

THE VOICE

St. John is called by Christ to be a Sanctuary That Welcomes and Serves All

June 2022

Pastor Marks Reflection "A Catechism for you and me."

So, what does it mean to be Christian?

For some it might be, to believe in the classic creeds that explain the definition of God as three-in-one. For others it might mean to follow the teachings of Jesus. For others it might be a combination of both. You might want to add to this reflection the question what does it mean to be a Lutheran but I will save that for another day.

So back to being a Christian, how would you answer this question at present? If we examine the church in reference to this question, we could turn to an examination of how we corporately live out our understanding of Christianity here at St. John.

We like most churches within the denomination would explore the distinction between Worshiping Christ Jesus and following Jesus. How much time and energy do we spend in these aspects of faith? Where is our passion? Is it easier to worship Christ or follow Jesus?

I do not believe I would be exaggerating to say that worshiping is less risky than following. Do you think that is a fair statement? In saying that, it does not diminish the importance of worship or at least it shouldn't. The worship experience is designed to feed us with the desire to go beyond the bounds of the sanctuary to become followers of Jesus. Is that your understanding?

Can one follow Jesus without worshiping and being in community? The simple answer is yes. However, without the food that the church offers, the experience of following Jesus can diminish over time. That is not to say that being a part of a community is without distractions. But through life together we can strengthen the proper resolve to fully experience a life of faith.

Now if we settle our belief in God, and worship and love God with all that we have and our neighbor as well as our self, it puts us in the position to take the next step and actualize that which was just said. As we move into this realization, we might hear the still small voice say "fear not."

In living out this great commandment we follow Jesus. But if we do, what does this look like? We might wish to go back to the original belief in the trinity and explore our understanding of creation. It is reasonably assumed that God created everything and that everything God created has sacred value. In addition, within this creation there is a profound sense of interdependence between and within that which was and is created.

Does it follow that, interdependence particularly within humanity, is a design that strives to help each person achieve wholeness? Is this a reasonable thought? Can you imagine that God would want all people to be whole?

Continued page 3

Our Own Janice Locke to be Ordained on June 5th!

On June 5, we will have the rare privilege of hosting an Ordination service! Our own **Janice Locke** is being ordained into Ministry and Sacrament. Janice has been a member of St. John since 1992, and has been called as Pastor to St. John Lutheran Church in Dundee MI.



Janice Dorothy Locke was born to Myrtle (Bell) and Ross Locke in Detroit. *(If you have been around St. John for awhile you will remember Myrtle Locke as the lovely lady who sent notes with words of encouragement and inspiring clippings at random times.)*

Janice was educated in the Redford Union schools prior to earning her BS in Nursing from Michigan State University. She worked as an RN at Providence, Southfield, while earning her Master of Science in Gerontological Nursing. She spent nearly four decades in the nursing profession, taking care of elderly patients at various locations.

While working as a nurse practitioner, Janice received her Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) training through the Southeast Michigan Synod of the ELCA. She said she became an LLM hoping it would “satisfy this calling I’m feeling.” And yet it didn’t, and she was finding her nursing work less and less satisfying. “My strengths are relationship building, people connections – you can’t do that in health care anymore. There’s not enough time.”

In 2018 she attended an event in which the admissions director from the United Lutheran Seminary was a speaker. She discovered that full tuition scholarships were available, and that they had an accelerated program that would allow her to complete her training in three years instead of four. “On the drive home, I said, ‘I’m going to do it.’” So in 2019 she retired from nursing to go to seminary full time. She graduated from United Lutheran Seminary on May 20, 2022, having accepted a call from St. John Lutheran Church in Dundee, the congregation she had been serving as an intern.

Although she has spent her whole life in Redford and Novi, she says, “I fell in love with the rural setting. The people are so interconnected. Everybody is related to everyone else. The people at St. John Dundee were so welcoming. They’re like family.” And she’s become a member of their community. “I always have prayed for the farmers and the harvest. But now I actually know people that grow potatoes,

raise beef... now I know someone who's actually growing these things... it makes it much more real."

Of this new stage of her life, she says, "I'm so excited to see the path God has me on. At every step the path has been opened up."

Janice has rented an apartment in Dundee, and is preparing to sell her house and move, but for now she lives in Novi with her cats, Faith, Hope and Francie.



Picture of Janice at her commencement ceremony

Pastor Marks reflection continued. . .
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Can you imagine that God would not want all people to be whole? How do you answer these questions?

