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Like us on Facebook

Church Office
Hours
Mondays
and
Fridays
10:00 AM–3:00 PM

Worship Service
9:00 am

Pastor Paul Heine
937-867-6411
pwheine@yahoo.com



PENTECOST

MAY 2021

St. John Lutheran Church

St. John Lutheran Church comes together to love God and one another, serve others and share God's word. We do these things by God's Grace that comes through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ

Alarms and Visions

I recently purchased new alarm system for my house. It seems like the American thing to do these days. What I discovered as I talked to different security companies, is the vast number of devices available. I wasn't aware that I could secure my doors and windows, but also have alarms to warn me about water in the basement, or radon. I could also have cameras in the house which would allow me to monitor from anywhere in the world what is happening at home. Nevertheless, there are some other kinds of detectors for which I'm still looking.

I wonder who makes the door sensors that will alert me if someone comes into my house with a bad attitude. Where is the system that will let me know that someone is at the door who is rude, condescending, self-serving, racist, pessimistic, or argumentative? I want my alarm to go off if there is someone at the house who reads the National Inquirer, watches Jerry Springer, believes professional wrestling is real, or eats spaghetti with a spoon. Where is the alarm that will sound off if a person wears a ball cap backwards? I also need protection from Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons as soon as they step onto my porch.

Do you agree with me? As I have shared my great ideas with others, they have suggested that I reconsider. Security systems serve a purpose in keeping out intruders, but perhaps it should not be my mission to protect myself from everyone who is different than my small circle of friends. All that produces is a community of separatism, suspicion, and alienation. There are already enough of those attitudes making our world a hostile place.

We're asked to risk ourselves for the sake of the Gospel. Sometimes that means keeping an active dialogue with people who are a challenge to us. Otherwise, someone may someday invent a security alarm that protects people from Lutherans! Maybe I should expand my search in order to find an alarm that will alert me to my own bad attitudes! When activated, the alarm could play a musical rendition of, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Better yet, maybe all I need is a door mat that says, "Welcome."

Blessings,
Pastor Paul Heine

Dear Friends and Family,

Hope you are well and staying healthy!

We are in another 2-week lockdown here in Cyprus. This lockdown coincides with a 2-week Easter break from school for the kids. (The Greek Orthodox date for Easter is this Sunday, May 2nd.) The numbers of covid cases have steadily risen over the last month, even though lots of restrictions have remained in place. The hospitals have begun to be overrun, which has been one of the main concerns. Thus, the government felt they needed to enforce stricter measures with this lockdown. Everything is closed, except for essential services. We are only allowed out one time per day with a text message to the government. For us, we weren't too phased by this lockdown, since the kids have Easter holiday, and has allowed for us to have more intentional family time. We are also celebrating Easter this weekend. We appreciate prayers for continued grace and perspective as we navigate life with continued restrictions.

Beautiful Hope (Ministry to Refugee Women who have been exploited):

Over the last month, we were able to launch some of the new programs we had been planning for some time. We received permission to meet at a local church and were able to welcome 3 new women to join our Tirzah program focused on body, soul, and spirit. It was great to finally meet with these women and to begin getting to know each other. Most of these women have experienced very difficult situations before coming to Cyprus and in their desperation to leave their home countries actually had to leave their babies/ children. So they are all in a place of trauma/ stress, and greatly in need of support and encouragement. It has been a privilege to be able to pour into them and provide a joyful community for them to be a part of. We were also excited to start an internship program with one of the women who has been a part of our community this past year. She has taken on a role of helping during our new Tirzah program, as well as joining us another day per week for the internship. It is exciting to see this multiplication- she has received much over the past year and now she has an opportunity to encourage the other women. During the internship, we have been focusing on her personal development, job skills training, and teaching her new handicraft skills. Last week, we focused on the topic of personality, and it was so neat to see her come alive as she recognized different aspects of her personality. We are looking forward to continuing these programs when the lockdown finishes. Please be praying for these women as the lockdown does add stress to their already stressful situations.

Monday Morning Encounters:

It's Monday morning and several refugees have arrived at the local food distribution. They are eager to receive their food as they are hungry. Some have not received money/benefits from the govt. for quite some time. One individual shares that he hasn't eaten recently and has nothing. A lady sitting and waiting for her food catches Jon's eye. She is a lady in her 20s who is from a nation in Africa. She shares freely about her struggles, where she is from, and that she is a believer in Jesus. The conversation ends and Jon moves on to other people to chat with and share. A little while later, this lady returns to Jon asking for prayer. She opens up and shares more of her story. She was raped in her country and contracted the HIV virus. She is concerned about her life here in Cyprus and struggles to find hope. Jon offers to pray for her. As he prays, the lady falls to the ground with her arms outstretched to heaven almost as if she is waiting for Jesus to come down and touch her at this very moment. It was a moving moment in time as many people stopped to watch and see what was going on. After this prayer time, she received a Bible and also a fresh hope from Jesus.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Every week I (Jon) am confronted with these difficult stories...people with HIV, suicidal tendencies, broken bodies due to being shot in war-stricken lands, and the list goes on. Muslims, Christians, and Atheists arrive looking for a physical handout of food, and they aren't expecting to also receive spiritual nourishment. Jesus makes it clear in His Word that He came for the least of these. I believe we are living in days that Jesus wants to encounter the lost, the broken, and the weary. Please pray as we have this sacred moment in time to share, pray, minister to these precious people.

