

# St. John's Lutheran Church of Massbach



September 2017



Notes From Our Pastor



## "Coincidence???"

There are so many things that we cannot understand about God and what God is up to, but I think it is natural that we try because our relationship with God is, well, it's kind of important and central to our life. But how many times do we totally miss or misunderstand or can't get what God is trying to tell us? I wonder.

Pr. Lisa and I are parents to our furry and feathered kids, our cat and parrot. We talk to them as if they understand; and on some level they do. But often they just look at you in confusion and cock their head, straining to understand but totally not getting it. Sometimes I wonder if my conversations with the cat and bird are like God's conversations with me.

What if God is up in heaven, or wherever God is, and the same thing is happening for God? I wonder how many times we just totally miss whatever God is trying to tell us, and God sits there trying to calm us down, but we just don't get it.

Lisa and I were recently having a really bad day. However, we went to a restaurant that is very special to us. It is here that we had that first awkward talk that couples sometimes have before marriage: what would it be like if we got married? This eating establishment is always incredibly busy and you have to wait a long time to get a table. There is one table that we always want to sit at: the table where we had that historic (for us at least), first conversation. As we were feeling sorry for ourselves, the hostess came and showed us finally to a table. It was OUR table! We looked at each other and wondered if it was God trying to tell us it was alright.



God speaks to us,  
if we take time to listen

St. John's Lutheran Church of Massbach  
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**Mission Statement**  
We are the people of God  
gathered and sent into the world  
by Jesus Christ.

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815-598-3235

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www.scenichillslutheran.com

It would be easy to discount such a thing a simple coincidence because we wanted to think God cared. It would be easy to laugh at the idea that God pays attention to table seatings at restaurants. But what if God was frequently trying to get our attention and talk to us in little day to day events? What if we are like pets in comparison to our God? What if we are the ones staring up in confusion at what's happening? What if we're the ones who miss God's signals? What if God really is trying to tell us in little ways, in simple things that we can get, in everyday occurrences, that everything will be alright? Coincidence? Or has God been trying to talk to you lately?

*May you hear God daily,  
Pastor Bruce*



## Scenic Hills Lutheran Parish Worship/Pastor Schedule

Date	St. John 9:00 a.m.	Trinity 9:00 a.m.	St. Paul 10:30 a.m.
Sept. 3			
Sept. 10			
Sept. 17			
Sept. 24			
Oct. 1			



Denotes Holy Communion service



Denotes Pastor will be available after service for coffee hour

## September Acolytes



Sept. 3	Rhett Geisz
Sept. 10	Brady Haring
Sept. 17	Brodi Eden
Sept. 24	Dalton Wachter
Oct. 1	Ashley Carroll



## Church Council and Church Ministry Meetings

### Church Council

Tuesday, September 12 ----- 7:00 p.m. ----- Trinity  
 Tuesday, September 19 ----- 7:30 p.m. ----- St. John  
 Sunday, September 17 ----- 11:30 a.m. ----- St. Paul

### Mutual Ministry

September 5 ----- 7:30 p.m. ----- St. John

### Men's Group Ministry

September 9 ----- 8:30 a.m. ----- Welcome Inn, Elizabeth

### Women's Group Ministry

September 27 ----- 11:00 a.m. ----- Stella's, Stickton

## September Events ~ Mark Your Calendars!

☞ - Denotes a full article follows under "Announcements"

3	Elizabeth Nursing Home Service 1:00 p.m. Contact: Pastor Lisa or Pastor Bruce
5	Mutual Ministry Meeting 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Contact: Calvin Klopff
6	Worship Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. St. John Contact: Calvin Klopff
7	St. John's Quilting 9 a.m. - Noonish with potluck lunch
7 ☞	Lutheran Book Study Intro Meeting 10:30 a.m. at St. John Contact: Pastor Bruce
7 ☞	Lutheran Book Study Intro Meeting 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Contact: Pastor Bruce

