



THE CROSSROADS CONVERSATION

A Stephen Ministry Congregation September 2020

Services in September

Our worship schedule for September will be almost back to normal! For Sunday, September 6, we will continue with our traditional 7:45 a.m. service in the sanctuary, and a blended outdoor worship service at 9:00 a.m. Beginning on Sunday, September 13, we will have our 7:45 a.m. traditional service in the sanctuary, Sunday school at 9:00 a.m. beginning with Rally Day on that day, and our NewSong contemporary service will return to the fellowship hall at 10:15 a.m. The 7:45 a.m. traditional service will continue to be live streamed. The church will have masks and gloves on hand if congregants need one, as the state is now mandating the wearing of masks in all public buildings for everyone eight years of age and older. This may be adjusted as COVID-19 requirements change, and we will keep everyone updated on all changes.

National Back to Church Sunday

Deadly pandemic. Social strife. Political division. Everywhere you look, the world is in trouble and experiencing very hard times. The good news is, we have the hope that people are searching for – and it's only found in Jesus. The Church is called to actively live the love of Jesus by sharing healing in the midst of brokenness, hope in the midst of uncertainty, unity in the midst of division, peace in the midst of chaos. The struggles we have faced this past year have been challenging, but God is at work! Now, more than ever, people need Jesus and a caring community where they can belong, grow and flourish. That is why National Back to Church Sunday this September is so crucial – so that the Church – our church – can be a part of sharing hope and healing with our community. On Sunday, September 20, St. John's will take part in Back to Church Sunday - a national movement of churches reaching out to their community for Christ. Please join us and bring a friend, neighbor, or loved one. We are stronger together!



Melanie Crapser Youth & Young Adult Director

All of us experience peer pressure at some point, especially our high schoolers and young adults. Whether it's something big or something seemingly small, like gossip, there is going to be pressure to act in a way that contradicts the Bible. We can make things easier by deciding how we are going to respond to peer pressure before it even happens. And, we can be prepared by knowing what the Bible says.

“No Temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

This is a beautiful promise to remember: God is faithful. And because He is faithful, He won't let us be tempted beyond what we can handle. We can be confident that God knows we can handle whatever comes our way. Because if we couldn't handle it, He never would have let us be tempted with it. This verse truly shows how much God believes in us and how He's on our team.

“Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’

Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’ (Matthew 4-10)

This is such a good picture of how peer pressure plays out. Here, Satan tempts Jesus by offering to give Him “all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.” Most of the time, the reason we are so tempted to give in to peer pressure is because something is being offered to us. A good time, acceptance, a better status. Whatever it is, we feel like if we go along with what we're being pressured into, we will get something good out of it, even if that means compromising our morals. And Jesus gives us the perfect example of what we should do. He recalls what God's Word has to say about the situation. What Satan was asking Him to do contradicted what the Bible said, so there wasn't even a debate—He just didn't do it! It was as simple as that. And the way we should react can also be as simple as that. When we're tempted to do something that contradicts what the Bible says, the decision should be easy: don't do it. When it comes to temptation, remember that God is on our side in all of this. God has a good plan for us, and as our Corinthians verse tells us, God is looking out for us so much that He always gives us a way out. As our youth and young adults head back to school, may they keep God's word close to heart.

Katie Pranger Children's Ministry Director

After a summer of "freedom" and relaxed rules, our return to school and schedules often poses a challenge for children. On top of that, 2020 has been filled with new restrictions and limits that are tough for everyone to comply with and comprehend. As the pandemic drags on, kids are likely to have more questions about why they need to stay home or wear masks, and why they can't enjoy certain activities, festivals, or other events that are temporarily shut down.

Although rules are set for our own good, following them isn't always fun or easy. Because of sin, all humans go against authorities and against God. Children are no exception, as new parents quickly discover. From a surprisingly young age, little ones begin asserting their independence by pushing back against limits and saying "no!" Just as God deals with our rebellion out of love, he instructs parents to raise and discipline children lovingly. That approach molds them into followers of Jesus who strive to obey God and respect other people.

