

THE VOICE

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

January 2022

Happy New Year! For some reason it sounds a bit odd to say it after the continued struggles of the pandemic but in the spirit of "don't give up and don't give in" Happy New Year it is!!

Over the next few months, we will we will be completing our ministry plans in preparation for the congregational meeting on February 27, 2022, as March 1st begins our new fiscal year. I am excited that the spirit of service and growth is moving though our community. With that in mind, I want to thank Wolfgang Henkel, Facilities and Dave Androvich, Finance & Stewardship for agreeing to join our leadership team!

This past week I made the case for the fact that health care stems from that dimension of shalom that is compassion. Compassion is God's love working through those who are called to provide healing to those who are in need of care. Over the past several weeks I have spent a lot of time in hospitals and have seen first hand the profound compassion that is moving through the majority of our health care workers.

I was taken by the impact that COVID still has on health care workers with the understanding between 75-85% of those in the hospital with it have not been vaccinated. This then slows down the ability of the health care system to provide other services that are non-covid related. The public health/theological position on the issue is that the vaccination is to help the person who takes it as well as keep all others around the individual a little more-safe. With that said I recognize that there a small minority of individuals who should not be vaccinated because of a severe allergic reaction.

Martin Luther spoke with a powerful voice about the plague that impacted the world in which he lived and offered a judgment on public health that is worthy of today's consideration. I want to underscore my passion for this issue with the understanding that - I have a Masters of Public Administration with a thesis on "Comprehensive Health-Care Planning." I do not believe however that this education is necessary for the preacher to speak out on the issue. The theological basis is more than enough.

Moving forward with the idea of 360-degree vision, it is reasonable for each of us to look at the impact of all action and inaction with such a vision. This applies not only to health care but how we do community building in church and simply how we move in time and space within our lives. Good to great evangelism is the implementation of such a vision with the a life that attempts to focus on God's peace.

May you rest in the love of God knowing that that his peace is always with you.

Peace,
Pastor Mark



Moments of Delight

Things have been rough lately. I started making a list of some of the bad and stressful things to illustrate this statement, but I can't imagine it's entirely necessary.

I'm tired and most people I've talked to recently have also been tired. Not just tired in the "things have been a little busy and I could use a day or two to rest and recharge" kind of way, but existentially tired, soul tired, the kind of tired that makes a person rethink their life.

Unfortunately, we can't rethink our lives out of a pandemic, or climate change, or shootings, or...

The other day I noticed some birds in my garden. They were little round guys that bounced around, pecking at the snow. Every so often one would jump onto some of the remnants of dead plants to shake it, then hop back down to the snow and eat the bits it had dropped. Watching this filled me with quiet joy.

I had read over and over and been told that leaving the plants in the beds over winter was good. Among other reasons, it provided food for wildlife. I began this practice some years ago and while I have some evidence that it is doing good for our ecosystem, I hadn't gotten much opportunity to see it directly. Validation is a great feeling. Those birds, fluttering about, bashing the shriveled and dried plants let me know that what I'm doing is worthwhile.

In light of all the heavy stuff, it was a welcome moment of delight.

Thankfully the multiple covid scares in the family just before Christmas all had negative test results so we were able to enjoy Christmas together.

After St. John's service my brother, sister-in-law, and I headed up to my grandma's house in Waterford. We enjoyed our traditional Christmas Eve meal of cold cut sandwiches and some gifts were exchanged. My grandma got her Jack Daniels. My aunt gave my brother, my cousin, and me bowls she had made using my grandpa's neckties. Since my dad was leaving early in the morning we exchanged our gifts then as well.

I got my dad a silly gift. I found a stone carafe at the Habitat Restore that said "cheap wine" on it. To go with it I got him 3 bottles of

Charles Shaw wine from Trader Joe's, better known as "Two Buck Chuck." He opened the wine first. It was certainly not the quality of wine he probably expected in a gift from me, but he did at one time buy it by the case and still brings it up more often than he probably thinks. Then he got to the carafe. Just as the words were revealed to everyone else in the room but him, he says, "Oh, so you put it in this so no one knows you're serving cheap wine." Laughter erupted. It was a priceless moment.

The delight of that evening continued when he and my aunt pranced around my grandma's kitchen, doing the "Soupy Shuffle."

For a brief moment, things felt almost like they used to - grandma's house filled with people and laughter, late into the evening on Christmas Eve.

The heavy returned not long after the celebration faded. Worries of possible covid exposure. Killings in Denver that targeted people in my friend's social circle, followed by a wildfire a town over from where her cousin lives. A family member with covid. The sudden and unexpected loss of someone I was starting to get to know more.

Even without an unyielding pandemic and everything else, delights can be so much harder in the cold and dark of winter. But my garden is still outside. The birds will be back to rustle the plants and eat their fill. Perhaps I'll get to delight once again as they enjoy what I've left for them.

