



# THE CROSSROADS CONVERSATION

*A Stephen Ministry Congregation October 2020*

## Services in October

Our worship schedule for October will continue with our 7:45 a.m. traditional service in the sanctuary, Sunday school for all ages at 9:00 a.m. in the basement, and our NewSong contemporary service in the fellowship hall at 10:15 a.m. Services will continue to be live streamed. The church will have masks and gloves on hand if congregants need one, and we will keep everyone updated on all changes.

## Pastoral Candidate Visit on October 4

The Call Committee is pleased to announce that they have reached a point with a pastoral candidate that an invitation for a congregational visit has been offered, and the candidate has accepted. Pastor Douglas Schoelles and his wife will be at St. John's on Sunday, October 4th to preach at both services. There will be a Q&A session following the 10:15 a.m. service that members are invited to attend (details for remote viewing option will be announced soon). If the church council agrees to move forward with the call of Pastor Schoelles, the next step would be a congregational vote. This could happen as early as the end of October, so please watch for further information through email and the Sunday service bulletin. Pastor Schoelles has requested that his name not be mentioned on social media at this point in the process. Please join us in praying for God's guidance as we continue to move forward in the call process.

## Prayer Blitz

On Wednesday, October 7, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., St. John's will be engaged in a "Prayer Blitz" for our community. We will travel together to different locations to pray for groups of people, such as people living in assisted living and nursing care, school children and teachers, emergency personnel, farmers, churches, and families. We would love for the congregation to join us. We will meet at the church at 6:30 and travel to the different locations to pray, returning to the church by 8:00. Or you can join by praying with us on Facebook. Please join us as we blanket our community with prayer!

**Melanie Crapser Youth & Young Adult Director**

**Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." (John 8:12)**

There are at least five reasons why light is important.

First, light is essential for vision. I'm sure you have noticed as the sun goes down late in the day and shadows grow darker, it's more difficult to see. If the moon and the stars aren't in the night sky, by the time it's pitch black you see nothing.

Light is also essential for color. As the light dims, colors fade. For this reason, light is a necessary ingredient for beauty in the world.

Third, the earth's food chain depends on light. Photosynthesis is the process whereby plants use the energy of light to produce food. In other words, without light, there is no life.

It's also worth noting that for a lot of people, light is a key element of happiness. Many studies have shown higher levels of depression where there is less natural light. This seems to be true for some who work indoors, as well as for those who live in areas where there are seasonally shorter days.

**"You are the light of the world—  
like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:14)**

During the month of September, our youth and young adults served our members and community in several ways. We had an early Saturday morning serving food and supplies at the Community Harvest Food Bank, we decorated, planted, and delivered many mum plants, helped at the Kuehnert Farm, provided a fund raiser for The Lighthouse in Ft. Wayne, and helped "Chalk the Walk" to spread uplifting messages to all. In fact, we labeled the month "Serving September". And you know what? It was fun! We all had fun. And we were doubly blessed. As we gave of our time and talents to spread hope, love, and joy, we received that hope, love, and joy right back.

We are called to be Christ to our world. The effect of our interacting with people and the planet should add vision, beauty, life, and happiness. When we represent the Lord in the way he hopes we will, that's when the church is at its best, becomes most productive, and remains relevant. And being that light not only changes the world, it can change you as well.

### **Katie Pranger Children's Ministry Director**

James 3 tells us that our tongues can do quite a bit of damage. Name-calling, bickering, whining, and put-downs tear people apart. But, our tongues can also be used for good. They have the power to heal, encourage, and restore relationships. Our tongues can speak words of praise to God, too.

This month, I want to encourage you to set an example for your family by using appropriate, uplifting words and by apologizing to them when you mess up. Little ears are always listening, even before children can talk, so choose your words wisely.

