only skimmed the surface of what has happened in 25 years. You all have taught me so much. You have shared the unconditional love that you first experience from our loving God, you express His love and forgiveness always, and you always want to grow in your faith and in love and service to others. Thank you for calling me to be your deaconess 25 years ago! It is a joy to serve my Lord and His precious ones here at St. John's.

Schauer Home Project

By Wayne Gehring

The Schauer home project is an 18' x 24' two story addition that will provide an expanded kitchen, two new bathrooms, master bedroom, closets in each bedroom, office, laundry room and space for home school for the entire family. The project is expected to be completed using volunteer labor, Prayers, Trust in God and financial support you may wish to contribute. The goal is to have the project finished by the first week in October. Pastor Schauer and his family will be staying at Mark and Sherri Manninen's home until project completion.

The project began in late June with excavation for the foundation and footing by Doug Borhart and a number of helpers from Landmark Construction; which was completed on July 24th. Beginning July 27th we started framing the walls and putting up the floor trusses. From July 27th until August 5th we are scheduled to complete the framing up to the roof. Beginning August 6th we hope to have enough volunteers help tear off the existing roof, put up the rafters for the new roof and seal the roof to keep out water. Shingles are then able to be installed, but may be delayed until volunteers are available. Project pictures and estimated expense statement will be on display in the church narthex.

The design was put together by Wayne Gehring. Jerry Stoerp and Rob Roseman are the carpentry leads and Jim Johnson and John Bertram are the electrical and plumbing leads. Paul Hill and Mark Manninen are the volunteer coordinators for labor and meals.

Estimated Expenses*	
Basement Excavation and Cement	\$6,500
Floor Trusses (39 Units)	\$3,000
Laminate Beams	\$500
T&G Flooring	\$500
Styrofoam Sheeting	\$500
Plywood Wall Sheeting	\$ 1,100
Septic System	\$5,000
Electric	\$3,500
Windows	\$3,000
Roofing	\$15,000
Lumber, Insulation & Misc.	\$8,000

***See full expense report in Narthex**

We are truly blessed to have volunteers and helpers who have gotten us to this point, but additional help is always needed. If you would like to volunteer for work, providing meals and lunches or any type of help please contact Paul Hill. We can always find a job for you to do!

A benevolence fund has been set up at church whereby you can receive tax credit on your contribution. When making your contribution you may request that it be given to the Schauer Home Project. *(Please see Benevolence Fund Policy included in this Newsletter)*

Keep this project, Pastor, Melanie and the entire family in your prayers that God will provide what is necessary to complete the addition by October.

The New and Exciting Little Blessings Preschool

by Director and Staff of Little Blessings Preschool

Ready, Set, Learn! Little Blessings is getting ready to kick off our brand new Preschool Program! All new Christian-based curriculum, new rooms, and a fresh new start!

We are proud to announce our amazing staff of certified teachers: Jen Sauder, Shannon Heimsoth and Haley Gifford, our number one teaching team! We are all about academics in action, shining through God's Love!

Mark your calendars! Classes are filling up now-the first day of school will be here before we know it! Classes run Monday thru Thursday from 8:00a.m. to 11:00a.m.

Special Dates to Note:

- **Parent's Night** - Thursday, August 20th at 6:30pm
- **Open House/Meet the Teachers** - Monday, August 24th from 9:00am-11:00am and 6pm-8:00pm
(Choose either session to stop by and meet the teachers, see the classrooms and ask questions you may have.)
- **First day of School** - Tuesday, August 25th

We would love to show off our preschool to you! If you are interested in a tour; we will gladly take you on a Little Blessings adventure! If you are interested in volunteering, we would be honored to have you with us! We are sure to find a task to match every talent!

For registration, tours, volunteering or general questions please call Little Blessings Preschool office at **815.923.2733** for more information.

Church History: Church Picnic

The first picnic was held in the woods on Dunham Road in 1902. This was the year that the first church building was dedicated. Rev. Leinhardt from Texas was the pastor at this time. For many years the picnic was held at Henry Boi's property on Garden Valley Rd.

St. John's Sermon Series

- Where am I on God's Path for My Life (6 weeks)
- Our Best Friend Forever and Ever (6 weeks)
- Best Friends for Now - Liking and Loving others and ourselves (6 weeks)
- Generosity, Faithfulness and Stewardship (4 weeks)
- Discover and use your gifts from God (6 weeks)
- Virtues like and from your best friend forever and ever (8 weeks)
- Growing in Wisdom, Strength, Courage, Discernment and Leadership (5 weeks)
- How do I love God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength (4 weeks)
- How do I readily and continuously love my neighbor (4 weeks)

Strive Forward

This week I will strive forward on God's path for my life by doing the following...

