

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

"Prayer is like having a date with God," says Trappist monk and author Thomas Keating. "Regular periods of prayer let us get acquainted with Christ and God, not unlike the way we might phone someone who has impressed us or attracted us to their goodness. It's the same way in forming a relationship with God. We have to hang out together."

For the monastic, hanging out with God is a way of life. For the rest of us, busy with babies and bosses, spouses and parents, God is content with a brief date - he asks only that it be a standing one. St. Benedict expressed that in his Rule when he wrote: "Give yourself frequently to prayer," but added, "Prayer should therefore be short and pure ...."

I have been thinking about prayer lately and while much has been written about the practice of prayer, I have come to the conclusion that it is best to simply forget about practice and just pray. For me, the best way is to have a few prayers on your "top ten" list. I think of the Lord's prayer, Martin Luther's morning and evening prayers, the prayer attributed to St. Francis (Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...) to name of few. The following prayer of Julian of Norwich is a favorite of mine.

In you, Father all-mighty, we have our preservation and our bliss.

In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving.

You are our mother, brother, and Savior. In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and plenteous grace.

You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us.

You are our maker, our lover, our keeper.

Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well, and all shall be well,

and all manner of things shall be well. Amen

As summer approaches, my prayer for you is one of peace, joy and health.

Pastor V.

## To the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church: From Pastor Roger,

Grace to you and peace, from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The season of Pentecost begins and over the coming weeks we enter into the story of the People of God, Our Story, to discover who God is through the action of the Holy Spirit.

As we discover and explore the nature of God, we also look inward and discover who we are and how we, the Body of Christ, are at work in the world. This is the transformation process we are in as Christians. The moment by moment, active and alive, growth-along spiritual-lines that all people seek and which draws us to Christ. The renewing of our minds, the conforming to the image of Christ in the world, and in the conforming becoming the hands of Christ. The process is not easy. It means letting go of our fears and turning our lives more and more over to the flow Holy Spirit which is constantly pouring out the inclusive and forgiving love of God into our hearts.

Our worship, our reflection of Christ's love into the world means that the sick are healed, the hungry are fed, the outcast is included, the isolated are loved, that justice is relentlessly pursued, that we live into and out of the Good News, "The Kingdom of God has come near!"

Jesus describes this power of God to transform us and the world not as a violent tempest or an earthquake but as small and quiet mustard seed that grows and grows until it can support a vast ecosystem of life. In fact, the story we will hear at the end of this month teaches us that God's power is used to calm seas and still storms.

As we work in this world where are we planting the quiet seeds of faith in those around us? Where are we calming the storms and casting away the fears of others as we practice our faith that God has got us, and loves us no matter what?

The Spirit is alive and active in us brothers and sisters! I pray God will send the Spirit to bring you calm in the storm, the confident and growing faith of the mustard seed, the patience needed to transform and renew your minds, and a complete awareness that God loves you and has called you to serve and share the Good News!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Roger

## **Our Monthly Community Dinner**

**Time: .....4pm – 6:30pm or until we  
run out- Whichever comes  
first**

**Date: .....6/29/18**

**BBQ Hamburgers**  
**We will also have Desserts & Drinks**  
**\*\* Menu subject to change \*\***

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.

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



Needed for June are condiments, boxed pasta dinners, paper products, toiletries, peanut butter and jelly. (No tuna fish please)

## Ladies Aid

It was great to see everyone again at our first meeting of the year. The fellowship with these ladies are always a treat and a time to be treasured.

We will be having our picnic meeting at the Haase's on August 23rd. More information will be in the next Crossbeam. Be sure to mark your calendars now since this is always an enjoyable and tasty time.

We also discussed the Christmas time luncheon. Suggestions were made and if you made one, be sure to follow through with information on the place so we can make a reservation soon. Talk to Sandy about this.

VP Nancy Weber always leads us in devotions and one of the thoughts she shared with us is:  
"when there is a long row to hoe; remember, He tends the garden"

Submitted by Connie Arnold

On July 17th, 2018 after 28 years of faithful service, Mrs. Bernie Bartkowiak is retiring from her role as the Parish Administrator for the St. John's family. A service of farewell and Godspeed and celebration for her career with St. John's will be held in late June or July. If you are interested in serving on the planning team for this event please be in touch with one of the pastors.

