

## **A Word from the Pastor for Pentecost...**

Harvard scholar Diana Eck, in her work entitled *Encountering God* (Boston: Beacon, 1993), shared some surprising aspects of religion in the medieval church. For the medieval man, woman and child, the liturgical calendar stood at the center of their lives, well beyond which Scriptures were read on Sunday. The church calendar shaped the daily lives of the people. Festivals, saint's days, holy days, all lived and breathed in the world of the medieval church. It was the church's job to see that the marking of these days remained the guiding and central force in daily life.

Professor Eck has discovered that Pentecost was one of the most unique and creatively celebrated days on the church's calendar. In 10th-century Rome, for example, the church celebrated its birthday in a fantastic way. In order to make the coming of the Holy Spirit a dramatic event for their congregations, leaders of Pentecost services involved architecture, not just anthems.

The heavenly scenes painted on the great domed and vaulted ceilings of cathedrals served not only to inspire the devout with visions. It also disguised some discreet trap doors. These small openings were drilled through the cathedral ceiling to the rooftop. During the Pentecost worship service, some hapless servants would be drafted to climb up on the roof. At the appropriate moment during the liturgy, they would release live doves through these holes. From out of the painted skies and clouds on the cathedral ceiling, symbols of a the Holy Spirit would descend on those below.

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## **A Word from the Pastor for Pentecost (continued)...**

The choir would make music in different way, with sounds of whooshing and drumming, in imitation of the wind of the Holy Spirit. Finally, as the doves were flying and the winds were rushing, the ceiling holes would once again be used -- as bushels upon bushels of rose petals were showered down upon the congregation. These red, flickering bits of flowers symbolized tongues of flame falling upon all who waited below in faith.

They called these openings to the sky in medieval churches "Holy Spirit holes." Now that is what I call a party! So...where are our "Holy Spirit holes," not literally of course, but in our community? Where is there room for the Holy Spirit to rush in with something new? This is the question of Pentecost and the season after, our "growing time." As St. John's continues to welcome new members, may we also recognize new ministries, new "Holy Spirit" holes that are waiting to be filled with the good news of Jesus Christ.

A blessed Pentecost Day!  
Pastor V.

## Ladies Aid

We have heard through Mark Koepfel that we will be needing a new refrigerator for the church kitchen. The Ladies Aid will be making a donation to this and are happy to be able to help. Speaking of the refrigerator, just a reminder that it is best not to leave leftovers there since they usually end up being thrown out, It is best to take them home or give them to someone on the day you have the leftovers. If food is there for a specific purpose, please label it so that they are not tossed. Thanks for helping to keep the refrigerator clean and available for necessary use.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

## **Women of the ELCA**

Wow! What a wonderful evening we had in May with Ona and her Women of Faith CD. The fellowship room was packed with ladies from St. John's and many of Ona's friends from First Presbyterian Church were there too. It was great to be able to share the evening with them. The laughs and smiles were nonstop for the entire time and the underlining message of hope warmed our hearts. It is no wonder we look forward to this meeting each year. We will be glad to make room for more new faces next year. Special thanks to all who were able to make it and share in the fellowship of that program.

On June 11, we will be able to share more fellowship with the ladies. This time we will be dining out and all are welcome. We will be going to the North Star Tavern on Seneca Street in Elma. The time to be there is 6 PM. The sign up sheet is on the counter in the church foyer or you can call Connie at 674-2409 if you would like to come or have questions. We look forward to dining with you.

Thought for the month from my thought for the day calendar:

I will keep my sense of humor today. Everything looks better when I view it with a sparkle in my eye and a smile on my face.

Cheerfulness is the window cleaner of the mind.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

## Community Nights!

St. John's is proud to present our new monthly Community Nights. These nights will be filled with family friendly events that seek to foster a deeper sense of community within St. John's. All of the events are after our monthly Community Dinners unless otherwise noted. So come on out eat some good food and then stay for a fun time!

Below is a list of the upcoming Community Nights along with their tentative dates. As we get closer to each event more information will become available.

Jun 28<sup>th</sup>-OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT  
Jul (TBA)- BISON'S GAME

Submitted by: Megan Marrano  
(marrano92@gmail.com)



This is the QR code for the St John's website. If you're not familiar, a QR code will take a mobile device directly to our web site, just by taking a picture of it.

