

The Messenger

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

-A Member of the WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)-

610 Broadway St. NE

Minneapolis, MN 55413

612-379-4296

www.stjohnsmpls.wels.org

Worship – Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

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Bible Studies – Sundays at 8:45 a.m. & Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. & Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Pastor: Daniel M. Lindner

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." - John 1:29

Living with Real Purpose

We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. – Ephesians 2:10

Your life matters. You are living for a reason. Your life has purpose. Without purpose, life is boring and meaningless; there is little sense of life's significance and value. Having a life filled with purpose is not just for the super-successful and highly important. God doesn't just look after famous people who have accomplished great feats or individuals who have been placed in high positions of leadership. He cares for everyone. From the macro to the micro level, he declared his love for the world. There is no doubt, he loves you and gives your life real purpose. He does all this, not because you are deserving, but purely by his grace.

God demonstrated his grace when he saved you through your Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus' perfect life counts for you. He suffered and died as your substitute. His rising from the grave means that you will also rise from the dead. And since he has saved you for all eternity—the greater thing—does he not also have great purpose for you in this life, the lesser thing? Yes! What is more, God says that he has created you to do what he has already planned for you. With every task and responsibility God has given your life purpose.

There is purpose in the mother who cares for her newborn and the father who teaches his son to double-knot his shoelaces. There is purpose in children who obey, just as there is purpose for the soldier who follows orders, the citizen who respects leaders, and the employee who goes to work.

Even your average day has purpose, for God has equipped and called you for each task of life. He does not intend life to be mundane mediocrity. Life is not meant to be compartmentalized into

significant and insignificant pieces. Instead, God wants you to see his purpose for you as the fiber seamlessly woven through fabric of every facet of your life.

You have important purpose in life. Primarily, it is to know God's love for you through Jesus. Motivated by his grace, you can willingly follow his lead through life and lovingly serve the people he brings into your life. That's living with real purpose!

So keep your eyes on Jesus, who died for you, and your enemy the devil can't have his wicked way with you. The truth is that the devil's evil work has been destroyed by the Son of God, Jesus Christ. He is your Savior from Satan.

St. John's News & Notes
From the Church Council

Door Offering: As our 150th Anniversary Celebration approaches, our congregation has incurred a number of costs to have this celebration. Some examples of those costs include advertisement materials, the pictorial directory, guest preacher, and the anniversary dinner. Our Congregational Ministry Plan (budget) didn't have these costs as line items. While we have areas where they fit, they may limit our financial resources for other projects and activities. The biggest cost comes through the dinner. From the RSVPs from our own members, verbal communication from former members and staff, LIMA members, and college students, our estimated cost to feed everyone is around \$2200. Our total estimation of costs is about \$3,000. We'd like to offset that cost through a door offering. The reason behind catering the meal was due to allowing all of our members to enjoy the worship service and meal without having to worry about food preparation, serving the meal, and clean up. We will have collection plates at the back of church for this purpose on three consecutive Sundays (September 10, 17, & 24). We hope that we will be able to cover a good portion (if not all) of the cost for the meal. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Lindner.

Pastoral Cell Phone: Through the partnership between LIMA/True North and St. John's, Pastor Lindner now carries a cell phone (one specifically geared for work related calls). Please feel free to use that. The number for that phone is 612-378-1346. He has the capability to text with that phone (for those that prefer to text). If you happen to have his other cell phone number, please delete that. As time goes on, the home phone number will also be phased out.

St. John's Staff: As we begin another School Year, this gives us the opportunity to communicate with the congregation how our staff is utilized and scheduled. Our Administrative Assistant, Nicole Person, has hours in the office from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday consistently. Remember that as our Administrative Assistant, Nicole is not hired to answer the phone or carry out tasks requested by members. She's hired to assist our pastor and administrative team with specific

duties. Please be mindful when she is in the office. She has specific tasks she needs to get done in the short timeframe we've allotted for her. As friendly and kind as she is, stopping by to just talk with her can keep her from getting what she needs to get done. Also, be mindful of her Sundays. She comes to church to worship with her family, not to carry out Administrative Assistant duties, open the office, open other rooms, etc.