After 10 years of leading our congregation in song Mrs. Cynthia Godus has received a promotion at work and announced to the council that this will be her last season serving the director of our vocal and bell choirs. A service of farewell and Godspeed and celebration for her career with St. John's will be held in June. If you are interested in serving on the planning team for this event please be in touch with one of the pastors.

## Assisting Minister Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
June 3	Roger McGill	Adam Wolff
June 10	Jim Steiner	Caroline Rackl
June 17	Sue Springer	Evelyn Hicks
June 24	9:30 am: Pat Lipka	

Pastor Valerie's Bible study will continue to meet in June. Here are the dates and Bible passages.

June 7: *Genesis 3: 8-5 and Mark 3: 20-35*  
 June 14: *Ezekiel 17:22-24 and Mark 4: 26-34*  
 June 21: *Acts 13: 13-26 and Luke 57-67*

## Power Point Schedule

	Preparer	9 am Presenter	10:45 am Presenter
June 3	Nick Barnhard	Lee Delaney	Matthew & Autumn Brown
June 10	Nancy Kessler	Lee Delaney	Trevor Godus
June 17	Nick Barnhard	Lee Delaney	Linda Altman
June 24	Nancy Kessler	9 am: Jean Stankowski	

## Altar Guild

The guild wishes to thank you for your support of the Pentecost geranium plant sale. Please take time to look at Jack's Garden and around our church property and cemetery,

It looks beautiful!! At the present time I do not have a final count, but I will let you know how many were planted in my next article.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday June 10th after the worship service.. Hostesses are Danese Dick and Sharon Tyler.

Preparing the Altar in June are Shirley Johnson and Janet McLeod.

Ladies, start saving/collecting items for our Penny Sale this fall!!!!!!!

..Take time for what's really important!

We often get too busy that time for God is pushed aside. Yet no matter how long a soul has gone without His nourishing touch, His nourishing food and His compassionate care. His love never gives up. His spirit cultivates even the driest ground and enriches the poorest soil so seeds of faith can take root. No matter how long it's been, God can make spiritual life bloom with beauty again!!

Submitted by Nancy Weber

## APRIL 2018 Financial Notes

Regular Budgeted donations for the month of APRIL 2018 totaled an encouraging **\$20,306**, for an average of **\$4,061** per week for that 5-week period that included Easter. YTD Budgeted Receipts (Weekly Envelopes, Simply Giving and Plate Offerings) total of **\$140,910** is slightly behind the prior year by \$(1,687) or (1.2%). Actual Budgeted expenses of **\$19,194** for the month, or **\$3,838** per week, was right in line with the forecasted Budgeted Expenses and included the annual Worker's Comp. insurance payment. Fiscal year Actual Expenses of \$187,104 are still below Budgeted Expenses of \$191,667 YTD.

Total Benevolence YTD through ten months of **\$19,094** is already at an impressive **119%** of the annual budgeted goal. Included in that amount: (i) **\$8,000** has been sent to SYNOD for general mission work, plus **\$790** to World Hunger through SYNOD, (ii) **\$1,345** has been donated to St. Johns Preschool from various sources (congregation, chili dinner, Roger's ordination), (iii) total Hurricane Relief efforts from the congregation and church council totaled **\$4,935** (Sept/Oct/Nov), that was sent to SYNOD to be match-funded by Thrivent and forwarded to Lutheran Disaster Response to assist with the hurricane clean-up, (iv) **\$551** in cash and 30 full turkey dinners provided Thanksgiving dinners, plus the January food drive for our friends in the Seneca Babcock community, plus **\$595** for a new fund to support the Seneca Sunday Dinners, (v) **\$1,850** has been donated towards our Community Dinner Fund, and (vi) **\$461** Lenten Journey donations. {Plus, **\$982** has been collected so far for the "Be The Light" ELCA campaign. In addition, the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser raised **\$2,412** for the Y.G. trip to Houston.}

Continued on page 8.