Another way to set a positive example is to know when to stop talking. Proverbs 10:19 says, "Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut." Help children understand the importance of stopping to think before speaking. When in doubt, it's always better to seal your lips than to say something you might regret. It's also confusing to kids when their parents set rules against swearing but don't follow them. Avoid that double standard by modeling how to censor your words—especially when you're upset.

Most importantly, talk frequently about Jesus and his love. When you and your family stay focused on Jesus, the Word, then your mouths and lives will bear good fruit for him.

## **Project 216**

Our Project 216 packing event for 2020 has been postponed until September 2021. We will continue to put Sunday School and Children's offering towards that event.

## **Kids Club**

This year, Kids Club will be held on two different dates each month to help keep the group size small enough to allow social distancing. On Friday, October 30th, 6:30p to 8p, 3rd through 5th graders will have their Kids Club at church. On Saturday, October 31st, 11:30a to 1p, 4 years old through 2nd grade aged children, will have their Kids Club at church. Both will enjoy a meal, a Bible lesson, and Fall themed activities. Youth helpers are needed for both days. Please RSVP by October 23rd to Katie, [SudaySchool@StJohnsLakeTownship.org](mailto:SudaySchool@StJohnsLakeTownship.org)

## **MY FROG Fall Party**

On Saturday, October 24th, 7p to 9:30p, MY FROG students are invited to Katie's house for a bonfire, pumpkin carving, s'mores, and other fall themed activities. Please RSVP by October 17th to Katie, [SundaySchool@StJohnsLakeTownship.org](mailto:SundaySchool@StJohnsLakeTownship.org)

## **TCC and MY FROG at Heartland District Fall Convocation**

On Saturday, October 10, TCC and MY FROG will be traveling to Bethel Lutheran Church in Noblesville, IN, for the fall convocation. We will join with other youth from our mission district to help pack disaster supply buckets, participate in praise and worship, and hear from our bishop Daniel Selbo. Lunch and dinner will be provided. Please RSVP to Melanie Crapser by Sunday, October 4, so drivers can be arranged.

## **Link Lunch**

On Sunday, October 25, Link lunch will be at Cabin Fever Conroy's on Goshen Road. All high school seniors and college-ish age young adults are welcome to join us!



## October Youth Events

### **Wednesday, October 7, Group – TCC & MY FROG**

- 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Prayer blitz! Meet at church.

### **Wednesday, October 7, Link Video Chat**

- 8:30 - 9:00 p.m.

### **Saturday, October 10, TCC and MY FROG @ Heartland Convocation**

- 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Meet at church.

### **Wednesday, October 14, Group - MYFROG**

- 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at church

### **Sunday, October 18, Youth Leadership**

- 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. at church.

### **Wednesday, October 21, Group - TCC & MYFROG**

- 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at church

### **Wednesday, October 21, Link Video Chat**

- 8:30 - 9:00 p.m.

### **Saturday, October 24, MY FROG Fall Party**

- 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. at the Pranger's.

### **Sunday, October 25, Link Lunch @ Cabin Fever Coney's**

- After second service.

### **Wednesday, October 28, Group - MYFROG**

- 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### **Friday, October 30, Kid's Club**

- 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Third through fifth grade.

### **Saturday, October 31, Kid's Club**

- 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Four years old through second grade.

## Newsletter Deadline: October 15



## Thank You's

Thank you for all of the meals, rides, visits, calls, cards, and prayers after my recent accident. I appreciate all of the love and support for my children and I during this difficult time. We are blessed to have such a thoughtful church family.  
Chrissy VanEvery

A special thank you to the TCC & MYFROG students for the pretty decorated planter with the pretty pink mum dropped off on the front porch on Wed 9-16-20. The tenderness of the pink color gave an emotion of care & concern in this time of non-touching.  
Love, Joy, Peace, & Light,  
Kathleen & Wayne Byerley

TCC & MY FROG, I was so surprised and happy to open my front door to find a beautiful pink mum plant from you. Thank you so much. It made my day!!  
Connie DeWald

