

THE VOICE

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

Pastor Mark's Reflection

September 2022

About The Blessing

Frequently after service I have used the following blessing;

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers and half-truths,

So that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,

So that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with enough hope to believe that through Christ we can make a difference in the world. Amen

I believe this blessing summarizes for us the call of Christ concerning all of the elements of shalom but with a bit of an emphasis on compassion and justice. For us, this blessing is an invitation to learn more about the issues and people impacted above.

Once we establish the love of God, self, family, friends and the church, we simply go beyond and become aware and engaged to some extent with others in need, beyond our sight line. If you experience the blessings above you are uniquely walking with the Risen Christ. This part of the walk might be a bit frightening or uncomfortable but within it all there can be much joy.

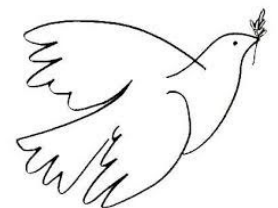
In the next month or so I will be talking more about "Pathways in Compassion" which is a ministry directed at one-on-one visitation of those in nursing homes that have been abandoned. It is hard to believe but about 50% of those in nursing homes across the US have no visitors.

This ministry might be your way of actualizing the blessing above. In any event I invite you to meditate on the above blessing and ask the question, "Lord what would you have me do?" If you struggle embracing any of the elements of the blessing it would be good to pray for the willingness to learn.

These are the best of times to be the church with so much need!

As always, my God's peace be with you!

Pastor Mark



Fundamentally Sacred – Rest

When I was in high school a friend accidentally enlightened me to a concept I had never considered before. Completing our school work, in addition to extracurricular activities, was not always easy. There were many students, I among them, who would forgo sleep in order to get our work done. The way I was raised, this was the right thing to do. Sacrifice yourself for yourself. Sleep was far less important than maintaining your grades.

In contrast, my friend told me about the conversation she had with her dad. When faced with the prospect of staying up later, sacrificing sleep for a better grade on this particular project, her dad asked what grade she thought she'd get on her work in its current state. My friend estimated she would earn a B as is. Her dad then asked her if it was worth it to give up sleep for an A, or if she would be satisfied with a B and being well rested. She chose sleep.

This absolutely blew my mind. Not only was the idea of sleep being more important than grades a novel concept to me, it was especially novel to think that guidance would come from someone's parent. The idea that sleep, rest, could be more important than grades was beyond anything I had ever considered. It was counter to so much of my experience to put sleep on such a lofty pedestal. At that point in my life, if I had to make a list of things that mattered, it might not have even occurred to me to include sleep.

While this was a revelation, it certainly did not immediately and permanently change my penchant for foregoing sleep in order to complete my work to get the grade. It did, however, cause me to reassess some things, including the importance of rest.

Last week I shared about the necessities for life: FSAW (food, shelter, air, water) and my additions H/MER (healthcare/medicine, education, rest). These things, I argue, ought to be regarded as sacred and treated as such. Our fundamentally sacred selves need them to live. It seems to be that they must be fundamentally sacred as well.

While you will find no lack of mention of food, shelter, air (usually in the form of breath), and water in the Bible, the idea of rest was important enough to include in the Ten Commandments. Growing up, sabbath was not something I paid much mind. Go to church on Sunday, check the box, sabbath done. It wasn't until we studied sabbath with Pastor Lauren that the concept started to broaden for me.

Of all the elements in this list of essentials for life, rest might be the most difficult to advocate for. We regularly disparage rest and admonish those who avail themselves to opportunities for rest or even ask for it - especially if they are poor. Many members of the work force in the United States have no vacation time, no sick days, no paid time off of any sort. Some work multiple low wage jobs to make ends meet. We pride their hustle, their grit,

their work ethic. No time to rest when we're pulling on those bootstraps.

Paradoxically, we often treat rest as unimportant, but also a luxury to be earned - not a necessity for a healthy life - not a necessity for the practice of shalom. How can one serve others when they are depleted?

Some questions to consider when thinking about the sacredness of rest and how to expand and protect people's access to it:

When do you feel well rested? What helps you feel that way?

When do you feel not well rested? How does that impact your life?

What are technologies and other conveniences that help you have more time to rest?

How might our society look different if rest was treated as sacred?

Last week, I mentioned some local organizations that focused on water. This week, I struggled to find organizations specifically working to help people rest. I honestly didn't know any and searching things like "rest advocacy" or "rest organization" turned up results for things that use those letters as an acronym. Here are some I discovered in my more in-depth and targeted research.

