

A Word from the Pastor for May...

"It has been a quiet week in Lake Wobegon. The children are back to school after a riotous week of Easter break. The weather was so lovely when the children were released from confinement, the fresh air went to their heads. Air has a different effect on children: what we merely breathe, children are ignited and launched by. At Our Lady on Sunday morning, Father Emil felt as if he was speaking to a convention of rabbits instead of the usual herd of turtles. Constant movement in the pews. The homily was on new life and it was all around to be seen. " -Garrison Keillor, "Easter," Leaving Home (New York: Penguin Books, 1989), 17.

We are in the season of Easter, and it will be celebrated until the Day of Pentecost. Just think of it - fifty days of new life to celebrate. I can't help but think the Keillor is on to something. Just think of the effect spring has on us, at times we are like those children, filled with energy and a lightness we just don't feel in winter.

And that is what Easter is all about. There is new life and it is abundant. It is time to move around more, and breath deeply,

There is a lot going on here, and in the future, you will be hearing about Visioning. There is a group looking at the future of St. John's, young and old, newer members as well as life-long members. There is energy all about, and I know that I am excited by it. So keep reading the bulletins and the CROSSBEAM and get ignited by the new life all around us. A blessed Easter Season!

Pastor V.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

(3512 Clinton Street @ Union Rd, West Seneca)

Presents:

Our Monthly Community Dinner

Date:5/26/17

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

We will be serving:

Chicken Wing Soup and Roast Beef
Sandwiches

We will also have Desserts & Drinks

*** Menu subject to change ***

This dinner is provided for anyone that needs a meal
AND it is family friendly event...

The meal is **FREE** but we will take any free will donations
that anyone wishes to make...

Coming Soon—Prize Raffle for the Chili Dinner

This year's raffle will be \$1,000 in gift cards to Splash Lagoon. The winning tickets will be drawn at the Chili Dinner on October 15, 2017. Watch the Crossbeam and bulletins for more details.

The sign up sheet is on the kitchen counter for Sunday refreshments. We are looking for about four plates each week. Sometimes it's easier if you work with another family.

Thank you
Membership



Food Barrel for WS Food Pantry

Items needed for May are paper products, jelly, jello, condiments, pudding, and personal care products.

Women of the ELCA

Well, vacations effected the number of members who joined us at our last meeting also. But, it was nice to have Diane Molnar and Sandy Peckenpaw join us as we welcomed our favorite guest program presenter, Ona Haman. As always, Ona delighted us with her exuberance and Women of Faith CD's. When Ona joins us again next year, we hope more will come and share in this faith filled, laugh filled evening. It will be time well spent.

Ona brought us information on a program that her church will be having on Saturday, May 6 from 9 AM-1:00 PM. Churchill Memorial Methodist Church, 8019 Boston State Road in Hamburg, will be presenting "Women of the Bible" through Scripture, Song and Humor! from Carol Mullens. Carol has been studying scripture for over 30 years and has a number of CD's out which she has made through her Quiet Whispers Ministry, Inc. The day includes a continental breakfast and lunch and costs \$15.00. The proceeds will benefit their organ fund. Reservations are due May 1. The flyer and pink forms are on the counter in the foyer if you are interested in attending. See Connie Arnold or Marie Ramey if you have any questions or need a ride.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 9, at 7 PM. Sylvia will be presenting the program titled "Pentecost Prayer and Power". Marie will supply refreshments and as always, all are welcome! Hope to see you!

