



The Messenger
St. John Lutheran Church

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July

In This Issue

A Word from our Pastor	Page 2
Social Ministries	Page 3
Prayer Ministries	Page 3
Ladies Aid	Page 4
Christian Education	Page 4
Evangelism/Outreach	Page 8
Spiritual Fathers	Page 8
What is the Good Life?	Page 10
Church Announcements	Page 11
Birthdays and Anniversaries	Page 12
Calendar	Page 13

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday and Thursday: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday and Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

No appointment is necessary – just stop by! Please call the office and make an appointment if these times are not convenient (345-0120).

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Dear members and friends of St. John,

What is **hope** to the non-Christian? How does the secular world define **hope**? Here are some popular quotes on what hope is, from those who don't believe.

Hope lies in dreams, in imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality. Dr. Jonas Salk.

Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for. Epicurus

I do believe that most men live lives of quiet desperation. For despair, optimism is the only practical solution. Hope is practical. Because eliminate that and it's pretty scary. Hope at least gives you the option of living. Harry Nilsson

Hope for the unbeliever is rooted in themselves. A person must somehow muster up the hope that is needed to move forward. Without the motivation that comes from hope in his future, man is paralyzed. Life becomes meaningless. Like Nilsson says, "Men live lives of quiet desperation."

So, what's the problem? It shouldn't be too difficult to whip up a little hope on our own, right? The difficulty lies in the reality of our past. We aren't good at predicting the future, nor are we good at charting a course for our life. Too often, the things we have hoped for, when they became a reality, were disappointing or even hurtful to us and others (sorry, Epicurus, but what we have is often the mess of our own making). Hindsight is 20-20. Our view of the future is not. Our decision making is tainted by sin. Basing hope on yourself is like betting everything on a horse with a broken leg. The odds aren't good.

So, what makes Christian hope so different from secular hope? Real hope in our future is **not** something that we must produce within ourselves – it's **given to us from God**. And our Lord's view of the future is perfectly clear. Hear what the author of Hebrews says about hope:

"So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ¹⁹We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek" (6:17-20, ESV).

The first part of this text speaks to **God's promise to Abraham**, followed by God Himself extending an **oath** to give us a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek (see Ps. 110:4). **Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God's promises to us. This makes Jesus Christ the sure anchor of our souls.** We have God's own word and oath – and that's more secure than anything man can hope for on his own. Jesus' death on the cross has torn the curtain that separated man from God. Man has been reconciled to God. With faith in Jesus, given to us by the Holy Spirit, we have forgiveness for all of our sins. We have the promise of eternal life. And when we do sin, we have Jesus as our intercessor, our High Priest, who intercedes for us with our Father in heaven.

All of this points to **a hope not centered on our goodness or abilities**, but on **God's goodness and mercy**, giving us His guarantee of eternal life in heaven. And this is a guarantee that can't be broken.

The difference between manmade hope and God's eternal hope could not be more striking. We have **sure and certain hope** that will not disappoint us. We have God's own

promise and oath. Consider these words from our Christian forefather, John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, written in the 4th century A.D.:

[The author of Hebrews] shows that while we are still in the world and not yet departed from this life, we are already living amid God's promises. For through hope we are already in heaven... As the anchor, dropped from the vessel does not allow it to be carried about even if ten thousand winds agitate it but, being depended upon, makes it steady, so also does hope.¹

Manmade hope is shaken by the first little storm that comes, leaving one in a state of despair (sorry, Mr. Nilsson, optimism is too easily washed overboard when man is in trouble, stripping man of his "only practical solution.") **Our Christian hope is anchored in Christ Jesus' atoning work, and no storm, no matter how great can break this bond with God.**

Chrysostom is correct: through hope we are already in heaven. May this sure and certain hope of heaven be your anchor, until you live with Him in heaven forever. Amen.

Pastor Travis

1. Oden, Thomas C., Ed, *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, Vol. X, Hebrews*, InterVarsity Press, c. 2005, p. 93.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

FOOD TRUCK – We are collecting donations of personal hygiene items and cleaning products to distribute at the Food Truck give-a-ways. Individuals in need cannot purchase items such as shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, or household cleaners with their Bridge cards even though they are needed.