If we have concluded that God wants us all to be whole, what does God expect of those who follow Jesus? It would seem that Jesus paid great attention to those who were living in Palestine during his life. He paid great attention to those who were suffering. He attempted to heal and provide hope. He also confronted those who were in a position to exploit the work of others for extraordinary personal gain. Jesus continued the work of other prophets to share God's peace with the world in which he lived. His tools were compassion, mercy, justice, forgiveness and grace. The tools of God's love for humanity. Do these observations line up with your understanding of his life?

In the end, the work he did created a disturbance to the order of things in and around Judah. Enough so that he was crucified, died and buried and on the third day he rose from the dead. He died for disturbing the peace and provided a model

of action for each of us when he clearly stated "if you are to be one of my disciples you must pick up your cross and follow me."

How does this feel, or sound? Do you agree? What troubles you about these statements? What excites you about the opportunities implied to help improve the quality of life for all? There are a lot of questions raised in this little catechism and a life of faith should be always asking questions don't you think?

There is a humility in asking questions that brings down walls and opens hearts and minds. I will leave you with this question, "if God wants everyone to be whole, what does it mean to be whole?"

May you always experience Gods peace!!!!
Pastor Mark



June

6/2 Nancy Janik
Loretta Myers
6/4 Jodi Ouelette
6/9 Margaret (Peg) Jenks
6/11 Dylan Christopherson
6/12 Katelyn Stanek
6/13 Tim Schafer
6/16 Chad Hoffman
Sandy Kennedy

6/16 Elise Kramer
6/17 Donna Bosanko
6/21 Cheryl Berling
6/26 Keven Blaker
Kaitlyn Savanyu
6/27 Dan Bingham
Judy Elias
6/30 Robert Savanyu



God's Garden June Schedule

Warmer weather means more to do! We'll be expanding our growing space with new beds, sewing seeds, managing weeds, planting flowers, harvesting. Come experience the benefits of playing in the dirt with friends.

Afternoons

weather permitting

3:00 - 5:00

Monday, June 6th
Tuesday, June 14th
Monday, June 20th
Monday, June 27th

Additional work days to be scheduled as needed.

Many garden tools available (including quality kid sized tools). Please bring your own gloves and a water bottle. Dress appropriately for the weather and wear sunscreen.



A growing ministry of St. John Lutheran Church, Farmington Hills. The God's Garden ministry focuses on **care for others** - by growing produce to share with local organizations addressing food security, **care for creation** - by focusing on and teaching growing practices that sustain and support life rather than harm, and **care of self** - by exploring and promoting the therapeutic benefits of gardening.

Other ways to get involved:

Spread the word

Tell your friends, neighbors, acquaintances about what's going on at God's Garden. Like and share the God's Garden Facebook page.

Sponsor the garden

As little as \$5 can buy hundreds of seeds!
\$25 can buy some starter plants, like strawberries!
\$50 can help us enrich the soil with compost!
\$100 can fund a whole bed for the season!

Months ago I cried in the pastor's office during our staff meeting the morning after the shooting at the high school in Oxford, days after a missed close encounter with a gunman firing at random cars on northbound Woodward, Thanksgiving evening - the route we take home. Thanks to my sister-in-law's request that we stay for one more beer, instead we got to drive through the aftermath of police and ambulance responders. The Thanksgiving incident itself was just days after I heard a gunshot somewhere in my neighborhood. Closer than I ever heard one before. So close that I imagine I could see the house or area it came from standing on my front or back porch, if I knew where to look.

Now, I'm crying in my car on my way home from the church. As it stands, the news is reporting 15 dead 14 of whom were children at an elementary school in Texas. Before that it was 10 killed at the Tops grocery store in Buffalo, New York. Of course these are the most sensational examples of gun violence in the last week and a half, but they are in no way the extent of it.

5/24/22 10:12 pm

19. 19 children dead. 2 adults.

Not long ago, in a piece I wrote in response to another spate of mass shootings, including the one at the King Soopers in Boulder, CO, I mentioned how I noticed the thoughts portion was missing from the standard refrain of "thoughts and prayers." I wondered how long it would be until we give up on the prayers. Given what I'm seeing now, I think that has come to pass too.

And why not? What was any of it getting us? The only thing that lead to any measurable decline in these horrific features of United States culture was a pandemic.

5/25/22 9:34 am

Routine.

Shooting after shooting. It's disingenuous to use words like unthinkable, unimaginable. Is it even shocking?

Despite failures to implement any meaningful change, the majority supports gun regulations. And we can point to all sorts of contributing influences, and many do, but the common denominator here - the common denominator - is guns.

