

THE HERALD

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St. John's Lutheran Church
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A Pause For Positives

A great truism is the one that acknowledges "People often take things for granted." At almost every level or at some time in our life, we will take our many blessings and the people we love for granted. We wish we didn't and we try not to, but life is busy and we are busier and so it happens. Almost always when I am working with a couple in their pre-marital counseling sessions, I will heavily stress the need that the couple make certain not to take each other for granted, and to always show appreciation and thankfulness for the small tokens of love and assistance as well as for the large.

With that being said, we who call St. John's our family and who live out our faith life through this congregation have many things to be thankful for and that we hopefully are not taking for granted. This month, in the middle of a very hot summer, I'd like to take a moment and lift up just a few of the many things and people for which we are so grateful. The list is long, but I shall make an effort this month to highlight just a few for us to be thinking about this summer.

- 1) Let's start with our facilities. The church and the educational building are testament to the stewardship of past generations. I often hear from members and visitors about how beautiful our church is. And truly it is! This makes it easy for us to gather for worship in such a beautiful, historic and holy space. And by comparison our educational building is almost brand new, and it provides us a comfortable space in which to enjoy fellowship and learn about the God who loves us and claims us as His children. Both past and present generations have given us this opportunity.
- 2) Perhaps you've never given it much thought, but the cemetery existing between these two buildings is testimony to many saints who worshipped at St. John's and have given of themselves to make St. John's the church and community of faith that it is today.
- 3) The members and guests who come and share their faith in worship and praise to God. We are a church that is extremely blessed to have such caring and compassionate people sitting in the pews. We have a well-earned reputation for being a friendly church and making people feel at home. This is a church not afraid to welcome people in the name of Christ!
- 4) Within this membership are some very committed, talented and gifted people. We have teachers and cooks, caregivers and note senders, brilliant minds and hard workers. And out of these groups, every year we raise up leaders who give of themselves on the Vestry to help guide us into the next year and the next century of ministry. The Vestry and others work extremely hard in their specific area of service to make certain that everything is taken care of and provided for.
- 5) We have a church staff that is dedicated to tending to the day-to-day business of the church and helping keep us all connected. The church office is held together on a day-by-day basis by Carole, and each week Todd provides us with music that we hear and participate in that lifts our spirits in song and thanksgiving to God for the gift of His son Jesus Christ. And we have just added Jennifer to the staff to help us organize and grow our Christian Education opportunities.

And most important, I think, is the God we have come to know and love through His Son Jesus Christ. Every day there is a new blessing He gives and a new opportunity He provides for us to see His presence around us and be thankful. I encourage you this month to think of something every day for which you are thankful. And if possible, share your feelings of thankfulness with those you know and love, and with those who are around you. Even in the midst of difficult times, if we look around us our blessings are numerous, for our God is a good and loving God.

Count your blessings with me this month, and be thankful. And let me say from the bottom of my heart: I'm thankful for each of you!

In Christ,
Pastor Butler +



**Vacation Bible School
August 3 - August 6**

**Dinner begins at 5:45
Program begins at 6:30**

**Classes available for all ages through adult
Nursery will be available**

Yes! I'd love to attend VBS this year

Name _____ Age/Grade _____

Name _____ Age/Grade _____

Name _____ Age/Grade _____

**There are many areas where you can help too!
Help us make VBS a huge success!**

I'd love to help with VBS this year! I can help by _____

Place your registration form in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

**St. John's
T-Shirts for Sale**

A member of the Evangelism Committee will be available in the Parish Hall auditorium on Sundays July 20th and 27th from 9:00 am – 10:00 am to take St John's t-shirt orders. Please submit payment by check at the time you place your order. T-shirts are available in long sleeve or short sleeve, gray or white, with or without pocket, and adult and youth sizes.

Worship Hours for July!

During the month of July, our worship service and Sunday School hours change. Please make a note of the time change!