We are working with a grant from Thrivent and our local Walmart for the food funding. A collection basket will be in the fellowship hall for donations. We very much appreciate the support we get from all of you! Very blessed to be a part of this church family! Questions can be made to Lisa or Bev.

Please save the date and come join us for a picnic on 9/9/18 at Irons Park after Sunday Service...please bring a dish to pass... meat will be provided...Thanks

PRAYER MINISTRIES

Prayer Warriors – Thank you to all of you who have stood in the gap praying for our students throughout the school year! We encourage you to remember your assigned students in prayer throughout the summer and new students will be assigned in September.

Praying for you... Have you received a postcard in the mail recently that said, "The Congregation has prayed for you"? As part of the ongoing prayer ministry here at St. John, we pray for the spiritual, emotional, and physical wellbeing of our members. We also lift up the ministries and outreach of this congregation on a daily basis. If you are interested in praying for these concerns, July Prayer Sheets are available in the Narthex on the cart next to the Portals of Prayer.

LADIES AID

BIBLE AND DEVOTIONAL COLLECTION – Thanks to everyone for the exceptional amount of Bibles and devotional materials donated for Orphan Grain Train. Many lives will hopefully be changed as a result of being able to access God's word. These will be delivered to Orphan Grain Train soon.

NEW MICHIGAN BRANCH OF ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN – We have recently learned that a branch of Orphan Grain Train is being developed in Sebewaing, Michigan under the direction of Pastor David Reed. This will make delivering items to Orphan Grain Train much easier and much closer.

FAMILY FARE "Direct Your Dollars" - As of June 19th we have collected 30,599 dollars in receipts. Remember, you must use your "Yes Rewards" card or give them your phone number for the purchase to count as a "Direct Your Dollars" receipt. We have had some receipts recently that didn't count due to not using the "Yes Rewards" card!

MEETING DAY CHANGE – The monthly meeting of the Ladies Aid will be changing to the 2nd Tuesday of the month instead of the 2nd Thursday of the month beginning with the August 2018 meeting.

MEETING – There will be no July meeting of the Ladies Aid. The August meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 14th. It will begin with a potluck lunch @ 11:30 A.M. which will be held at the home of Mary Lowery. Call Mary if you need directions.

GARAGE SALE – Thanks again to all who donated to or assisted in any way to make our yearly Garage Sale a HUGE success! It was our best Garage Sale in several years!

LWML TIMBERLINE ZONE OFFICE VACANCIES – At our Fall Timberline Zone Rally on Thursday, October 4, 2018, we will be voting for Zone Secretary and Zone Treasurer. Would you prayerfully consider answering the Lord in saying, 'Yes, Lord, send me' and run for the office of Timberline Zone Secretary or Treasurer? We need YOU! God will bless you in your service. Let Mary Lowery know your prayer answer soon.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

Psalm 119:105

Let His Word light your way!

Check out the opportunities below
and come join us we dig into God's Word!

Sunday Mornings

8:30 a.m. - A Longer Look at the Lessons – Prepare for worship by taking a closer look at the Bible readings for that Sunday's service.

Monday Mornings

10:00 a.m. - We are taking an in-depth look at **1 Samuel**. We will see our Lord's continuing, faithful care for His people, despite their weaknesses and unfaithfulness. Our Lord hears their prayers and calls them to repentance again and again. Ultimately uniting them as a nation under His servant, King David, and ultimately pointing them and us to Jesus our Savior and King.

Tuesday Evenings

7:00 p.m. - **Women's Bible Study at Jane Tennant's home.** *They are still on summer break, and will resume meeting in September.*

7:00 p.m. - **Men's Bible Study on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday.** *They, also are on summer break, and will resume meeting in September.*

Wednesday Mornings

9:00 a.m. – **Men's Breakfast and Devotional** - 3rd Wednesday at the church.

Take time to refresh and recharge in God's Word throughout the summer months.
The benefits are eternal!