Isaiah 40:31 - "Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint."

In these days of restrictions, lockdowns, uncertainties, we continue to draw our STRENGTH from the Lord. May you find PEACE in resting and waiting on the ONE who never grows weary and is fully able to carry each one of us no matter what situation we find ourselves in!

Love and Blessings,
The Voges



Did you know.....

The word "Pentecost" means and refers to "Fiftieth," referring to the fiftieth day after Passover in the Old Testament.

The symbols of Pentecost are those of **the Holy Spirit** and include flames, wind, the breath of God and a **dove**.

The **Holy Spirit** enables Christian life by dwelling in the individual believers and enables them to live a righteous and faithful life. The **Holy Spirit** also acts as comforter or Paraclete, one who intercedes, or supports or acts as an advocate, particularly in times of trial.

Have a newsworthy announcement for the St John newsletter? You can email it to stjohningomar@swohio.twcbc.com or call 937-839-5321 any time and leave a detailed message. The newsletter generally is being prepared throughout the month and goes to print the last week.

A Note from Bishop Dillahunt

April 20, 2021

Grace and Peace be with you in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

The Easter message of Christ is risen, though it seems silent 2-1/2 weeks after we heard and read the resurrection message of promise and hope, IS NOT silent. I know what we hear and see is a world that hurts. Continued shootings, continued death, continued senseless killings, continued unease, continued unrest, continued pandemic weariness, continued hopes destroyed. And yet through it all, we proclaim Christ crucified and risen for the sake of the world.

I was asked the other day what Scripture might someone read during this Easter season when people around us are hurting, tired and know that change must happen. What Scripture can be lifted up when sometimes we don't know what to say or pray for. Take time to read, dwell, and ponder Romans 8:26 "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." Let the Spirit work in and through you as sharers of the Gospel. Sighs are prayers and God hears those sighs when life swarms around us. Share the news that what we believe is hope...Jesus lives!

We pray with sighs too deep for words for calm and peace, healing and health, patience and understanding, care and grace. We pray for neighbor, friend, colleague, stranger, enemy, for those who believe differently, for the Church, the nation, the world, for the synod, for congregations, for each other that the love of Jesus Christ may show forth in what we say and do and that we may be Christ's presence.

As you prepare for worship online or in-person for the weekend of April 24-25, I am asking all congregations, campus ministries, worshipping communities throughout this mission territory to pray together the following prayer from All Creation Sings Evangelical Lutheran Worship Supplement, a prayer for Peace:

Holy God, out of your great love for the world, your Word became flesh to live among us and to reconcile us to you and to one another. Rekindle among us the gift of your Spirit so that we seek to live in unity with all people, breaking down the walls that divide, ending the hostility among us and proclaiming peace to those who are near and to those who are far away; through Christ Jesus, in whom we all have access in the one Spirit to you, both now and forever. Amen

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

In Christ,
Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt



Thank you to all Saint John members who continue to send their offering . Contributions like yours make a big difference in the work of the church. Giving is worship!

To show our Spirit for Pentecost members may order red geraniums for planting in St John's flower beds! The one-gallon pots will be ordered from Stockslager's Garden Center and cost \$6.45. The deadline is May 16. If you can't make it to worship to place an order, just use the contact info from the front of this newsletter.



After much discussion, council has voted to begin opening our worship space back up and inviting those who choose to gather after worship for fellowship and coffee cake beginning Sunday, June 6.

Sleep Mat Project: CROCHETERS NEEDED!!!

If you or someone you know loves to crochet (or knit) and wants to be a part of a giving ministry this is the one for you! The Project meets every third Saturday of the month at 9:00 am at St John's fellowship hall. For question you may contact Carolyn at 937-839- 4350 or Earla 937- 839-7203

WELCA minutes for March Nine members were present at the March meeting.

Carolyn gave the program on persecution in foreign countries. Treasurer reported a checkbook balance of \$220.87.

Kathy reported on the number of Thanksgiving, Christmas, Get Well, and Sympathy cards she sent since November.

We are not attending Women's Council yet.

Judy said the family we adopted for Christmas turned out great. We provided groceries and meat for their Christmas.

We discussed serving the retired teachers and rotary and discussed the ice cream social.

We reviewed the booklet for 2021 so we can print new programs

Some people signed up to make the homeless meal which we serve once a month.

