

St JOHN'S EAGLE

<p>ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</p>	<p>Rev. Joseph E. McInnis, <i>Lead Pastor</i> Eric Schaefer, <i>Vicar</i> Robert McConnell, <i>Music Director and Organist</i> Janis B. Wendel, <i>Administrative Assistant</i> Efren Frausto, <i>Custodian</i></p>	<p>1235 Wilmette Avenue Wilmette, Illinois 60091 phone 847 251 1730</p> <p>web stjohnswilmette.com e-mail churchoffice@stjohnswilmette.com Facebook St. John's Lutheran Church Wilmette, IL</p>
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JUNE, 2017

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Sunday, June 18th 2017

(immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service)

- ❖ Annual Report of the Congregation
- ❖ Election of Officers & Council for 2017–2018
- ❖ Election of 2018 Synod Delegates

Come and be part of this special meeting as we continue to look to the future with faith.

"St. John's Lutheran Church

*is a caring place
where everyone can live, learn and grow
together in Christ!"*

Summer Ministry

The closer we get to our move to Oregon in August, the harder it is for me to stay focused on my ministry here. I hate to admit that, but it's true. I would like to think of myself as the consummate professional, able to maintain his focus no matter what the distraction, but I would only be kidding myself and you.

As I write this on May 10, I am preparing to preach and lead worship this Saturday and Sunday. We are also hosting our first spring barbecue on Saturday. After the Sunday service, Jane and I are driving to the Lutheran School of Theology in Hyde Park to attend Joe Yucha's ordination ceremony. Hopefully, you remember Joe. He was our MIC student in 2012-2013. Joe and Christine were also married here in the summer of 2015. His call to Faith Lutheran in Glen Ellyn comes after a longer than usual wait, so it is sure to be a particularly joyful occasion!

Now, the distractions. I learned that my uncle George Dawe will be in town this month (May). It has been years since I have seen him. In the spirit of "good news/bad news," I will be attending my uncle George McInnis' memorial service in Belmont, Massachusetts on June 3. It comes while Jane and I are on vacation in Prince Edward Island, Canada, so we will have to make plans to fly to Boston from there. I also have a Lake Michigan fishing trip planned with a few of my frat brothers on May 22. Last, but not least, we are scheduled to close on the sale of our New Hampshire home on May 26. Once we do, our search for a house in Eugene will begin in earnest. I'm sure it will require us making at least one trip out there before our move in August. Then there's the move itself. Jane and I are already busy preparing for the move, not only what to take, and what not to take, but also, who to get to move it. And if all this doesn't sound like distraction enough, our church building renovation project is finally going to begin on May 15!

So you see, it's going to be quite a challenge for me to maintain my ministry focus this summer, but I'm going to give it my best. I'm going to do my best to make sure that neither the quality of the preaching nor the worship suffers. Fortunately, I have the help of talented and committed staff. They work hard with me to make things the best they can be for you and that's not going to change this summer. Vicar Eric is already planning a special service and congregational potluck on Pentecost Sunday. Robert is busy lining up music and musicians to keep our summer worship rich and lively. Jan is taking the lead on our second annual Wilmette Summerfest sidewalk bake sale. She is also planning to add a book sale table.

As for June and July, we have our Annual Meeting on June 18. We also have a baptism on June 25, and hopefully one or two more. I can't think of a better way for us to close out our ten years of ministry together, can you? And of course, there will have to be a party to celebrate before July 31. Unfortunately, we will not have use of the gym or the new fellowship hall, so we will have to make do. I'm looking forward to plenty of cake and punch and lots of smiles, hugs, and maybe even a few tears.

In the meantime, I'll be praying that you don't succumb to all the distractions either. I'll be praying that you maintain your focus on God and his works. I'll be praying that you do your part to

keep things moving forward in the interim between me and your next called pastor. Above all, I'll be praying to see you in church this summer!

Pastor Joe

From Our Vicar

“Life is not a solo but a chorus. We live in relationships from cradle to grave.”
(Unknown Author) How true is that in our daily lives? We are called to be a part of the body of Christ. The body is made up of many parts. “Romans 12.4-5 - For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.”