Sunday School Happenings

*The eyes of all look to You,
and You give them their food in due season.
You open Your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing.
Psalm 145:15-16*

Did you note what that verse said? God opens His hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing. God gives you, and me, what we need! Amazing, reassuring, comforting! **We start the month with the Fourth Petition.** And in that Petition, we pray that our Lord will "give us our daily bread". So what does this mean? From Luther's Small Catechism we learn that... "We pray to God for daily bread, which includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body...because Christ wants us to realize that our entire life and that of everyone else depends on God. And, to look to God for physical as well as spiritual blessings." In our true story from God's Holy Word in Exodus 16, we will be reminded how God provided all that was needed for the children of Israel in the desert. You know the story... God provided manna every morning and the people were to collect only enough for one day, and on the sixth day enough for two days. God was teaching them to obey Him and to trust in Him. He was showing them that He would provide for their daily needs, both spiritual and physical. He also taught them to keep the Sabbath holy by resting on it and not working. We also can trust God to provide for all our needs, both body and soul. In the Fourth Petition, we pray that God would keep His promise to take care of our bodies and all things needed for this earthly life. Our Creator knows what we need better than we do. He created us, He counts the hairs on our heads, and He has promised to sustain us in this world.

The second Sunday examines the Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others". We will learn that "God forgives me and wants me to forgive others". Through this petition the Catechism reminds us "We pray that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for

which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but ask that He would give them to us all by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us." We confess that we sin daily and deserve nothing but punishment". The Catechism also reminds us that in this petition "We ask that our Father in heaven would for Christ's sake graciously forgive our sins". And, we are also reminded that "Our heavenly Father wants us to forgive and do good to those that sin against us". For this Petition we will be looking at the story of Joseph with his coat of many colors and his older brothers. I'm sure you remember this true story! The jealousy of the older brothers led them to sell Joseph into slavery in Egypt. And, after many, many years due to a famine in the land, Joseph was reunited with his brothers. Remember Joseph's words to his brothers, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."(Gen. 50:20) God's love filled Joseph's heart, enabling him to forgive his brothers. Joseph is a picture of Christ, suffering at the hands of evil people, knowing that it was God's ordained will for this to happen. God never denies our prayer on account of our sin. He is gracious and willing to forgive for Jesus' sake. He also wants us to forgive and do good to those who sin against us. We can't do this on our own though, but the Holy Spirit works in our hearts through God's Word to give us the power to forgive.

***Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you.***

Ephesians 4:32

For the third Sunday in July, we are taking a break from the Lord's Prayer and **starting VBS during our Sunday School time**. Our first lesson is from Exodus 2:1-10, the true story of baby Moses. How God was with baby Moses in the river and how He is with us too. We are reminded in Exodus 3:12, "God said, "But I will be with you." You are invited to join us for our "Opening" in the fellowship area on this Sunday.

For all of the promises of God find their yes in Him.

2 Corinthians 1:20

For the fourth Sunday we will be looking at the Sixth Petition, "And lead us not into temptation", how "God helps me to resist temptation." The Catechism reminds us that "God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win victory over them. And, ask our Father in heaven to give us strength to resist and overcome temptation." From the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, Matthew 4:1-11, we see how Jesus resisted the temptations of the devil and kept God's Law perfectly for us because we cannot. Because Jesus is true man, Jesus was hungry and tempted by Satan's lies, and understands how we feel when we are tempted to sin. And, because He is true God, He did not fall for Satan's lies. He never sinned. Jesus resisted temptation so He could follow His Father's will all the way to the cross, and provide forgiveness of sins and salvation for us. As God's children, we have the Holy Spirit, who works through God's Word to help us overcome the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature. But we still fail. Jesus, however has won the victory over sin, death, and the devil for us. He has resisted temptation and willingly endured the suffering and death on the cross

so that we could share in His victory and have life eternally with Him. And, for that we give Him thanks and praise!

Be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion... Resist him firm in your faith.