Sunday Church School - 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

New Director of Christian Education, Youth, and Family Ministries

Hi. My name is Jennifer Gnann. I'm a new member at St. John's, and I am excited to become a part of the church staff and am looking forward to working with you and your family. I am originally from Birmingham, Alabama, and lived in Mooresville, North Carolina, for the past 13 years. I moved to Charleston in October, 2013.

Here is some information about me: I received my B.A. from Furman University in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Additionally, I have earned my M.Ed. from UNC Charlotte in Curriculum and Supervision as well as a Graduate Certificate in School Administration. I enjoy working with children and their families. I know that, with your support and prayers, together we can guide our young people in their relationship with Christ. Please feel free to contact me at the church with any questions you may have!

Church Parking Lot Problems

St. John's is blessed to have a parking lot very close to our church and parish building. We have a total of 29 parking spaces, the majority of which are rented Monday through Friday to local business persons. Of those 29 spaces, we do not rent 7 of them so that members of our church coming downtown for church meetings, Bible studies and/or business at the church will have a parking space available. None of the parking places are rented during the evening hours or over the weekend. For several months we have been experiencing problems with cars being parked in the spaces we keep reserved for members coming to the church. We try very hard to never tow a car if we can help it; however, on occasion it becomes necessary because cars will be parked in these reserved spaces and we have no idea whose car it may be.

Here is what we are asking: when you come down to the church during the week for any reason, please let Carole know you have parked in one of the spaces. Also, if you do not have a St. John's sticker on your car, please consider putting one on your rear window. This helps us identify your car as belonging to a member of St. John's. If you need a sticker, we have plenty. Just ask for one and we'll be glad to provide you a new one.

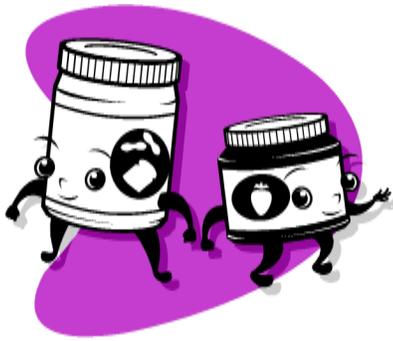
As is human nature, sometimes people realize we are hesitant to tow cars and they begin to take advantage of that fact. Then when one of our members arrives and needs a parking space, it will already be taken by someone who is counting on our not towing them. Please help us enforce the use of the parking lot by letting us know you are parked there, and as we know that, we are then in a position to handle cars that are illegally parked in the lot



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

On Thursday, June 19, 2014, the Vestry met to discuss and conduct the business of the church. The highlights of the Vestry Meeting follow.

- 1) The meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer offered by Pastor Butler.
- 2) The May 2014 Minutes were approved as submitted.
- 3) The May Treasurer's Report was received as information. Year-to-date offerings are in line with budgeted projections, and we hope the congregation will continue this trend through out the summer months when offerings sometimes drop due to vacations and summer activities. Anne Lake also reported that Verbia Quattlebaum had named St. John's in her will and that we have received a distribution that was designated for the Endowment Fund.
- 4) Pastor Butler, Dan and Nancy Prickett attended the Synod Assembly that was held in Columbia. One of the highlights of the Assembly was the re-election of Bishop Yoos on the first ballot to a second six-year term, and the reception of three new churches. For complete results of the Assembly, one simply needs to visit the Synod website, www.sclutheran.org
- 5) Pastor Butler gave a report on the interview process that we have gone through in our search process for a Director of Christian Education, Youth and Family Ministry. He then recommended that Jennifer Gnann be hired for the position. The Vestry voted to approve the recommendation, and Jennifer will begin work on Monday, June 23, 2014 .
- 6) The Christian Education Committee reminded Vestry that Vacation Bible School is scheduled August 3, 4, 5 and 6.
- 7) The Evangelism Committee requested permission to sell T-shirts in the social hall on July 20 and 27. These will be sold during the Sunday School hour. Additionally the Committee is moving forward with ordering new church stickers and magnets. AED training is in the process of being scheduled. An ad for St. John's is being placed in the "My Charleston" magazine.
- 8) The Property Committee prepared a detailed report relating to their ongoing work. It was also noted that Randy Lesemann has been taking on quite a few of the smaller repairs that were on the list, and he has been diligently working to remedy a number of nagging repair issues we have been dealing with for several years. Thanks Randy!
- 9) The Social Ministry Committee is in the planning phase of developing supper clubs and a coat drive for the fall, and they are providing a meal for Homeworks on Friday, June 20.
- 10) The goals that were established as a result of the 2014 Retreat were revisited, and progress reports were provided by various Committee members.
- 11) There will be no Vestry Meeting in July.
- 12) The next Vestry Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 21, 2014.