Diane Hofer, St. John's Custodian, also has specific duties. We have a big building and there are certain duties that are not hers. As with Nicole, please be mindful of Diane when she is in worship. She is here to worship. She's not the one who is here to clean up messes or fix bathrooms, doors, etc. She's here to worship (we want to emphasize that with both Nicole and Diane). If there are building issues on Sundays, please see Mike Stevens, the organizer of our Trustees or one of our other Councilmen. When there are group activities, Diane is not hired to clean up after those group activities. We ask that whoever is organizing the activity will take care of the clean up (a good rule of thumb is to leave the area utilized cleaner than when you arrived).

With Pastor Lindner, he's your pastor. He's here to serve you. However, there are specific ways that he is here to serve you. While he may be clued into everything that is going on, there are specific duties that have been delegated and entrusted to our Council and Boards to handle. He may not be clued into everything. In fact, we have been taking away and hope to take more off of his plate so he can serve both of these ministries that he's called to serve with preaching, teaching, and calling upon those with spiritual needs. As the School Year begins, his time is going to be divided. We don't have a Vicar this year to help when situations come up where Pastor Lindner could be useful in two places at the same time. Pastor Lindner is equipped with a cell phone. He'll use that as he's able. We still have our church line. We use the answering service connected to it. Pastor Lindner also tries to take at least one day off a week. That day is Friday. (It doesn't mean he doesn't work on Fridays. Sometimes things come up or he gets behind.) He also uses Mondays to do his text study (meaning he spends a portion of the day translating Hebrew or Greek) for the upcoming Sunday's sermon and attempts to write the first draft of the sermon. He does it this way so that he can be thinking about the personal study he did and the text during the week so that you have an edifying sermon on Sunday. If you happen to be in the building and his door is closed, that means he's either doing that study or with someone. Please be mindful of that. He checks his emails and phone daily. Leave him a message, shoot him a text, or send him an email. He tends to respond (if a response is needed) rather quickly.

We're also asking that you continue to use our Councilmen for the various things that have been entrusted to them. They are happy to serve you. Please also bear in mind that many of them have other responsibilities entrusted to them and they may not get back to you right away.

Anniversary Update

Anniversary Committee Meeting: The 150th Anniversary is fast approaching and we need to check in with the various sub-committees to see where we are with the plans for this special event. The next meeting will be on Saturday, September 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Anniversary Events: Please mark on your calendar these special activities going on the weekend of October 13-15.

All School Reunion: On Friday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m. a St. John's All School Reunion is scheduled to happen at the Gasthof zur Gemitlicheit. St. John's School opened in September of 1975 and had to close our doors here in May of 2004. The St. John's School Committee under the coordination of Cheryl Nelson has contacted 150 of the 300 or so students that came through these doors. She has also contacted 18 former called workers. The All School Reunion is meant to be a way to reconnect with many of those who received a Christian Education here. Many of these former students live in Northeast and do not have a church home. We're hoping through this Reunion that we can tell them we're still here. Why the Gasthof was selected was because there is no charge for those attending to go there. The restaurant hopes that patrons will purchase any food and beverages there. That's up to the individual. As stated, we're hoping the presence of our members there is one where we are able to invite those former children, now adults, to join us for the worship service on Sunday and to consider making St. John's a place where they regularly receive the gifts that their Savior wants to give through Word and Sacrament.

True North & Alumni Vesper Service & Reunion: The WELS Campus Ministry has had a presence in the Twin Cities under various names. Currently the name is True North. We trace the beginning of this campus ministry to the year 1964. There was activity prior to this, but our Synod was accustomed to letting others take care of this demographic prior to 1964. True North has been a nomadic ministry. Various congregations have shared their pastors. They have had their own pastor for a timespan. Right now, they are a part of St. John's. We hope that our congregation sees the blessing of being connected to a campus ministry and attempts to take even more ownership of the ministry. We are also trying to build the relationship between those that have benefitted from having a campus ministry serve them (through our

