

St. John Lutheran Church Newsletter, August 2018

A word from Pastor Jean...

“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget you, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands...” ~Isaiah 49:15-16a

The above scripture verse was part of my devotions this morning and it got me to thinking about the times I needed to remember something and didn't have any paper. What would I do? How could I make myself a note? I know, I'll write it on the palm of my hand! Have you ever done that?

Apparently God does! In Isaiah we read that God thinks each of us important enough to remember us, not by simply writing a name on the palm of His hand, but by actually engraving us into the palm of His hand. Picture that! And I don't think it's an actual picture of each one of us, but rather it's the imprint of a nail in the palm of His hand. Remembering how much He loves us, Jesus gave His life for each one of us. Now, I don't know about you, but that brings tears to my eyes and touches my heart so deeply that I want to give my life back to Him.

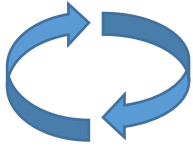
So that begs the questions: Do our lives reflect of the love and sacrifice of Jesus to those around us? Am we giving ourselves the time we need each day to just “be” with Jesus? Are we filling ourselves with the goodness of God so that we can share that amazing goodness with others?

This election season seems to stirring up lots of emotions, anxiety levels are rising, political tensions being amped up...we're reminded that no matter what happens God will never turn His back on us... *“In the same way I was with Moses, I'll be with you. I won't give up on you; I won't leave you. Strength! Courage!”* Joshua 1:5, *The Message*.

Shalom,
Pastor Jean



Birthday Open House for
Keith Davenport's 98th Birthday
Saturday, August 4th
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Belle Oaks Living Center



MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

**NEXT MEETING: August 29th at 5 p.m.
Lake City United Methodist Church**

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WATER PROJECT



On Monday, July 16th, a truck arrived from Flint (Salem Lutheran Church) driven by Alonzo Laster and Deacon Barry to pick up our collection of cases of water. The total donation was 185 cases of water...Lake City UMC - 94 cases, St. John Lutheran Church - 91 cases! The distribution goes to those who have medical issues and those who are disabled. Thanks to all who donated as we were able to bless so many!

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St. John will be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat event this year on Wednesday, October 31st. So, we are beginning to collect candy for our annual Trunk-or-Treat event Please leave your donations in the box in the lobby under the table.
Thanks for your donations!



St. John Lutheran & Lake City U.M. Churches

Sunday, August 12, 2018

10:00 a.m. (Combined Worship)

The City Park

(between Food Factory & Poncho Villa restaurants)

Bring your lawn chair and join us in City Park at the Pavilion to worship together as Lake City United Methodist and St. John Lutheran Churches.

Bring a picnic lunch so we can have lunch together after worship.

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INVITE A FRIEND

Is there an empty place in your pew? Does your friend or neighbor go to church? Have you asked them? If not, consider inviting a friend to join you for worship on Sunday morning...or better yet, volunteer to pick them up and bring them with you. A good place to start...Invite a friend or neighbor to **Worship in the Park** on **August 12 at 10 a.m.** Pack a picnic lunch with enough food to share with them and bring them along with you!

Have you changed your address or phone number changed recently? Please make sure the church office has your correct information!

We Need Your Help at UMC

Lake City United Methodist Church is looking for volunteers to serve as host/hostess at their Soup Suppers on Tuesdays from 4:30-6:00 p.m. beginning in September. You won't need to cook or serve (except maybe coffee), they simply need folks willing to visit with the guests, make them feel welcome, model the love of Jesus Christ, and begin to build relationships with those who come. Please consider volunteering for a Tuesday evening or two and then call Pastor Jean to let her know you're willing give it a try (231.839.7542). You'll be blessed with a wonderful soup dinner!

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STWARDSHIP REPORT FOR JUNE

Due to the combined service the first Sunday of July, we did not have the stewardship information for a June report in the bulletin. Here it is:

Monthly Need is: \$8,852.00 Giving in June: \$10,026.00
(General \$5,640.00, Mortgage \$3,099.00)
(Other \$1,287.00)



St. John Annual Yard Sale

As a continuing reminder: Please remember the yard sale as you are cleaning this summer. Items are coming in but we can always use more.

**The sale is: Thursday & Friday, Sept. 6 & 7,
Saturday, Sept 8, Everything half off!**

Donations can be brought in from now until then and should be placed in the Sunday School wing, in the last room on the right. (the Youth Room) If you have any questions, please call Gay Gensler at 775-6735.

Suggestions for donations for Yard Sale:

Almost anything that is clean and useable

Small appliances, cookware & bakeware, Tupperware, etc.

Kitchen items, glassware, canisters, mugs, dishes, silverware & utensils

Furniture, home décor, lamps, area rugs, floral arrangements

Pictures & paintings, frames, mirrors, wall hangings, wreaths

Collectibles, antiques, vintage items, clocks, nicknacks

Linens, bedding, towels, curtains, decorative pillows

Crafts, yarn, sewing, candles, vases, silk flowers

Outdoor furniture, planters, flower pots, potted plants, garden misc.

