

A Word from the Pastor....about Stewardship

Rarely have I read something that summed up so perfectly what we think about stewardship. As we come to a new chapter in our church life, with a larger budget and so many exciting things happening, consider the following story.

A letter to Dear Abby complaining about the church's asking for money drew this response from Bob Whitmore of Eugene, Oregon. Mr. Whitmore sent in a clipping for which he had no author, only a title: "Is the Church Costing Too Much?"

"Last Sunday, another golfer sank the last putt on the 18th green and received a check for \$50,000 for four rounds of golf, plus an automobile for himself and one for his wife. This week, the papers reported that a certain popular singer will receive \$100,000 per week for her current singing engagement. Americans spend, annually, more on dog food than on church contributions. It is not unusual for an individual to pay more for his country club membership than he gives to the church. Is the church costing too much?

"Let me share an experience with you. On June 2, 1940, a little girl was born to us. She cost us money from the moment she was born. As she grew from babyhood to girlhood, she cost even more - her dresses and shoes were more expensive, and we had to have the doctor through all those childhood diseases.

"She was even more expensive during her school and teen years. She needed long dresses to go to parties. When she went to college, we discovered, along with other parents, that all college expenses are not listed in the catalog. Then after graduation, she fell in love and married. She was married in a church wedding and that, too, cost a lot of money.

"Then, five months after her marriage, she suddenly sickened and within a week, she was dead. She hasn't cost us a penny since the day we walked away from her grave.

"As long as the church is alive, she will cost money. And the more alive a church is, the more money she will cost. Only a dead church, like a dead child, is no longer expensive.

"Think it over. Is the church costing too much?"

Pastor V.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

(3512 Clinton Street @ Union Rd, West Seneca)

Presents:

Our Monthly Community Dinner

Date:10/27/17

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

Quarter Chicken and Sides

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...

2017 CHILI DINNER & RAFFLE

RAFFLE

This year you could be a winner of UP TO \$1,000 in gift cards to Splash Lagoon OR Peak-N-Peak resort as well as several other associated properties. (Ask for details)

Tickets are \$3 each or 2 for \$5. The winning tickets will be drawn at the Chili Dinner. Call MARK KOEPEL @ 440-8173 if you need tickets.

CHILI DINNER

The Chili Dinner will be October 15, 2017 and run from 12pm - 6pm. This we will be offering Traditional style beef chili, a beef taco Chili, Buffalo chicken wing Chili and NEW ***BBQ CHICKEN CHILI*** made with Weidner's Chicken.

We will also have a HUGE basket auction with items from area businesses as well as individuals from our congregation and community.

Both take out and dine will be available for only \$10 (Make sure you ask about our take out FLIGHT)



Pantry Needs

Food Barrel for WS Food Pantry

With cold weather coming we need all kinds of canned soup.

Women of the ELCA

We were so pleased to welcome Leah Leipler as a member of the group. We hope more new faces will join us at any or all of the upcoming meetings.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 10 at 7 PM, when we will celebrate with our Thankoffering Service. Normally we hold this in November but because of the program we want to do then, we moved this one up. The evening will be less formal than previous Thankoffering programs but still meaningful, so please join us. Marie Ramey will supply the refreshments.

Remember, if you want to attend the Fall Assembly, you must register and pay by October 20.

I neglected to tell you how thankful the couple was when we delivered the items that were so generously donated to the Care Cases collection. You may remember that those items were going to children entering foster care. They told us how thankful the agency was to not have to have the children place their possessions in a paper bag and now had a duffle bag or small suitcase to give them along with all of the other treasured items that were among the collection. They also told us that, unfortunately, the number of cases is growing rapidly, especially infants in need of homes due to the opioid crisis. It seems diapers are in demand now too. Keep all of these folks in your prayers and thank you again for your support of that ministry.

As you know, there is extra need going on in our country and the world due partly to extreme weather damage, fires, earthquakes, etc. Your prayers and donations are especially welcomed and as the Year of Kindness thought for the month says:

We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone.