Rebellion takes different forms as children grow, so you'll need to adapt your approach to rule-setting and discipline. Here are some helpful strategies.

Birth to 2 years: Accept that God gives even infants and toddlers unique temperaments. Provide lots of comfort, physical touch, and warmth.

3 to 4 years: Listen carefully, and respond to physical and emotional needs. Explore what upsets children. Model Jesus' love through affection.

5 to 7 years: Offer choices and clear consequences for disobedience. Balance your growing demands with warmth and reason.

8 to 12 years: Be consistent. Express trust, and praise kids for jobs well done. When kids fall short, ask what they can do differently next time.

No matter your children's age, however, one of the most important things you can do is pray for them—and for yourself in the important role of parent. Thank Jesus for each of your children by name, and ask Jesus to work in their hearts and lives, giving them a strong desire to always follow God faithfully.



Sunday School

Sunday School will start on Sunday, September 20th at 9am. Classes are offered for all ages from 4 through 104+ years old!

Rally Day

Students aged 4-year-old through 12th grade, please join your Sunday School teachers in your classroom on Sunday, September 13th at 9am. Students will decorate their flat Jesus for this year, take a silly group photo, and share about their summers.

Kids Club Kick Off

Kids Club families with children aged 4 through 5th grade are invited to spend the evening at the Homestead Barn at the Kuehnert Dairy Farm. On Friday, September 11 from 6:30p to 8:30p, we will have hot dogs, chips, and s'mores. Everyone will have fun on the Ninja Warrior course, corn maze, peddle carts, and many more activities! Please RSVP to Katie by September 4th.

Chalk the Walk

To celebrate "Back to Church Sunday", I am inviting EVERYONE to stop by St. John's on Saturday, September 19th to decorate the walk into church. I will put chalk outside near the main entrance. Just grab a piece or two, find an area of the sidewalk or part of the parking lot where people walk on to get into church, and start decorating. You can draw a colorful picture, share your favorite Bible verse, etc. (To try to limit creating a chalky mess inside the church, please do not decorate directly in front of the doors.)



TCC & MY FROG Service Project

TCC & MY FROG will be serving at Community Harvest on Saturday, September 12. Please meet at church at 7:00 a.m. We will be serving the public, so be sure to bring a mask. Afterwards we will stop at the Coney Cabin for lunch, and should return to the church at 12:30 p.m.

Link & TCC Service Project

Link & TCC will be serving at The Lighthouse on Saturday, September 19, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The Lighthouse is a Biblical life recovery center that exists to serve men who struggle with a life-altering addiction by providing structure, education, support, and mentorship. They also strive to be a bridge in the healing process between these men and their families. Link & TCC will be holding a carwash at The Lighthouse, 2021 Hobson Road, Ft. Wayne, to help raise funds and awareness for their ministry. Please come out and support our efforts and The Lighthouse!

September Youth Events

Wednesday, September 2, Group – TCC & MY FROG

- 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at church.

Wednesday, September 2, Link Video Chat

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

Friday, September 11, Kid's Club Kick-off

- @ The Homestead on the Kuehnert Farm.

Saturday, September 12, TCC& MYFROG Service Project

- 7:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Meet at church. We will be serving at Community Harvest and will then have lunch.

Sunday, September 13, Link Lunch @ Pigeon River

- Meet at church at 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 16, Group - TCC & MYFROG

- 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at church

Wednesday, September 16, Link Video Chat

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

Saturday, September 19, Chalk the Walk

- All day

Saturday, September 19, Link & TCC Service Project

- 10:30 – 2:30 p.m. Meet at church. We will be serving at The Lighthouse. There will be food. And cake.

Sunday, September 27, Youth Leadership

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

Wednesday, September 30, Group - TCC & MYFROG

- 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Kuehnert's!

