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*To worship and serve God in love and obedience*

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:**

TRADITIONAL AT 8:15 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.  
CONTEMPORARY: 8:15, 11:00, AND 5:00 P.M.  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 A.M.

July 3, 2011

***Pastor's Pen***

***Can I Take A Summer Break from God?***

When I was going through the candidacy process to become a Lutheran pastor, I asked a pastor friend how long he thought the process would take before I could be recommended for ordination in the Lutheran Church and this friend told me that it would have to be after summer. I asked why and he said things go on break in the summer. While that may be true when it comes to our work and academic schedules, it need not be true of our spiritual lives. Many of us are planning to go on vacation at some point before school opens in September and I would like to share with you about the need to remain connected to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

We live at a time when it is important to look physically look good and fit. We give significant attention to what and how we eat and how often we exercise. There is even an electronic monitoring system that some people wear on their arm and is connected to the Internet for feedback. We never go a day without thinking about our diet and our exercise. Why should our spiritual lives be any different? Should we forget about spiritual nourishment until we come back to Church in the fall? The answer is a resounding no. So allow me to humbly suggest some things to consider when you find yourself away from your family of faith in the summer.

***Reading the Bible***

It is important to remain plugged into the Word of God while on vacation. There are many ways in which this can be accomplished. If your regular Bible is too big, you can buy a pocket edition. These days the Bible comes even in mobile versions that can be downloaded to your phone. Let me give you some compelling reasons why you should bring your Bible with you while on vacation:

- John 5:39, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me."
- Acts 17:10-11, "The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so."
- Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
- 2 Timothy 2:15, "Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

We pray that not only will you come back from vacation physically refreshed, but spiritually revitalized.

***Attending Worship if Possible***

Unless your vacation finds you in the wilderness or national park, it is not hard to look for a Bible-believing Church at which to attend a worship service. Someone once said Church attendance is the subject of a "tongue in cheek" joke: "Those that attend Sunday morning love the preacher. Those that attend Sunday night love the church, and those that attend midweek services love the Lord!" I hope we can add to this observation by saying we at St. John so love to worship the Lord with other believers that we will look for where they gather in the town of our vacation and join them as we are able.

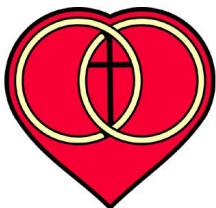
***Let Nature Lead You to Worship***

If your vacation leads you into the wilderness or middle of nowhere, use the magnificence of nature to lead into worshipping the Lord who created it. There was a huge thunderstorm last week that intensified as I was pulling into the driveway. I didn't have the garage door opener in my car so I waited it out before getting out. I remember watching as the rain pounded against my helpless car and feeling pretty small about things. God's creation can sure knock you down to size! Instead of feeling too afraid, I burst into the hymn, Oh Lord My God When I In Awesome Wonder, and the following Psalm summarized the experience for me.

Psalm 148: "Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and women, old men and children."

HAPPY SUMMER!

***Elijah***



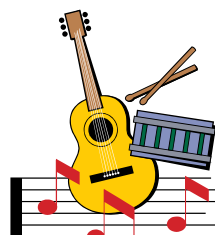
# Marriage

**MARRIAGE CLASS IN SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL.** *Pastor Gerry* and his wife, *Jean*, are leading a discussion of the video series “Love and Respect” in the Youth Lounge. This is a biblical and practical series on marriage—good not only for married couples but also for singles who either might get

married or might counsel others on marriage. Most classes have a 20-minute video clip plus extended discussion. Please join us!



**ARTWORK AT ST. JOHN**—It's time to rotate! *Jean McDermott* is asking artists in the church to loan some of their work for display at the church. Please contact *Jean* at [jmcdermott@gmail.com](mailto:jmcdermott@gmail.com).



## SPECIAL Music

**OPEN JAM SESSION.** The Praise & Worship Team will be hosting an afternoon jam session on **Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00—4:00 p.m.** in the great room, open to anyone and everyone who is interested in (or maybe just curious about) singing or playing on the worship team. This will be a very laid back, casual time to join in on the fun of worshipping the Lord through music. Snacks will be provided. Please come and join us! Call *MarLane* in the church office for more information or email her at [marlane@stjohnlutheran.org](mailto:marlane@stjohnlutheran.org).