1 Peter 5:8-9

What a wonderful way to end the month, with the Seventh and final Petition. "But delivery us from evil." We will learn how "God rescues us from every evil." In this Petition we pray, "The Lord keeps us from harm and helps us to endure the troubles that He allows to come into our lives. We want God to keep us faithful to Him and when we die to take us to Himself in heaven." Our true story from God's Word is from Daniel 3. You know the story... Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace. Remember King Nebuchadnezzar's edit that when you heard the music, everyone must fall down and worship the golden idol, and if you didn't you would be cast into the fiery furnace. Of course Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not fall down and worship. And, when brought in front of King Nebuchadnezzar they confessed their faith in the one true God, then were thrown into the fiery furnace. But they were not burned, not a hair was singed nor their clothes burned. The Lord had delivered them from the fire and the rage of the king. God, the one true God alone, delivers us from evil. He rescues us from every evil of body and soul, and helps us endure the troubles that come into our lives. And for that we give thanks and praise!

The Lord will recue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom.

2 Timothy 4:18



Summer is coming!

And, so is VBS!

July 15th-19th

Interested in helping this year?

Come join us for our last

"Get Ready" Meeting,

July 11th at 6:45 PM

Don't forget about the friends, neighbors, and relatives that you could invite to VBS this year.

Our VBS Mission Project this summer is...



Mission Madagascar is a project of Concordia Gospel Outreach.
They send Bible-based literature to kids in Madagascar.
This project focuses on reaching children
and their families who have not heard the Gospel
and do not have books about Jesus.

Check out the poster in the fellowship area.

**Prayers, supplies, and finances are needed.
Check out the VBS display table in the fellowship area.**

Please pray for VBS!

- Pray that the Lord would give us opportunities to invite those children in the community that don't know Him or know little about Him. And, arrangements would be provided for them to come.
- Pray that those children that know Him come and encourage others to come with them.
- Pray that the Lord would provide us with many willing hands to do this work.
- Pray that the gospel message of salvation would be boldly shared with all that attend and all would be done to God's glory.

EVANGELISM / OUTREACH

During our **Free Food Give-a-ways** we have an **evangelism table** where New Testaments, tracts, and information on St. John are handed out free to all who are interested. These resources have been very well received by the community! Please pray that the Christian resource materials and Bibles will be effective in reaching the lost and hurting. We will be receiving a Thrivent Grant to be used for Lent Devotions for our Sunday School children and also for the day cares in the community. Thank you.

Prayer cards are being sent out and Facebook has been updated with pictures from Bible school. Patty Rohman is sending cards to our visitors to let them know we were glad they chose to worship with us and inviting them back. Hope everyone will remember to pray for the people in Texas during the hurricane and flooding they are going through.

We still have lots of car decals if you want one just ask Patty or John or check with Dennis in the office. Don't be bashful to ask. They make great conversation starters to invite someone to visit us on Saturday night or Sunday morning services. Do you know anyone that could use a prayer or a word of encouragement, let me know so I can send them a card. Carolyn Smith

Spiritual Fathers

by John Kleinig

We are experiencing an epidemic of **father hunger** in our societies. Psychologists define **father hunger** as a craving for approval and love from an absent father. People who suffer from **father hunger** seek attention and affirmation from a surrogate father. They want a father figure who can

discipline and encourage them, assess and bless them. They feel the lack of a father who is able to give them a sure sense of themselves as women and men.

When fathers fail or are absent from their children's lives, it leaves a deep wound. Both the lack of a father's approval and rejection by him can have a devastating impact on a person's soul. This often results in an uncertain sense of identity and an obsession with gaining and retaining approval. It can lead to obsessive, compulsive behavior. It contributes to eating disorders, personal uncertainty and sexual confusion, substance abuse and other forms of addictions. It fuels rage against authority as well as a fascination with powerful personalities. It results in a sense of dislocation and disconnection.

Spiritual father hunger is much more common even than this. Though seldom recognized, it is in fact universal. We all suffer from a kind of spiritual father hunger that even the best human father cannot satisfy. We all need someone bigger than we are to test us and to approve of us, someone to judge us and to justify us, someone to assess our unruly selves and to bless us, someone to affirm us and encourage us, to provide for us and protect us. We all need someone to father us spiritually.

And that is just what God the Father does for us physically and spiritually. He does it in two ways: through Jesus His incarnate Son and through the men that He has appointed as our pastors.