## WHAT IS A THRIVENT ACTION TEAM?

**Thrivent Action** Teams are groups of volunteers who donate time and effort to help a charitable cause of their choice. As a **Thrivent** Financial benefit or associate member, **Thrivent** Financial will arm you with \$250 of seed money for your project.

If you want to learn more you can contact your Thrivent representative (Brian Makey) or talk to Mark Koepfel or Nancy Kessler.

The funds can be used to help pay for a Community dinner, a Youth event, an Outreach program and more.

You can learn more by checking out the web site below.

[https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/files/CA\\_Conversation\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/files/CA_Conversation_Guide.pdf)

### **Food Barrel for WS Food Pantry**

Needed for Spring are canned pasta such as ravioli, SpaghettiOs and macaroni and cheese; jelly/jam, brownie mix and small bags of flour. Also needed are paper products such as paper towels and toilet paper. As always, Soup is always needed!!!



HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY TO:

6/5 Preston H. Fredericks  
6/7 Marie Ramey  
6/12 John Anderson  
6/12 Lorrie Whelan  
6/13 Patrick Mudd  
6/17 Francis Wolf  
6/18 Renee Then  
6/19 Rick Fredericks  
6/20 Keith Altman  
6/20 Dawn Corless  
6/20 Travis Hicks  
6/20 Tom Mudd  
6/23 Rachel Storch  
6/25 Matt Brown  
6/27 Adam Noyes  
6/28 Olivia Drewniak  
6/29 Carol Delaney  
6/29 Pat Lipka



HAPPY JUNE ANNIVERSARY TO:

6/7/2008 Dave and Pat Gorman  
6/7/1975 Tom and Andrea Mudd  
6/9/1998 Scott and Bethann Hintzman  
6/16/2018 Nick and Amanda Barnhardt  
6/20/2015 Rob and Ashley Coder  
6/25 Kathy and Len Kujawa  
6/28/1969 Lowell and Karen Rothenberger

## Assisting Minister Schedule

|         |                             |
|---------|-----------------------------|
|         | 10 am                       |
| June 2  | Pat Lipka                   |
| June 9  | Evelyn Hicks (Confirmation) |
| June 16 | Dawn Corless (Father's Day) |
| June 23 | Nancy Kessler               |
| June 30 | Al Kerner                   |

## News from the Pews

Congratulations go out to Sandy Haase who was chosen as the 2019 Volunteer Woman of Distinction sponsored by Assemblyman Pat Burke's office. Sandy received the award on May 23 with lots of her family and friends present, While we are blessed to have so many at St. John's who could qualify for this award, Sandy certainly is at the top of the list and most worthy to receive this honor.

"I'm sending a big thank you to my church family for all the cards and prayers. It feels so good to be wrapped in God's love. The power of prayer is so healing. God bless all of you. Diane Molnar"

## ST. JOHN'S DINING OUT CLUB

We invite all who are interested to join us:

**WHEN:** THURSDAY, JUNE 27 - 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** MY TOMATO PIE

**MENU:** \$ 11.00 and up entrees, appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, pitas, wraps

**DIRECTIONS:** 3035 Niagara Falls Blvd., Rte 62, East Amherst, North to Top's Plaza north of E. Robinson Rd.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE DUE TO THE SIZE OF OUR GROUP. PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET ON THE COUNTER IN THE FOYER AND INDICATE IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DRIVE, RIDING WITH SOMEONE OR WILL MEET US AT THE RESTAURANT.**

### RESTAURANT REVIEW:

**Gardenview Restaurant:** 10 of us enjoyed eating at this restaurant here in town. The pot roast and roast beef dinners were good. No two meals were the same and everyone rushed home to watch Jeopardy! Good thing we were close to home!!!!

**HOW DO WE CHOOSE THE NEXT RESTAURANT?** At each dinner, we pass a list around and everyone chooses a restaurant they would like to experience. The one with the most votes is where we go next. All members of St. John's, your family and friends are welcome. Please feel free to join us anytime. For more information, please call Carolly at 826-0506.

## **Hands and Hearts Ministry**

The members of the Hands and Hearts Knitting Ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church would like to extend an invitation to everyone to join our small but dedicated group. We knit and crochet Prayer Shawls for those in need of healing warmth and christening caps to welcome newly baptized infant members. Throughout the year we also make items of outerwear for donation to groups in the community that pass them along to their clients.