Church Outdoor Picnic

On Sunday, September 20, Back to Church Sunday, St. John's will be having a church picnic in the parking lot and grassy area featuring Nelson's Chicken! Chicken, sides, and drinks will be provided for a free-will offering. We will have tables set up for each family group to sit at, and we ask that if you have a chair and if you have a portable pop up canopy, please bring it! This will take place after our 10:15 NewSong service. Invite your friends, neighbors, and coworkers to church and a picnic!

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Friday Morning Bible Study will start up again on September 18, 9:00 a.m. at church with a ten session study by David Jeremiah titled, "Everything You Need". This study explores eight essential traits from 2 Peter 1:3-9 that the Lord has given us to overcome life's challenges. We would LOVE to have you join this fun group of women who love Jesus and enjoy learning from one another! Please see Melanie Crapser to order a book or for more information.

Women of the NALC

Penny Heggen and Nancy Lopshire have talked about when or how to start up our NALC Women's Bible study. They feel it would be a hardship on our ladies to try at this time. With the age bracket and health issues it might be better if to suspend the group until all feel more comfortable about being together. If there are others that feel differently, please call Penny and share your thoughts. We want what is best for all of us. Penny Heggen 415-3796.

Thank You's

Dear St John's family, Yoko and Howard wish to thank you for your expressions of sympathy and love and encouragement at the time of Yoko's Mother's passing, through face book, telephone calls, beautiful cards and kind notes. She had a blessed life of happiness and health. She was able to read the scriptures in her 90's in her small church. We praise the Lord. We appreciate your concern. God's grace be with you. Howard and Yoko Marken

Thank you to the Endowment Committee for providing funds for our middle and high school youth to attend a few days at Lake Luther this summer. It was so important this year for the kids to experience camp. Thank you also to our youth leaders, Katie Pranger and Melanie Crapser for accompanying them. John & Julie Mattes

Mental Health Night

On Sunday, September 27, 6:00-8:00 p.m., St. John's will be hosting a "Binding the Wounds of War" seminar, introducing civilian audiences to military culture, war-time experience, issues common to military households, and practical, proven ways to recognize and respond to the needs of veterans, military contractors and families who live in our midst.

Many in the US military community are struggling silently with Post-traumatic Stress (PTS) resulting from service-related spiritual wounds or moral injuries, and they're taking their own lives at the rate of 20+ per day. Increasingly, these morally and spiritually injured veterans and their families live in the midst of civilian neighborhoods and congregations. More than a mental health disorder, the moral and spiritual wounds on a veteran's soul are best addressed with Christ-centered care, counseling and support. Participating in "Binding the Wounds of War" can be an important first step in equipping clergy, congregations, family members and other civilian caregivers to RECOGNIZE, RESPOND and REFER members of the military community to Christ-centered counseling and care.

Leader: Chaplain Leslie Haines (MAJ, Ret'd, US ARMY), served 33 years in the Army, a combat veteran and founder of Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries, a nation-wide ministry based in Fort Wayne IN. Founded in 2008, LMVFM provides free Christ-centered counseling, care and support to all veterans, military contractors and their families, regardless of their faith affiliation.

A 501(c)(3) faith-based ministry, LMVFM accepts no government support.

This seminar is especially suited for congregations and faith-based organizations of all denominations, particularly:

- Clergy
- Clinical counselors
- Parish nurses
- Stephens Ministers
- Visitation ministers
- Volunteer coordinators
- Families of veterans and military contractors
- and others who care for or about veterans.

(Please note: Due to the sensitive nature of this subject, this seminar is NOT recommended for persons under the age of 18.)



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>.

Summer Reading Program

We have had a great time so far with the summer reading program. The last day to turn in your reading logs is Sunday, September 6th so that all the points may be totalled and prizes can be handed out at Rally Day September 13th.

