



***ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER***  
***July 2013***

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Summer Worship Services**

**9:30 AM**

**No Sunday School Classes (K-Grade 6)**

**During July, August,**

**Bring the children to worship!**

**IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT WE ANNOUNCE THAT  
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH HAS A NEW PASTOR!**

**CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME TO  
PASTOR ALEXANDER KENNEDY**

Pastor Alex will begin his ministry at St. John's this August 5<sup>TH</sup>.  
Please join us for his first worship service, August 11<sup>th</sup>, so Pastor Alex can meet  
all the members of his new congregation.

## ***AND SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:***

### **10 WAYS TO WELCOME YOUR NEW PASTOR**

1. Open your hearts and decide that you are going to love your new pastor. Begin praying daily for the new pastor.
2. Send cards of welcome and encouragement to the incoming pastor.
3. Know that welcoming your new pastor in genuine and effective ways lays the ground work for a healthy and vital relationship and the development of stable, long-term ministries together.
4. Plan for his transition. Offer to help. Occasionally important welcoming gestures are missed with everyone thinking that someone else is handling these details.
5. Volunteer to help make sure the parsonage and pastor's office are clean and ready. Offer to help prepare his home and his office for arrival.
6. Offer to have someone cut the grass, plant flowers or decorate with potted plants. Join the Lawn Rangers!
7. Offer to stock the parsonage refrigerator and pantry with some staples.
8. Come to greet the new pastor when he arrives and to help as needed. And come to his first worship and stay introduce yourself and to welcome him.
9. Offer to provide meals the first few days, the first few weeks. Call or email ahead of time so that he knows you are coming. If you don't cook, give gift certificates to several of your favorite restaurants in the community.
10. Introduce yourself to the pastor repeatedly! You have one name to learn; your pastor has many names to learn.

## Calendar of Events for July 2013 ~

Tuesday, July 2	NO Council Meeting
Thursday, July 4	HAPPY 4 <sup>TH</sup> OF JULY
Sunday, July 7	Worship, 9:30 AM – Pastor David Grainson presiding
Sunday, July 14	Worship, 9:30 AM - Pastor AnnMarie Noto presiding
Sunday, July 21	Worship, 9:30 AM – Pastor AnnMarie Noto presiding
Tuesday, July 23	Evangelism/Social Meeting, 7:30 PM
Sunday, July 28	Worship, 9:30 AM - Pastor AnnMarie Noto presiding



## SERVER SCHEDULE FOR JULY 2013

DATE	ACOLYTES		ASSISTING MINISTERS		LECTORS	
<b>7/7</b>	9:30 AM	Kate Lenz	9:30 AM	Dotty Criscuolo	9:30 AM	Arlene Moglia
<b>7/14</b>	9:30 AM	Ashley Gavin	9:30 AM	Kim Barbaro	9:30 AM	Bill Benson
<b>7/21</b>	9:30 AM	Erin Milano	9:30 AM	Bruce Feltkamp	9:30 AM	Gerda Weber
<b>7/28</b>	9:30 AM	Jason Pace	9:30 AM	Susan Masciello	9:30 AM	Susan Masciello

If you cannot serve on a day you are scheduled, please find a replacement and notify the church office and the appropriate coordinator:

Bob Koehler: Assisting Ministers 678-6623

Jill Pace: Acolytes, Crucifers, Torch bearers and Gospel bearers- 599-8896

Claire Lenz: Lectors - 872-2063

# ***A Message from Pastor Jeff Laustsen ~***

Moore Hall, Virginia Theological Seminary  
Alexandria, VA  
Sunday, July 23, 2013

So here I am, sitting at the desk in my dorm room after having finished another book for tomorrow morning's class. We've already had one week of classes that begin at 8:00 a.m.; daily chapel services; case study group discussions; lectures and presentations; and lots of time in the refectory for all sorts of discussions. My time here in Virginia has been engaging, stimulating, and very exhausting!

If there have been any surprises during this three-week session, it was my discovery that among the entire student body, I'm the only Lutheran! I knew that enrolling in an Episcopal seminary meant that I would be in a denominational minority, but I thought there would be at least a few fellow Lutherans; after all, the ELCA is a full-communion partner with the Episcopal Church. There are two Lutherans on the faculty, but among my fellow students I'm the only one with a working knowledge of the ELW and the *Small Catechism*.

Being the sole Lutheran on the VTS campus has led to some interesting experiences. In our Liturgical Theology class, our professor would often look to me to explain the subtle differences in the manner in which Lutherans understand our worship service and the role of the pastor in worship leadership. When the local synod was having a reelection of their bishops, several of my Episcopal colleagues were confused, since their bishops are elected for life. This past Friday, I was invited to preside at Holy Communion at the VTS chapel using our Lutheran order of worship – again, simply due to the fact that I was the *only* ordained Lutheran pastor on campus that day!