9 ☞	Men's Group Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Welcome Inn, Elizabeth
9 ☞	Steak Fry! Shepherd of the Hills, Schapville 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Contact: Pastor Bruce or Pastor Lisa
12	Trinity Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. Contact: Daryl Groezinger
16 ☞	NIS WELCA Gathering (All Day) Immanuel Lutheran, Dixon Contact: Joyce Huttenlocher
17 ☞	St. John 165 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration 9:00 a.m. - 11:00??? Contacts: Marilee Hejna, Rene Albrecht

17	St. Paul Council Meeting 11:30 a.m. at St. Paul Contact: Don Crawford
18 - 20	Professional Leaders Conference All Day at Sinsinawa Pastor Lisa & Pastor Bruce will attend
19	St. John Council Meeting 7:30 p.m. Contact: Calvin Klopff
20	Trinity WELCA 9:00 a.m. - Quilting Lunch at noon Contact: Joyce Huttenlocher
<b>20</b>	<b>Newsletter Articles Due!</b>
20	Confirmation 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Contact: Pastor Lisa
21 ✔	Lutheran Book Study 10:30 a.m. at St. John's Contact: Pastor Bruce
21 ✔	Lutheran Book Study 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Contact: Pastor Bruce
23 ✔	Blessing of the Hounds 9:00 a.m. St. John's Contact: Pastor Bruce
24	Waverly Place (Stockton Nursing Home) Service: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Lisa or Pastor Bruce
24 ✔	Dinner Church at Trinity 4:30 p.m. Contact: Pastor Bruce or Pastor Lisa

25 ✔	Elizabeth Community Meal Elizabeth Community Building 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Contact: Pastors Lisa or Bruce
25 ✔	Community Task Force Meeting Elizabeth Community Building 1:00 p.m. Contact: Pastor Bruce or Pastor Lisa
27 ✔	Parish Women's Group Meeting 11:00 a.m. - Stella's in Stockton Lunch and Meeting Contact: Pastor Lisa
27 ✔	Lutheran Book Study 10:30 a.m. at St. John's Contact: Pastor Bruce
27 ✔	Lutheran Book Study 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Contact: Pastor Bruce
27	Confirmation 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Contact: Pastor Lisa
30 ✔	Youth Group Campout 6:30 p.m. at St. John's Contact: Angie Conklin
<b>Coming up in October!</b>	
1	Elizabeth Nursing Home Service 1:00 p.m. - Elizabeth Nursing Home Contact: Pastor Bruce or Pastor Lisa
5	St. John's Quilting 9 a.m. - Noonish with potluck lunch

# Announcements

## *Dinner Church: Church in a whole new way!*

We are going to experiment with a new way to worship, fellowship, learn and have fun all in one event with all ages joining together. September 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 at Trinity, we will try out multi-generational worship and learning around a community meal. We will have songs with guitar, a Sunday School-style lesson where all ages join in learning and doing a craft, and worship that is low-key and invites all to join in praise. This worship is geared towards families with kids of any age, but is best when kids of all ages up to 80 and beyond join in finding where God and our lives meet. The meal is provided free of charge. Come and join the launch of a new way to bring all ages to worship and fellowship all wrapped up in one.

## *Fall Study on Lutheranism*

In honor of the Reformation's 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary we will have a book study on the blessings and contributions of the Lutheran faith tradition instead of a classic Bible study. We will use as our guidepost a book on the positives of Lutheranism entitled *Lutheran Trump Cards: Playing Our Best Hand in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. This study will last through the fall as each week we examine a different 'card' from our Lutheran deck of contributions to the understanding of the Christian faith. For those who wish a book of their own (which is NOT REQUIRED), please come early or contact Pastor Bruce to get your book ordered. Books cost \$10 apiece.

## *Elizabeth Community Meal*



The Elizabeth/Hanover Community Task Force will offer their second free Community Meal on Monday, September 25 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Elizabeth Community Building. The meal is intended to encourage community spirit and feed anyone who is hungry for a good lunch. All are invited to attend!

## *Wanted: Community Task Force Members*

The Elizabeth/Hanover Community Task Force is looking for more folks who are interested in building community spirit while helping out folks in need. We will meet immediately following the community meal on Monday, September 25 at 1:00 p.m. at the Elizabeth Community Building.