God the Father has sent His Son Jesus as a man with a human body to show Himself to us physically and spiritually. The Son does not do His own work but the work of the Father who sent Him. He does not speak His own words but the words of His gracious Father. Anyone who hears what Jesus says hears the voice of God the Father. Anyone who sees the Son sees the Father also, because the Son is the visible image of the Father. He is the mirror of the Father's heart. Through Jesus we see what God is like as our Father. We see how highly He regards us. This was not true only during Jesus' earthly life; it is still true for us even now in the Divine Service where Jesus represents the Father to-us.

God also fathers us through the pastors that He gives to us. In the Divine Service every pastor represents Christ to us, and through Him, God the Father. Pastors thus speak the Word of the Father and do the Father's work. Those who listen to a pastor as their teacher hear the voice of God the Son (*Luke 10:16*) speaking on behalf of the Father. Those who receive a pastor as God's spokesman receive both the Son and His divine Father (*Matt 10:40, John 13:20*). Those who reject the Word of God spoken by the pastor as God's spokesman reject both the Son and His heavenly Father (*Luke 10:16*).

A pastor therefore does not just speak Christ's Word to his people, but, like the Son, he also represents the Father to them. As the pastor exercises his ministry, he speaks the Father's pardon, welcome, acceptance, approval, love, and blessing to His faithful children. And all this is done in both a physical and a spiritual way. He does these things with his human body as he is commissioned by Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Thus God the Father fathers us spiritually through the men that serve with Christ in the ministry of the gospel.

Luther teaches this in his explanation of the fourth commandment in the Large Catechism where he says: "Thus we have three kinds of fathers presented to us in this commandment: fathers by blood,

fathers of the household and fathers of the nation. Besides these, there are also our spiritual fathers...For the name spiritual father belongs only to those who govern and guide us by the word of God." He bases this on Paul's claim in 1 Cor. 4:14-15 that he had fathered the congregation in Corinth.

Like Christ and His apostles, pastors are called to be spiritual fathers to their people. They represent God the Father, who exercises His fatherhood by justifying sinners, adopting them as His beloved children, and making them His honored heirs. Through their ministry, pastors help to rectify the damage done to people by the failure of their biological fathers and nurture them as they seek to fulfill their spiritual vocations.

That is why Christ chose men to be His apostles and why He appoints men, rather than women, as pastors to father God's children. Their character as adult men and, even more so, as human fathers and husbands corresponds with this responsibility.

The Rev. Dr. John Kleinig is a retired pastor and former seminary professor in the Lutheran Church of Australia. His books include *Grace upon Grace: Spirituality for Today* (CPH, 2008).

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What is the Good Life?

by Matthew C. Harrison

Is it the enjoyment of things? Is it the absence of suffering? Is it possession, of wealth? Is it living a moral life? A virtuous life? A religious life?

Every serious or armchair philosopher in history has had an answer to the question.

The Bible's answer to the question is deep and multifaceted. I think first of John's Gospel. John tells us that everything was made through the pre-incarnate Word, and that "in him was life, and the life was the light of men" (*John 1:3-4*). The very meaning of life is found in the source of life. How do we know this source of life? In Him is the "light of men." John's Gospel tells us John the Baptizer witnessed to the light: "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (*1:29*). John's witness is recorded in the inspired text of Holy Scripture for all time. Jesus said of all the Old Testament Scriptures: "These are they which testify of me" (*5:39*). Knowledge of the good life begins with knowledge of the source of life, Christ. And that knowledge is found in the sacred Scriptures. The "good life" — yes, the very best life — is lived knowing our Creator. The Father created all things through the Son. In the face of the light of truth, another truth about us becomes manifest. We are sinners. The greatest impediment to life itself, let alone the "good life," is found in ourselves. When the bright holiness of God, Christ or even angels confronts men in the Scriptures, the universal refrain is, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" (*Luke 5:8*). "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips ..." (*Isaiah 6:5*). Humility is certainly a universally recognized virtue, but repentance is a profound humility which recognizes one's complete unworthiness in the sight of God

and His perfect holiness.

How bitter life is when humans are forced to carry on a charade of self-superiority over others! What damage is done to relationships! How sordid and sour the life of the "superior one"! How joyless the lives inflicted by such "saints"! The best life recognizes the finger of Nathan, John the Baptizer, even Jesus, pointing and saying, "You are the man!" (*2 Sam. 12:7*). "Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" (*Luke 3:7*).