Continuing with the Eco-theology of the Ten Commandments, we will do the 1st Commandment: You shall have no other gods. What is this? We are to fear, love and trust God above all things. Think! Read Matthew 5:45. Jesus makes a promise of sun and rain, that is always around us- good or bad, human or not. How does this promise of needs of life help you live and trust God? What leads you away from the promise, leading you to place trust in other things? This leads us to the final part which is the

Thought for the month:

Act! Give thanks for 100 things you encounter in creation today as a way to remember that God is source of everything, working forever to bless us all with what we need to live.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Power Point Schedule

	Preparer	9 am Presenter	10:45 am Presenter
May 7	Rick Lipka	Lee Delaney	Matthew & Autumn Brown
May 14	Nancy Kessler	Lee Delaney	Trevor Godus
May 21	Bob Coder	Lee Delaney	Linda Altman
May 28	Linda Jean Budd	Lee Delaney	Jean Stankowski

Happy May Birthday to:

5/2 Peggy Cramer
 5/4 Terri Marrano
 5/6 Amanda Wolf
 5/10 Joyce Molnar
 5/22 Hugh Vossler
 5/23 Easton Molnar



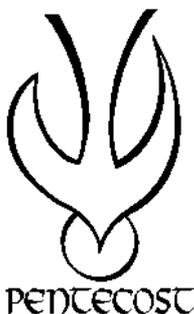
Happy May Anniversary To:

Jay and Sylvia Delaney 5/4/1974
 Paul and Lorrie Whelan 5/6/1978
 Chuck and Peggy Cramer 5/16/1987
 Kris and Evelyn Hicks 5/17/1986
 Dan & Laurie Abendenschein 5/23
 Craig & Beth Vosseler 5/30/2009

Remember, you can easily add your birthday and or anniversary date to the list by emailing the church office, kaketop@aol.com, or filling out the card by the birthday bag on the foyer counter.

Assisting Minister Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
May 7	Roger McGill	Karen Rothenberger
May 14	Sue Springer	Adam Wolff
May 21	Pat Lipka	Caroline Rackl
May 28	Sandy Gordon	Evelyn Hicks



Crossbeam Deadline

Articles for the **June** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **May 14th**. Please e-mail your articles to Sue Koeppel (sekoeppe@gmail.com) or leave them in the Crossbeam mailbox outside of the church office. Electronic articles are preferred, if at all possible.

Ladies Aid

We had a nice evening of "chit-chat" since there were members on vacation and some unable to make it. Still, it is always good to gather with friends. We had no real business to discuss but we did decide to revise our meeting schedule.

Of course we will still have our Christmas gathering with any and all of our church family that would like to come in December. But, now our meetings will be held in June, August and October.

As a result of that, there will probably not be a monthly Crossbeam report at times.

Remember to keep those who are ill, shut in, or in need of a hand and do what you can to let them know you are thinking of them.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Book Club

May 16th, THE JUDAS GOAT by Robert B. Parker

Jul. 18th, ONE MISSED STEP by Barbara Morris.

We meet in the church fellowship room at 6:30 pm

**WON'T YOU JOIN US FOR DISCUSSION,
REFRESHMENTS, AND FELLOWSHIP?**

Submitted by Jim Steiner

Altar Guild

The guild hopes everyone enjoyed a nice Easter and are enjoying this beautiful spring season.

A Big Thank You is extended from us to you for all the Easter plants that were ordered. It was a banner year and all those plants made the church look and smell so wonderful. What a great way to celebrate the Resurrection. We also hope everyone enjoyed the Easter breakfast and time for fellowship. To everyone who donated food items or helped in any way, Thank You. Thanks also to Debbie Sager and Sandy Haase for helping us set up the Easter altar and breakfast, we are always grateful for new help. Thanks also to Thrivent for monies used for the Easter breakfast.

NEXT—Pentecost is June 4th. We will be selling red geraniums. Order forms will be in the bulletins on May 14, 21 and 28. Cost will be \$2.00. There will also be a form in this Crossbeam, you can mail a check made out to St. John's Altar Guild if you prefer and send to the church with att. Connie Arnold. Remember, as in the past these plants will remain at church and be used to plant around the property and especially in the wood cross flower box in Jack's Garden next to the parking lot. If you wish you may bring your own red geraniums to church on June 3rd or 4th to be planted with those that were ordered.