Celebrate Your Daily Wins by following these simple steps:

- Record your "Wins" at thinned of the day. Pray about your wins, it will clear your mind and give you peace.
- Look forward to "Wins" tomorrow. Ignore wins that were hoped for but not fulfilled.
- Celebrate all of life's wins as you go.
- Find God at work in your life DAILY as you walk on his path.

Bells of Peace

The Bells of Peace fall session will begin with a member kick-off dinner at Glo-Bowl on August 14th at 6:00pm. Anyone wishing to learn about bell ringing and/or wanting to join the choir is welcome to join for an evening of fellowship.

Our first rehearsal of the season will be at 6:00pm on Monday, August 31. We will not meet on Labor Day, September 7. The regular rehearsal schedule will begin on Monday, September 14 at 6:00pm and continue through Christmas week. The bell choir will be rehearsing in the new music room space (Room 102B) in the south side hallway.

The planning schedule for ringing in worship is as follows: Fall 2015 Performance Schedule

Saturday	October 3	6:00pm
Sunday	October 18	7:45pm
Sunday	November 1	7:45pm
Saturday	November 14	6:00pm
Sunday	November 22	(TBA Community Thanksgiving Service)
Wednesday	November 25	7:00pm (Heart, Home, Harvest)
Wednesday	December 16	7:00pm (Lessons and Carols)
Thursday	December 24	11:00pm (Candlelight Worship)

We are looking forward to another season of sharing the gifts God has so generously given us with the people of St. John's and the community. To God alone be the glory!

Feeding of the Homeless

For the past few years, over 40 individuals from St. John's have participated in serving breakfast to between 40-60 homeless people that meet at the Vineyard Church in Elgin.

The third Wednesday of every month, a group of up to 6 people prepare and serve a breakfast. They meet at St. John's at 6am and return around 9am. The meals consist of hot foods like casseroles or soups; plus fruit, juice, milk, bread, cookies and cakes. Hot meals are served during the winter months and sandwiches are served during the summer.

If you are interested in helping by shopping, preparing food, baking, providing transportation, serving these meals or donating financially to this effort please contact Mitzie Gehring (815 923-4366) or Sue Ziller (815 923-2733)

JOY Group: Music in the Park at Sinnissippi Park featuring Moonlight Jazz Orchestra

JOY stands for Jesus' Older Youth, for those 50 and better for fellowship and service activities.

Now in their 41st year, The Moonlight Jazz Orchestra has come to be known as "Rockford's Favorite Big Band". Since 1974 they have been showcasing superb musical talent and entertaining stage antics that appeal to every age group. Now in its fifth generation and under the direction of Kent Ecklor, the band continues to be a local favorite, performing everything from classic big band swing to rock-n-roll party hits with an incredible sound and style.

We will leave St. John's at 4:15pm, on Thursday, August 13 get an early dine at Texas Road House and go on to the music shell at Sinnissippi Park for a 7:00pm concert.

Come out and join us in the celebration! Cost is what you choose to spend for supper and share of the gas. Please sign-up in the lobby by August 9.

Meeting: Alcoholics Anonymous

If you or someone you know has a problem with alcohol or drugs come to our closed Alcoholic Anonymous co-ed meetings on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in Room 110.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking and/or using drugs. This diverse, friendly and accepting group of sober and clean men and women have various dates of sobriety - from brand new to years of sobriety. They have been meeting here at St. Johns since January of '07 and are currently involved in Big Book Study.

Anonymity is strictly observed and we have but one primary purpose - to carry the AA message to the alcohol/drug addicted person who still suffers.

PHIL's Friends and Volunteers

The purpose of Phil's Friends is, "to bring hope". People are diagnosed with cancer every day. People with cancer often experience support needs. Many have no place to turn. We all need comfort, peace, and joy. Phil's Friends is a faith-based charity that seeks to provide "the hope" we all need.

On Tuesday, September 15th or 22nd we will leave St. John's at 11:15am and travel to Phil's Friends in Roselle to pack cancer care packages, we will have lunch somewhere on the way, arriving at Phil's Friends at 1:00 pm and pack until 2:30 pm. We will return to St. John's mid afternoon

WinGS: Women in Gods Service

On September 24th WinGS will meet at 7:00pm in the library at St. Johns.

English as a Second Language

English as a Second Language is Expanding

We are excited to announce that McHenry County College is partnering with us to do ESL! We are hoping that having classes here will continue to be convenient for the students, give opportunities for great relationships to be formed, and will extend a hand of hospitality to people who want to have a great life and be a part of a great community!

ESL Classes at St. John's Lutheran Church, 6821 Main Street in Union.

AN INVITATION FOR YOU!

Do you want to learn English?

- to help you in your work
- to help you communicate better with your children's teachers
- so that you can understand your visits to the doctor
- to make new friends

How do I sign-up? Registration is on Wednesday August 5 at 5:30pm

How much does it cost? Classes are offered at no cost to you!