We have all been an active body these last few months. We celebrated Holy Week and Easter, Easter breakfast and egg hunt, finalized and began construction, celebrated Brooklyn's confirmation, hit the 20,000th sandwich for Brother Dano's ministry, planning next steps with Shekinah, launched the new hospitality team ministry, worked toward finding a supply and interim pastor, identifying what the congregation is looking for in the new pastor, had our first outdoor cookout, and more. We just wrapped up confirmation until fall and Funday School has one more Sunday where they will meet weekly. /Panting

That's a lot of positive things going on within the life of the congregation. But it doesn't have to stop there. We have an upcoming potluck on June 4th. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share from your own heritage, recipe a family member passed down, or something you like to make. We are looking to have a global potluck to showcase foods from around the world. This will tie in with the ELCA church at large where we will have a global perspective on the Pentecost and how the gospel message was spread to the ends of the earth. We hope you will stick around after the service on Sunday 6/4 and if you can, bring some food to share. It will be a good time to socialize and what better way to socialize than over food. After all, much of Jesus' ministry was done around food.

We hope that even though summer is around the corner, you will still be a part of the St. John's community and life of the congregation. Summer is a busy time, but we all need time to recharge mentally, physically, and spiritually. Summer is also when we see guests visiting the church. This is a great opportunity for us all to reach out and welcome them.

Our new hospitality team is coming up with some ways of reaching out to our guests. We hope that you will support them or join them in ministry. One of the biggest results from our survey of what our congregation wants is to grow. Reaching out to our guests is the best way to grow. Welcome them when you see them come in. Let's make this an inviting and welcoming congregation.

So what do we have coming up over summer? We have VBS coming up where children and adults can play an active role. Soup Kitchen is coming up. What are some new ways we can build the body of Christ over summer or this coming fall? Share your ideas with us.

God's peace to you all,

Vicar Eric

Getting Back to Basics

Summers at St. John's are great times for getting back to basics in worship. By this I mean robust congregational singing of well-known hymns. Liturgical music comes in many guises - both clerical and congregational chanting, psalmody, solo instrumental music, solo vocal music, choir anthems, and the various parts of the mass ordinary sung by either the congregation or the choir - but the bedrock of Protestant worship is the singing of hymns by the congregation. The school year is a great time to expand our repertoire of hymns and praise songs because of the leadership of the choir and the worship leader, but in their absence, the summer is a great time to fall back on singing those solid warhorse songs that many of us can sing in our sleep. Look for solid Reformation chorales like *A Mighty Fortress* and *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*; Great Awakening English Hymns like *Amazing Grace*, *Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer*, *O God Our Help in Ages Past*, and *O Worship the King*; old-timey American revival tunes like *Blessed Assurance*, *What A Friend We Have in Jesus*, and *We're Marching to Zion*; spirituals like *Give Me Jesus*, *There is A Balm in Gilead*, and *This Little Light of Mine*; and new favorites like *In Christ Alone* and *Knowing You Jesus*. I look forward to seeing you in worship this summer as we sing our hearts out with our most familiar and well-loved hymns.

Keep singing,

Robert McConnell

Music Director and Organist

A Message from the Council President

Important news to report this month as the church undergoes change in physical space and leadership!

- **The Building** - Construction has started - Hooray! Several pictures have been posted to Facebook. Look and like our page and follow the progress. Thank you to all the volunteers that stayed after church May 14th to move chairs and tables downstairs. The many hands definitely made the task a quick one.
- **The Call Process** - We are very close to naming an interim pastor and hope to share this news by mid-June. The next main focus of the Council is to take the results of the

survey and translate them to a congregational profile for use by the Synod. This document acts as a tool for the Synod to match potential candidates with us for our mutual consideration. It outlines who we are and what type of leader we are seeking.

As a side note, this is my last article as President. I want to thank everyone who has helped me and provided their thoughts and opinions. It is so important for our church leadership to hear from you to make sure that we are focusing on the right things. I plan to continue my involvement in Youth and Funday School and look forward to seeing everyone at the June 18th Annual Meeting (formal announcement to come).

Kristen Danielsen
Council President

Council Elections

What are the qualifications of a strong church leader? Have you ever thought about it? Leading a congregation isn't easy. It takes considerable time and effort. It also takes a commitment to put the church and its mission first. So not just anyone can do it well. Those who are best qualified are those whom God calls to this unique leadership ministry. I say unique, because it's Christ-centered. I say, ministry, because its' focus is on serving the needs of others.

Below, find excerpts from our St. John's Church Council Leadership Covenant. Those who are called and elected to serve on Council are asked to covenant with each other to help make this church and its' ministries the best they can be.

LEADERSHIP COVENANT

As the leadership body of this congregation, we, the members of the 2017-2018 St. John's Church Council covenant with each other to do the following with God's help:

- To pray regularly for our mission and ministry and for our work together as the elected leadership body of the church.
- To set a good example for those we've been called to serve by striving to live according to God's word and the teachings of the Lutheran church.
- To further set a good example for those we've been called to serve by striving to meet or exceed the St. John's Member Expectations.