Dear TCC & MY FROG, I have never written to a frog before – I hope he can read. Thank you so much for the plant. It was a wonderful surprise – so nice to be remembered. It didn't just make my day – it made many happy meals to come – it is on my dining table. Again, thanks and keep up the good works. They never go unnoticed.  
Love and Prayers,  
Norma Herron

Thank you, TCC & MY FROG Group for the mums left on our porch. They were greatly appreciated.  
Melvin & Dolores Kuehnert

Thank you to the Kuehnert Dairy Farm Family for your hospitality and generosity towards Kids Club, MY FROG, and TCC. Everyone enjoyed all of your Fall Festival activities.

This October marks four years since Casie's transplant. We continue to be so grateful for the love, support, and prayers of our congregation family. Thank you!  
The Crapsers

## Blood Drive at St. John's

St. John's will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, October 15, from 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall. To schedule an appointment, please visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code 'stjohnlktwp', or contact the church office. Walk-ups will be taken, but there may be a wait. Save a life! Give blood!

## Fallapalooza

On Friday, October 16, with a rain date of Saturday, October 17, from 6:00-9:00 p.m., the Outreach Committee will be sponsoring a



fall fun night with a bonfire weenie roast, s'mores, a hayride, a costume contest, and a trunk-or-treat! All activities will be in the north parking lot, and friends are welcome. If you would like to enter a vehicle or

station in the trunk-or-treat, please contact Melanie Crapser. Prizes will be awarded for the costume contest and the most creative trunk-or-treat entries! There will be a candy donation station in the narthex for anyone willing to donate bags of candy. We hope you will dress warmly and join us for a fun night!

## Battle Rattle 5k at St. John's

On Saturday, October 24, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries (LMVFM) will be hosting their 2nd Annual Battle Rattle Run/Walk here at St. John's. Join us for a scenic run/walk 5k through the country roads of Lake Township, while we facilitate community involvement in the support and assistance of our Veterans, Military Contractors and their families. LMVFM was established in 2008 by Executive Director, Leslie Haines, a retired U.S. Army Major. LMVFM provides free care and counseling to our military Veterans, contractors and their families, no matter how long they served, where they served, or what branch of the military they served. By being non-profit and not accepting government funding, they are able to keep Christ at the center of their services and care.

The Battle Rattle Run will be fun for the entire family. Please register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/FortWayne/DebMyers>.

## Heartland Mission District Convocation

On Saturday, October 10, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church in Noblesville, IN, will be hosting the Heartland Mission District Fall Convocation. The theme will be "Fresh Winds of the Spirit" from John 3:8. The main speaker will be NALC Bishop Rev. Dr. Daniel Selbo! There will also be special sessions on Renewal & Discipleship, Prayer, Technology, and a youth portion led by our own youth & young adult ministry director. Registration is \$10 per person and includes lunch. Please register for this informative day at [LivingFaithWabash@gmail.com](mailto:LivingFaithWabash@gmail.com).

### Family Life – an Online Resource

#### **5 Ways My Dad Helped Me Transition into Adulthood**

By Alex McMurray

As I made the transition into adulthood, I knew I could always count on my dad. Here are five ways he helped me grow as I became a young adult.

Storage containers and piles of my belongings lined the hall, ready to make the 18-hour drive. I was excited to start my internship at FamilyLife®, but it meant moving away from everything I knew and making my transition into adulthood.

As I entered this unfamiliar territory, I knew I could always count on my dad. And that was enough for me to have the courage to step out on my own and pursue God's calling.

My parents have been my greatest teachers as I've made the transition into adulthood. As the leader of our family, my dad, especially, has played an irreplaceable role in my life. Here are five ways my dad helped me grow as a young adult.

#### **1. He knew when to protect me and when to push me.**

My dad has always been a safe person for me to go to when I needed support. He gives me his input while challenging me to problem-solve and make decisions for myself.