Collecting For Tri-County Family Ministries

During the month of July, St. John's will be collecting peanut butter and jelly for Tri-County Family Ministries. Please bring your donation and place it in the center narthex or grocery cart in the parish hall.

With your help, we can make a difference!

Booklets/Magazines Are Available

Devotional booklets and magazines are yours for the taking! They are located on the hall table in the Parish Building, and there are several different ones available.

Christ in Our Home is a quarterly devotional booklet that encourages you to live out your faith daily. Each reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day. We have this booklet in pocket size, and it is also available in large print.

The Word in Season is a daily devotional, published quarterly, that enriches life with a contemporary message for today's Christian. A reflection of the themes of Sunday's texts provides meditations for you throughout the week. As this is small in size, it is easy to take with you.

Alive Now is a magazine that is published bimonthly. It speaks to the opportunities and challenges of following Christ in the modern world through scripture and prayer as it helps to nourish your daily life. It helps make space for God in the midst of the chaos of our daily lives.

The Lutheran magazine is published monthly and offers members of the ELCA the range of inspirational and informative stories. It offers stories to enrich your faith, as well as news you'll not find anywhere else. It provides inspirational articles that help you on your faith journey, and also gives you two or three articles that present you the opportunity for in-depth study guides available online at www.thelutheran.org. The stories and guides in *The Lutheran* range in topic from current issues in church and society to spiritual formation to inspirational stories about individuals and congregations, and cover both global and local stories.

Spark Family is a quarterly magazine designed for families with children and is perfect for kids in preschool through grade 4. It is based on seasons and themes from the Bible and filled with quick and easy ways to fit faith into everyday life. Each issue has colorful images and engaging activities for the whole family.

Try it, you'll like it!

Children's Summer Sunday School Needs Volunteers

During the Summer months, our Children's Sunday School classes are combined into one class, and we ask for volunteer teachers to help us out for a week or two. There is a sign-up sheet at the entrance to the parish building that notes the dates when we still need teachers. Would you please consider signing up and sharing your Sunday morning with our St. John's children?

If you sign up, the lesson will be provided to you, along with all the materials. With that in hand, you will have the opportunity to share your love of Jesus with our St. John's children. It's not hard, and they are a wonderful group of children. So please consider sharing yourself with our children if only for one Sunday this Summer.

There are several dates still have open for you to volunteer. Look them over, compare them with your calendar, and then come sign up to help us out. The remaining dates/times are: July 13th, 9:00 a.m.; August 10th, 9:45 a.m.; and August 31st, at 9:45 a.m.

Children's Choir

A new children's and youth choir is being formed for our children ages 5 through eighth grade. Our Director of Music will be working with our children and youth to teach music method and vocal production and show them how to have a great time as they learn new songs and how much fun singing and music can be. Todd will begin working with our new choir on August 24. Pastor Butler will hold a meeting with all parents of our children and youth to outline the program and the schedule. Be looking for updates through bulletin announcements and emails.

Email Address Updates Needed

During the month of July there will be an insert in each Sunday's bulletin asking for members with email addresses to please provide the church office with the correct email address. So often we change our emails, but in the process we forget to update everyone. Since our pictorial directory was published, many of our members have changed their email addresses, and we often have emails bounced back to us because the address we have is incorrect. Additionally, once we have compiled the new address list, the church will use these addresses to begin sending out weekly reminders and information to our membership. In this way, we will be able to send out information on a weekly basis as well as keeping the congregation informed on upcoming events or significant pieces of timely information. Please fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate. Thank you.

