

# St. John News

Summer/Fall 2021

Dear Sisters, Brothers, and Friends,

Although weather outside, with its unrelenting heat, may for a time try to fool us, vacation time is almost over. Like it or not, many of us must soon return to busy days with different routines. September brings thoughts of education, learning, and work.

Over the past eighteen + months it has been easy to forget what our old normal days of routine looked like. Schools and teachers, along with parents and children, have been hopefully looking forward to safe in-person learning. My thoughts and prayers are especially with those who have young children as you continue navigate your way through these challenging times. Let's continue to pray and do everything we can (including vaccinations) to assure that the safety and well-being of our children and everyone continue.

I am so grateful that we have been able during these past five months to gather in person for worship. As Sunday School resumes at St. John's, I look forward to another season of learning and growth. Well known Christian educator, Letty Russell once wrote "The body of Christ is a key metaphor for the understanding of koinonia as partnership in Christ's life, death, and resurrection." 'Koinonia' is difficult to define, it is a gift that can mean a multitude of things: partnership, participation, community, and communion.

God is with us—as we remain rooted in God's Spirit. The power of God's Spirit still comes to us faithfully as we share Word and Sacrament. Even amid the uncertainty of trying to plan very basic things during unprecedented days—God remains with us. Let us give thanks to God for one another—for the life we share, and let us also give thanks for another season of learning and growth.

Again, thank you for your continued support, love, and care for one another, as well as for the needs of this community.

As always, I pray that you and your families are well.

In the love and peace of Christ,

*Pastor Bev*

*Pastor Beverly Lange Donnellà*



Dear Friends in Christ,

Our COVID-19 task force met this week to review updated guidelines and recommendations from the CDC and the ELCA. All Vaccinated people are free now to enter worship spaces and engage in activities without masks.

Physical distancing for those who are not in the same household must still be maintained (3ft. is recommended). For those who have not been vaccinated, which includes children, and in certain cases adults who have vulnerable medical conditions, recommendations regarding masks and physical distancing continue.

Out of an abundance of concern for the community our task force asks:

1. Use common sense; if you are sick do not come to church.
2. If you are among those who are at risk, take proper precautions. Wear a mask if you are in public.
3. Get vaccinated as soon as possible.
4. Wearing masks and physical distancing indoors is still the safest practice.
5. Music will continue to be recorded.

The coronavirus doesn't look like it is ever going to go away completely, but everything is being done to make sure that people are safe. The more people who are vaccinated the safer it will be for everyone.

Be well and Stay safe!

Blessings,

Pastor Bev and your St. John's Task Force

**Office Hours**  
**Starting September 7<sup>th</sup>**

Monday-8:30am-11am  
Tuesday-By appointment only  
Wednesday-By appointment only  
Thursday-8:30am-1pm  
Friday-Closed

**Pastors Office Hours**  
Tuesday- 10am-1pm  
Thursday-10am-1pm

Please call before coming in to confirm that the office is open.



*Jerry Miller, Wilma Monath, Richard Stewart, Gordy Ley, Jay Heffernan, Marie Poulson, Arlo Douglass Mackavage, Karen Koontz, Bobbi Jo, Brad, Pete, Ryan, Charlie, Ron Hedges, Dave Gladhill, Essie Gilmore, Judy Kemper, Vicky Fraley, Eric Kuhn, Jess Lee, Hope Foreman, Shirley Phillips, Bill Brush, Audrey Moritz, Jim Thomas, Brenda Walter, Mary Lou Hammett, Ken Fluke, Charles (Sam) Scott, Savannah Bollinger, Garnetta Shope, Faye Baker, Benny & Ruth Akers, Bill Newman.*

*We also pray for peace and the safety of those serving on our military, especially Veronica, Megan, Dawson, Brad, Brett, Warren, Tyler, Phillip, Tyler, Jim & Nick.*



~Thank you to With One Voice Choir for their faithful service in recording the hymns for Sunday morning services this summer.

~Thank you to everyone who has donated aluminum cans for Kids Club.

~Thank you to everyone who helped or participated in Vacation Bible Fun week in June.

~Thank you to everyone who helped out with the yard sale this year!



Our Yard Sale this year was a great success! ! We had a great time visiting with each other as well as the shoppers and we brought in \$998.00. Also, we had more help than previous in years, which was definitely appreciated!



Even though we were only able to meet 3 of the 4 scheduled evenings due to severe weather on the first evening, everyone had a great time the rest of the nights with crafts, games, Bible stories, & music activities. We had 10-18 students, 5 teen helpers and 8 adult helpers throughout the week. Families brought in canned goods and \$140.00 in loose change to give to Fairfield Food Pantry.

## Blessing of the Backpacks



On Sunday, August 22nd during the 9am church service we will have a blessing of the backpacks. Whether you are starting preschool, finishing college, or an educator, bring your backpack/ teaching bag and receive a blessing to start the new school year!



The End of Summer Party will follow the service on August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10-10:45am. Join us for some snacks, games, crafts and

activities for kids and families to celebrate the end of summer and beginning of a new school year! Don't forget to grab a back to school gift bag!

Questions- Please see Stacey Haynes (717) 398-7877

Our annual **Talent Show & Ice Cream** social will be held Sunday, Aug. 29, 6PM. We need participants & people to cheer them on. Contact Carol Garman for more information at 717-337-3452.



Come welcome a new year of Sunday School with some ice cream sundaes!  
Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 10- 10:45am  
Games, ice cream, activities, music and more!  
Questions- See Stacey Haynes (717) 398-7877



Sunday School for preschool- high school will resume its regular schedule beginning Sunday, September

12<sup>th</sup>, 10- 10:45am. New faces always welcome! Contact Stacey Haynes (717-398-7877) or Carol Garman (717-337-3452) with any questions.



### *Music News:*

*Regular rehearsals for WOV & Hand Bells will begin Weds. Sept. 8, 6:45 for singing, 7:30 for ringing. New members welcome!*

### **Kids Club**

Proceeds go for Kids Club supplies. Aluminum Cans can be dropped off in the box in fellowship hall or in the chapel hallway. Proceeds from the can collection go towards Kids Club supplies.



**Kids club will resume regular meetings in November.**



