

The Encourager

Spurring one another to love and good deeds

Doing Something

By Wayne Gehring

This is the theme the Governing Board and others have adopted for 2016. It means it's time to get out of your warm safe space and get involved in making things happen at St John's. It is not acceptable to get into a huddle and call a play then break and sit down only to call another play and sit down. It is time to step forward and "do something" to help our church be a more meaningful part of each of our lives.

Pastor, Mark Manninen and others are working on training and encouraging people to grow in their faith and reach out to others to make them Disciples of Christ. The Alaska mission group is planning a number of fund raiser social events to sponsor their mission work in July 2017. Jim Johnson is the contact for additional social events you might think would help St John's family become more of a family.



The following is a short list of events that are being considered about for St John's:

MAY 7, 2016	Ladies tea Party -- Sally Rendell
JUNE	Bags Tournament -- Linda Zump
JULY	Jamming in the park pavilion
AUGUST	Cool cruise for Christ –Bring your cars, tractors, etc for display and join in with burgers & hot dogs plus beverage
SEPTEMBER	Trivia night -- Lori Mathesin
OCTOBER	Fall Festival
NOVEMBER	Chili/Desert – cook-off or taco fest
DECEMBER	CELEBRATE CHRIST ALL MONTH
JANUARY	Game Night – come and play a variety of board games followed with fellowship and prizes
FEBRUARY	Church Auction – Wayne Gehring
MARCH	the best of St John's – sharing recipes and foods from St John's cook book
APRIL	Fays BBQ

These events are to be open to the community and some will have ticket and or event charges. As you will note some events have a contact or coordinator listed others are open for you to jump in and make them happen. If you want to change some event just call Jim Johnson or Wayne Gehring and we will try to help you make it happen. I know there are other events that I may not know of so let's get them to Sue Ziller so she can list them.

Won't you work with us to connect all services at St John's and do something to make our church family grow and feel more as one in serving Christ? LET US "DO SOMETHING" TOGETHER.

Zion and St. John's Lutheran Churches Vacation Bible School

Please register now for **Barnyard Roundup Vacation Bible School.**
at Zion Lutheran Church
412 Jackson Street, Marengo, IL
June 20th thru June 24th, 2016
8:30am - 11:30am

At Barnyard Roundup, we'll learn about Jesus our Savior through five Bible stories, meet new friends, do fun activities, sing great songs, make crafts, play games, eat snacks, and more!

Our VBS program is open to children (potty trained) ages 3 years old to those entering the 6th grade. We are glad to have your children participate in this fun, week-long adventure!

We see Vacation Bible School as a great outreach, so there will be no charge to attend. To help keep the cost low for everyone, donations are happily accepted. A list of needed supplies & snacks will be posted in the Church Narthex. Your children will want to tell you about their barnyard adventures, so please make plans to come to the closing program on Friday, June 24th, at 11:00 a.m.

As part of Barnyard Roundup Vacation Bible School, we share God's blessings with others through a mission project. This year, we are asking for non-perishable donations for the Marengo Food Pantry. To make this even more fun, the classes will be competing with each other throughout the week. All students will receive a prize for each donation they bring each day. The class that brings in the most items will receive a special prize at Friday's closing program.

We look forward to an amazing week!

Sunrise Breakfast for the Homeless

We thank everyone who has helped us supply hot food to the homeless of Elgin these past 7 months. We were able to supply a hardy hot breakfast to about 50 to 60 homeless people at the Vineyard church in Elgin. We continue to serve these people the third Wednesday of each month, all year around.

In May we will begin providing sandwiches to feed 60 people. The menu will consist of sandwiches in individual bags along with bags of chips, cookies, fruit, boiled eggs, juice boxes and cases of water. If you can help supply any of these items this summer it would be greatly appreciated.

Contact Sue Ziller 815-923-2733 or Mitzie Gehring 815-923-4366 if you can help or want to be involved in this ministry.

We have applied to Thrivent for support for this effort and they have been very generous in their help.

Elders Retiring

Thank you to Dan Reiniking, George Partlow and Bob Shaw for their many years of service as Elders at St. John's Lutheran Church.

National Day of Prayer: May 5th at 7:30pm

Please join us at St. John's as we come together as a church in prayer.

Church History: by Betsy Papp

During the month of May we will be featuring in the display case items from Little Blessings Preschool. There will be some of their work and the books they use and pictures of the classes.

Lani Murray has designed and made all of our banners. In the month of June and July we will be featuring pictures of these banners. She began working on them in 2001. Behind each banner is a Bible verse. I will be putting the Bible verses in front of the banners so everyone will be able to understand the banners a little more.

As with the banners many of our Historical Artifacts have been made by church members. One of those items is the Baptismal handkerchiefs and they are all made by Karin Schacht.

During May or June the group picture of the 2016 Confirmands will be displayed in the picture racks.

Little Blessings Preschool

Little Blessings Preschool will be completing its first year under the new structure. It has been a wonderfully, successful year and the students have been thriving under the leadership of our excellent teachers, Ms. Jen Sauder, Ms. Haley Gifford and Ms. Shannon Heimsoth.

The preschool has God at its center – and the entire class time is connected to Him. We are always talking about Shining for Jesus – which is our way of being examples of His love. We will be off for the summer, and start up again September 7th, the day after Labor Day.

We still have a few opening in our classes, so spread the word! If you know anyone looking for a quality preschool – have them give us a call at 815-923-2733. Thank you to everyone for your support – both in prayers and in donations. We are blessed to be a part of such a wonderful, loving church.

Our end of school year ceremony will be Thursday, May 19 at 6:30 pm. Please join us for this celebration!