What if I need child care? Please register your children when you sign-up.

What will be the class schedule? Mondays and Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Who will teach the classes? There will be a certified instructor from McHenry County College as well as certified ESL volunteers.

Are you interested in becoming an Adult Literacy Volunteer, classes are offered at McHenry County College, information is in the lobby by the guest register. If we have six people who are interested in training, they will come to St. John's. If you are interested, please speak to Deaconess Lauren.

Women's Small Group Bible Study

WHEN: Saturday's starting September 12th at 7:30am in Deaconess' office

TOPIC: "Passion Pursuit" (10 Week Study)

COST: \$15

Please sign up in the lobby by August 30th.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

WHEN: Sunday's starting Sept. 13th at 9:15-10:15am in Deaconess' office

TOPIC: Free: Spending Your Time and Money on What Matters Most

COST: \$9.99 Kindle or \$14.50 for print copy.

Please sign up in the lobby by August 30th.

Field Trip: Cubs vs Brewers

Hop on Board St. John's Coach to Milwaukee Brewers vs. Cubs

We will take in the last game of the regular season at the beautiful weather proof Miller Park on Sunday, October 4, game time is at 2:10pm. Cost for the trip is \$51 per person which includes game ticket and transportation.

Our seating will be in the Loge bleacher section 236, which is great home run territory! There are backs on the bleachers, just no arms between the seats.

Transportation will be provided by Rockford Motor Coach and will leave at 12 noon. There are 47 tickets available. Please sign up and pay in the lobby and make checks payable to St. John's.

WinGS Bowling Event: Women and Friends of St. John's

Let the Good Times Bowl!

Wednesday, October 14, 2015 7-9pm
at Glo-Bowl Marengo

Cost: \$10 includes bowling, pop & snack.

Please bring a donation of individually (nut free) packaged snacks, especially fruit cups, applesauce, juice boxes (not pouches), non-refrigerated pudding, etc to benefit the Weekend Nutrition Program.

Please sign-up and pay by October 11th

Matthew 25:21

Well done, good and faithful servant!

SCRIP

SCRIP is a gift card program that benefits our St. John's Tuition Education Program. It is **incredibly EASY!** All you do is purchase gift cards at their face value, and those companies give back a portion of the sale to our Tuition Education Program.

Coffee on your way to work? How about Starbuck's or Dunkin' Donuts. Going out to lunch? We have Panera Bread, Olive Garden or Dairy Queen. Buying Clothes? How about a Kohl's card or Dick's Sporting Goods. Need to fill up on Gas? Need a birthday gift? The choices are endless.

And it doesn't cost you a penny more than the actual gift card and it **GREATLY BENEFITS** our church.

Please stop by the SCRIP table after church to see what's in stock. We have gas cards, groceries, restaurants, shopping and much, much more. Need it during the week; call the church office to see what's in stock. If you want a specific company; we can get it for you. Ask for a list of companies that participate at the SCRIP table; HUNDREDS of companies are available!

This program has the potential of earning thousands of dollars for our church. Thank you for supporting Lutheran education.

Benevolence Fund Policy

Formerly called the Care and Share Fund, St. John’s Lutheran Church, in the exercise of its religious and charitable purposes, has established a benevolence fund to assist persons in financial need.

The church welcomes contributions to the fund. Donors and congregation members may feel free to suggest beneficiaries of the fund, however, such suggestions shall be advisory rather than mandatory in nature. The administration of the fund, including all disbursements, is subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the Benevolence Administrator, appointed by the Governing Board. The Benevolence Administrator may consider suggested designations, but in no event is bound in any way to honor them, since they are accepted only on the condition that they are mere suggestions or recommendations.

Donors wishing to make contributions to the benevolence fund subject to these conditions may be able to deduct their contributions. Checks should be made payable to St. John’s Lutheran Church, with a notation that the funds are to be placed in the benevolence fund.

St. John’s Governing Board 2015

Chairperson	Wayne D. Gehring	(815) 923-4366
Vice-Chair	Paul Hill	(815) 923-2705
Secretary	Nancy Modrich	(847) 659-1103
Board Member	Lori Borhart	(815) 568-5799
Board Member	Mark Manninen	(815) 923-7675
Board Member	Lanny Brasile	(815) 923-4165
Board Member	Beth Reineking	(815) 923-2725

Financial Advisory Council

- Beth Reineking
- Jenny Arevalo
- Pastor Schauer

Pastoral Oversight Committee

- Wayne Gehring
- Lanny Brasile
- Paul Hill

In Case We Missed You...

The Encourager will be published quarterly; our next issue will be in November. If you have an event or information happening in November, December or January please email me details at paulhoban@sbcglobal.net.