## APRIL 2018 Financial Notes, cont.

A total of **\$4,200** was transferred from Checking back to Savings with the surplus, with a YTD net positive amount of **\$5,825** transferred from Checking back into Savings. The Checking account ended 4/30/2018 with a positive balance of **\$41**. The operating savings account ended 4/30/2018 with a balance of **\$44,821**, plus **\$20,668** in the investment C.D. **Building Fund donations** totaled **\$6,072** for the month of April. YTD donations totaling **\$77,863** are down **\$(12,420)** or **(13.7%)** compared to the prior year. The regular loan payments were made on the M.I.F. Mortgage Loan, and the Cornerstone loan. The remaining balance in the Building Checking account was **\$6,214** as of 4/30/2018. The M.I.F. Mortgage and the Cornerstone Loan, carry a remaining principal balance of **\$806,510** as of 4/30/2018. The Loan principal balances have reduced by **\$58,882** compared to the prior year.

**Summation:** For the **10 months** of the fiscal year 2017-18 ended **4/30/2018**:

The Church account: April was a better month for offerings and included Easter. All of the church bills continue to be paid on-time and Benevolence is at **10.2%** of Total Budgeted Expenses. YTD a net amount of **\$5,825** has been transferred from Checking back into the Savings account. Only 69% of the congregation regularly donates to the Church, with the Church account used to pay the salaries and Church bills.

The Building Fund: Donations are down **(13.7%)** as compared to the prior year; however, both the primary Mortgage Loan and the Cornerstone Loan continue to be paid. Only 34% of the congregation regularly donates to the Building Fund, which pays the mortgage payments.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Woodard, Treasurer (as of 4/30/2018)



## ***Women of the ELCA***

There were lots of smiles and laughter as 24 of us gathered in the fellowship room for our May meeting which featured our favorite speaker, Ona Hamann. Ona shares her Women of Faith CD's and provides a most entertaining time. We experience joy, laughter, sadness, and faith as we watch them and hear from Ona. We are so thankful that so many were able to come that night and share that fellowship. Watch for Ona's appearance again next year and join us as she makes our year complete.

Speaking of joining, all of the ladies and their friends are invited to join us on Tuesday, June 12 at Masons Grille, 52 Main Street in the village of Hamburg. We will carpool at 5:30 from church for you can meet us there for 6 pm. Masons offers great food and separate checks. Please use the sign up sheet on the counter in the church foyer or call or see Connie to reserve. (674-2409) or [kaketop@aol.com](mailto:kaketop@aol.com) It is always an enjoyable evening out with the ladies and we hope you can make it.

Thought for the month:

Did you know that it takes 400 years for one plastic straw to deteriorate? Look for paper ones or perhaps pass on using one altogether if possible.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

## HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY TO:

6/5 Carol Delaney  
6/5 Preston H. Fredericks  
6/7 Marie Ramey  
6/12 John Anderson  
6/12 Lorrie Whelan  
6/13 Patrick Mudd  
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  
6/29 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  
6/20/2015 Rob and Ashley Coder  
6/28/1969 Lowell and Karen Rothenberger

### ***Crossbeam Deadline***

Articles for the **July/August** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **June 10<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.

## ST. JOHN'S DINING OUT CLUB

We invite all who are interested to join us:

**WHEN:** THURSDAY, JUNE 28 - 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Mr. Bill's

**MENU:** \$ 15.55 and up entrees, appetizers, soups, burgers, subs

**DIRECTIONS:** 1500 Cleveland Dr., Cheektowaga

Genesee St. or Wehrle Dr. to Cayuga Rd. (next to airport) to Cleveland Dr.

**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:

**Eckl's Restaurant:** 18 of us enjoyed eating at this restaurant known for their beef. It was good but stringy. Just about everyone ordered it in one way or another. The desserts were great! We had a room to ourselves and the service was great. Their Larkinsville location opens in May.

### 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.

Submitted by Carolly Huth

## ***Sunday Church School***

It's June, SCS has ended and we can say nothing but  
THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to our teachers and aides! THANK YOU to  
our substitute helpers!