JOY Group: Hornbaker Gardens

We will leave St. John's at 9am on Tuesday, June 14, travel to Princeton, have lunch at Myrtle's Pie and Café perhaps! Then we will visit the beautiful gardens at Hornbaker's they are known for their Hostas and Daylilies,

Park Avenue in Princeton is known for Red Covered Bridge, built in 1863 over Big Bureau Creek a mile north of Interstate 80. It is one of only five original covered bridges left standing in Illinois, has been maintained in beautiful condition, and is still open to vehicular traffic. We will return to St. John's mid to late afternoon.

JOY Group potlucks will resume in the fall. Keep a watch on the bulletin for more summer fun activities.

Trivia Fun Night on Your Financial Future

Please join St. John's Endowment Committee for a fun evening of appetizers, wine and trivia on Thursday, June 23rd from 6:30-8pm at 18401 Grimmer Avenue, Marengo, IL.

Please bring your favorite appetizer or bottle of wine to share!

RSVP: Sue Ziller in the church office at 815-923-2733 or one of the following committee members - Annette Hammortree, Randy Hauschildt, Anne Conro or Lori Borhart.

Thank You

A special thank you to David Moore for the many years of mowing service at St. John's.



St. John's Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

6821 Main Street Union, Illinois 60180

Phone: (815) 923-2733

Email: littleblessingslc.info@yahoo.com

Shining For Jesus!

Our preschool staff of highly qualified and motivated Christian educators:

Jen Sauder—Lead Teacher

Shannon Heimsoth—Lead Teacher

Haley Gifford—Co-Teacher/Driver

Gail Perkins—Director

Our preschool is supported by a wonderful, caring church staff:

Caleb Schauer—Pastor

Lauren Olsen—Deaconess

Sue Ziller—Church Secretary

Jenny Arevalo—Business Manager

God is the center of our learning here at Little Blessings Preschool.

The following are the curricular highlights of our program:

- One in Christ Curriculum
- Handwriting Without Tears
- Jolly Phonics
- Integrated Math, Science and Social Studies
-

Christian Education is the very core of our program – Jesus is evident daily in our actions and activities.

“Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Mark 10:4

St. John's is Commissioning Journey of Hope Friends

St. John's is proud to share with the community a new program, called Our Journey of Hope®, a ministry that offers support and care to men, women and families fighting cancer or other chronic illnesses.

Through this program, church and community members touched by cancer and illness are provided with practical help and spiritual counsel that are specific to their needs as a cancer patient, caregiver or loved one.

Cancer and chronic illness impacts the patient and the family. We want to meet the special physical and spiritual needs of those in our community, and let them know we are here for them.

Our Mission:

Journey of Hope at St. John's is a ministry of hope, courage and compassion motivated by God's love bringing the Light to those who are suffering. We intend to accomplish this through support groups fostering relationships and education.

Our Journey of Hope, Cancer Treatment Centers of America describes the ministry in this way, *"Cancer care ministry is a hope ministry. While it involves prayer, counsel, visits and assistance, it is centered on bringing God's hope to patients and their caregivers, family and friends. This requires an understanding of the impact of cancer, how people react to it and how God has called His people to respond. Above all, it requires us to have within ourselves an unfeigned hope that we can take to those in need."*

In preparation for the launch of Journey of Hope at St. John's, seven of our members completed the biblically based eight week Our Journey of Hope cancer care ministry training program, which is developed and sponsored by Cancer Treatment Centers of America.

Journey of Hope at St. John's is available to the church and the community. Do you know someone who is battling cancer or another chronic illness who would be interested in being paired with a Journey of Hope Friend?

Journey of Hope at St. John's Friends are equipped and ready to serve, please contact Deaconess Lauren at 815-923-2733.

Youth Band Seeking Members

The Youth Band is seeking new members between the ages of 10-18 years old to participate for the summer months.

Daniel S. will be in attendance for the summer session to lead our youth in contemporary worship. Practices will be after services each week and will lead worship the last Sunday of May, June and July.

If you are interested in participating and/or learning guitar, drums, piano, vocals or bass guitar please contact Tamara Kowalski in the church office.

S.C.R.I.P

We are no longer offering SCRIP Program due to the amount of administrative effort necessary in respect to the funds raised. We would like to thank all those who participated over the years by buying and selling gift cards.

Helping Others

These organizations received financial support from St. John's in 2016:

- + Vineyard Soup Kitchen (Elgin) - \$155
- + Lutheran Church Charities - \$1,020
- + Northern IL District Missouri Synod - \$5,294
- + Lutheran Women Missionary League (Mites) - \$87
- + Alaska Mission for Christ - \$898
- + Walcamp - \$1,250
- + Lutherans for Life - \$1,000
- + Informed Choices - \$200
- + Various individuals through Benevolence Funds

Generosity

Due to generous giving this year to date, we have **decreased** the line of credit principal by **\$13,700** as of March 31, 2016.

If you haven't picked up your 2016 Giving envelopes, its not too late! They are in a labelled drawer located in the church office. Thank you for writing your donation amounts on the envelope.

Are you tired of writing checks or withdrawing cash for your donations? Try online giving by going to stjohnsluth.org and choosing the Donate/Pay tab.

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 2016

Chairperson	Wayne D. Gehring	(815) 923-4366
Vice-Chair	Jim Johnson	
Secretary	Lanny Brasile	(815) 923-4165
Board Member	Lori Borhart	(815) 568-5799
Board Member	Paul Hill	(815) 923-2705
Board Member	Nancy Modrich	(847) 659-1103
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 is published quarterly; our next issue will be in August. If you have an event happening in August, September or October please email details to paulhoban@sbcglobal.net.