Last fall, I sensed the Lord might be calling me to move away from the small town in Pennsylvania where I grew up. I was having a hard time because home was familiar, and therefore, secure. My dad challenged me to think through what it meant to be obedient to God's calling.

Shortly after I decided to trust God with my future, I was invited to learn more about working with FamilyLife at Cru® headquarters in Or-

lando, Florida. My dad's willingness to lovingly confront me and the things I was holding on to prepared me to step into my current role as a FamilyLife intern.

### **2. He showed up when I needed him.**

During my senior year of college, I received some devastating news that changed the course of my life. It felt like the world around me stopped. All I wanted to do was go home.

I called my dad and told him what happened. I could tell he hurt for me. He left work early to drive four hours to pick me up so we could process and grieve together. When I called my dad, I didn't worry whether or not he would answer. Just like I trust that God is listening when I come to Him. My dad's love reminds me that family is the safest place to be when you're hurting. And it is always okay to come to your father (earthly *or* Heavenly).

Jesus reminds us He, too, will be there when we need Him: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

### **3. He encouraged me to confidently embrace my identity in Christ.**

Recently, I struggled with feeling rejected for living out my faith. My dad listened intently as I asked some hard questions. "Doesn't being 'the good girl' make me more vulnerable?" "How do I live out my faith in a world that wants to destroy it?" My dad reminded me that goodness will always be challenged by darkness in this world. But there is nothing to fear because we already know goodness wins. These words of wisdom come from John 16:33 where Jesus tells His disciples they will face opposition for following Him, but they can find comfort in knowing there is victory in Christ.

You don't need to have all the answers for your kids as they transition into adulthood, but it's important to lead them back to the Father who does.

### **4. He taught me to grieve with a sense of hope.**

"In seasons like this, we need to count our blessings," my dad reminded us often during a year of unexpected hardships. He was consistently looking for evidence of God's faithfulness. His unwavering trust in the Lord allowed him to be an anchor for our family. After my grandma passed away, I wondered how we could handle another

loss. I looked to my dad as the leader of our family and was surprised to see he was maintaining a sense of hope while grieving.

I asked how he could look forward to the future when it felt like we were all waiting for the next bad thing to happen. He explained that sometimes the bad will seem to outweigh the good in life, but we will find the good if we continue to look for it. Even if there is nothing good about the situation itself, we can hope in the fact that God is still working. There is much security in knowing God is with us and that He uses even the hard stuff to accomplish His good purposes (see Romans 8:28).

First Thessalonians 4:13 reminds us we were not made for this world. When we grieve the painful realities of this life, we can hold on to the hope of eternity.

### **5. He helped me to not take myself too seriously.**

As I got older, life got heavier, and I felt discouraged. My dad validated my concerns, but he also reminded me to keep things in perspective. No matter how scary or painful things were in the moment, they would eventually pass. One way my dad helped me see this was through his sense of humor. Once, during my senior year of high school, I was in the emergency room icing my swollen jaw after a car accident. A technician had commented that I should be out having fun with friends on a Friday night, not getting a CT scan.

Trying to make light of a bad situation, my dad looked at me with a smirk and said, "Just imagine what your senior pictures will look like if you have to get your jaw wired shut!" He proceeded to describe how "great" my smile would look in those pictures. I knew he was joking, and it was nice to laugh at the end of a hard day. My dad's balance of acknowledging reality and looking for moments of lightheartedness helps me move forward in my own life as I transition into adulthood.

### **Your kids' transition into adulthood needs your leadership**

What does all of this mean for you dads who are reading this? Remember, you are an integral part of your child's transition into adulthood. In times of uncertainty, let them know they can come to you to get clarity and direction. When you see them struggling spiritually or giving into despair, fight for them. Learn when to protect them and when to push them. Show up during their best and worst moments. Encourage them to embrace their identity in Christ. Show them how to hope in the Lord. And help them find moments of joy and laughter (even if it does mean acting a little goofy in the ER). Even though I've moved away, I know I'll always need and want my dad. I'm so thankful for his leadership in my life.