REMEMBER—red is the color for Pentecost. We hope to see everyone in red that day.

Taking care of the altar in May are Erma Fitzpatrick and Rachel Storch.

Submitted by Nancy Weber

"You are younger today than you ever will be again. Make use of it for the sake of tomorrow." Author unknown

News From the Pews

Congratulations to our 2017 First Communicants:
Ayden Whelan and Emma Pirro

Vision for Mission

We are ONE. One congregation made up of many parts. Youth and adults, we are one congregational family.

During the month of April we gathered our words for our congregational prayer. We had contributors as young as 3rd & 4th grades!

The congregational prayer is a prayer that supports St. John's . One prayer that we can use as individuals, as a family group, as a small group and together as a congregation. Our next steps: development of our prayer and the congregational survey.

Stay tuned !

Submitted by Kathy Moody

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.



Sunday Church School

Our Sunday School year is almost over! We'll celebrate another terrific year with Strawberry Shortcake on our last day of classes, May 21st.

Vacation season is upon us! We're collecting personal sized toiletries for a local charity. Gather them up, the collection boxes will be in September.

Reminders: Teacher's and aides, we have a meeting on May 7th at 10:15. If you haven't returned your survey for next year, please bring it along. At our meeting we'll be reviewing our 2017-2018 calendar.

Submitted by Kathy Moody

Living Lutheran Magazine Subscriptions

This year the congregational subscription rate is \$12.00 compared to \$19.99 for an individual subscription rate. If you wish to continue or begin a new subscription please pay by placing a check with "Living Lutheran" on the memo line in the offering plate or sending it to the church office by May 14th.

If you wish to stop subscribing call Janet Hender at (716) 822-0952.

Copies of the magazine are in the library—if you would like to see it before subscribing.

DINING OUT CLUB

We invite all who are interested to join us:

WHEN: THURSDAY, MAY 25 - 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: OTTO'S RESTAURANT

MENU: \$ 10.25 & up entrees + appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, pizza, wings, fingers, etc.

DIRECTIONS: 3972 Union Rd. N/W corner at George Urban Blvd. across from Harbor Freight.

PLEASE CAR POOL & MEET AT THE RESTAURANT. IF YOU NEED A RIDE, PLEASE CALL CAROLLY.

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

RESTAURANT REVIEW:

Pegasus Restaurant: 13 of us dined in their banquet area on a really rainy night! The menu is large, most everyone enjoyed what they ordered. They make their own corned beef hash...not salty but the spanakopita was disappointing. Other than that, everyone was happy and we had a good time...as always.

BEFORE DINNER: we pass around a list of prospective restaurants, everyone chooses the one they would like to experience and 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.

USHERS AND GREETERS - We are always looking for members willing to usher or greet at Sunday services. A few more additions would mean everyone would be scheduled once per month, I don't think that's too much to hope for.

Thanks, Jim Steiner

Worship and Music

Due to scheduling issues, the Choir's Reformation Celebration Concert is moving to October. Keep an eye on the Crossbeam for the date and other details.

Over the next few months, we'll be asking for your opinion about St. John's worship schedule. Having tried the current schedule for a couple of years, we felt like it was time to check back in, and we're hoping to hear everyone's voice. You can pick a survey form up after services starting on Easter and return the completed survey to the box set up in the foyer. Or just take the survey online at saintjohnsws.org. (Look for the blue box under the picture of the church.)

We will set a date for our May meeting at our post-Easter April 16 meeting. Please let a member of the Committee know if you're interested in attending.

Submitted by Adam Wolff

MARCH 2017 Financial Notes (for Council & Crossbeam)

Regular Budgeted donations for the month of March 2017 totaled **\$14,399**, averaging **\$3,600** per week for that 4-week period, compared to the Budgeted expenses requirement of **\$3,710** per week. Budgeted expenses of **\$13,113** for the month were below average. Fiscal year Budgeted Receipts (Weekly Envelopes, Simply Giving and Plate Offerings) totaling **\$125,265** have decreased **\$(6,280)** or **(4.8%)** as compared to the prior year. Fiscal year Budgeted Expenses of **\$132,692** are below average and **\$7,400** lower than the prior year. Outreach Donations from February totaling **\$1,000** were voted by Council to be distributed as follows: **\$1,000** to the Upstate NY Synod general fund. Total Outreach YTD totals **\$11,532**.