PL+US: Paid Leave for the United States (paidleave.us)

A campaign that worked for paid medical and family leave for every working person in the U.S. While the group has not achieved this goal, it is no-longer active. The website, however, has many resources available to learn more about this topic and the impacts paid leave can have for working people. For instance, I learned that **1 in 4 new moms in the United States return to work within 10 days of giving birth.**

A Better Balance (abetterbalance.org)

According to their website, "A Better Balance uses the power of the law to advance justice for workers, so they can care for themselves and their loved ones without jeopardizing their economic security.

Our expert legal team combats discrimination against pregnant workers and caregivers and advances supportive policies like paid sick time, paid family and medical leave, fair scheduling, and accessible, quality childcare and eldercare. When we value the work of providing care, which has long been marginalized due to sexism and racism, our communities and our nation are healthier and stronger."

have YOU HEARD ?

Wednesday
Nights
Where?

is
here
to
STAY!

join US FOR

FOOD

fath and fellowship

the 4th

WEDNESDAY

EVERY MONTH

Bring

YOUR CHAIR & A DISH! to share!

Wednesday

September

28th

@

7:00 pm

IN the

ST. JOHN

parking lot.

weather permitting

In poor weather, we will be in the gym.

Sunday SCHOOL

During service! No need to arrive early, no need to stay late.

Young people will begin service with the congregation. Before the readings, Sunday Schoolers will be called to leave the sanctuary for the Sunday School lesson, returning to the sanctuary before communion

Can't join us? Copies of the lessons available upon request.

Interested in helping with this ministry at St. John? Contact Ashleigh at ms.fancyfood@gmail.com

FALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 25

Giving
Generously

Oct. 9

Comfort to
Others

Oct. 23

Practicing
Humility

Nov. 13

Who or What
is God?

Nov. 27

Experiencing
God as Light

Dec. 11

A Teacher of
the Way -
Who Was Jesus



Summer is all about kids!

Down By the Riverside
 hearts, hands and voices

Worship and Fine Arts Camp Memories
 August 8-11, 2022; St. John Lutheran Church

*As I went down in the river to pray
 Water and the Word renew each day
 and guide me ever on my way,
 Good Lord, You are the Way.*

Photos by Chris Janik





9/2 Carolyn Holland
 9/4 Frank Blaker
 9/7 Matthew Switzer
 9/10 Marlene Dale
 Millie Whitbeck

9/14 John Bell
 Earl Hagen
 Tom Taepke
 9/17 Dennis Hoffman
 9/18 Dick Rudorffer
 9/19 June Orrand
 Andrew Stenson
 9/22 Caran Hoffman
 9/23 Phyllis Ming
 9/26 Eric Kramer
 9/28 Kristin Gerhard
 Eunice Gould

COFFEE HOUR HOST/HOSTESS NEEDED

Coffee Hour has resumed and we would like to have more volunteers be a host/hostess. If you are interested but don't want to host alone, perhaps you could ask a friend to help you. We will show you where the supplies are kept and how to set up and clean up. If you would like to volunteer for this important ministry or need more information, Please call Joanne Hagen 248-474-8521



SEPTEMBER 4
SEPTEMBER 11
SEPTEMBER 18
SEPTEMBER 25

SEPTEMBER COFFEE HOUR
THE TERNES FAMILY
THE TERNES FAMILY
THE CAUDLE FAMILY
THE LEWIS FAMILY

Thank You

. . . St. John Members for your kind wishes and encouraging words for my new adventure at Baldwin Wallace University – I will carry you and your words with me in this new chapter of life!

. . . St. John Chancel Choir for your beautiful singing and worship leadership on August 14 as well as for the bountiful and tasty reception following worship – my head, heart, and stomach are most grateful – may you continue to lead God’s people

heartily in word and song with body, mind, spirit and voice!

. . . St. John Prayer Shawl Ministry for the lovely prayer shawl you bestowed upon me – I know it will be used regularly in both happy and challenging times – blessings to you on this meaningful and powerful ministry!

. . . St. John Worship Team for your generous spirits, dedication and commitment as we worked together to lead the faith community we call St. John in praise, prayer and thanksgiving, and as we endeavored to create spiritual and physical space that was inviting and welcoming to all – may God continue to bless all your efforts in the name of our most generous and merciful God!