Council members also covenant with each other to faithfully attend to other duties, such as staying on top of all church communications and reviewing materials in preparation for their monthly meeting. They also strive to participate in all church events and other activities. Please keep all these things in mind when you cast your vote at our annual meeting on June 18. Whom you choose really does make a difference.

Pastor Joe

ST. JOHN'S MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

PRAY Develop a daily prayer life that works for you. In addition to sharing our own joys and concerns with God, we pray for the church and its ministries as well as other local, national and global concerns, especially those of the poor and oppressed.

WORSHIP Develop your worship life. We make worship a priority and attend services regularly. Moreover, we look for ways to worship God all through the week. For example, we give God thanks and praise for the miracle of love and life and the wondrous beauty of creation. We approach each day with an attitude of worship. We look for evidence of God at work in our daily lives.

STUDY Engage God's word with your mind. Small group studies are extremely helpful in this regard. We strive to participate in at least one each year. Many of us also start our day by reading a short devotion based on a bible reading. Daily devotional books are available to members and friends free of charge. In addition, we make an effort to stay informed about our church and participate in the decision-making process. WE read the St. John's Eagle, the Sunday announcements and mailings from the church. Our children are also actively involved in our Sunday school, confirmation instruction and other Christian faith formation activities.

SERVE We strive to be actively involved in the church's mission and ministry. We fill out a time and talent questionnaire to help our ministry leaders match us with ministries that suit our interests and abilities. We also make the church council aware of any new ministries or service opportunities that we are interested in pursuing.

ENCOURAGE Build each other up. We take an active interest in one another's joys and concerns. We seek to maintain an atmosphere of friendship and mutual support. To this end, we attend church activities and social events which help us get to know each other better.

INVITE Develop a personal invitation ministry. We look for opportunities to invite friends and neighbors to our worship services and/or other church activities. We believe “word of mouth” is still the best way to spread the news about all the good things going on at St. John’s.

GIVE Develop a spirit of cheerful and generous giving. This includes our time and talent as well as our financial resources. We seek to grow toward the biblical standard for giving known as tithing. We submit an annual estimate of giving in support of the church’s mission and ministry goals. We prayerfully consider the ways in which God is calling us to contribute to the work of the church and strive to be faithful to the commitments we make.

Funday School

Here we are at the end of another Funday School year. I can’t believe how fast the time goes. We have had a wonderful year and a lot of fun learning to follow Jesus and his ways. Many, many thanks to Peter Hauser for continuing to teach our older kids. His continued willingness to teach is so greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank the many parents who volunteered to help out and share their talents. We had some great storytellers!

Our last Funday School will be June 4th. We will celebrate the beginning of summer and say good bye to some friends. Once again I will have a few Funday School summer sessions. Please mark these dates on your calendar:

June 18th
July 9th
July 23rd
August 20th

You are all invited to attend VBS this June 19th through June 22nd! VBS campers are from age 3 years through 4th grade. Parents, older siblings, and the young at heart are invited to volunteer in any way they can. We can always use group leaders, greeters, registration help, etc. Please check the church website for details.

**VBS will be held at:
1st Presbyterian Church of Wilmette
600 9th Street
Wilmette, IL
(Corners of 9th and Greenleaf Ave.)**

4:15 to 6:15 p.m.

We invite you to stay for dinner and fellowship following VBS

The Tastiest, Healthiest, Extra Virgin Olive Oil

. . .in the world, is still available to the members of St. John's. The fair trade Palestinian Olive Oil and its West Bank growers still need our support in their struggle to maintain their olive tree orchards and their land. It's on sale during the coffee hour on Sunday, or in the church office.

Building Project

It has begun! With all the anticipation (and occasional delays), renovations at St. John's started on May 15th. We had a chance to say the final farewell to our gym the day before, and were lucky enough to have many able-bodied people around to help clear out some remaining tables, chairs and other items from the stage. Thank you!

As you've hopefully found, our weekly fellowship time continues after the worship service in the basement. If you haven't yet, please be sure to stop down. The same great conversations and congregation, just a new location.

We'll be sure to keep you informed as work progresses. As always, please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Luke Rasmussen
Communications and Outreach Committee

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.

Quilting

We don't stop when the weather heats up!

Join Us-----Thursdays 6/8 & 6/22

We begin at 10 a.m. and usually wrap up at 2 p.m.

Come for an hour or bring a lunch & stay the day.

Book Club

We are reading "The Unquiet Dead" by Ausma Khan.

We will meet on THURSDAY, 6/8 @2 p.m. to discuss.

Have a Happy Hour suggestion?