Apply for Endowment Fund Grants by October 1, 2020

Annual or periodic grants are available via St. John's Endowment Fund. Should you or your committee wish to apply for a grant, please present a grant request to Steve Gilbert (sgilbert2500@gmail.com) on or before October 1, 2020. Grants may be used for various in-reach programs, out-reach programs, equipment, new ideas, etc. Grants awarded by the Endowment Committee may be used immediately or used periodically over a longer period (up to 1 year). Should you need further clarification, please e-mail Steve or contact him at 260-414-0459. Grants are available through the Lutheran Foundation as well. The Lutheran Foundation's minimum grant is \$2,500, but it's possible to "bundle" grant requests to get over the \$2,500 minimum. By going the Lutheran Foundation route, this helps St. John's preserve Endowment Fund monies. Please note, however, that The Lutheran Foundation's grant cycle is 3X/yr., and it may take up to 3 months to receive monies after submission of a grant request.

Pulled Pork Dinner

Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit housing ministry uniting volunteers and local investors with qualified families to build simple, affordable homes in Allen County. Established locally in 1986, Habitat completed its first home in 1987 and has since built 244 safe, stable and sustainable homes for families in need. Habitat seeks to promote dignity and hope to families served in order to meet needs in a sustainable and transformational way. Habitat believes that every man, woman, and child should have decent, safe, and affordable places to live. They are helping families escape from unsafe, unhealthy living conditions. They help break the cycle of poverty and build long term financial security. Thru Habitat's affordable, no-profit housing payments, they help families free up money for food, child care, medicine and other necessities!

Covenant United Methodist Church, 10001 Coldwater Road, Fort Wayne, is hosting its **16th Habitat Fund Raiser on September 28, 2020**. Our event will look a little different this year as we are holding a **Drive-Thru Pulled Pork Dinner** instead of our traditional Fish Fry because of the restrictions on fundraising events as a result of the Coronavirus. We hope you will stop by to pick up a delicious meal and support our efforts!

Heartland Mission District Convocation

On Saturday, October 10, 2020, 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.

College Students

Don't forget to call or email the church office with your college address. The church telephone is 489-5031 and the email address is office@stjohnslaketownship.org. We want to get you on the mailing list so that we can keep in touch with you.

Newsletter Deadline: September 15

Our Move Back to Colorado – an Update on Jon & Meghan Easterhaus

Moving back to a town we used to live in is kinda surreal. On top of that, moving during a pandemic is just weird. That being said, we made it! Here are a few photos of our caravan...driving this across the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains was quite entertaining. :) Now that we've been back for just about a month, life has been a whirlwind:

- All the moving details
- Registering the 4 boys for new schools
- Lots of house projects
- A 10-day trip to Texas for Pine Cove (Sorry to those of you in Texas for not reaching out; we were required to quarantine while the boys were in camp!).



It has been so exciting to finally get started in my new role! I have already connected with staff members from Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas and Missouri. My role this year will center on building relationships with a lot of people, including the staff in our region, our regional AIA board, our local ministry partners, and the local and regional FCA staff in Colorado as well. Meghan will also connect with our AIA national leadership over the next month to determine the specifics of her new role within our region.

As I mentioned last time, here is the scope of the new regional role:

Movement Building (Win, Build, Send)

Global (Fostering a heart for missions)

Financial Stewardship (helping them fully raise their support)

Oneness (leading toward a multi-ethnic movement)

Staff growth and leadership development.

I will be leading and casting vision for our staff in each of these five areas.

Over this next month, I want to cast that same vision for you too, and share our heart for this ministry that we love. Thank you so much for all your prayers and financial support. We are grateful to have survived our 5th move in 6 years!

In Christ, Jon & Meghan



Family Life – an Online Resource

Who gets your energy—spouse or children?

Intimacy takes time and energy—the very things we always feel a bit short on, especially since having children. There are certainly seasons and circumstances that drain time and energy (sickness, bereavement, moving, global pandemics, etc.) and make it difficult to make marriage a top priority. But while some issues can't help but feel all-consuming, my mentor helped me regain perspective: marriage *needs* and *deserves* my best time and energy ... before it becomes its own crisis.