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### July 3<sup>rd</sup>

Zechariah 9.9-12.....Psalm 145.8-14  
Romans 7.15-25..... Matthew 11.16-30

#### July 10<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 55.10-13.....Psalm 65.1-13  
Romans 8.1-11..... Matthew 13.1-23

#### July 17<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 44.6-8..... Psalm 86.11-17  
Romans 8.12-25.....Matthew 13.24-43

#### July 24<sup>th</sup>

1 Kings 3.5-12 ..... Psalm 119.129-136  
Romans 8.26-39..... Matthew 13.31-52

#### July 31<sup>st</sup>

Isaiah 55.1-5 ..... Psalm 145.8-21  
Romans 9.1-5..... Matthew 14.13-21

**FINAL CALL ON GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS.** We will report the final list of graduates in the August newsletter issue. Please send parents’ names, graduate’s name, school graduating from, college going to, and any job/plans the college graduate has to [newsletter@stjohnlutheran.org](mailto:newsletter@stjohnlutheran.org).

**ST. JOHN'S SECOND ANNUAL CAMPOUT!** Mark your calendars for the weekend of **July 22-24** for a family camping trip at Alta Mons in Shawsville. Call Alta Mons directly at 540-268-2409 to reserve your site. Just tell them you are with the group from St. John. Feel free to call *Paul or Pat Clark* at 540-343-3943 if you have questions or need to be talked into joining us.



**WE WELCOME INTO OUR CHURCH FAMILY**  
our newest members! Please welcome them all!

***Dawn, Paul, Kathryn, and Qvah Campbell***

***Sherrie and Tim Henshaw***

***Beth and Kyle Lawrence***

***Marge and Jim Allen***

***Kathleen and Kent Cartner***

***Mike Wheeler***

***Rick Laymon***

***Susan Craft***

***Marie and Josh Shreeman, Maddy and Olivia***

***Jill and Craig Harris, Anna***

***James Hunt***

***Chris and Kathy Miller***



**THE NELSON FAMILY** thanks the pastors and the volunteers at St. John Lutheran. Harvey's memorial service and the luncheon afterward (held on April 16, 2011) was absolutely wonderful and greatly appreciated.



**HAIR WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY.** This summer, we are offering the Beth Moore audio study entitled, "The Names of God" which begins **Thursday, July 7th at 6:45 p.m.** in the Community Room. It is a 4-part, 17-week study, but we will only be doing Parts 1 and 2. This is a perfect summer study. It is topical, allowing you to miss a week and not be behind. And, there is no formal homework. As always, we will share a time of fellowship and food before the study begins. We will learn a lot, see old friends, make some new ones, and have fun together. Let **Jane Martin** know if you plan to attend so she will have enough listening guides, table settings, and food.

**SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR**—If your last name begins with one of the following letters, please bring some food to share for the Coffee Hour. This can be anything from fruit, cheeses, low fat milk, to cookies or other finger foods.



**July 3**—Letters **G, H**

**July 10**—Letters **I, J**

**July 17**—Letters **K, L**

**July 24**—Letters **M, N**

**July 31**—Letters **O, P**

Call **Debra Phillips** if you have any questions.



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** The next newsletter deadline is **Friday, July 15th, at 5:00 p.m.** Submit your articles to [newsletter@stjohnlutheran.org](mailto:newsletter@stjohnlutheran.org) or put them in the newsletter mailbox in the office.

**LUTHERAN COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES (LUCOM) UPDATE.**

♦ **CAMPERSHIP:** The LuCoM Campership program is sending the first group of twelve kids to camp on July 3rd. Two more groups of twelve will head to camp on July 17th and July 31st. The total program cost is \$12,000, shared by the nine LuCoM member churches. Donations are always welcome to help send these deserving children to camp. The cost per camper is \$300. The program also pays for their transportation to and from camp. St. John has contributed over \$3,100 so far. To make a donation and help St. John exceed a goal of \$3,600, please contact **Kirk Treubert** at 774-2607 or treuby4@yahoo.com. Thank you for your support.



♦ **HABITAT:** The 2011 "Lutheran Build" near Hurt Park is proceeding ahead of schedule! The presence of helping hands from St. John at the build site has been key to the project's success. A team of four worked at Habitat's ReStore during Compassion Weekend, earning over \$500 in labor credits, to be applied to the cost of this year's project.



LuCoM is committed to raising \$9,900 through donations of cash, building materials or volunteer labor at Habitat's ReStore in Roanoke. Donations are welcome throughout the year. St. John has so far contributed over \$2,500. For details on how you can help St. John exceed a goal of \$3,000, please contact **Kirk Treubert** at 774-2607 or treuby4@yahoo.com. Thank you for sharing your gifts to help make a home for a deserving family.