— --Ashleigh Altemann



We would like to thank all of the members of St. John who participated in the 2021 Adopt-a-Family and Samaritas projects.

We delivered about 50 gifts to Neighborhood House where "our" 2 families picked them up. Thanks to all who helped us to make Christmas special for these families who are struggling. You also donated \$100 in Kroger gift cards. These will be distributed by Neighborhood House to those who need them as will the \$265 in utility shut-off money which was also donated. Thanks to Patty Oates for coordinating this project, and to Patty and Bob for delivering the gifts to Neighborhood House.

We are also grateful to the people who purchased gifts for the child we sponsored on line through Samaritas. Thanks to Elaine Pearson for setting up the on-line sign-up.

Patty Oates

As another year of baking comes to an end, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work in making the Pasties and Nisu possible. I also want to thank everyone for their support in buying the baked goods. If you have ever wondered what your support has meant to St. John I'm pleased to tell you that since 2018 when we did our first "test bake " we have been able to add almost \$7800 to the operating budget from 11 bakes. Does that sound like a lot???

Just think what it could have been without being shut down due to Covid!! We have missed 11 bakes while closed down so we could have doubled the amount!!

Pasty baking on Jan. 22. Nisu in February.

Thanking you in advance for your continued support

Donna Bosanko

"Thank you so much for the wonderful Christmas Gift!" Peace, Pastor Mark

After discussions with Pastor Mark, I have agreed to fill the Facilities position.

I really look forward to working with our staff, team leaders, everyone here at St. John, as well as leaders of Renaissance Academy (RA), the Succoth congregation, and Hearts, Hands and Voices.

In the next week, I will be contacting those who indicated via their mission card an interest in helping in the area of Facilities Maintenance, The Monday Guys, Safety/Security, and/or Event Hosting..

I appreciate the enthusiastic support I've already received here, from Renaissance Academy, Succoth Church, and Hearts Hands and Voices. Together, we will make it a great year.

Wolfgang Henkel

God's Garden Update

The Baker Creek seed catalog came in the mail a few days ago. Flipping through its many pages of beautiful and unique offerings is always a joy. Deciding what to buy is an entirely different matter. With so many wonderful things, it is easy to get carried away.

Being a member of the Yad Ezra Giving Gardens Club last year was so wonderful. The plants we got filled our space and then some. I'm looking forward to seeing what they grow this year. I'll be looking to supplant with some things we grow ourselves as well.

On a whim I searched for apps that assist with garden planning. I've done so much on my own with spreadsheets and drawing mockups, but there are limitations to my knowledge and skill set that could possibly be aided with some technology. That search proved quite fruitful as I think I may have hit the jackpot in terms of garden planning programs. The platform is called GrowVeg. On top of building a map of the garden, it can help with spacing plants, companion planting, succession planting, and crop rotation. It gives guidance on when to start plants indoors or direct sow, and will even send reminders when things need to be happening. Plus, it has an integrated garden journal that logs weather data and can tie notes to specific plants for future reference. The succession planting and timeline support are what I am most excited about as those are areas that are more difficult for me.

The app does come at a small cost (I think around \$40/year), but it does seem well worth the investment. I set up a free trial account to verify its claims and ease of use. So far, I am quite impressed.

Next month I'll be looking for folks who can help start some seeds at home. The plants will be used in the garden here at St. John, but I'd also like to host a plant sale for the community to raise funds and awareness.

It's hard to say when the weather will allow for us to get out in the dirt, but it is possible we may be back at it as early as March. Writing this now, it doesn't feel so far away. April will likely be a good time to continue with planting some of the perennial plants that have been heeled into the garden for now. Hopefully by May, the overhaul of the main God's Garden space will be complete and we'll be ready to roll for the rest of the season.

Besides the work of building, tending and harvesting, we'll have some opportunities for some fun and learning - like a tea making class, garden art projects, meals where we enjoy the fruits of our labor, and maybe even some field trips to explore other gardens together. I can't wait to get growing!



"It is even more shameful for a person to pay no heed to his own body and to fail to protect it against the plague the best he is able, and then to infect and poison others who might have remained alive if

he had taken care of his body as he should have. He is thus responsible before God for his neighbor's death and is a murderer many times over."

