



St. John's News

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I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it for all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

1 Corinthians 9: 22b-23

Paul wrote this after years of moving from place to place, telling new people about Jesus and starting new churches. He lived in many different cultures and adapted the way he lived and how he taught about Jesus to make it easier for people in a new culture to hear the Good News he brought to them. As the former missionaries at St. John's can tell you, this is the basic job of any missionary who seeks to tell new people about Jesus.

I thought of this verse the Sunday after the village-wide yard sale, as I heard about people cleaning up their yards and singing along with the carillon. Imagine, the people of a small village singing along with the bells from a local steeple. It's not the cheesy ending of a hallmark movie, it happened on our block last month.

For about a year I have been playing songs from the popular music category Saturdays, classical music on Fridays, and religious and secular music at Christmas. The community has noticed and appreciated the songs they recognize. Our carillon music was praised in the local paper after Winterfest. I've even received requests for songs while in line at the post office, and many, many people have remarked about their love of *Edelweiss*. Most recently I heard about the great memory made after the yard sale while singing "Wonderful World" with neighbors.

In that moment we used the carillon to build up community. Wouldn't it be great if our classic Lutheran Hymns were so well known the local citizens would sing along with them, sure but that is not our reality. Our reality is that secular music is much better known than hymns, but we can speak that language. Playing the Star Wars Themes on May 4 or "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" on opening day of baseball season shows we are aware of the world around us (and maybe the person picking songs is a little nerdy).

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Be all things to all people for the sake of the Gospel. We can use our carillon to connect with many different people. We can use it to showcase beautiful music and give thanks to God for those who composed it. We can help to foster connection by pointing out that the neighbor you may not talk to knows all the lyrics to the same song you do. I'm also told that we alert many local children that it's time to come home, and pets that it is time to eat as well.

We are still able to pick over two hundred songs from a database of thousands. It would be great to have the entire village gather to sing "The Church's One Foundation" and "A Mighty Fortress," but not realistic. Maybe next time I'll warm everyone up with a well known Beatles song and end with Amazing Grace and if you know the words and keep singing along then you will tell everyone who isn't singing that there is no sin that can't be forgiven, and no sinner who cannot be redeemed.



How do horses stay in such great shape?
They keep a stable diet.



9:30am Worship service will start on Sunday, June 18th and continue through Sunday, September 3



REMINDER: Sign up for our weekend at Pyramid Lake (June 16-18) by going to their Website, www.pyramidlife.org



Committee happenings at St John's:

Christian Education and Youth: Pastor Eric is enriching our worship by adding a children's sermon and is looking into a Valley Cats congregation day at the ball park the weekend after Labor Day.

Evangelism and Social Ministry: Linda Devenpeck has agreed to send greeting cards as needed to members and Polly Lemmerman has volunteered to acknowledge visitor cards. We all can greet visitors and encourage them to complete a visitors card so we can send them a newsletter and track the geographic area we are reaching.

Property: Discussed the various needs of the church and decided to seek bids for the resurface/repair of the driveway. We will be discussing them at next council meeting.

Stewardship: Offering envelopes will be audited to determine future printing costs. Pastor Eric will get information about when and how St John's can participate in the Fall Festival when he attends the next Altamont Community Tradition meeting.

Our next committee meeting/church Brunch is scheduled for June 11th after the service. Please come with your ideas and your talents. Committees are always in need of new members! It is a great way to get to know other members of the church.

Linda Zell

President of Council

Garage Sale 2023



Photos compliments of:
Kirby Wilson

Rynn is going to the Lutheran Summer Music Academy!

I have a great story to share with everyone at St. John's. It all started last fall with the terrible news that Aggie had been injured and would need a few months to recover before she would be able to play for worship. In the meantime, Rynn took over the piano bench and we all were able to watch her growth in confidence and ability as she led us in song. Rynn will be substituting for Aggie again one week in June and, this time for a planned week off, and we are blessed to have another talented musician who will lead us.

Last fall when Rynn was in the middle of her extended residency at the St. John's piano, I went to the Bishop's Convocation near Rochester. This is an annual event every ELCA bishop holds together with their clergy for a few days of learning, worship, and fellowship. It was at this event I learned about the Lutheran Summer Music Academy, which is held every year at Valparaiso University. High School students from all over the country travel to Valparaiso, Indiana for an immersive musical experience with daily individual and group lessons in their instrument, electives to learn about others, all taught by accomplished church musicians.

I shared what I learned about the LSM Academy with Rynn and her mom, and after taking time to investigate it more and work out details Rynn decided that she did want to attend. The church council was very grateful to Rynn for all she did to help us hold worship, and excited for her continued development as a musician. To that end, the church council voted to offer Rynn a full scholarship to the LSM Academy. We are grateful for what she has done, but also know that supporting her in this amazing adventure will also benefit us, and only God knows how many other congregations in the future.

The director of the LSM Academy contacted me after reading Rynn's application and nomination form. Rynn will be one of three students at the academy who has led a congregation in weekly worship. This is a growing trend and the director wanted to talk to the three pastors for an article in their newsletter. We are all helping to raise up a new generation of musicians to lead us in using music to praise God, how cool is that?