Synod's Board for Home Missions) with the current students that enjoy this blessing. Our attempt to do this is through establishing and building the True North Alumni & Friends Group. It's had some traction but like with most attempts at growing a group, it's a one by one process. St. John's is at a point now where Pastor Lindner has served this ministry for five years (come October) and we have our own list of Alumni. Our Anniversary weekend is also Parent's Day weekend at the University of Minnesota. We really want True North to feel like they are a part of this congregation's ministry (because they are). The slow build that has gone on from 1964 until now has involved many congregations, pastors, supporters of campus ministry, and students. We would like this weekend to also serve as a reunion weekend. This is where former True Northerners (whether they were under the title of WELS Collegians or students of WELS Campus Ministry – Twin Cities) can reunite and/or meet others. Our plan for the Reunion is to have an evening vesper service (some hymns and a short devotion from Pastor Lindner) and then time for all who attend to enjoy the True North rooms with some social time. They may organize hitting the town as they notice our neighborhood has a lot going on. We also want them to consider joining us for the special worship service and meal on Sunday morning. The Vesper isn't meant to take the place of the worship service.

Sunday Worship Celebration & Dinner: On Sunday, October 15 we will gather for the 150th Anniversary Celebration followed by a chicken dinner. We will have a guest preacher that morning. Pastor Keith Free, the Administrator for our Synod's Board for Home Missions, will serve in that capacity. He was asked because currently he's one of the men who knows what's going on from the Home Mission perspective. Home Missions has supported St. John's Vicars the past two years. Home Missions supports a portion of LIMA and the Campus Ministry. To close the service, we will be trying to recreate the photo from 1910 in the front of church. Weather pending, the plan is to close outside with the blessing and the singing of God's Word is Our Great Heritage (you'll have a bulletin but if you'd like to memorize a beautiful hymn, you can start now). After the picture(s), we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for the meal and any type of presentations. For those concerned about the Packer/Viking matchup at noon, we have three TVs in church – one of them 120 inches - that will have the game on).

Anniversary Thank Offering: We will be celebrating our 150th Anniversary for an entire year. We hope to collect a special offering throughout the year. This offering is meant to be above and beyond our normal offerings. A special envelope will be available on the Anniversary Sunday. Our hope is the possibility of raising about \$300,000-350,000 for some special projects. One of them is to retire our Gathering

and Serving Debt. We'll have more regarding that special collection in next month's Messenger.

From the Board of Education

Bible Studies offered this month:

- Sundays mornings at 8:45 a.m. – “The Three Ecumenical Creeds”
- Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. – “Joseph – God will give you the answer” @ Coffman Union
- Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – “Old Testament Survey- Kings”
- Thursday 7:30 p.m. – “ Joseph – God will give you the answer
- Sunday School – We resume on September 10.
- We will switch back to our 8:45 Bible Study and Sunday School time on Sunday, September 10.

Sunday School: Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 10. This is for children ages 4-13. We are putting together packets for the children we will be having. If you have any children in that age group, please let Pastor Lindner know. We would love to have your child sitting at their Savior's feet in our Sunday School. We are also looking for more volunteers to serve as teachers. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Lindner.

Confirmation Class: Confirmation Class for the next School Year will begin on Saturday, September 9 at 4:00 p.m. Parents are invited to join their children in this instruction. If you have a child entering 7th or 8th grade, this class is for them. Please let Pastor Lindner know if your child will be attending.

From the Board of Elders

Altar Guild: Altar Guild meetings will resume on Tuesday, September 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Worship Committee: The Worship Committee meets on Tuesday, September 12 at 5:30 p.m.

September Anniversaries

19– Charles & Diane Hofer 23– Mark & Nicole Person 30 – Larry & Chris Kelly

Happy Anniversary!

September Birthdays

1– Ella Kuha	11– Emily Holden	20 – Amanda Holden
1– Matthew Meadocraft	12 – Kenneth Clark	22 – Suzanne Barker
1– Thomas Johns	16 – Lucy Beckmann	22 – Corrine Barkley
4 – Larry Kelly	17 – Joanne Pulley	23 – Diane Hofer
7– Jesse Holden	17 – Morris Stewart	24– Charles Hofer
9 – Stewart Hofer	17 – Dane Lawrence	
10 – Thomas Cardin	18 – Lois Anderson	

Happy Birthday!