There was a total of **\$1,550** transferred from Checking to Savings in March 2017. The Checking account ended 3/31/2017 with a positive balance of **\$10**. Total Savings ended the month with a balance of **\$50,090** split between both a new **\$20,138** C.D. was opened Dec. 2016 through the Mission Investment Fund C.D. at 3.5% for 6 years, and also the regular Church savings account balance to **\$29,952** at 3/31/2017.

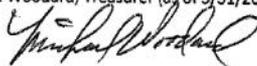
Building Fund donations totaled just **\$6,348** for the month of March, inclusive of **\$325** in Memorials and **\$949** in Fundraising. In addition to the prior month's surplus in the account, there was enough to pay the regular loan payments (M.I.F. Mortgage, Cemetery and Cornerstone). The balance in the Building Checking account equaled **\$18,400** as of 3/31/2017. YTD Building Fund donations are down by **\$12,911** or **(13.5%)** as compared to the prior year.

We are now into the 3rd three-year Mortgage Reduction Campaign focused on retiring the MIF Mortgage, the remaining Cemetery Loan and the Cornerstone Loan, which carry a remaining principal balance of **\$870,795** as of March 31, 2017.

Summation: For the **9 months** of the fiscal year 2017 ended **3/31/2017**:

- 1) In terms of the Church account, regular budgeted revenues are lower than the prior year, but offset by Special gifts of **\$19,409** which are **\$10,000** higher than the previous year, overall Budgeted Receipts of **\$155,846** reflect a slight decrease **YTD of \$(2,087)** or **(1.3%)**. All of the bills continue to be paid on-time, and the special projects have been paid from Church Checking. The Outreach commitment of **\$1,000/month** has been met and exceeded. We have transferred **\$19,900** into the Savings account YTD, and a new **\$20,000** investment C.D. has been opened at a great interest rate, bringing total savings to **\$50,090**.
- 2) In terms of the Building Fund, regular donations have been less than average, but we have benefited from a **\$20,333** in Special gifts and Memorials of **\$4,556** and Fundraising of **\$1,088**, bringing YTD total donations to **\$82,616**, but for a decrease of **13.5%**. All of the Loans are paid as agreed, and now pre-paid by an extra **\$22,000**. Plus, after the first five years of payments, the primary mortgage loan through the Mission Investment Fund has now paid down its first **\$100,000+** of principal, with a remaining balance of **\$797,394**.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Woodard, Treasurer (as of 3/31/2017)



Pentecost Geranium Order/Information Form
(submit no later than May 28th to be included in
the bulletin)

_____ I would like to purchase _____ geraniums
at \$2.00 each

_____ I will bring in _____ red geraniums on
Saturday, June 3rd or Sunday, June 4th

PLEASE PRINT

In loving memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given By _____

Checks made payable to St. John's Altar Guild.

Thank you!

Social Ministry

Our Lutheran Charities campaign is set to run from April 23rd-May 14th. Please find the Lutheran Charities envelopes in the Pews and also in the back of the church. The envelopes are also in your offering annual box of envelopes that come each year. Here are the confirmed speakers so far:

April 23rd- TBD

April 30th- Rick Mollenkopf-Grill (Organic Youth)

May 7th- TBD

May 14th- Tom Madden (Director Of Lutheran Charities)

Our concert on April 30th has been moved to a Sunday in October.

With Cindy being under the weather, so to speak, we know how much work goes into a concert and we don't want to disappoint those of you who have been asking for another concert. We are finalizing the date and will give you all the particulars in the June Crossbeam. Please watch for the new date and mark your calendars.