There are those who cry, "it's mental health care that's needed! It's not the guns." I don't disagree that we need better mental health care services, but I have dealt with mental health issues for much of my life, often with inadequate care, and I have yet to murder a classroom full of children. Evan had a gun pulled on him once by a friend experiencing a psychotic episode. In that instance the bigger problem was the gun. He called the cops because of the gun. Yes, the friend needed mental health care, but first, he needed to not have a gun.

What is the solution to this healthcare problem if we don't support policies that expand access to healthcare? When we don't support candidates for office who will fight to make sure that people have access to these things we think they need? People suggest this will solve the problem, but they don't seem to be doing anything to make it happen.

If we're going to point away from the common denominator of guns, we have to be willing to engage in good faith conversations about other contributing influences and actually do something about them.

5/25/22 5:04 pm

Too soon.

Oh it's too soon after this tragedy to act. Well how about this then, we are acting 6 months after Oxford (4 dead).

We're acting 3 years after Dayton (10 dead) and El Paso (23 dead) and Virginia Beach (13 dead).

We're acting 4 years after Thousand Oaks (13 dead) and Pittsburgh (11 dead) and Santa Fe (10 dead) and Parkland (17 dead).

We're acting 5 years after Sutherland Springs (27 dead) and Las Vegas (61 dead) and Plano (9 dead) and Lincoln County (8 dead).

We're acting 6 years after Orlando (50 dead) and Kalamazoo (6 dead).

We are acting after etc. etc. But since these are routine, it'll happen again. It's conveniently always too soon to do something.

5/25/22 6:34 pm

What would Jesus do?

Seriously, I want to know.

Mass murder like this was unthinkable in his time. He did have a lot to say about hypocrites. He did have lot to say about inaction.

5/25/22 11:00 pm

Early in the pandemic, when mask mandates were starting, and people resisted this simple measure to keep others safe, I had a conversation with a friend about the situation. It occurred to me that maybe if people felt cared for,

they'd be more willing to care for others.

Our lack of care for people manifests in a society without social supports. Without healthcare. Without living wages. With gutted education systems, crumbling infrastructure. With health and safety regulation agencies underfunded and stretched far too thin that we face preventable crises, like the baby formula shortage.

5/26/22 12:10 pm

Like probably everyone else, I was still processing the shooting in Buffalo when news of Texas came. My phone buzzed with a news alert, "shooting at Texas elementary school." I tensed. I sighed. I put the phone back down. I went back to what I was doing.

In my slowness to produce a response to Buffalo, I knew it didn't matter. It would happen again, soon enough. Again and again and again and again and...

Each time we ask, what will it take? When will things change? I fight for hope, but I fear the change is just indifference. We are unmoved by the loss of life. We tense. We sigh. We go back to what we are doing.

"After reading this, what does sharing God's peace mean to you?"
Pastor Mark

2022 "Monumental" VBS

June 20th-24th, 9:00 am-12:00 Noon



At Monumental VBS, kids ages 4-16 explore the sunbaked Southwestern desert as they dig into God's great love! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's

love, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Canyon Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

Here, children don't just hear about God's love; they see it, touch it, sing it, taste it, and put it into action through God Sightings. As they travel from station to station, they go deeper into their understanding of God and God's Son, Jesus. Most important, children learn that because Jesus loves us, he came to die for our sins and make a way for us to live with God forever. You'll notice that there's no set time for children to make a faith commitment. Monumental helps children build relationships — with other children, with adults, and with Jesus.



Cost: Free! Includes Entry, T-shirt, backpack, snack and a whole lot of fun!



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR:

- Audio/Visual
- Craft Helper
- Games Helper
- Snacks Helper
- Songs and Celebrations Helper



Links to information, registration and volunteering are at www.stjohn-elca.org.



**Wait, ???
what? ???**

Wednesday Nights Where?

Join us for faith and fellowship on Wednesday Nights! If the weather agrees, we'll gather in the back end of the parking lot. In poor weather, we'll be in the gym.

**Bring
Your
Own**

Chairs!
Food to share!
Beverages!
Friends!

**6/22 @ 7:00
7/27 @ 7:00
8/24 @ 7:00**



????????

**5 days of God,
garden, and**

art! Highlights include:

MONDAY
Made from Earth - Lasagna gardening
- Play with clay

TUESDAY
Created for connection - Companion planting
- Weaving together

WEDNESDAY
Water of life - Rooting in water
- Watercolor

THURSDAY
Our imprint - Seed saving - Garden paint box

FRIDAY
Harvest time - Easy peasy pickles
- Plant prints

SUNDAY
Art show celebration and garden party!