Zacchaeus, I suppose, was convinced that he was pursuing the path to the good life. But in his encounter with Jesus, he repented. He believed. And he acted to correct what he had inflicted on others. Zacchaeus "hurried and came down and received [Jesus] joyfully" (*Luke 19:6*). The good life is set just about as soon as one realizes that "Jesus receives tax collectors and sinners and eats with them," and I'm one of those.

The conscience cannot be at peace with any "good life" that exists apart from Christ. The conscience can be seared, it can be muffled, it can be ignored, perhaps for a long time. But the troubled conscience, carrying sin — even while denying its own sin — will manifest itself in myriad ways of discontent, selfishness, greed, hatred, jealousy, anxiety and the like.

The Bible (and the Lutheran Confessions also explicitly claim this for themselves) is nothing if not a handbook of consolation for the troubled conscience. "Come to me all you who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (*Matt. 11:25*). "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (*Matt. 9:13*). "At the top of his voice, Paul cries out that sins are freely forgiven for Christ's sake" (Apology to the Augsburg Confession, Article XX, paragraph 87).

The "good life," the greatest life, is life reconciled to God our Maker, and to our fellow human beings. The greatest life is living in love, forgiveness, and yes, great joy with those whom God has placed all about us in our sacred vocations. When trials come and would threaten the "good life," we find this ironic twist to be true: "When I am weak, then I am strong" (*2 Cor. 12:10*). Our trials bring the vintage to fruition. How profound the forgiveness, the love, the sorrow, the joy in the midst of the challenges of this life! They cause us to look forward to the "good life" — even better, our life eternally with Christ.

We are freed in Christ, and the Bible shows us just how fabulous our freedom is to enjoy faith, spouse, family, vocations, work, food, drink, neighbors, Christ, forgiveness, Baptism, Absolution, Supper, friends — indeed, all creation. What a wonderful way to live!

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is President of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.
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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

2018 FLOWER CHART — A new flower chart for 2018 is posted. There are many opportunities to sponsor flowers for the altar. Please take a few moments to sign up for a special date. Remember, flowers are \$15.00 and the Ladies Aid would like them paid for when you sign up.

DECALS — Been noticing St. John window decals in the cars in the parking lot or around town? Want one for your vehicle/vehicles? There is no charge . . . just ask Patty Rohman or stop by the church office to get one.

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT – St. John Lutheran has entered into an agreement with AuSable Valley Community Mental Health that allows them to use our facility for certain activities during the week. Part of this agreement is that our congregational members will keep confidential the names of people that are using our facility. Please observe this agreement by never mentioning the names of people that you may have seen. Also, remind others of this agreement if you hear of a visitor’s name being mentioned. Thank you for your cooperation. Executive Council.

Reminder: There is a box in the Narthex for giving to the **Ogemaw County Clergy Association**. This money is collected hygiene items, for the purchase of food, personal home heating fuels, and funeral expenses for people in Ogemaw Country that are unable to afford these necessities. Make checks payable to Ogemaw County Clergy Assoc. Thank you!

EMERGENCY PRAYER REQUESTS – St. John has developed a system that allows us to rapidly contact all members when a life threatening situation develops, requiring immediate prayers. We are requesting cell phone numbers (for text messaging) or e-mail addresses for all members. For those who don’t use e-mails or text messaging, phone calls will be made. Please request a salmon-colored form the office and return it when completed. Thank you.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/03 – Judith Roberts
7/07 – Sara Smith
7/10 – Sam Curnow
7/14 – Melvin Engel
7/15 – Candace Fowler
7/15 – John Rohman
7/18 – Nadya Klein
7/18 – Adele Travis
7/19 – Mary Bickel
7/20 – Kirk Bielby
7/21 – Lyle Johnson
7/21 – Marilyn Krueger
7/26 – Eden Klein
7/26 – Reese Klein
7/29 – Marilyn Johnson



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/14 – Melvin and Pauline Engel
7/16 – Floyd and Betty Weiss
7/30 – Art and Marge Mozak