Being in this position has challenged me to work on what some people call my Lutheran “elevator speech,” a few words that sum up the essentials of our Lutheran faith as if we had to explain it during a typical ride on an elevator. What's essential about our Lutheran understanding of the Christian faith? What does it mean to be a Lutheran Christian? How do Lutherans understand God, each other, and the world? Why does Lutheranism still matter?

There are many hallmarks of our Lutheran tradition to which we could point: justification by grace through faith; grace alone, faith alone, the Word alone; the priesthood of all believers; and the manner in which we worship and serve in the name of Christ. But above all, being a Lutheran means that we believe that there is a place for everyone in the church of Jesus Christ. God welcomes all people into our fellowship, and God empowers each one of us to use our gifts to glorify God and serve one another. Every person – pastors, deacons, teachers, council members, and everyone who worships and serves – has an important place in our church. As our Lutheran confession of faith, the *Augsburg Confession*, states, the church is the “*assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is purely preached and the sacraments are administered according to the Gospel.*” Lutherans are a people who are radically centered on the gospel call to welcome all people in Christ's name as we “*declare the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*” (1 Peter 2:9).

So off to bed I go (my dorm bed isn't bad, but it sure isn't as comfortable as the one we have at home!). Monday morning means it's time for an early class, a full afternoon of case studies, an evening presentation on our doctoral thesis, and lots of good conversation and fellowship. I'm sure that at some point, my “Lutheranness” will come up – always in a positive sense, as my fellow students seek a better understanding of what it means for me to be a Lutheran. Perhaps it will happen to you this week – at work, in your neighborhood, or among friends, someone will ask you what it means for you to be a Lutheran. Just remember: Lutherans are a people who have been called, gathered, empowered, and sent by God to make a difference in the name of Jesus Christ.

I'll be back soon, and we can continue to explore what it means for us to be a Lutheran Church called together in this place!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jeff Laustsen

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

## *A message from Lori Fernez & Janet Powell:*

It has been an honor and a privilege to have worked with the youth of St. John's for the past eight years. Regretfully, we have come to a decision that it is time for us to allow a new group of people with fresh ideas to take our place and commit to what has been the most rewarding volunteer position either of us has ever been a part of. Every youth group member has been a special joy to know, and we leave enriched with memories and experiences we will forever cherish.

We would like to thank the congregation for always supporting us in all the fundraisers and activities we have done over the years; we could never have done it all without your help.

Most importantly, we ask that you all please consider stepping up and being the next Youth Group Advisor(s). Whether you are a parent or grandparent of a Youth Group Member, or just have a vested interest in keeping an active Youth Group at St. John's which is as vital to our future as a church, your time and energy will be well rewarded in this capacity. We would love to share our experience with anyone who is interested, including how we organized Youth Group over the years or how you can change it into something new and different. We are more than willing to help anyone who is interested – and there is no time frame for volunteering, you can do it for one year or ten years – as an individual, duo or a whole group.

Please feel free to contact us by phone, email, or at church.

Lori Fernez 596-1538 [lorif60@aol.com](mailto:lorif60@aol.com) & Janet Powell 596-0543 [tjdcpowell@aol.com](mailto:tjdcpowell@aol.com)

June 8, 2013

Daniel Gonzalez on behalf of  
St John's Lutheran Church Council

Dear Lori and Janet,

I wanted to take some time on behalf of St. John's Church Council to formally thank both of you for your eight years of service as Youth Group Advisers. Both of you have given more than your fair share of time, energy and patience working with the youth of St John's. I felt compelled to write this note of thanks myself for one main reason. I strongly feel that both of you need to know that your work will leave a lasting impression on all of the kids that you have worked with over the years, for a very, very long time.

I have loads of great memories growing up and being active in the Youth Group due in large part to having some extraordinarily dedicated advisers myself. (I don't really feel that I ever got a chance to thank them the way I should have, but I digress.) None of the work that both of you have put in has gone unnoticed, nor will it be forgotten by the kids, their families and the rest of the congregation of St John's. We are truly blessed to have both of you so willing to work with and share your knowledge with the future of our congregation.