**July 11-15, 9-12
July 17, 11:00**

Why sing? What do we sing? What happens when we sing?

Dear Friends,

Have you ever wondered why we sing so much and why we sing the songs that we do?

As we gather for worship to praise, pray, thank and hear God's word proclaimed, we gather not only to speak and listen, but we gather to SING. Singing is and has been an integral part of our worship since the beginning of time.

Sometimes we call what we sing "hymnody."

If I were to ask academicians or theologians what hymnody is, they might define it as *a body of song belonging to a particular religious denomination or sect that is consistent with the theology and teaching of that denomination or sect.*

If I were to talk with fellow church musicians they might define hymnody as *psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs that are found in various styles and forms including chant, chorale, Psalter hymn, Victorian hymn, gospel hymn, revival hymn, folksong, praise chorus, and hymns/songs of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.*

However, if I were to talk with people in the pews they might simply define hymnody as *the songs we get to sing.*

While all of these definitions are accurate, I believe it is the worshipers' response that most succinctly sets forth the unique essence of hymnody. Simply stated, *hymnody is the music of the people.*

And what is that music?

Songs, songs, songs, and more songs!
Songs of praise and thanks, proclamation, journey and prayer.
Indeed songs of the heart and soul!

And what happens when we sing these songs together?

We affirm our common humanity and build community.
We are united with people of this time as well as with those
 who have come and gone before us and with those yet to come.
 We are led out of ourselves into the presence of the Divine.
 We respond to God's grace.
 We proclaim the Good News.

What can singing these songs do?

These songs can speak for us when we cannot find the right words.
They can express a sense of deep awe in the presence of the Holy One.
They can give expression to our fears and hopes, strengths and weaknesses.
They can allow us to be, to surrender and to receive.

In the words of Martin Luther,
these songs are “a living voice of the Gospel” (*viva vox evangelii*).

What a gift! What an opportunity! What grace!

Thanks be to God,
Dr. Michael Burkhardt
Director of Worship and Music



Prayer Team Ministry

We all have times when we or those we care for can benefit from extra prayers. The published list of people for whom we pray as a church is well known, but we also have a ministry that prays for individuals by request. The St. John Prayer Team is a group of church members who will pray for anyone who asks for extra prayer support. Catherine Federspill leads the team, which operates as a “fan-out.”

If you or someone you love is experiencing a situation for which you would like additional voices to pray, please contact Catherine at 248-476-3895 or cfederspill@mi.rr.com. She will activate the fan-out and all team members will pray for you daily for a week or two.

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Wetzel (Merrell).



Members:

Fran Copp; Larry Urevig; Bill Kennedy; Andy Kurmas; Gene Kohli; Toni Lewis; Diane Stanton; Lois Makee; Earl Hagen; Mary Galloway; Marlou & Jim Grudt; Chris Janik; Diana Canup; Ward Varns; Eva Paulson; Dick Rudorffer; Audrey Riley; Ellen Zatolokin; Delores Winquist; Carol Sterling; Eunice Gould; Tammy Kilpatrick; Lillian Niemi; Jodi Oulette.

Friends, and Family:

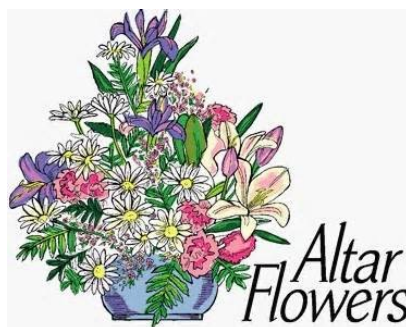
The family of Jenny Barbarino (Blaker), Brent Jr and Brent Canup Sr., Ken Monberg (Orrand -Musat), Geroge Austin, Jim Frattini, Susan Pearlman (Craig), Colleen Davis (wife of Bill Davis); Mary Buccellato, (Gransee); Val Burkhardt (Michael's mother); Bob Niesyto; Piper Ellis, Kristin Stoneback, Jane Borsvold, Cindy & Mark Borsvold (Sailus); Erin Cameron; Patty & Pete Herman, (Brundage); Linda Steusloff, Kyle Soderlund, Val Blanchett, Sue Jennings (Fisher); Marshall & Jessie Anderson (Bosanko); Jaden Henkel, Barry Shiek (Henkel); Judy Wiessbock, Courtney Dimiceli (Wiessbock); Virginia Kincaide (Kincaide); Cheryl Cottongin; Mardee Thomas, (Galloway); Rosalind McLendan (Dale); Mary Rellinger (Switzer); Carol Collins (sister of Earl Hagen); Jeffrey

Serving in the Military including overseas:

Michael Jamieson (Nader)

Please send prayer list updates to the church office at om@stjohn-elca.org.