THANK YOU to our parents, grand parents and all of  
our grown ups, for bringing your children every Sunday!  
We have thoroughly enjoyed experiencing the church  
year with your children!

Submitted by Kathy Moody

### **Vision for Mission June 2018**

Our committee has continued to meet, studying the  
Book of Acts and looking at our congregation's goals.  
Our goals are generally long term, (2-5 years out) and  
will have one of the following purposes:

- Spreading the love of Jesus/bringing Jesus to others
- Significance (making a difference in people's lives)
- Success (membership and money)
- Survival

The next few months will bring the introduction to our  
SCS children of a shortened version of the  
congregational prayer. We'll offer an educational  
program for our adults as well. Stay tuned!

Submitted by Kathy Moody

**ATTENTION ALL GROUPS THAT HAVE  
ITEMS STORED IN THE PARISH HALL  
BOILER ROOM:**

We will be cleaning and organizing the parish hall boiler room starting in April 2018. Please label anything you want to keep with your name/ group name. We will be installing shelves to put smaller items on. Anything not labeled will be discarded.

Thank you—Sue and Mark Koeppel

**LOST & FOUND**

If you find items around our complex, please place them in the lower cabinet in the Foyer, next to the Guest Book stand. Please do not leave them lying where you found them.

If you lose something please look in that cabinet first.

Items of value are kept in the church office.

If you bring in goodies for our many receptions during the year, please take your dishes home. Those left in the kitchen will be placed on the pew next to the Classified Ads bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

We do thank everyone who brings in goodies but we just don't have room to store the dishes left behind. Please call Carolly Huth if you can't find what you are looking for at 826-0506.

## THE RIDE FOR ROSWELL

Hi to my friends at St. John's,

This will be my 9th year in The Ride for Roswell and I appreciate all the support you have given me in past years. For those of you who don't know me, I am the drummer in the Praise and Worship Band.

"The Ride" will be taking place on Saturday, June 23, 2018

Once again I'll be riding on the Ferguson Red Riders Team in memory of my late friend, Matthew Kochalski. Matt was a high school buddy of mine and lost his battle with malignant lymphoma 10 years ago this past April.

Anyone wishing to support my ride may donate online at:

<https://rideforroswell.org>

Then click on the "DONATE" button to the right and search for my name (Patrick Mudd) in the next screen under "search for a rider".

or

Checks made payable to: ROSWELL PARK ALLIANCE FOUNDATION with my name (Patrick Mudd) in the memo line and mailed to:

Roswell Park Alliance Foundation  
ATTN: The Ride for Roswell  
PO BOX 644  
Buffalo, NY 14240-0644

or

Mailed directly to me and I will turn them in on race day:  
Patrick Mudd

[55 Norman Drive  
Depew, NY 14043](mailto:patrickmudd@roswellparkalliance.org)

Thank you very much, Patrick Mudd

## Worship & Music

Beginning on 27 May, we transition into our summer mode, worshipping together at 9:30 on Sundays. The Choir will continue leading hymns and offering anthems through Father's Day on 17 June, after which the Band will lead and offer anthems bi-weekly.

This summer will also take St John's music and worship life in a new directions.

As Cindy Godus steps aside to pursue a well-deserved new career opportunity, we begin our search for a new Choir Coordinator who will carry forward the impressive ministry Cindy has built over the past 10 years. We congratulate Cindy with joy, gratitude and just a little sadness as we ask for God's guidance to find the right next person.

Also, after a few years of minor adjustments to our still-new worship space, we're embarking on a more intentional redesign to create a well-balanced and welcoming environment that lifts up both Word and Sacrament. To that end, we'll have an open meeting in the worship space at **7 pm on Thursday, 31 May**, to gather input and talk through potential arrangements. Anyone with an interest in the layout of the worship space is welcome to attend.

The decisions that come out of that meeting will be implemented sometime in the summer, so we can live in the redesigned space and see how it works for St John's.

Submitted by Adam Wolff

# Save the Date: October 20, 2018 The LCLC Auction

Mark your calendars now for an exciting afternoon of fun and fellowship to benefit LCLC.

