

Your Pastor, RevSEZ...

It is difficult for me to comprehend that summer is almost over as I write this article. I'm already two months into my second-year contract as your Interim Pastor. As we look to the Fall there are already some preliminary plans underway for St. John to expand our ministry. We are hoping to schedule a Fall planning retreat for Council and other members of the congregation who would like to be involved in looking to planning the future of St. John's ministries.

Along these same lines we are formally developing an Evangelism Committee that will look at ways of sharing God's love with those who are unchurched in our area, as well as continuing to develop our hospitality with those who worship or use our facilities. We will be looking at the "church roster" to identify our active membership. There are quite a few who have not worshipped since COVID or before. Our constitution states that voting members must have communed and made a contribution of record within the current or preceding year. In order to have our records accurately reflect our membership we will be contacting those that we have not seen or heard from in several years to determine what their status is. I am hoping that we can also host a "Bring A Friend Back Again Sunday" to give us an opportunity to invite and welcome back those who have gotten out of the worship habit during COVID.

Lastly, we will be exploring ways to get our laity more involved in ministry. I'm contracted to work approximately 15 hours a week, but that time is becoming stretched with increased demands. We'll be exploring ways to assist in the ministries of the church. One such way is to develop lay eucharistic ministers who would help take communion to the ill and homebound.

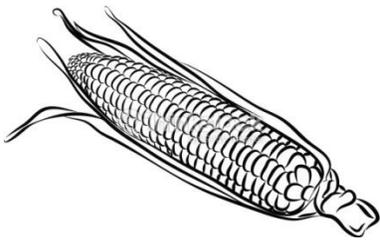
Stay tuned... many exciting things are in the works for a bright future.

In the peace of Christ's love,

+ Pr. Scott E. Zimmerer

Pastor's Wednesday Bible/Book study resumes September 6 th at 9:30 am.

Pastor's Adult Sunday School resumes September 10 th at 10:15am (following worship)



Thank you to the following members for their help freezing corn for our soup sale at Pippinfest: Linda, Chuck,

Judy, Martha, Kevan, Ruthie, Linn, Roger, Susie, David, Hazel, Sue, Larry, Nancy, Tammy, and John. Thank you to Eddie and Tammy for donating the sweet corn. We husked, cooked, cut and froze 60 gallon bags of corn!

Council Highlights:

Your St. John Council met the second Monday in August after being off in July.

Discussions included:

- *How to reduce/minimize utility costs.
- *Considering when to award the Sites Scholarship.
- *Church Responsibility of Memorial Funds.
 - *Community Outreach (Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Ruth's Harvest, Food Pantry, and Hill Side Meals)
- *Future Events (Sunday School Rally Day, Kid's Club, Wednesday Bible Study, and Pippinfest)

All Minutes are available in the Social Hall following approval at the monthly meeting. We will have open Council positions available at the end of the year. If you are interested in becoming a member, please reach out to any Council member.

Tammy Deardorff
St. John Council President

Those for Whom We Pray-

Family of Dale Sanders, Milly, Hazel, Essie, Audrey, Jim, Jim & Mary Lou, Ken, Charles, Savannah, Garnetta, Ruth. Help us keep the prayer list updated. Please let the office know of any names that should be added or that can be removed.



Thank you to all who helped with preparing and delivering meals to Hillside Personal Care in Fairfield. Also thank you to all that donated money to help with the cost of the meals. 41 meals were prepared. We will be preparing meals again in September. Anyone wishing to donate please mark your envelopes "Hillside Food".



Sunday School is starting up again! Sunday, September 10th!

Join us to kick off the new year! We will have

refreshments, games, story and craft! Sunday school will run from 10:15- 11:15am. Preschool to high school, there is something for everyone! No Sunday School Sunday, September 24th, 2023. Interested in helping with a class? Contact Stacey Haynes or Carol Garman.



Family Ministry- We are in the process of starting up a family ministry group at St John. Look for more details in the bulletin and upcoming newsletters. Contact Stacey Haynes with questions or more information.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who participated or helped out with our Kids Fun Night in August. We had 14 youngsters participate and 10 adults!



Children's Choir practices during Sunday School and/or Kids Club.



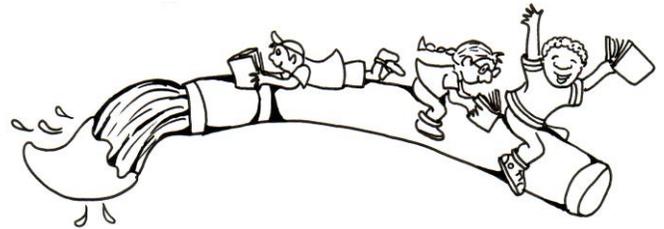
Thank you to everyone who shared their talents, sat in the audience or helped in any way for our annual Talent Show/Ice Cream Social.



Music news:

Wednesday, September 6th begins a new choir season for With One Voice Choir and Hand Bells. Both groups are open to teens and adults. Music reading skills are helpful but not required. New singers & ringers welcome. With One Voice meets at 6:45 & Bells meet at 7:30. If you cannot commit to the whole season, you are still welcome!

Vocal and instrumental solos, duets, etc are also welcome. Please contact Carol Garman for more information on any of the musical ministry groups of St. John.



KIDS CLUB

Kids Club will begin meeting again in November. We are still collecting clean aluminum cans to help fund our activities. There is a box in fellowship hall to place them in.

The 5-Finger Prayer



Thumb: Pray for those closest to you: your family and friends.

Pointer finger: Pray for those who point you in the right direction: your teachers, and other leaders in your life. Pray for wisdom and support.

Middle finger (tallest): Pray for those that lead us: those in government, in business, in church leadership. Pray for guidance and wisdom.

Ring finger (weakest): Pray for those who are poor, sick, in pain, in trouble: those most in need.

Pinkie finger (smallest): Pray for yourself and your own needs.



Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."