## **St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lake Township Council Meeting, September 8, 2020**

**Present:** Steve Baker, Susan Lawrence, Tina Kurtz, Teresa Salesman, Cheri Meyers, Sam VanEvery, Diane Swihart, David Pranger, Monica Getts, and Alan Kuehnert.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Steve Baker. Devotions were given by Diane Swihart.

Minutes from the August 11, 2020 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Sam VanEvery and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alan Kuehnert to accept the August meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The August financial reports were presented by Tina Kurtz. The balance for the end of August are as follows:

- General Fund - \$33,409.35
- Capital Improvement Fund - \$34,974.38
- Memorial Fund - \$74,928.46
- Benevolence Fund - \$16,961.00
- Security Donation Fund - \$ 1,230.69
- Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$ 3,609.58

A motion was made by David Pranger and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Teresa Salesman to accept the August financial reports. Motion carried.

### **Staff Reports**

No Pastor's report.

Melanie Crapser reported on the numerous activities for LINK and TCC. They have deemed September to be "Serving September". Almost every week in September the youth are serving in some way. The first week they are decorating mum pots for our seniors, the second week they are serving at the Kuehnert Farm and the Community Harvest Food Bank, the third week they are delivering the mums to our seniors and working a fundraiser for The Lighthouse in Fort Wayne. And they put out a video challenge for all St. John's members to serve in some way this September.

Katie Pranger reported Kids Club kickoff will be on Friday, September 11 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Homestead on Kuehnert Farm. Families will enjoy hotdogs and chips while checking out this year's corn

maze. Rally Day will be on September 13 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in classrooms in the basement. Students will decorate their flat Jesus, receive their bible memory verse assignment, take a group/individual pictures, and fill out getting to know your papers. September 19<sup>th</sup> will be a Chalk the Walk event. This is to celebrate Back to Church Sunday. Everyone is asked to stop by St. Johns on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> to decorate the walk into church. There will be chalk outside near the main entrance.

A motion was made by Susan Lawrence and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tina Kurtz to approve the staff reports. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

**Call Committee:** Rob Niman reported we have an interested Pastor and have held an initial interview. The committee felt the interview went well. The Committee is positive and somewhat impressed with this candidate. A follow-up interview is scheduled for September 15. The subject of a possible visit and sermon has been discussed. This will be determined after the second interview.

**Education Committee:** Monica Getts reported MYFROG had their kick-off party at the Buesching's, 60 people attended. The families and youth had a good time catching up and swimming. Rally Day is Sunday, September 13. Sunday School begins September 20 and Confirmation will be taught during the Sunday School hour.

**Elders Committee:** Alan Kuehnert reported the Elders met with the Outreach Committee about how they can help with Back to Church Sunday. On August 23<sup>rd</sup> they met with Pastor Ric for an exit interview. Pastor Ric was very complimentary of the church and its members.

A BIG thank you to the office staff for an outstanding Crossroads Conversation this month!

**Finance Committee:** Teresa Salesman reported the committee reviewed the general fund, the Education Committee fund, and the MYFROG fund. Everything was found to be in good order.

**Outreach Committee:** Diane Swihart reported the Baby Bottles were tallied and the total donations were \$659.02. Thanks to everyone for their generosity.

Back to Church Sunday is September 20<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 2,250 postcards were mailed out to members and the community. We will have a church picnic outside following 2<sup>nd</sup> service featuring Nelson's Chicken. Nelson's will supply the side dishes as well. There will be a free-will donation. We are asking that everyone bring a chair and a portable popup canopy if they have one. Seating will be in family groups. We will have a display of our small groups and possible a library display.

Three charitable organizations will be presented to the Sunday School children and adults to choose which charity we should support with the children's offerings. They are Kids Backpack, Project 216 and St. Matthew's Food Bank.