Financial Update

The Finance Committee provides each month an update of the contributions received in the current year as compared to the amount in the budget adopted by the congregation. The following is the budget to actual comparison through May 31, 2014.

Contributions received	\$ 135,312
Contributions per budget	<u>127,082</u>
Receipts over (under) budget	<u>\$ 8,230</u>

Congregational Concerns and Prayers

We remember in our prayers: Ed Andersen, John Anderson, Bobby Babson, Ruth Butler, Joe Clark, Lena Doscher, Dick Fulmer, George Galante, George Harakas, Judy Greer, Nell Jones, Geneva Kahrs, Betty Lemacks, Eleanor Luden, Billie Jean Roble, Ed Rugheimer, Tricia Siudzinski, Margaret Stephens, Susan Spoon, Cele West, all those who are infirm and recovering from illnesses and our members who have experienced losses of loved ones.

Our Loved Ones Away From Home

We have a prayer list of those members of St. John's and our extended family who are in the military and/or involved in this current military situation. When filling out your blue attendance card, please add the names to it and indicate "military," and we will include your loved ones on our prayer list. Presently included are: Derek Bean, Alex Bedenbaugh, Lt. Joseph Gibbons Clark, Mark Evans, Ryan Hanson, John Lesemann, and Christopher Osgood.



- July 1 Bill Gerard
- July 3 Wallace Holland, Jr.
- July 5 Drayton Siegling
- July 6 Billy Mitchum
- July 10 Eleanor Luden
- July 11 Ally McDonough
Beth McKeever
- July 12 Danielle Andersen
- July 13 Elizabeth Goeden
- July 14 Armee Sadler
- July 19 Mary Boyd Hart
- July 20 Anne Poulnot
- July 21 Marsha Mikell
- July 23 Maggie Harken
- July 24 Bill Lemacks
- July 25 Stewart McKeever
- July 30 Carson Caldwell
Joye Shuler
Gary Stuber
- July 31 Thomas Greer
Christina Osgood



MUSIC NOTES

Greetings! As I write this I am getting ready to leave for Boston, where I will spend a few days at the American Guild of Organists National Conference. As the new Dean of the Charleston chapter of the AGO, I couldn't pass up the chance to attend this conference, at which I will have a chance to hear wonderful, historic organs played by world-renowned organists, network with colleagues from around the country, pick up new organ and choral repertoire for use at St. John's, and even sing in an impromptu gospel choir comprised of organists! I look forward to sharing my experiences with you in my August article.

Our first "Summer at St. John's" concert has come and gone! On Saturday, June 16, local guitar virtuoso Tom Noren wowed an enthusiastic audience with the music of Brazil and Ireland. Once again, the phenomenal acoustics of our historic church were evident as Tom brought a rather elaborate sound system with him, but ended up not needing it at all as every string rang out clearly all the way to the back row! We are blessed! Sincere thanks are given to Brenda and Vernon Brannen, who provided a lovely reception after the concert. It was a wonderful chance for fellowship on our beautiful portico!

In July you'll have a second chance to hear beautiful music in our historic sanctuary. On Saturday, July 12 at 5PM, our newly-formed vocal quartet, the Charlestons, comprising of Brink Norton (tenor), William Purcell (baritone), Stephen Spaulding (lead), and yours truly (bass) will perform an eclectic concert of pieces ranging from traditional barbershop songs to hymns, from spirituals to pop. Each of us will solo as well to round out a program that truly will have something for everyone. We hope to see you there!

Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy 4th of July!

In music,

Todd

513-3050

toddmonsell@gmail.com

Music Quotation of the Month:

"Music is the great uniter. An incredible force. Something that people who differ on everything and anything else can have in common." — Sarah Dessen



Memorial Gifts were given in loving memory of:

Hugh Jordan, Sr.
Dan and Lynda Marchant

Sadie Molony
Dan and Lynda Marchant

Bill Varner
Hubert and Joye Shuler