From the Board of Christian Growth & Outreach

Meeting – This month's Growth and Outreach meeting we will be discussing Movie Nights. Our recent survey has indicated significant interest by our congregation. All are welcome to come with suggestions or ideas.

Book Club: The next Book Club Event is on Sunday, September 10 at 4:00 p.m. in the True North Theater Room. The book with open discussion is: *Diplomats Daughter* by Karin Tanabe. Please contact Hayley Gifford by text or call 763-732-9625 with any questions.

Game Night: Come to St. John's Saturday, September 16 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. for our game night. Bring your games for a night of fun with your fellow brothers and sisters of St. John's and our True North Campus family. Coffee and water will be provided. However, feel free to bring anything you would like. We look forward to seeing you for a night of fun.

Seeker Services: We continue to encourage our members to proclaim our Savior to those we know and those we don't. With the upcoming meals being offered on the 2nd Sunday of the month, these are designed to be "visitor friendly". Let's make use of those Sundays. Invite and bring a friend with you.

From the Board of Stewardship

Meal Sundays: We plan to utilize the 2nd Sunday of each month during the School Year as a meal Sunday. On those Sundays, our members will feed the college students in our midst while enjoying the meals ourselves. The first scheduled meal Sunday will take place on Sunday, September 10. This will give our congregation the opportunity to meet and greet some of the college students. LIMA pays for these meals. We take a freewill collection at each meal to help offset their costs.

From the Board of Trustees

Thank You: We want to thank the individuals, some of whom spent tireless hours, working on the floor of our Fellowship Hall. In order to put a fresh coat of paint (hopefully a more durable type), they spent time stripping away anywhere from 20-40 layers. They filled in cracks and addressed some of our concrete issues. They cleaned numerous times. Finally, they were able to put paint down. What we hoped would be a 2-3 Saturday job turned into a year-long project. We're grateful for the time, energy, and resources invested into beautifying our Fellowship Hall. How our building looks has an impact on visitors. We thank those who took care of this!

Building Security: As we begin another School Year, we are reminding our members and the True North students that we want to make our building accessible. If you would like to have your own code to get in and out or if you would prefer a FOB or Card, please sign up in the back (FOBs & Cards require a \$10 deposit). We also are asking that you help keep our building secure. Our doors are normally locked. As you leave, please pull

on the door to make sure it secures behind you. Also, feel free to use the rooms. We just ask that you are mindful of who is using them. During the School Year, True North will get first dibs at the rooms behind the sanctuary. Even if they are here for a St. John's planned activity, we should have plenty of space. We also ask if you use space, that you would please make sure that you tidy it up (we hope you leave it cleaner than you found it). If you had garbage, please take that out to the dumpster behind the Sanctuary as you leave. If you have food, please either vacuum or make sure you have it cleaned up. (As the weather gets colder, these little things like mice like to come into our building to warm up. If they find food residue, they tend to make their winter home in those places. We don't want these type of winter residents.)

Other

Hurricane Harvey Relief: In August, Hurricane Harvey hit our countries Gulf Coast. This has impacted some of our sister congregations. For example, one of them is the congregation Pastor Lindner was called to in the fall of 2016 in Victoria. One avenue if anyone is interested in helping those in need during this time of strife is through our Synod's Christian Aid and Relief Committee. This is a specific link:
<https://wels.net/hurricane-harvey-updates/>

One of the reasons we prefer to work through them is they have experience with helping with Natural Disasters. As sad as this is, there are some "relief groups" that utilize natural disasters to serve their own purposes or fill their own pockets. The Our Synod's Christian Aid and Relief Committee knows how to navigate through sketchy donation sites so that those in need are served. If you would like to support the victims of Hurricane Harvey through our congregation/Synod, either visit the site directly or mark your donation for Hurricane Harvey Relief and our Board of Finance will get it to our Synod. This arm of our Synod is wonderful organization that looks to help those impacted by unexpected catastrophes. Each Thanksgiving, they supply us with our bulletins and list the various areas that they've been able to support over the past year. Please keep all those impacted by this storm in your prayers.