Books, magazines, puzzles, CDs, DVDs, videos, old records

Girl stuff - purses, jewelry, scarves, hats, stationery, sports & athletics

Footprints in Time

I hope you all had a chance to see the Thank You card made by the Footprints in Time participants and staff, also the letter from a mother of a participant, which was in the bulletin a few weeks ago. (I have attached both for those of you who missed them.)[I had to delete the card for this to transmit, see it on the table in the Narthex] While there may still be some misunderstanding between the congregation and the Footprints program managers we are all trying to communicate between “them” and “us”. If you have a concern please communicate that to me and I will pass it on and try to see what can be done. The staff are trying to be cognizant of our needs and go out of their way to be good neighbors. The participants feel like coming here is like a “field trip” every day. We are blessed to have a facility that can offer them this happiness.

Jill Geeseman, liaison between St. John and Footprints in Time

This letter was received from a mother of one of the Footprints in Time participants. I’m passing it on so you can see how important the program to those involved.

Dear Jill, and gracious members of St. John Lutheran Church,

My name is Nancy Schaafsma, I am the mother of one of the participants in Footprints in Time. I want to thank you, from the bottom of my heart for allowing Footprints in Time to meet at your church building. This program is very beneficial to my son. He is not able to participate in Hope Network, because of the Latex issues there, working with car parts. I am so happy for Footprints in Time, and their mission. I love having my son participate in a faith based Day Program. I had always hoped for a Christian atmosphere for him when he was in school.

Thank you, again for being so gracious to allow Footprints in Time to meet at your building! I was also just sharing with Jill, how he is now happily anticipating his arrival at St. John! We drive from Cadillac, and by the time we go past Bader’s, he starts his happy sounds, by L&J, he is even pointing to turn right, and when we turn into St. John, he knows very happily that he has arrived. I love my son, and want to give him opportunities, I love Jesus even more! He is the One who gives me and my son JOY. If anyone wants to stop in, and meet Jordan (Buddy), please, please do! You will be overwhelmed by the Love of the Lord, and of all the participants! (Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9am -3pm.)

With lots of gratitude to you, and Jesus, Nancy Schaafsma

Church Council

Due to an unusually late council meeting date this month there are no minutes available at the time of printing the Newsletter. Minutes will appear in the August Newsletter. Council did ask us to print that the "South side of the roof will be repaired shortly. The cost will be between \$450.00 and \$500.00."

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EVENTS COMMITTEE



Coming Up:

September 6, 7 & 8: St. John Yard Sale and Bean Soup Sale

October: Dinner and Auction

November: Pasty Sale

STEWARDSHIP REPORT/2018

January 2018: Approximately 15 letters were mailed to inactive members to verify if they wanted to remain on the church roster.

RESULTS: 5 were returned stating they wanted to remain on the church roster but none of those 5 returned or completed a stewardship packet.

May 2018: Our Stewardship Appeal was introduced during worship for three consecutive Sundays with brief comments/testimonies made to the congregation by individual active members.

June 2018:

75 Pledge and Time and Talent packets were distributed at church.

15 packets were not picked up at church and were mailed

0 responses from the mailed packets

36 Pledges were returned as of July 1st for a total of \$72,328.

NOTE: Several members returned a Time and Talent sheet but not a pledge sheet.

14 members currently contribute using Automatic Withdrawal.

SUMMARY: 50% of our members participated in the pledge appeal. Therefore it is a challenge to plan for a budget. In the past there have been Stewardship appeals which included home visits by a much larger and active Stewardship Committee with leadership from the Synod. It is speculative that by using that approach, we may have gotten a larger response.

Submitted by Greg and Jeanene Brandt

August 2018

St John Lutheran Church

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2 10:00 Bible Study H.A. Ron & Linda Doederlein	3	4 Birthday Open House for Keith Davenport at Belle Oaks, 1-3 pm
5 9:30 Worship and Communion H.A. Bill & Susan Nees	6	7 H.B. Keith Davenport H.A. Kurt & Missy McGiness	8	9 10:00 Bible Study H.B. Gabrielle Fechter	10 H.A. Bob & Patti Colvin	11 H.B. Christine Renner
12 10:00 Praise in the Park - At City Park H. B. Andrew Fechter H.B. Bob Fitzgerald	13	14	15 H.B. Cathy Graham	16 10:00 Bible Study	17	18 H.B. Stacy Atkins
19 9:30 Worship and Communion H.B. Kara McGiness	20 H.A. Ed & Peg Olson	21 H.A. Harvey & Bonnie James	22	23 10:00 Bible Study	24 H.A. Greg & Jeanene Brandt	25
26 9:30 Worship	27	28	29 H.B. Bill Armstead, Mary Parsons, Mike Ball & Val Schmidt	30 10:00 Bible Study H.B. Cole McGiness H. B. Marcia Rackov	31	1