**Property Committee:** A new sweeper and been purchased and another one will be purchased. They are working on the playset canopy. The roof is being worked.

**Stewardship Committee:** Sam VanEvery reported a blood drive is scheduled for October 15 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We are asking everyone to make an appointment on-line because if you are a walk-in, you will have to wait.

**Worship Committee:** David Pranger reported worship robes have been ordered. The Hanging of the Greens will be held on December 6, but there will be no social hour due to COVID-19.

The equipment purchased through the Connect Through Tech Grant is still being worked. The switcher is still on back order. The Committee recommends we cancel the order for the switcher and purchase a bundle pack from Sweetwater, which includes the switcher. The package, for an additional \$300, will give us enhanced usage of the equipment and reach-back support as needed.

A motion was made to approve the purchase of a bundle package that includes a switcher and cancel the switcher that is still on back order for an additional \$300 by Tina Kurtz and it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Teresa Salesman. Motion carried.

**Long Range Planning** – No report.

A motion was made by Tina Kurtz and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sam VanEvery to approve the staff reports. Motion carried.

### Old Business

Sanctuary Mixer: Bev Easterhaus is getting a quote for a transmitter along with the sound board so we can transmit the service through car radios if needed.

New Chairs and Table in Nursery – Still Working

New Song Director – No new information on hiring a New Song Director.

### New Business

Interim Pastor – Brad Miller has removed his name from pursuing the interim pastor position. We are still looking but keeping in mind we have an interested Pastor that is currently being interviewed.

Endowment Committee Letter – The Endowment Committee has prepared a letter providing information on the Endowment Fund, its purpose and how it works to support St. Johns. The Committee has asked for council approval to send the letter to church members. A motion to send the letter to the congregation was made by Alan Kuehnert and 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Pranger. Motion carried.

Christmas Families – Wayne Byerly requested council approval to support the Christmas Families again this year. With COVID-19, there are three (3) choices to support the Christmas families: They are: (1) Walmart Gift Card; (2) Online shopping for specific gifts; and (3) Cash gifts (envelope or electronic gift). A motion to support the Christmas Families was made by Tina Kurtz and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sam VanEvery.

### New Space Requests

- Request for use of the fellowship hall and kitchen by Marsha Hibben for a meeting of the Willing Worker Homemaker Club on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 from 6:00-9:30 p.m.
- Request for use of the fellowship hall and kitchen by Cindy Houser for a meeting of the Home Economic Club on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Cheri Meyers removed her request for use of the fellowship hall.

A motion was made to approve the space requests by Monica Getts and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diane Swihart. Motion approved.

## Old Space Requests

- Request for wedding, Saturday, September 26, 2020 by John Lawrence and Stephanie Rutledge.
- Request use of the fellowship hall and kitchen Sunday, September 27, 2020 from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. by Melanie Crasper for a “Binding the Bounds of War” presentation by LMVFM. This would be open to the congregations in the area as an informational event for recognizing and responding to the needs of veterans, contractors and their families in the midst of the congregation. A dessert will be provided. Melanie will be present the entire time and will ensure clean-up is performed properly and the building is secured at the conclusion of the evening. This will be a part of our continuing mental health events at St. John’s.
- Request use of church parking lot on October 24 from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for LMVFM Battle Rattle 5K. Inside access only to those who need bathrooms.
- Request for use of the Fellowship Hall and kitchen Tuesday, December 1, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. by Ken Kurtz for the Lion’s Club Live Alone Dinner. Hall on Monday, November 30, 2020.

The next council meeting will be October 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Devotions will be given by David Pranger.