**Save the Date: October 14, 2017
LCLC Quilt, Art, & Pie Auction**

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

This Fun Event includes:

- *Live Auction for quilts, hand crafted art, pies, and more
- *Silent Auction for theme baskets
- *Congregational Chili Cook-Off Competition
- *Snacks and beverages
- *Opportunity to connect with LCLC friends and alumni
- *Closing Camp-Style Worship
- ***Special Auction Item:** Dinner with, prepared, served, and brought to your house by Bishop John Macholz of the Upstate NY Synod!

WHEN: October 14, 2017 from 1:30 - 4:30

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

COST: FREE! This is a fundraiser though, so come prepared to bid high and often!

Donations Needed: For information about making a donation to the auction.

For additional information please call [716-386-4125](tel:716-386-4125).

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center, 5013 Route 430, Bemus Point, NY 14712

Did you know... St. John's Community Preschool is a ministry that's been running continuously for over **40 years!** We should all be proud of this wonderful ministry! Because our preschool uses the same room as our 3 and 4 year olds do for Sunday School, the toys and equipment get a lot of use and many items have become worn, broken or out of date.

Please consider donating to our biggest Preschool fundraiser of the year.

We are looking for:

- * Antique or gently used toys
- * Antique or gently used books
- * Baby items
- * Outdoor play items
- * New, homemade items

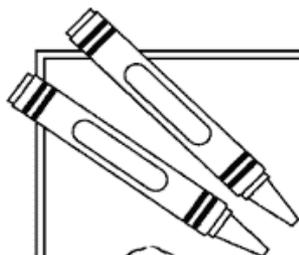
All money raised to be used for new toys/equipment for St. John's Community Preschool & our littlest Sunday Schoolers.

Donations may be dropped off upstairs in the educational building. Look for the sign on the door.

A few more **helping hands** would be appreciated too so if you are available on the morning of **May 4 to help organize and price or May 5 & 6 (9-1) to help with the sale, please** let me know. And of course tell your friends to stop on by to shop! Feel free to call or text me with any questions or to offer assistance. 901-6570

Tracy Lumb

1. Bathsheba, 2. Eve, 3. Elizabeth, 4. Hannah, 5. Mary, 6. Rachel, 7. Rebekah, 8. Ruth, 9. Sarah, 10. Zipporah



Just for KIDS



In May we think about mothers.
Use your Bible to find the names of
the mothers below. Read more
about them in the verses listed.



CODE: A B C E H I K L M N O P R S T U V Y Z
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- Solomon was my child. _ _ _ _ _
 (1 Kings 2:13) 1,2 1 8 3 7,8 3 2,3 1,2 1
- Cain and Abel were two of my children. _ _ _
 (Genesis 4:1) 2,3 9 2,3
- My son was John the Baptist. _ _ _ _ _
 (Luke 1:57-60) 2,3 4,5 3,4 10 1 1,2 2,3 8 3
- Samuel was my child. _ _ _ _ _
 (1 Samuel 1:20) 3 1 5,6 5,6 1 3
- My son was God's son! _ _ _ _ _
 (Matthew 1:24, 25) 5 1 7 9,10
- Joseph called me mother. _ _ _ _ _
 (Genesis 30:22-24) 7 1 2 3 2,3 4,5
- I had twins, Jacob and Esau. _ _ _ _ _
 (Genesis 25:26) 7 2,3 1,2 2,3 4 1 3
- I had a child named Obed. _ _ _ _ _
 (Ruth 4:13) 7 8,9 8 3
- My child was Isaac. _ _ _ _ _
 (Genesis 21:3) 7,8 1 7 1 3
- I had a child named Gershom. _ _ _ _ _
 (Exodus 2:22) 10 3,4 6,7 6,7 6 7 1 3

For some extra fun —find the names of the fathers!

Puzzle answers on page 18

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