(Martin Luther, Luther's Works, Vol. 43: Devotional Writings II, "Whether One Should Flee From a Deadly Plague")

January

1/1 Fred Ternes
1/3 Wolfgang Henkel
1/7 Debbie Stanek
1/10 Gabriella Weller
1/14 Melanie McDowell
Kevin O'Brien
1/17 Thomas Bosanko
Kris O'Brien
Lori Ozar
1/18 William Halvangis
Omolar Salako

1/20 Catherine Federspill
1/22 Jillian Dresden
Harold Galloway
1/23 Joshua Stenson
1/24 Judith Mahle
David Zatolokin
1/26 Patrick Barrett
Carl Ozar
1/29 George Anderson
1/30 Jackie Craig



C O L O R I N G P A G E

GREAT EXPECTATIONS





*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

Members:

The family of Ed Kramer;
The family of Jeannie
Kindcaide; The family of
Prudence Hogrefe; Lois
Makee; Earl Hagen; Mary Galloway; Marlou
& Jim Grudt; Chris Janik; Diana Canup;
Ward Varns; Eva Paulson; Dick Rudorffer;
Audrey Riley; Ellen Zatolokin; Delores
Winqvist; Carol Sterling; Selma Ballach;
Eunice Gould; Tammy Kilpatrick; Lillian
Niemi; Jodi Oulette; Joan Simonson.

Friends, and Family:

The Soderlund family (Kyle and his
parents) (Fisher); Loretta Zahn (Oates);
Lynne LaMontagne (Hoffman); Marshall &
Jessie Anderson (Bosanko); Steve Kramer;
Barry Shiek (Henkel); Judy Wiessbock,
Courtney Dimiceli (Wiessbock); Val

Blanchett (Fisher); Jaden Henkel; Mark
Copp (Fisher); Pr. Lauren Kirsh-Carr;
Virginia Kincaide (Kincaide); Sue Jennings
(Fisher); Jean Nelson (Nieysto); Terry
Atkinson, Evelyn Tenbusch, Mardee
Thomas; Rosalind McLendan (Dale); Kristin
Stoneback, Jane Borsvold, Cindy & Mark
Borsvold (Sailus); Mary Rellinger
(Switzer); Nancy Kowalski (Niesyto); Carol
Collins (sister of Earl Hagen); Jeffrey
Wetzel (Merrell).



PRAY
FOR OUR MILITARY

**Serving in the Military
including overseas:**

Jacob Stanton

*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!*



**DID YOU
KNOW**

**THAT YOU CAN
PUT ST. JOHN
IN YOUR WILL?**

First session of the New Year

hands and
voices



January 10

Bible
Academy



January 13

WEDNESDAY
NIGHTS
WHEREVER



January 26

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
						1	
2 10a Worship 12p Succoth Church 4p AA	3 6p WAZA Track	4	5 10:30p SJ Staff Meeting 6p WAZA Track 7p Succoth Church	6 8a Men's Breakfast	7 6p WAZA Track 7p Succoth Church	8 9a WAZA Track 9:00a Take down Christmas Décor. Sweet Sixteen Party 11a—4p decorating 5p—10p Event	
9 10a Worship 12p Succoth Church 4p AA	10 4:30p HHAV 6p WAZA Track	11 1p Prayer Shawl Ministry 6p Leadership Team mtg .	12 10:30p SJ Staff Meeting 6p WAZA Track 7p Succoth Church	13 8a Men's Breakfast 10:30a Bible Academy	14 6p WAZA Track 7p Succoth Church	15 9a WAZA Track 9:30a Via de Christo 11a Funeral Service Birthday Party 4p—6p decorating 6p—10p party	
16 10a Worship 12:30p Succoth Church 4p AA	MLK JR. DAY 17 4:30p HHAV 6p WAZA Track	18 8a RA Hybrid 7p St John Board	19 10:30p SJ Staff Meeting 6p WAZA Track 7p Succoth Church	20 8a RA Hybrid 10:30a Bible Academy	21 4p Pasty Set Up 7p Succoth Church	22 7a Pasty Baking 9a WAZA Track	
23 10a Worship 12:30p Succoth Church 4p AA	24 4:30p HHAV 6p WAZA Track	25 8a RA Hybrid 1p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7p St John Board	26 8a RHG 10:30p SJ Staff Meeting 6p WAZA Track 7p WNW 7p Succoth Church	27 8a RA Hybrid 10:30a Bible Academy	28 Voice Articles due! 8a RHG 7p Succoth Church	29 NRIVA Sankranti Celebrations Noon—3p decorating 6p—11p Event	
30 10a Worship 12:30p Succoth Church 4p AA	31 4:30p HHAV 6p WAZA Track	Church Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:30am—3:30pm				For most to date calendar information see online calendar at http://www.stjohn-elca.org/calendar	
		Calendar key: WNW = Wednesday Nights Wherever' RA = Renaissance Academy; RHG = Renaissance Homeschool Group; HHAV =Hearts, Hands, and Voices; BAC= Bethlehem Activity Center Bold Print= St John activities					



ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

Diane Stanton
Mark Switzer
John Dresden

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

Nancy Janik
Glen Ming
Larry Urevig

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 January 6, 2021

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