

St. John's *EAGLE*

**ST. JOHN'S
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Peg Otte, *Interim Pastor*
Robert McConnell, *Music Director and Organist*
Brooke DeJong, *Director of Youth & Community Outreach*
Janis B. Wendel, *Administrative Assistant*
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April, 2018

A Message from the President

Dear Fellow Members of St. John's,

Last month I wrote that the Council was beginning the process of defining St. John's. The Council and Call Committee met together to discuss what we thought our strengths and weakness are as a congregation. Here is a summary of what we found:

- We feel good about where we are, and want to be here.
- We provide a good sense of community.
- People care about each other.
- We are at a crossroads.
- Our music and worship offerings are strong.
- There is a solid interim ministry in place.
- We welcome people "wherever they are on their journey of faith."
- St. John's is laid back and easy to be a part of.
- We don't always do a good job of communicating.
- We could find better ways to ask people to be involved in projects.
- Finances are always a challenge.

This month we will meet again to discuss what we think St. John's could become. Our goal is to develop a clear vision of what direction we'd like to go as a congregation to grow and to serve our community and the world. We hope to come up with a few key areas that we can focus on and build from in the coming year.

Thank you for your continued support and please let me know your thoughts.

Regards,

Chad Johnson
President, St. John's Lutheran Church

Tell

There was an alternate reading for this year's Easter gospel, just as there is every year. Every year there's a choice between reading the resurrection account from the "assigned" gospel for the year—Mark, Matthew, or Luke—or from the gospel of John. If it feels as though you've heard the story the same way, of Mary going alone to find the stone rolled away from the tomb, of Peter and the disciple Jesus loved finding the burial cloths inside, of Mary realizing the gardener is actually Jesus, you're probably right, because that's the one from John, which is often chosen for Easter, especially the year that the gospel of Mark is up.

That year of Mark is this year, and that's just what I did, use the alternative from John, because Mark's story of the resurrection is, well, sort of problematic. Have a look for yourself (Mark 16:1-8): <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mark+16%3A1-8&version=NRSV>

If you're not on a computer reading this, here are the last couple verses:

"Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."

⁸ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; *and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.* [emphasis mine]

There's plenty of scholarly disagreement about whether this is the most authoritative ending to Mark's gospel or if the "Shorter Ending" or "Longer Ending" additions are (and, take a look at Mark 16:16-18, which is the scriptural foundation of faith for our snake-handling Pentecostal brothers and sisters).

But, Shorter- and Longer-Endings aside, "*and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid*" is startling. And, of course, begs the question: So How Would Anyone Hear About It?

That's been a question worth asking from the first century to the twenty-first—how would anyone hear about the grace and abundance, the love and healing, the justice and peace and forgiveness that is embodied in Jesus, if fear wins out? But we know that it didn't and it doesn't now, either, even if it's awkward doing some telling of our own. And maybe that's what that startling ending is supposed to prompt in us!

In this season of Eastertide, there's lots of encouragement for telling this good news of the Risen Christ-- hearing the stories, singing our faith, thanking God, sharing a meal, finding ways to serve and love our neighbor, and claiming hope. It's what we do and how we live. And that tells the world a lot.

See you in church—and all around!
Pastor Peg, *interim pastor*

Women of St. John's

ALL women in the congregation are included in the Women of St. John's group. There are no dues, meetings or other requirements for membership. Our primary goal is fellowship.

Funeral Lunch

There will be a memorial service on April 28th for long-time member Helen Aschbacher. We are requesting donations of desserts for the luncheon following the service. If you are able to contribute please contact Jan R.: janetrassenfoss@gmail.com, 847-363-9038 or the church office. Thanks!

Quilting

We meet the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month from 10 am -2 pm. This month that's 4/12 & 4/26. Come for an hour or bring a lunch and stay the day.

Book Club

We need a new title...any suggestions?

And as always...

Watch the Sunday bulletin, church website & email for our next book club selection and other activities.

Celebrating Easter & Olive Oil

April 1st is traditionally April Fool's Day. This year, Easter Sunday fell on April 1st. Appropriately for that day, Jesus fooled those in power, who had killed Him and thought they had ridded themselves of Him. Instead, they had opened the world to God's message of love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

There has been ongoing, persistent destruction of Palestinian olive groves and livelihoods by powerful opposing forces. While those in power have been succeeding, we can fool their goal of ruin and support the olive growers by purchasing the product of their labor—olive oil. After all, the olive is the universal symbol of peace, forgiveness and understanding. Now, the bonus to our support is that the fair traded, extra virgin olive oil is not only a better tasting product, bur conveniently available for purchase during the coffee hour at St. John's. Hope you had a happy April Fool's Day, and have some healthy eating during April and beyond.

Peter Knobel

Even if you are at war with a city...you must not destroy its trees for the tree of the fields is man's life. Deuteronomy 20: 19-20

Knit For Good



The Knitting For Good knit and crochet group continues to meet every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the St. John's parish hall. Hats and scarves and other items are being made for the Night Ministry of Chicago and other charities. You can also work on your own projects if you prefer. This group is open to everyone!

Our first basket of hand-knit items will be blessed during the 9:30 a.m. worship service on April 8. Come and see all the fun and beautiful items that have been made. They will then be sent to the various charities mentioned above.

Also, if you have any extra yarn in your stash that you would like to donate for a good cause, we promise we will put it to good use!