PARSONAGE PROJECT

A special thank you goes to Tom Johnstone! Tom recently rebuilt the steps for the side entrance on the parsonage and repointed the masonry next to the steps. Another job well done!



Children's Message

May 14, 2023

JUNE



- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1 Abigail Peck | |
| 2 Sarah Rau | |
| 3 Pat Miller | 6/12/1982-Walt Jones & Karen Covert-Jones |
| 6 Robert White | |
| 8 Terry Spawn | 6/22/1985- Phil & Chery Alban |
| 9 Agnes Armstrong | |
| 13 Steve Califano | 6/23/1985- Greg & Mindy Zajac |
| 13 Shawna LeClair | |
| 14 Paul Jones | 6/24/19-Dean & CJ Johnson |
| 16 Tony Califano | |
| 19 Kirby Wilson | 6/25/1983- Steve & Claudia LeClair |
| 22 Ken Buess | |
| 23 Shawn Baldauf | |
| 27 Jean Schillinger | |

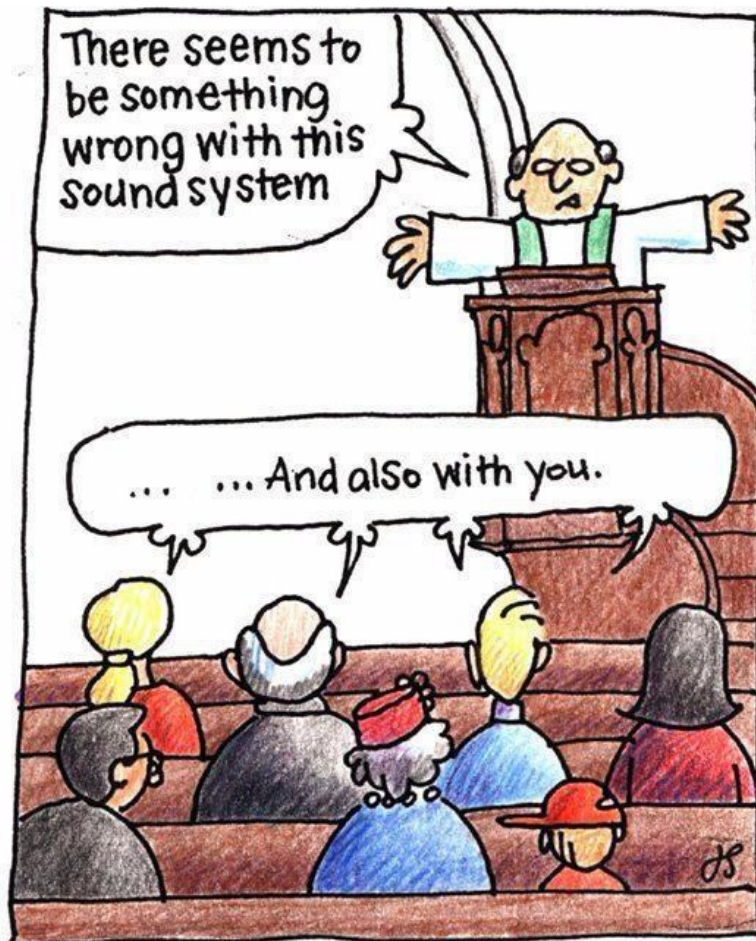


If you have a change of phone number/address/email address or would like to be added to the birthday or anniversary list(s), please call

MUSIC NOTES

From Dietrich Bonhöffer's *Life Together*::

It is the voice of the Church that is heard in singing together.
It is not you that sings, it is the Church that is singing,
and you, as a member of the Church, may share in its song.
Thus all singing together ... serve to widen our spiritual horizon,
make us see our little company as a member
of the great Christian Church on earth,
and help us willingly and gladly to join our singing,
be it feeble or good,
to the song of the Church.



Thank you, Aggie!!



Veteran's Collection

Many thanks to our volunteers who have staffed the donation tent for the last two weeks. We collected over \$700 in donation for the Albany Housing Coalition and the counting room is full of bedding, detergent, and other personal care items.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Please Help the Snyder Family

Many thanks for your continued support of the Snyder family. We continue to gather donations for the children's upcoming birthdays. Please consider making a donation of any size, marked for the Snyder Children, and it will be used to purchase a birthday present.

Altamont Community Food Pantry

January 17, 2023

Dear Members of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your very generous \$361 donation to the Altamont Community Food Pantry made in November, from your Easter flowers and Lenten offerings. Your gift was especially helpful over the holidays as we provided the extra Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to our families.

Recently, we have seen an increase in families coming to the food pantry. This is to be expected with the current economy. Everyone is getting hit by the rising food prices and that includes the food pantry and the families we serve. On behalf of all those who use our pantry, thank you for helping to offset these costs so that we may continue our mission of providing food assistance as well as household and toiletry items to our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet.

Your kindness, compassion, generosity and overall support, all year long, is greatly appreciated. Happy New Year!

*With Gratitude,
Judy Seery
Director*

WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church, a faith community united in love, filled with hope, and open to the power and gentleness of a holy spirit within us. We invite you to be part of the St. John's faith community. You are welcome at worship, in Sunday church school, at Fellowship events, at bible study and prayer gatherings. Together we can share our faith stories and continue on our spiritual journeys.



Thank you, Lord for:

Return Service requested

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