Submitted by Earla Donaldson

WELCA minutes for April The April meeting of the Women of the ELCA was held on April 8 with eight members present.

The meeting was called to order by President, Earla Donaldson. The program was presented by Kathy Eubank.

The minutes of the last meeting. were read and approved.

Treasurer reported a balance of \$335.87.

Kathy reported 57 cheer cards were sent. No key report from Women's Council.

New program books for 2021 were passed out.

Group was divided as to when to resume having refreshments.

Information was shared regarding a number of our shut-ins. Reported that our team visiting shut-ins has resumed this month after taking a number of months off due to Covid. Kathy was thanked for keeping touch with cards and phone calls.

Becky and Darlene will provide the homeless meal this month.

Meeting closed with the Missionary Benediction.

Submitted by Darlene Combs

FINANCIAL		REPORT	MARCH		2021
		ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, INGOMAR			
CURRENT EXPENSE FUND					
BALANCE ON HAND 3.1.2021			15789.61		
RECEIPTS		MARCH	6544.88		
TOTAL IN CURRENT FUND			22334.49		
CURRENT EXPENSES					
TWIN VALLEY BANK		Janitor	300.00		
G.E. CAPITAL-COPIER			86.87		
DPL		1/17-2/17	131.82	24 MO CD-12/18-\$11,134.70	
KNOX ENERGY		1/11-2/9	637.48		
TIME WARNER-PHONE/INTERNET			172.14		
SERV KEEP/MY COMPUTER			69.89		
RUMPKE			55.61		
ONE CALL NOW-TRINITY REIMB		HALF	552.69	AMERIPRISE-\$315,803	
BROOKVILLE FLOWER SHOP			105.00	3.31.21	+4498
LODY OFFICE MACHINES			425.00		
ORGANIST/PIANIST			640.00	CURRENT OFFERING	
OFFICE DEPOT			96.72	Mar 20-7455.59	
CHRIS INGRAM-P.WORKER			1242.50	Mar 21-6544.88	
PAUL W. HEINE			3617.44	Jan-Mar 20-20,626.71	
				Jan-Mar -21-25439.43	
				Cash Flow:	
				Receipts-6544.88	
				Expenses-8133.16	
TOTAL EXPENSES			8133.16	-1588.28	
BALANCE IN CURRENT FUND			14201.33		
BENEVOLENCE		MEMORIAL	DISCRETIONAR	W/HUNGER	STEPHEN MIN
BEG. BAL	0	10226	921.55	0	1649.18
RECEIPTS	1155	130	20.00	170	0
PAID OUT	1155	0	0	170	0
END. BAL	0	10356	941.55	0	1649.18
		includes Disaster			
S.SCHOOL		YOUTH	ACCRUED	MISSIONARY	ORGAN
BEG BAL	43.49	2664.87	36978.7	-16	15195.33
RECEIPTS	0	0	0	315	0
PAID OUT	0	0	0	200	0
END. BAL	43.49	2664.87	36978.7	99	15195.33
BENEVOLENCE PLEDGE		14943	G/WORKS PLEDGE		600
PAID OUT		970			100
UNPAID PLEDGE		13973			500

MEMBERS IN OUR PRAYER

Marna Beneke	Judy Erbaugh	Reenie Halsey
Mary Buettner	Cleo Eby	Helen Comer
Catherine Dafler	Janet Ferguson	Bob Combs
Dale Cotterman	Butch Spitler	Earla Donaldson

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF OUR MEMBERS

Nancy Palmer	Shawn Bellamy
Dorothy Chapman	Lilly Moore
Shauna Hebbeler	Jim Boyle
Eugene & Sandy Chapman	Dick Campbell
Cynthia Foster	Eric Walker
Linda Parks	Todd McKee
Debbie Elmore	Andrew Obst
Branson Bennett	Connie Johnson
Lori Cooper	Melinda Studebaker
Dane & Marlene Stockslager	Lynn Peters
Ben Cole	Andy & Amanda Thompson

THOSE WHO ARE
GRIEVING

Families of Judy Hall-Cole,
Janet Hardin, Jo Schiml, and
Janice Zukowitz

MISSIONARIES

Jon & Michelle Voge and family
and
Michelle's dad, Brian

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything. By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

May

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AG – Becky Stockslager CA – Steve Stockslager						1
M-Jenny LR-Carolyn A-TBA	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Worship & Music Committee meeting 6:30 pm		National Day of Prayer		8
M-Mandy LR-Lorey A-Ellie Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
				WELCA 7:00 pm		15
						Sleep Mat Project 9-11 am
M-Carol LR-Randy A-TBA	16	17	18	19	20	21
						22
M-Jenny LR-Earla A-Ellie	23	24	25	26	27	28
		WACOCA meeting at St John 7:00 pm				29
M-Mandy LR-Carol M A-TBA	30	31		Full moon		
	Memorial Day					