A motion was made by Sam VanEvery and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Monica Getts to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Lawrence  
Secretary



## Lectors

7:45 — Sam VanEvery

10:15 — David Pranger

## NewSong Hosts

Susie Groeling

## Acolytes

*October 4* Mason Hess  
*October 11* Nathan Dicke  
*October 18* Ariana Meyers  
*October 25* Nathan Dicke

## Youth NewSong Hosts

*October 4* Alyssa Jonas  
*October 11* Cole Buesching  
*October 18* Open  
*October 25* Ariana Meyers

## Flowers

*October 4 – Open*

*October 11* – In memory of Dorothy Kuehnert from Jeff and Janet Crow. In honor of Kaden DeWald’s birthday from Grandpa & Grandma DeWald.

*October 18* – In memory of Pr. Ralph Easterhaus from his family.

*October 25 – Open*





## Please remember these members:

These members could use your prayers, visits and cards!

Marcella Kronmiller St. Anne Communities 1900 Randallia Drive Fort Wayne, IN 46805	Bev (Miller) Dunfee Ashton Creek Health & Rehab Ctr. 4111 Park Place Dr. Room 418 Fort Wayne, IN 46845
Violet Blessing 235 Clingerman Ave Apt 5 Churubusco, IN 46723	Janne Buesching 9134 W Cook Road Fort Wayne, IN 46818
Bill Smith 413 N Wolf Road Apt 201 Columbia City, IN 46725	Delmar Felger 9802 Coldwater Road Franke Park 215 Fort Wayne, IN 46825
Richard Felger Bright Star Senior Living Room 207 11430 Coldwater Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46845	Helen Blessing 9212 Arcola Road Fort Wayne, IN 46818

## Change of Address

Amber Hoopengardner  
420 S. Chauncy Ave  
Apt #32  
West Lafayette, IN 47906

## General Fund Financial Info

\$ Received for the General Fund thru September 20, 2020  
Total Received for the Year - \$ 202,041.00  
9 months of 2020 Budget - \$ 261,364.00  
Amount **Under** Budget - \$ 59,323.00

**Thank-you for your financial support to the mission of Jesus thru St. John's. Contribute by:**

1. Check: "St. John's Lutheran Church - Lake Twp"
  - i. 7914 West Cook Rd. Ft. Wayne, IN 46818
2. Online: <https://stjohnslaketownship.org>
  - i. On right side "Page" Scroll down to "Give" click on it. Follow directions.
3. St. Johns App: Download from Google Play or the Apple Store or by Texting 77977 and typing in SJLTAPP

## Stewards In All Seasons – www.theNALC.org

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices;  
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices.

Who, from our mother's arms, has blessed us on our way,  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Perhaps you know the story that led to the writing of this beloved hymn. German pastor, Martin Rinkart served in the walled town of Eilenburg during the horrors of the Thirty Years War of 1618-1648. Eilenburg became an overcrowded refuge for the surrounding area. The fugitives suffered from epidemic and famine. Rinkart, as the only surviving pastor, conducted 4,480 funerals in these years, including the funeral for his wife. In the face of overwhelming pressure, constant risk and horrendous conditions, Rinkart never stopped ministering to the people of his city. He gave away nearly everything he owned to the poor and needy, though he could barely clothe and feed his own children.

After nearly thirty years of ceaseless struggles, it began to look like peace was within grasp. Wanting to give his children a song to sing to God in thanks at the dinner table, Rinkart sat down and composed what would become one of the most well-known Thanksgiving hymns of all time: "Now Thank We All Our God." In fact, it's been said that, aside from Martin Luther's "A Mighty Fortress," no other song is sung more often in Lutheran churches today than Rinkart's simple tune.

Whether you are able to gather as a congregation in a sanctuary or you are still sheltering at home, I would encourage to you look at this hymn and be reminded under what conditions this song of praise and gratitude was written. In a few short months, the United States has confronted health challenges few Americans have seen before. As for Pastor Rinkart 400 years ago, everything is in seeming chaos, yet Christians today are still able to proclaim, "Now thank we all our God...who wondrous things has done." Like Pastor Rinkart, in the coming weeks and months, we can praise God with good stewardship of our time and abilities to serve our families, our communities and our churches. Like Pastor Rinkart, we can be faithful in worship, prayer and study. And like Pastor Rinkart, we need to be faithful stewards of our treasures. Our local congregations and the NALC need everyone's financial tithes and offerings to maintain and expand ministry and provide assistance to the many in need due to loss of health and employment.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,

With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;

And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed;

And free us from all harm in this world and the next.