**TWO NEW STEPHEN LEADERS TO ATTEND TRAINING!**

**Bruce Roth** and **Joyce Quam** head to Dallas, Texas this month for Stephen Leader training. They join **Ben Graham, Warren and Sue Strickland, and Patrice Treubert**, who currently manage the ministry. Bruce was trained and commissioned as a Stephen minister at his church in El Paso, Texas before arriving in Roanoke. He was thrilled to find out St. John is a Stephen ministry church, and since he wanted to hone his skills, attended the recent training class completed in April with eleven others. Bruce says: "I recommend the training class – it would be beneficial to anyone. I'm looking forward to the week-long leadership class. It's an intense week, and I'm excited to go down to Texas and come back and be of assistance in any way I can. I really appreciate having the opportunity to help shape this ministry program at St. John."



**Joyce Quam** is a recently-trained and commissioned Stephen minister with experience in care giving. She has a heart for helping others. She adds: "Thankful is how I feel about the opportunity to attend the Stephen Ministry Leadership Training in Dallas in July. Thankful to the Pastor(s) and Stephen Ministry Leaders and St. John as God continues to direct and use "imperfect" people to help a hurting world, using our own life experiences as a resource instead of a hindrance. I have already seen God's Hand at work since our initial training and look forward to all He has planned for the future of Stephen Ministry at St. John and in our community. Thank you for your prayers and your encouragement and support as God leads and we follow." Please welcome these new leaders and pray that they may capably fulfill their duties to the benefit of St. John and the suffering in our community.

Stephen Ministry Service St. John Lutheran Church	
Category	Hours
Caring Relationships (16)	429
Supervision/Continuing Education	55
Administration	145
New Class Instruction	800
Class Preparation	80
Hospital Shut-In Visits/Communion	12
Other	84
<b>Total through 5/31/2011</b>	<b>1,689</b>
Total Hours 2010	1,350
Active Stephen Ministers/Leaders	18/4



# Children's Ministry

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

### **ALIVE 65! COMMUNITY GROUP: Sunday mornings in rooms 211-213 from 9:45—10:45 a.m.**

Are you ready to join us in an exciting adventure in God's Word as we become God's secret agents and take on the mission of discovering that God has many different names in the Bible? These names describe God's character and show us just WHO He really is. WHAT are those different names? WHAT will we discover about God as we uncover each name. Summer Sunday School started on June 26<sup>th</sup> with our "newly promoted" sixth and fifth graders. This summer, June 26 – August 28, Alive 65! will be learning about "God's Many Names" taught by Jane Martin.

**ALIVE 65! SUNDAY EVENINGS** (times noted). All newly promoted 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join us for fun, games, study, and Christian community. July 3<sup>rd</sup> is a Ben Franklin-style water brigade followed by fireworks; July 10<sup>th</sup> we will make and eat an 8 foot ice cream sundae; July 17<sup>th</sup> prepare to "let it fly" as we take on the Fishburn Park Frisbee Golf course. No activities July 24 and 31—come to camp with us!

**FABULOUS 14 SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday mornings in the Sonshine Sanctuary from 9:45—10:45 a.m.** Sunday mornings in the Sonshine Sanctuary from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. Children who have just been promoted into 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grades join for large group video presentation of the parables of Jesus, followed by an activity designed to help children apply their learning. Special July 3<sup>rd</sup> "God Bless America" focus!

**HANDS ON BIBLE: Sunday mornings from 9:45—10:45 a.m.** in room 7/8 (ages 3 and 4 and rising Kindergarteners). These children will learn in an interactive, "hands on" way. In July they will learn that "God Loves Me" and "God is With Me."

**CHILDREN'S CHAPEL:** Sunday Mornings during the sermon. We invite children ages 5 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade to join us for an interactive "child-style" version of the sermon each week .

**MOMS NURTURING MOMS:** The Wednesday morning study is about parenting from 9:30—11:30 a.m. The Thursday morning study will be "more than just a good Bible study girl" from 9:30—11:30 a.m. Child care is provided for children birth through students who have just finished 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT CROSSROADS:** Regular children's activities begin again on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> with "Metamorphosis."

**THE NURSERY** has CPR/First Aid trained workers. Volunteers are always welcome. Nursery is provided for children under the age of 5 during services and under age 3 during Sunday School. A Bible story and activity are featured each week. In July, they will learn that "God made me" and "God loves me."

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS:

**July 3, 10, 17 and August 7 and 28th:** Alive 65! Summer Special Activities

**July 24-29:** The Master's Inn: A Christian adventure camp  
(children currently in grades 3-6)