Sincerely,
Michael Burkhardt



Worship and Music

The Worship/Music Team; consisting of Pr. Mark, Dianne Brundage, Catherine Federspill, Dennis Hoffman and Marilyn Kurmas held its first meeting last week. It was productive as well as informative. We discussed various aspects of worship, the status of the organist/choir director position, copyright licensing, conclusion of organ repairs, upcoming special services, and Sunday school.

Janet Henkel
Chair, Worship/Music Team



Members:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Shirley Niesyto, | Ron Fischer |
| Fran Copp | Larry Urevig |
| Gene Kohli | Toni Lewis |
| Diane Stanton | Lois Makee |
| Earl Hagen | Mary Galloway |
| Marlou Grudt | Chris Janik |
| Diana Canup | Ward Varns |
| Dick Rudorffer | Ellen Zatolokin |
| Delores Winquist | Carol Sterling |
| Eunice Gould | Eva Paulson |
| Tammy Kilpatrick | Lillian Niemi |
| Jodi Oulette | |

Friends, and Family:

Ken Sandberg (Lunski); Karen and Roy Juntunen; Brent Jr and Brent Canup Sr.; Ken Monberg (Orrand-Musat); Pat Holland, George Austin, Jim Frattini, Susan Pearlman (Craig), 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); Courtney Dimiceli (Wiessbock);

Virginia Kincaide (Kincaide); Cheryl Cottongin; Mardee Thomas, (Galloway); Rosalind McLendan (Dale); Mary Rellinger (Switzer); Carol Collins (sister of Earl Hagen); Jeffrey Wetzel (Merrell).

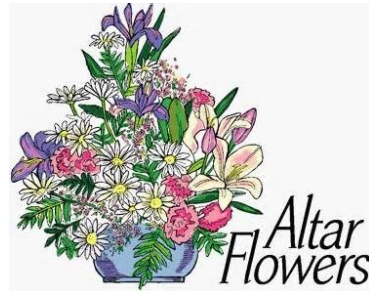


Serving in the Military including overseas:

- Michael Jamieson (Nader)
Collin Doolan (Fisher)

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.

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Church Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:30am—3:30pm 248-474-0584				1 8a Men's Breakfast 8a Renaissance Academy 10:30a Bible Academy	2 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	3
4 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 12:30p Succoth Church 4p AA	5 Labor Day!	6 8a Renaissance Academy	7 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	8 8a Men's Breakfast 8a Renaissance Academy 10:30a Bible Academy	9 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	10 9a St John Strategic Vision Session 7p MPR Event
11 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 12:00p Succoth Church 4p AA	12 10a Quilters 2p Smart Phone 101 6:30p HHAV	13 8a Renaissance Academy 1p Prayer Shawl Ministry	14 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Smart Phone 101 7p Succoth Church	15 8a Men's Breakfast 8a Renaissance Academy 10:30a Bible Academy	16 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	17
18 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 12:00p Succoth Church 2:30p BRRICK 4p AA	19 10a Quilters 6:30p HHAV	20 8a Renaissance Academy	21 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	22 8a Men's Breakfast 8a Renaissance Academy 10:30a Bible Academy	23 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	24 10a Dillard Memorial Service 3p Succoth 5 yr. Anniversary
25 10a Worship and Sunday School 11a Coffee Hour 12:00p Succoth Church 4p AA	26 10a Quilters 1p Blood Drive 6:30p HHAV	27 8a Renaissance Academy 1p Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30p RA Meet the Teacher	28 8a Renaissance Academy 7p WNW 7p Succoth Church	29 8a Men's Breakfast 8a Renaissance Academy 10:30a Bible Academy	30 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	

For most to date calendar information see online calendar at <http://www.stjohn-elca.org/calendar> Calendar key:

RA = Renaissance Academy
 HHAV =Hearts, Hands, and Voices

WNW = Wednesday Nights Wherever
 BAC= Bethlehem Activity Center

Bold Print= St John activities



ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Farmington Hills, MI 48335
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www.stjohn-elca.org



STAFF

Pastor
Office Manager
Director of Mission Advancement
Director of Music

Rev. Dr. Mark Fisher
Marie Cook
Ashleigh Altemann
Open

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
Communications

Janet Henkel
Kevin O'Brien
Ashleigh Altemann
Kris O'Brien
Karen Boczkaja
Dave Androvich
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 9-12-2022

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Permit No. 220

And / or Current resident