Men's Retreat: The annual Men's Retreat organized through Salem Lutheran in Stillwater takes place the weekend of September 15-16. For more information please speak with Pastor Lindner.

History Lesson in the Neighborhood: One of our local libraries is doing a presentation on Martin Luther. This is not something produced by our circles (the Wisconsin Synod) but it may give some good insight into the life of Luther. It takes place on September 23rd. Here is the information we were sent.

Walk to Rome with Martin Luther! More than 500 years ago, friar Martin Luther left his native Saxony on pilgrimage to Rome. Along the way he traversed Germany, scaled the Alps, witnessed Florence in its apogee, and Rome during its Renaissance. What's left of Luther's Europe? In 2010 local writer Andrew Wilson set out

with his wife Sarah to find out. Come travel with the Wilsons as they retrace Luther's steps on foot, seeing what Luther saw---and much of what he didn't. Revisit the ensuing Reformation too, and learn what's changed in the last 500 years to separate, and to unite Protestants and Catholics.

The event takes place Saturday, September 23rd from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Minneapolis Central Library in Pohlad Hall. Registration is required. People can call (612)543-5669 or register online at <https://hclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search/index>.

Again, and this our disclaimer, you may get some things that don't coincide with the Bible. As the 500th Anniversary soon approaches, one aspect to be ready for is the highlighting of how the Reformation changed society from the earthly kingdom(s) aspect. (An example in the blurb above is the highlighting of how there has been some uniting of Protestants and Catholics.) While we bear the name Lutheran, we don't bear that name to honor the man. The aspect of the Reformation that we highlight is how the Lord used Luther and others to direct people back to the Bible. From studying and going back to the Bible, this led to our confessions – the Book of Concord. Luther played a key role in that.

At the same time, this era in history is very interesting. This event at the Minneapolis Central Library may give some good insight into the historical time that Luther lived.

Meal Leaders: We are nearing that time of year where the college students will be returning. Our first scheduled meal for the college students is Sunday, September 10. Our Dinner Committee is assembling and organizing. If you are interested in serving with others as we prepare and serve these meals, please let Margie Stevens or Nicole Person know. The tentative meal plan for the year is:

College Feed (Italian) – Sunday, September 10
Anniversary Dinner – Sunday, October 15 (catered)
College Feed (Turkey Sandwiches) – Sunday, November 12
Midweek Advent Song Service (Soup & Sandwich) – Wednesday, December 6
College Feed (Ham and Cheesy Potatoes) – Sunday, December 10
College Feed (Baked Chicken) – Sunday, February 11
Midweek Lenten Meal – Wednesday, February 14
Midweek Lenten Meal – Wednesday, February 21
Midweek Lenten Meal – Wednesday, February 28
Midweek Lenten Meal – Wednesday, March 7
Midweek Lenten Meal – Wednesday, March 14
Midweek Lenten Meal – Wednesday, March 21
Easter Breakfast (Council) – Sunday, April 1
End of the Year Picnic – Sunday, May 6
Ascension Fellowship Hour – Thursday, May 10

From the Pastor

Returned Call: For those who were not able to be in attendance on Sunday, August 27, Pastor Lindner returned the Call to serve at Grace in Vail and Benson in AZ. He's looking forward to serving and working with the saints at St. John's and True North. Thank you to those who took the time to keep me in their prayers and/or talk with me.

Pastor Lindner out of town – Pastor Lindner will be out of town from September 23-October 1. He will be in Mississippi with his mother and brother. If you have a spiritual emergency, please contact our LIMA pastor, Pastor Mark Kom at 612-756-3377 or Pastor Dan Voigt at 651-447-3075. Pastor Voigt is our Circuit Pastor. He will be leaving the pastoral cell phone here during that time. You can always contact one of our Councilmen too if it's a normal congregational matter.