We welcome everyone from those wishing to learn the craft to the expert. The first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Room is our new meeting time. We have a small stock of tools to get new members started and look forward to welcoming you with a quiet evening of companionable conversation and needlework.

If interested please contact Linda Wetzler (716)512-8106. Thank you.

### **Monthly Community Dinner June 28, 2019**

**We will be serving hot dogs and sides**

Dinner is served 4pm—6:30pm or until we run out,  
whichever comes first.

We will offer drinks and dessert with the meal.

The meal is provided for ANYONE in need of food, fellowship or fun... As always, the food, the seat and the smiles are FREE but good will offerings are always accepted.

## Altar Guild

There is really nothing new or special to report this month. We just continue to THANK everyone for your gracious support of our organization with your purchasing holiday flowers and Sunday morning bouquets!! With money made from this, it helps us to purchase the necessary items needed for communion, baptisms and altar linens.

Caring for the Altar in June are Shirley Johnson and Janet McLeod. They will also be our hostesses for the next meeting that will be held on June 23rd!

New faces are always welcome. We meet after church in the copy room! Please come and join us!!

This month, experience the power of a smile. You'll be surprised at what a smile can do for you, and amazed at the difference it makes in your relationships with others. What's more, a smile is the simplest (and cheapest) way to get an instant face lift!!! If you want to know what heaven looks like, make someone smile!!!!

Submitted by Nancy Weber

Just a reminder that the recycling "rules" have changed a bit in West Seneca. Recycling will now be picked up every other week and while most everything we have previously recycled is the same, please note that ONLY NUMBERS 1 and 2 plastics can be recycled. Please make every effort to do this along with only other items that can be recycled since our containers fill up rapidly some weeks and having items in there that do not belong takes away from what we can properly recycle.

Items that can be recycled include: newspaper, office paper, phone books, paper bags, and junk mail. Also, paperboard, magazines and catalogs, cardboard and pizza boxes, jugs and bottles with small top openings( #1 and #2) only along with clear bottles and jars, aluminum cans, metal cookware and steel and tin cans.

Check out the list by the recycling bin in the kitchen for the list of what cannot be recycled. Thanks for doing your share to help out!

Fellowship Hour needs your help. It is so good to have so many share the time between worship services in the parish hall. This has posed a good problem to have. In order for the coffee hour clean up people to get to church on time, we need you to clean up your table space. Wipes are available or even your napkin will do as long as the table is cleaned up and ready for the next week.

We appreciate your help and remember, refreshments are always welcome. The sign up sheet is on the counter.

## Pastor's Bible Study:

**June 6: Acts 2: 1-21, John 14: 8-17, (25-27)**

**June 13: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, John 16:12-15**

**June 20: I Kings 19: 1-18a, Luke 8: 26-29**



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Hello All... The chili dinner is still 6 months away (11/10/19) BUT we are doing a \$2500 TRAVEL RAFFLE drawing that day as well. The prize is a \$2000 AAA travel credit AND a \$500 Southwest gift card. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased from Mark Koeppel. Tickets are limited so please don't wait. He can be reached at (716)440-8173...

## Parish Social Life

Church Picnic at the Erie County Fair!  
Save the date: Sunday August 11th!  
Watch our weekly bulletins & Facebook for more  
information later in the month.

Lutheran Day at the ballpark will take place in July -  
Watch for updates on the date from Ron Wirth.

Submitted by Kathy Moody

**WANTED:** coupons from The Buffalo News Sunday paper. These coupons are mailed to Fort Bragg where our military personnel and their families can use them at their PX up to six months after the expiration date. Just drop them in the box on the counter in the Narthex and Sandy Stango will take it from there. Another way to support our troops and their families. Thanks, Sandy Stango

I have been scheduling Ushers and Greeters for quite awhile and would pass this job to the highest bidder. Everything is set up on an excel computer program. See me if interested,  
Jim Steiner.

### ***Crossbeam Deadline***

Articles for the **July/August** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **June 9<sup>th</sup>**. Please e-mail your articles to Sue Koeppel ([sekoeppe@gmail.com](mailto:sekoeppe@gmail.com)) or leave them in the Crossbeam mailbox outside of the church office. Electronic articles are preferred, if at all possible.

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