We'd love to hear from you...

janetrassenfoss@gmail.com or 847-363-9038

Treasurer's Alcove

In order to encourage participation in supporting the wider church body and community and to put less strain on our budget, we've implemented a program by which we will assign the offerings from two of our Sunday collections, Easter and All Saints, to fund our benevolences. The goal is to tithe our offerings, which for 2017 is approximately \$30,400. So in order to make up the difference of \$19,200 after we take into account the two Sunday collections, we need to implement additional fund-raising specifically for that purpose. At the end of April, we have raised the following towards our goal of \$30,400.

Easter Sunday	\$6,046
Book Sale	57
Chicago Uptown Ministry	100
LSSI (Easter Breakfast)	1,530
Shekinah Chapel	100
St. Paul's Soup kitchen	207
In-Kind Donations	
Family Promise meals	100
Reunification Ride	200
Rummage to Goodwill	120
Sandwich Ministry	800
Soup kitchens	<u>150</u>
	<u>\$9,410</u>

In-kind donations carry just as much importance as cash in hand. We will have many more opportunities to continue supporting our benevolences through the book sale, sandwich ministry, soup kitchen and bake sale followed by the food drive and Christmas collections.

The charities in our budget that you can consider special donations or fundraising for are:

Chicago Uptown Ministry
ELCA Global Missions
Habitat for Humanity

Lutheran Border Concerns
Lutheran Campus Ministry
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

Cindi Rachowicz
Treasurer

Council Highlights

Here are highlights from the May 9, 2017 Council meeting:

- Tim Witt and the Nominating Committee have almost finalized the list of Executive Council, Council and Synod Delegate nominees. These will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on June 18.
- The renovation project will begin on May 15th
- The Council continues to work on identifying an interim pastor, and progressing with the call process. Our survey to the congregation resulted in 70 responses.
- Revenue is currently at 85% of the budgeted amount for this year, and our cash reserves are still critically low.
- Vicar Eric and the Hospitality Team are hard at work revamping how we handle hospitality and outreach.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthday and anniversary blessings to the following members who are celebrating special days during the month of June:

Happy Birthday to:

Robert McConnell (6/2)

Wilma Wendt (6/5)

Natalie Danielsen (6/7)

Shari Kvam (6/9)

Sara Rutherford (6/9)

Samantha VanderPal (6/9)

Kevin Rutherford (6/12)

Matthew Hogarth (6/16)

Larry Wood (6/17)

Alicia Retzinger (6/19)

Ron Witt, III (6/19)

Stefanie Kric (6/20)

John Hauser (6/24)

Chris VanderPal (6/25)

Luke Rasmussen (6/30)

Susanne Rutherford (6/30)

Nicole Whitehead (6/30)

Happy Anniversary to:

Robert & Hannah McConnell (6/5)

Jeff & Kristen Danielsen (6/17)

Mike & Chris Maglocchi (6/19)
Dave & Carolyn Brunn (6/22)
Ed & Jan Matik (6/22)
Earl & Cindi Rachowicz (6/29)

Memorial Service

A memorial service for St. John's member and friend, Bob Smith, was held at St. John's on Friday, May 19. Bob passed away on Monday, May 15, in Evanston.

Bob was a lifelong educator, and very active in church. He had a loving personality and a strong Christian faith. His response to any situation of concern was always "What are we going to do about it?" And he would be the first one to work at finding a solution! Please keep his wife Margye and family in your thoughts and prayers.

WHO'S SERVING IN JUNE, 2017

JUNE 4, 2017, 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Vicar Eric Schaefer
Communion Minister: Chad Johnson, Mylene Pollock
Minister of the Word: Robert McConnell
Ushers: Buck Crist, Larry Wood, Tom Morrison
Greeters: Susan Crist, Jan Wendel
Carillon: Rachel Cordts

JUNE 11, 2017 - 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Vicar Eric Schaefer
Communion Minister: Alan Swanson, Mylene Pollock
Minister of the Word: Jim Dossa
Ushers: Buck Crist, Larry Wood, Tom Morrison
Greeters: The Hiebl Family
Carillon: Susan Crist

JUNE 18, 2017 - 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Alan Swanson
Communion Minister: Bill Kaspar, Jan Wendel
Minister of the Word: Alla Ruz
Ushers: Peter Knobel, John Hauser, Tim Witt
Greeters: Nancy Wood, Ann Wagner
Carillon: Jan Wendel

JUNE 25, 2017 - 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Cindi Rachowicz
Communion Minister: Bill Kaspar, Jan Wendel
Minister of the Word: Jane McInnis
Ushers: Peter Knobel, John Hauser, Tim Witt

Greeters: Ralph & Janet Kiernicki
Carillon: Tina Ziegler