Many Thanks to Pat Gransee for sending out cards to the people on our prayer concerns list. If you have someone on the list to whom you would like a card sent, contact the office. Thank you!



The Flower Chart is now located in the office area. If you would like to order flowers you may sign in there or you may send an email or call in your request to the office.

The request should show the date and designation (what you would like to say in the bulletin) for flower order. Or you could complete an envelope with all information and turn in with your payment to the office by placing in the offering trays. The cost of the flowers is \$35.00.

Working in Gods' Garden
Maria, Beth, Charles, Marsha and Ashleigh.



Crop Walk
Workers
Dennis and Caryn
Hoffman
Ashleigh Altemann
Beth Fisher
Barbara Dresden

Thank
You 

I would like to thank everyone that helped with making nisu and pasties this past year. Without your help we would not have been able to sell over 1,000 this past year.

Also thank you to all the people that purchased the nisu and pasties. We were able to donate about \$6,000.00 to the church for major repairs.
Thanks again.
Donna Bosanko



The 2022 Farmington Area CROP Hunger Walk raised a whopping \$52,324.87! WOW! Thank you to our walkers and all who donated!

St John Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday June 20, 2022
1:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Bethlehem Activity Center
Gymnasium



American
Red Cross

Community of Giving

J U N E 2 0 2 2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	2 8a Men's Breakfast 10:30a Bible Academy	3 7p Succoth Church	4 12p Piano Recital 6p Birthday Party
5 10a Worship 12:30p Succoth Church 4p AA 6p Ordination Service J. Locke	6 10a Quilters 1p VBS volunteer training 3p Gods Garden	7	8 9a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	9 8a Men's Breakfast 10a Renaissance Academy	10 7p Succoth Church	11 6p Birthday Party
12 10a Worship 12:30p Succoth Church 4p AA	13 9a Renaissance Academy 10a Quilters 3p Gods Garden	14 9a Renaissance Academy 1p Prayer Shawl Ministry	15 8a Renaissance Academy 9a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	16 8a Men's Breakfast 10:30a Bible Academy	17 VOICE ARTICLES DUE! 7p Succoth Church	18
19 FATHERS DAY JUNETEETH 10a Worship 12:30p Succoth Church 4p AA	20 10a Quilters 9a VBS 3p Gods Garden	21 9a VBS	22 8a Renaissance Academy 9a VBS 7p WNW 7p Succoth Church	23 8a Men's Breakfast 9a VBS 10:30a Bible Academy	24 9a VBS 7p Succoth Church	25 5:30 MPR Private event
26 10a Worship 12:30p Succoth Church 4p AA	27 10a Quilters 3p Gods Garden	28 1p Prayer Shawl Ministry	29 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	30 8a Men's Breakfast 5p Wedding Reception	Church Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:30am—3:30pm 248-474-0584	

For most to date calendar information see online calendar at <http://www.stjohn-elca.org/calendar> Calendar key:
 WNW = Wednesday Nights Wherever
 HHAV =Hearts, Hands, and Voices; BAC= Bethlehem Activity Center
 Bold Print= St John activities



ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Farmington Hills, MI 48335
248-474-0584 om@stjohn-elca.org
www.stjohn-elca.org



STAFF

Pastor
Office Manager
Director of Mission Advancement
Director of Worship and Music
Handbell Choir

Rev. Dr. Mark Fisher
Marie Cook
Ashleigh Altemann
Dr. Michael Burkhardt
JoAnn Adams

BOARD MEMBERS

John Dresden
Mark Switzer
Gilda Bingham

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Worship and Music
Spiritual Development and Outreach
Mission Advancement
Member Care
Young Families and Children
Stewardship Of Resources
Facility Needs
Communications

Dr. Michael Burkhardt
Kevin O'Brien
Ashleigh Altemann
Kris O'Brien
Karen Boczkaja
Dave Androvich
Wolfgang Henkel
Elaine Pearson

Tom Bosanko
Nancy Janik
Glen Ming

The Staff at St. John is here to serve you. If you have questions or concerns, please give us a call; we will be happy to talk to you

This issue was mailed on June 2, 2022

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Non-Profit Org.
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Farmington Hills, MI
Permit No. 220

And / or Current resident