## **This Fun Event includes:**

- \*Live Auction for quilts, handmade artwork and crafts, and unique services
- \*Silent Auction for a wide variety of theme baskets
- \*Snacks and beverages
- \*Opportunity to connect with LCLC friends and alumni
- \*Closing Camp-Style Worship

**WHEN:** October 20, 2018 from 1:30 - 4:30

**WHERE:** St. John's Lutheran Church, 6540 Main Street, Williamsville, NY

For additional information please visit the [auction page on our website](#) or call [716-386-4125](tel:716-386-4125).

**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



## CEMETERY

Our Cemetery Committee met in April and we are happy to report that all the loans from our Cemetery funds made to St. John's to cover some of the pre-building expenses for our new church have been paid in full. Our thanks to all who helped pay back the money borrowed so quickly.

To all who came out on 5/11 to clean up our cemetery after a rough winter, we can only say "Thank you good and faithful servants." Good job, well done. It looks so nice.....

Keeping our cemetery in good order and appearance takes money and the only income available to us is what we charge for purchasing graves, niches and opening same for funerals. As expenses keep going up, we feel it is necessary to raise our prices as follows:

### NEW PRICING EFFECTIVE 8/1/2018

Graves	\$ 1,200.00
Grave Openings	\$ 800.00
Cremation Openings	\$ 350.00
Niches	\$ 750.00
Niche Openings	\$ 250.00

Please call Carolly Huth, Cemetery Administrator, at 826-0506 if you have any questions or need more information.

Remember to add your name to the birthday list if you have not done so and would like to. There is cake to be shared the first Sunday of the month during fellowship time between services. All are invited to come each Sunday for fellowship and a shared treat.

Volunteers are needed to bring in a "goodie" each week. It can be bought or made. Fruit, Cheese and Crackers, Brownies, Doughnuts- whatever you might like to donate would be welcomed and enjoyed. The sign up sheet is on the counter by the coffee. Just ask Diane Molnar if you have any questions about this ministry.

### **Call for Parish Administrator:**

St. John's Lutheran Church of 3512 Clinton St. West Seneca, NY is seeking a parish administrator. A full description of the position, responsibilities, and proposed compensation package is available on the congregation's website. All interested applicants should submit a letter of intent and curriculum vitae to the church office or email to [sjlcws@gmail.com](mailto:sjlcws@gmail.com).

### **Call for Choir Director:**

St. John's Lutheran Church of 3512 Clinton St. West Seneca, NY is seeking a Director of Vocal and Bell Choirs. A full description of the position, responsibilities, and proposed compensation package is available on the congregation's website. All interested applicants should submit a letter of intent and curriculum vitae to the church office or email to [sjlcws@gmail.com](mailto:sjlcws@gmail.com).

Lutheran Night at the Ballpark is Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup>! Ron Wirth will be coordinating this event for us, watch for sign up info in our weekly bulletin!



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.

## ***News From the Pews***

### **In The Hospital - Al Lehsten**

**Baptisms** - Sarah Swierczynski - April 21

Payton Marie Crance - April 22

Alexa Kelly Hinman - May 6,

**Confirmation** - May 20, 2018

Danielle Corless, Brett Pirro, Samantha Reilly

### **New members**

Linda Barrows, Nicholas Budniewski, Damien Crance, Rev Dean and Brenda Hunneshagen, Leonard Kujawa, Michael and Bonnie Marciniak, Valerie Niezgoga, Chelsea Zogaria

"I want to thank everyone who assisted with the 4th Annual Toy and Book Sale including Michelle Czachorowski, Sharon Tyler, Silvia Delaney, Peggy Cramer, June, Renee Then, Ruth Mussehl, Sandy Haase, Jodie Galley and Nathan Surdej. I apologize if I missed anyone but I truly appreciate all of your time. Additionally thanks to all who donated and those who shopped! We will do it again next year. I plan on putting a committee together in the fall. Please contact me if interested." **Tracy Lumb**

The Cemetery committee would like to thank every one who helped clean up the cemetery on Friday , May 11. your help was greatly appreciated. Thank You.

On April 26th Dylan Lumb, at 7th Grader at Lancaster Middle School was inducted into National Junior Honor Society.

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