So it's with heavy, but thankful heart that we say thank you for all your work and good luck to whomever takes your place, as they have tremendous shoes to fill! We hope we can still benefit from the wisdom of your experience as you both have done an exemplary job for St John's and our youth! Every congregation should have such giving leaders as yourselves. On that note, I will close with a verse from Proverbs:

*"Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray."*

*Proverbs 22:6*

God Bless you both,

Daniel Gonzalez and the rest of St John's Church Council

# *THANK YOU - THANK YOU....*

*Dear St. John's,  
Thank you so much for the generous scholarship. It is greatly appreciated and just goes to contribute to the great things the church has done for me.*

*Sincerely,  
Nils DeStefano*

*To the Barbara Semmig Scholarship Fund Committee:  
Thank you so much for the generous award given by the Barbara Semmig Scholarship fund committee.. This money will help with college expenses in pursuing a degree in Exercise Science at Adelphi University.*

*I have been part of this congregation since I was born and it has helped shape me into the person I have become. There have been many events that have created a feeling of family and a bond to St. John's for the rest of my life.*

*Thank you again for this very thoughtful and generous scholarship award.*

*Sincerely,  
Matthew Fernež*

*I would like to thank everyone at St. John's that sent cards, calls, and flowers and visited me when I was in the hospital. I am doing much better now, just need time for the shoulder and leg to heal.*

*Thank you for all the well wishes.*

*God Bless,  
Ursula Lipitz*

# CONGRATULATIONS.....

**Paula and Merle Williams have received pins from Lutheran Social Services for more than 15 years each that they have been involved in collecting and delivering food and other items to their Uniondale location.**

**They can be seen as the definition of Evangelism.  
Love, The Evangelism Committee**

## AND.....

Recently we had a special food appeal to give needed food to Lutheran Social Services of New York, who in turn, help those in need of basic food needs. Food collections over the summer become particularly low. On June 16<sup>th</sup> we had the collection where the food was brought up to the altar. Symbolically, we brought food to the place where we receive the food of life from God and the son, Jesus Christ.

We collected 554 lbs. of food which was delivered the next day. Truly the Holy Spirit was working within us as a church family.  
Peace and love, Evangelism Committee



**donations have been made To  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
In Loving Memory of**

**Frank Feltkamp**  
The Dempsey Family

**William "Mr. Bill" Freeman**  
The Kaempf Family

Divorced / Widowed / Separated –

**THE BEGINNING EXPERIENCE** weekend is August 16-18 at the Montfort Spiritual Center in Bay Shore. The program helps grieving single-again persons emerge from the darkness of grief into the light of a new beginning and move into the future with renewed hope. Turn the pain of loss into an experience of positive growth. For Information and reservations call John at 516 822-0635 or email us at: [BeginningExperienceLI@hotmail.com](mailto:BeginningExperienceLI@hotmail.com)

OUR HARVEST FESTIVAL IS ONLY A TWO MONTHS AWAY. WE COULD STILL USE VOLUNTEERS TO HEAD COMMITTEES AND TO WORK ON PUTTING THE HARVEST FESTIVAL TOGETHER. EVEN A FEW HOURS HELPING IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. IF WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE. WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU!

## WE ARE PLANNING FOR THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup> 2013

Hard to believe that summer is already here, and our Harvest Festival is fast approaching right after that. Please think of St. Johns as you do all of your summer cleaning; you can now bring all of your unwanted treasures down to the stage in the Auditorium, for this year's festival. Should you have any questions please give either one of us a call.

Thanks from the Bric-A-Brac Committee!

Diane Dake 599-2705

Susan Masciello 599-1956

And.....do not forget our new Scarecrow building table.

### **BUILD A SCARECROW**

We are going to have the inaugural Build-a Scarecrow table at this years' Harvest Festival. Any one who comes to the table will have the opportunity to create their own custom made scarecrow (for a modest fee...~\$10- \$15 depending on material costs) to help bring in the fall season.

To make this possible, were looking for donations of the following items to use for the scarecrow creations:

- ⤴ Long sleeve shirts (Flannels preferably for the authentic scarecrow look, adult or children sizes)
- ⤴ Pants...denim or carpenter pants or whatever you can spare. (again, adult or children sizes)
- ⤴ Any wood or lumber that could be used to make the armatures for the scarecrows. Just need something in the shape of a cross to put in the sleeves and provide support for when the scarecrows are mounted in the ground.

The plan is to stuff the clothes with newspapers and hay, attach a head to the scarecrow, then attach it to an armature so the scarecrow can be planted" in your yard.

If you do have any of these items that you would be willing to donate, or if you come across any of these items at a garage sale, thrift store etc, please set them aside and contact me so I can get an idea of how many scarecrows well be able to accommodate. I'll be placing a bin in the Narthex for any donations. Here's to hoping that this will be a success!

God Bless,

Dan Gonzalez

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