Submitted by *Connie Arnold*

Ladies Aid

Even though Mother Nature was a little grumpy the day we had our picnic at the Haases', it was still a great day to visit and eat together. Our thanks again to Art and Sandy for hosting this lovely day for us.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 2, at 7 PM in the fellowship room. It is the meeting when we bring our mystery item to be auctioned off by Sylvia. The monies collected will be sent to the Crop Walk. All are welcome to come. All you have to do is wrap up an item (disguised always adds to the mystery), come on the 2nd with a few dollars and be prepared to outbid the others for that prized item, whatever it may be! We have a lot of laughs and surprises so please join us for some fun. If you have any questions, see Sandy, Sylvia, Barbara or any other member. We need someone to provide the refreshments that night so please let Sandy know if you can do this.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Bible Study

BIBLE STUDY BEGINS IN OCTOBER...

A correction from last month's CROSSBEAM. Bible Study will begin October 12 at 6 pm, not the 5th, as I have a wedding rehearsal that night. We will also meet on the 19th, then take a break for one week. In November, we will meet on the 2nd, the 9th and the 16th. We will be looking into the fascinating book of Daniel. All are welcome.

Power Point Schedule

	Preparer	9:30 am Presenter
October 1	Nick Barnhard	Matthew & Autumn Brown
October 8	Nancy Kessler	Trevor Godus
October 15	Nick Barnhard	Linda Altman
October 22	Nancy Kessler	Jean Stankowski
October 29	Nick Barnhard	Keith Lang

Assisting Minister Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
October 1	Sue Springer	Karen Rothenberger
October 8	Roger McGill	Adam Wolff
October 15	Pat Lipka	Caroline Rackl
October 22	Sandy Gordon	Evelyn Hicks
October 29	10 am: Nancy Kessler	

Crossbeam Deadline

Articles for the **November** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **October 8th**. 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.

CELEBRATING MARTIN LUTHER

It is time to celebrate Martin Luther's 500th Anniversary of his posting the 95 theses. He did this on October 31, 1517. We will be commemorating this event beginning at the end of August and finishing up on Unity Sunday, October 29, when we celebrate Reformation Sunday.

The committee has been putting together ways to do this and we hope all of you will be able to participate at some or all of them. You can mark your calendar now for a special movie night. It will be Saturday, October 7 at 6:30 PM. The feature movie will be Rick Steve's "Luther and the Reformation". It is a one hour video and some lively conversation is expected to follow. Of course there will be popcorn and pop for you to enjoy also. All are welcome!

Other ideas are in the works so watch the bulletin and Crossbeam for more insight and projects relating to Martin Luther.

Altar Guild

Due to the date that this article was needed for the Crossbeam, the guild had not yet met for our September meeting, so not much to report at this time.

We do wish to express our continued appreciation to everyone who purchased altar flowers and contribute to all our different plant sales throughout the year. This truly helps our organization with the purchasing of communion supplies, altar linens and other items needed to add to our worship experience and the beauty and décor of the church.

The rain waters that the heaven provided this summer helped to keep our grass greener and the cross planter in Jack's Garden really flourish. Ladies, mark the date of November 5th on your calendars for our next meeting. We will be making the altar schedule for 2018 and talking about our Christmas services preparations.

Taking care of the altar in October are Connie Arnold and Rhonda Dryzek.

Submitted by Nancy Weber

"Common-looking people are the best in the world: that is the reason the Lord makes so many of them."
Abraham Lincoln

"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1st Samuel 16:7

News From the Pews

In The Hospital

Raymond Hauck

Baptisms

September 2, 2017

Olivia Rose Drezek, daughter of Scott and Julie Drezek

Funerals

August 17, 2017

Nelson Mitman interment - Newfoundland, Pa.

Please save the date for the
West Seneca Crop Walk on October 15.
Stay tuned for details
If you are interested in walking, please see
Donna Heine



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.

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.