### Parish Men's Group

Our group will meet on the second Saturday this month, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Welcome Inn at 8:30 am. We are planning our final cook out of the year for St. Paul in Hanover and helping with a youth group event. Last month's cook out at Derinda drew approximately 125 people from all three of our churches. We could certainly use more help on the Hanover event. Stay tuned and please come join us!

### Parish Women's Group

Our Parish Women will meet for lunch at Stella's in Stockton on Wednesday, September 27 at 11 a.m. We will discuss upcoming projects and meeting topics. All women of the parish are invited!

### Youth Group Campout

The GW3 Youth Group will have its annual campout at St. John in Massbach on Saturday, September 30, starting at 6:30 p.m. All youth are invited to join us for the campfire, food, fun and fellowship with an overnight lock in. For more information, please contact Angie Conklin at 815-291-3714.



### GW3 Mission Trip Fundraisers

The mission trip youth are invited to raise money by picking grapes at the Massbach Ridge Winery on either September 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> from 7am to noon. You need to sign up for times with Angie before the slots are gone. This is a great money-making event! Stay tuned for an upcoming euchre tournament and everyone plan on buying some Easy-As-Pie ready to bake pies for the holidays to help send our youth on their mission trip.

### Steak Fry at Shepherd of the Hills in Schapville

Our neighbors to the north are once again having their Steak Fry on Saturday, September 9 from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the door.

### NIS WELCA Gathering

The Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA will gather at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Dixon on Saturday, September 16. For more information, contact Joyce Huttenlocher or Monica Groezinger.

### *Blessing of the Hounds*

Our hunting friends will have their annual Blessing of the Hounds on Saturday, September 23 at 9:00 a.m. on the grounds next to the parsonage at St. John's in Massbach. Pastor Bruce will conduct the service. All are invited to witness the short service and view the hunters, their steeds and the hounds.

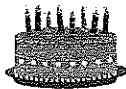
### *Church Anniversary Celebration!*

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 17 for the St. John Anniversary Extravaganza celebrating 165 years of worship together! We'll begin with worship at 9:00 a.m., patterned on older worship styles with favorite older hymns, followed by a dedication of trees purchased for all clergy, past and present, who have served our church. We will have lots of pictures and memorabilia to share and enjoy as we remember and thank God for our life together. After that, stick around for a yummy Pancake Breakfast.

### *Can Tabs*

Remember to save can tabs for the Austin Nack family to give to the Ronald McDonald House. Collection container is in the narthex.

## September Celebrations!



### *Happy Birthday!*

- 2 - Allen Scheele
- 3 - Daylon Scheele
- 9 - Marion Guenzler
- 10 - Allen Randecker
- 11 - Kathy Guenzler
- 12 - Margaret Randecker
- 12 - Julie Yuswak
- 18 - Marvin Blackbourne



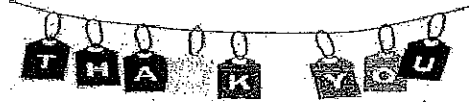
### *Happy Anniversary!*

- 14 - David & Brenda Baltierra
- 15 - Calvin & Jan Klopf
- 16 - Clyde & LaVonne Eden
- 17 - Marvin & Charlotte Blackbourne

# Prayer Time!



Take time to place in God's hands those who need his healing and loving touch: The friends and family of Dennis Wurster; Pastor Bernie Daiker; Pastor Ben Ahles-Iverson; Jackie Reusch; Kay Dick; Sharon and Donald Terry; Kenny Eden; Anna Appleby; Austin Nack; Donna Wurster; Shane Haas; Harold Miller, and the men and women serving in the armed forces.



Dear St. John's Family,

Thank you to the quilters for the birthday remembrances and gifts. I would also like to express a Special Thanks to Eileen for the beautiful cake. Friends are one of God's gifts.

*Elda Goodmiller*

Newsletter Articles - Thank you to this month's contributors; Pastor Lisa Burbank and Pastor Bruce Burbank.

*Laura Marquez, Editor*

*One last Word!*