If you have any questions, please call Jan Wendel in the church office. Hope to see you there!

S.O.S.

Can you thread a needle? Can you tie a knot? THEN WE NEED YOU!!

Wilma Wendt has returned to piecing tops and backs for the Lutheran World Relief quilts, and we need help to complete them.

We meet at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays and generally work until 2 p.m. However, you can spend as much or as little time as you wish.



Please consider joining us -we solve all the problems of the world while we sew and chat over lunch!

Call Committee Update

Using the Church Profile that was put together based on feedback from the congregation, the Call Committee has been formulating questions and topics of discussion. These questions and discussion topics will be used in Pastoral Candidate interviews to help determine the candidate that most closely fits the Profile and meets the needs of the Church.

The Committee recently received its first candidate and is scheduling the first interview.

Council Highlights

- Our Hospitality Committee has noted more visitors attending in recent weeks.
- We are currently at an overall deficit of \$14,077 as of the end of February.
- In a joint discussion with the Call Committee, we began strategic planning around the future of St. John's to help with the call process.

They're Here! They're Working!

March 9th brought much excitement to the staff here at St. John's! This was a day we had been anticipating for a long time. After many hours of hard work (thank you, Chad!), many questions and quotes and visits from sales reps and techs, St. John's welcomed its newest staff member! A new Comcast phone system!!!

As many of you know, our previous system had just become worn out and had become a dreaded piece of equipment to deal with everyday. Now we have new phones, working voice mail and smiles on our faces! Oh, happy day!!!



SAVE THE DATE
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern
Showcase

Dinner, Student Talks, Musical Entertainment

Saturday, May 5
5:00 - 9:30 pm

LCMNU CENTER
2204 ORRINGTON AVENUE, EVANSTON

GENERAL ADMISSION
\$35 PRESALE
\$40 AT THE DOOR
\$15 STUDENTS (ALL AGES) WITH ID

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF LCMNU

To Purchase Tickets, go to bit.ly/LCMNU or
contact the LCMNU office at
lutherancm@u.northwestern.edu
847-864-7849

Holy Family Ministries'
Reach for the Stars Spring Benefit

Saturday, April 21st
6:00 pm

The Glen View Club
100 Golf Road, Golf

Through the generosity of friends like you, we raise funds to support the more than 600 children who excel academically, grow spiritually, become effective leaders and expand their life experiences through Holy Family programs. Enjoy the fellowship of new and long-time friends, along with good food, live and silent auctions, and a chance to meet Holy Family students. It's a party-with-a-purpose – and sure to be an inspirational and entertaining evening!

Individual tickets are \$175 and the tax-deductible value of each ticket is \$75.

For tickets, please visit our website at www.holyfamilyministries.org/events.

For more information, please contact Caitlin Duerinck at cduerinck@hfm.org

Birthdays & Anniversaries

God's blessings to the following members who are celebrating special days during the month of April:

Happy Birthday to:

John Witt (4/1)

Chad Johnson (4/2)

Scott Witt (4/2)

Erin Rasmussen (4/5)

Matthew Radde (4/8)

Daniel Hauser (4/13)

Kyle David (4/15)

Gary Anderson (4/14)

Emily Rutherford (4/17)

Paul M. Hoffmann (4/18)

Katie Hauser (4/19)

Laura Witt (4/19)

Trevor Fitzgerald (4/20)

Eva Oreskovich (4/23)

Alla Rusz (4/27)

Kelli VanderPal (4/30)

Happy Anniversary to:

Ron & Janet Witt (4/23)

NOTE: If your birthday or anniversary is missing from this list, please let the church office know. Thank you.

Deaths

St. John's member and friend, Elaine Burgert, passed away on Monday, March 12, 2018. A memorial service was held at Scott Funeral Home on March 24. Please keep Elaine's family in your prayers.

Long-time member and friend in Christ, Helen Ashbacher, passed away Saturday, March 17, 2018 at the age of 99 in Shell Lake, WI. A memorial service for Helen will be held at St. John's on Saturday, April 28 at 11:00 a.m. with visitation at 10:00 a.m. Please keep Helen's family in your thoughts and prayers.

Who's Serving in April, 2018

APRIL 8, 2018, 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Chad Johnson
Communion Minister: Alan Swanson
Minister of the Word: Jim Dossa
Acolyte: Eleanor Hutchinson
Ushers: Luke Rasmussen, Tim Witt, John Hauser
Greeters: Jan Wendel, Nancy Wood
Carillon: Susan Crist

APRIL 15, 2018 - 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Jan Wendel
Communion Minister: Alan Swanson
Minister of the Word: Millie Braun
Acolyte: Matthew Hogarth
Ushers: Luke Rasmussen, Tim Witt, John Hauser
Greeters: Ralph & Janet Kiernicki
Carillon: Rachel Cordts

APRIL 22, 2018 - 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Cindi Rachowicz
Communion Minister: Chad Johnson
Minister of the Word: Robert McConnell
Acolyte: Shayna Leinberger
Ushers: Tom Morrison, Buck Crist
Greeter: Christi and Brooklyn Wise
Carillon: Tina Ziegler

APRIL 29, 2018 - 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Dave Brunn
Communion Minister: Jan Wendel
Minister of the Word: Stephanie Abudayeh
Acolyte: **Volunteer Needed**
Ushers: Tom Morrison, Buck Crist
Greeters: Susan Crist, Margye Smith
Carillon: Tina Ziegler