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO:

10/2 Edythe Fischer
10/5 Dave Gorman
10/5 Paul Napier
10/6 Melissa Germano
10/6 Grant Schindler
10/7 Emily Miller
10/9 Alex Woodard
10/13 Linda Altman
10/13 Sue Springer
10/22 Art Haase
10/25 Keith Lang
10/28 Dylan Lumb
10/31 Roger McGill
10/31 Kathy Moody
10/31 Julie Storch



HAPPY OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY TO:

10/5/1985 Terri and Anthony Marrano
10/6/1990 Joe and Denise Brady
10/7/2000 Chris and Heather Gulas Karazewski
10/14/1967 Art and Sandy Haase

Remember, you can add you name to the monthly list by either filling out the card and putting it in the bag on the counter in foyer, calling the church office-668-2152, letting Connie Arnold know or emailing her at kaketop@aol.com. We hope you will take a moment to do this and come for cake if you'd like on the first Sunday of the month

DINING OUT CLUB

We invite all who are interested to join us:

WHEN: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26 - 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: RUBY TUESDAY'S - McKinley Pkwy

MENU: 11.99 and up entrees + soup, salad, appetizers, burgers, chicken, seafood, pasta, ribs, steaks, desserts.

DIRECTIONS: McKinley Pkwy. behind Toys R Us

PLEASE CAR POOL AND MEET US AT THE RESTAURANT.

Reservations must be made due to the size of our group. Please sign the sheet on the counter in the Foyer and indicate whether you will drive, ride with someone or meet us at the restaurant.

Please Note! We will not be dining out in November and December due to the holidays. Dining Out will resume January 25. Watch for the sign up sheet!

RESTAURANT REVIEW:

La Bella Sicilia Italian Restaurant: 29 of us visited this old world Italian restaurant, nothing fancy but the food was delicious and the portions large enough to take some home. Our wait staff was very accommodating and it was amazing how fast the food was served! No complaints on this one!!!!

How will we choose our next restaurant? A list of prospective restaurants is passed around and everyone places an X under their choice. The restaurant with the most Xs is the one we visit next. Here is your chance to try new restaurants, visit old favorites, meet new people and enjoy good company. All members of St. John's, your family and friends are always welcome to join us.

Sunday Church School

Thank you for a terrific first month of Sunday Church School! There are returning faces and new faces and it's been an honor spending time with the children.

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations of supplies for our class rooms and personal sized toiletries for a local charity. You make a difference!

A reminder to our parents: Our Sunday Church School hour begins at 9am and ends at 10:10 am. Families are asked to gather in church for our opening, which begins promptly at 9am. Students meet their teachers after the opening, in the hall way.

Our first Unity Sunday falls in October. On October 29th, Sunday School will run from 9am to 9:45am, so that our volunteers, teachers and helpers can attend church. Students not picked up by 9:50 will be brought to the Parish Hall for pick up. Thank you!

Mark your calendars:

October 29th: Sunday School runs from 9am to 9:45am only. Church begins at 10am.

December 10th: Christmas program at the 9am service. Helpers needed! If you would like to help out, please see Kayla W in the 3rd grade classroom or Kathy M in the Kindergarten room. We're looking for assistance on program day, including assisting children with costumes and props, set up and clean up.

Continued on page 14

Sunday Church School, continued

No Sunday Church School during winter break,
December 24th and December 31st.

Thank you for bringing your child to Sunday School!

Volunteers, Teachers and Helpers: Our next teachers meeting date is Sunday, October 1st at 10:15 in the first floor triple room. We hope to see you there, as the Christmas program details will be reviewed and distributed. Thanks!

Blessed be our Volunteers
who echo God's word
and teach our youth
what needs to be heard.

Submitted by Kathy Moody



ST. JOHN'S ADULT CHOIR

FALL CONCERT

OCTOBER 22, 2017

2:00 P. M.

RECEPTION FOLLOWING

11 of our favorite anthems will be sung including a medley of hymns with words written by Martin Luther.

We invite all to join us for a musical afternoon here at St. John's.

Your free will offering will be donated to our Building Fund.



INDEX

Assisting Ministers	6
Altar Guild	8
A Word from the Pastor	1
Bible Study	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	11
Community Dinner	2
Dining Out Club	12
Food Pantry	3
Greeters	See insert
Ladies Aid	5
Lost & Found	10
New from the pews	9
Power point	6
Sunday Church School	13, 14
Ushers	See insert
WELCA	4