Taken from Pr. Ronald Voss, a member of the NALC's Stewardship Team.

## REMINDER OF ITEMS WE COLLECT.....

In the Women's Sewing Room, in the cupboard or labeled boxes in the basement across from the elevator:

- A Hope Center Box – baby items and maternity clothes.
- Cross Borders –  
**Clothing:** all kinds and sizes  
**Household:** bedding, dishes, cookware, towels, curtains  
**Furniture:** beds, sofas, tables, chairs, dressers, baby furniture  
**Bibles, books, textbooks & learning materials**  
**Appliances:** refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, dryers, vacuum cleaners, microwaves, etc.  
Cross Border Partners operates a pick-up service for donation of large items. Call 260-484-8580 to schedule a pick-up.
- \*Workday/Sewing – (Sewing room) – odds and ends of fabric, thread, used bed linens.
- Lions Club of Lake Twp. – (cupboard drawer) – used eyeglasses and hearing aids.
- Campbell's Soup labels and box tops for education – (cupboard drawer).

\*When contributing clothing, please wash them beforehand.

### St. Matthew's Food Pantry Suggested Shopping List

Breakfast Cereal \* Pancake or Biscuit Mix \* Syrup \* Canned or Dried Milk \* Soup \* Peanut Butter or Jelly \* Velveeta Cheese \* Canned Meats or Tuna–Canned or Gravy Mixes \* Dehydrated Potatoes \* Pasta and Pasta Sauce \* Canned Fruits and Vegetables \* Dessert Mixes: Cake, Cookies, Jell-O, Puddings \* Paper Products–Personal Hygiene–Detergents \* Take Advantage of the Buy One Get One Free Offer, Keep One Give the Other Away

*Please remember that our church staff is here for you, however, please respect their time at church on Sundays praising God with their families. Please feel free to direct any questions, comments or suggestions to church staff during regular office hours so that your inquiry can be given the full attention it deserves and our staff can focus on their worship and reflection. Thank you!*

The Crossroads is a monthly publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lake Township, a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church.

**THE DEADLINE FOR PUTTING INFORMATION IN THE CROSSROADS IS THE FIFTEENTH (15<sup>TH</sup>) OF THE MONTH.**

#### Worship Times:

7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m. – Sun. 9:00 a.m. (Sept. thru May)

#### Telephone Numbers:

(260) 489-5031 - Church

#### Sunday School:

9:00 a.m. (Sept. thru May)

#### Church Office Hours:

9:30 – 3:30/Mon. – Thurs.

9:30 – 1:30 / Fri.

E-Mail – [office@stjohnslaketownship.org](mailto:office@stjohnslaketownship.org)

Website: [stjohnslaketownship.org](http://stjohnslaketownship.org)

Facebook: [St. Johns Lutheran Church of Lake Township](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslaketownship.org)

#### Church Staff:

Position Vacant, Pastor

Bev Easterhaus, Organist

Position Open, NewSong Director

Julie Mattes, Office Manager

Melanie Crapser, Youth / Young Adult Director

Katie Pranger, Children's Ministry Director

Julie Mattes, Librarian

Diane Zolman, Wedding Coordinator

Melanie Crapser, Stephen Ministries Coordinator

#### Prayer Chain:

Rose Biggs — 615-7016

Virginia Fick — 625-4384

### MISSION STATEMENT

We, God's people of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lake Township, proclaim and profess that our mission and purpose is to spread the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will do this mission by word, example, and service as we strive to be Christ-like in the community and throughout the world.

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St. John's Lutheran Church

7914 W. Cook Road

Fort Wayne, IN 46818

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