It's good for marriage to take up mental energy

I'd made a habit of spending an enormous amount of mental energy and angst fussing over my role as mother—devouring countless books, podcasts, and blogs. Yet I spent little time checking in on my role as wife. Even conversations with friends often touch on parenting but seldom on marriage.

Why does parenting naturally take so much more mental space than marriage?

As one friend said, parenting is newer, and the struggles constantly change. Like how I read (so many) parenting books because I need answers, advice, perspective, and encouragement. I'm afraid of doing something wrong, so I actively seek input.

Compared to parenting, our marriages may feel more stable and less subject to daily changes and challenges. And we may feel, in some seasons, that we have very little mental space not devoted to daily problem solving with children. All the more reason to make a point to actively seek input, perspective, and encouragement for marriage, too.

A daily devotional about how to love your spouse well, a new habit/action on your daily checklist, a group of friends to check in consistently with about marriage—these could all be ways to help keep your marriage a mental priority.

It's good for marriage to take up physical energy

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that parents of young children must be in want of a nap.

Before I became a parent, I never imagined “ask permission before you jump on someone” would be one of our family's most necessary rules. After spending the day as a human jungle gym, sometimes by dinner I just can't tolerate the thought of being touched one more time. Or after repeating the same scripts all day, I'm simply tired of the

sound of my own voice. After a long day of work, all I want to do is sit on the couch and play Sudoku.

But having no capacity left for a smile, kiss, or hug to greet my spouse or the strength to muster questions about his day, is definitely giving him the short end of the stick.

There are practical ways to restore my physical capacity—asking him to take over jungle-gym duty for a time, listening to an audiobook while cooking dinner, trading off bedtime routines. But ultimately, I need to recognize my husband deserves more than whatever scraps of physical energy I have left that day. I need to choose to make “re-serving” energy for him a priority.

Deciding early in the day how I might like to serve him—his board game of choice, cleaning the kitchen, or retiring to the bedroom early (wink, wink)—informs how I choose to spend my time and energy that day.

Of course, sometimes things just don't go as planned. But knowing I'd hoped to bless and serve him in some way communicates priority and care.

It's good for marriage to take up spiritual energy

When our oldest started school, I found myself praying for her like never before. Truthfully, when we decided to even begin trying to have children, my prayer life got a super boost. Suddenly, there was another human being (or the hope for another human being) completely dependent upon me, which was at once thrilling and humbling (read: terrifying). There were so many factors out of my control, so I turned to the One who was.

I even spend time figuring out how to teach the gospel to my children through Disney movies and other stories. I've spent hours perusing suggestions for catechisms, children's bibles, and other resources to help them understand God's love for them and the beauty of the good news.

Do I spend as much time thinking about how I can encourage my spouse and “stir up one another to love and good works” (Hebrews 10:24)? A majority of that sort of spiritual energy goes into myself and my children. Granted, when I lead a “pure and reverent” life, it *is* an encouragement to my spouse (see 1 Peter 3:1-2, NLT); but how much further could a little intentionality go? A quick prayer of intercession for the Spirit's presence with him before he leaves for the day, a whispered prayer of thanksgiving for who God made him to be before bed, a prayer for myself as his wife to love and serve him well—these are a few little ways to keep us connected spiritually.

Your children should see your marriage is a priority

A few years ago, our toddler asked her dad to stay with her in bed for a while. He responded that nighttime was his special time to be alone with mommy to which she responded with a matter-of-fact resignation, "That can't happen."

While we got a good kick out of her response, it does sort of illustrate that marriage as a priority needs to be *taught* and *caught*. If we let them, our children will happily take up the center space of our universe, the same way they would happily eat an entire carton of ice cream. Needless to say, that would not be good for them.

Common sense tells us it's not healthy for anyone to think they're the center of the universe. Research tells us children are more likely to thrive when surrounded by strong, secure relationships.

So while there may be some "mom guilt" (or "dad guilt", though I've never heard that phrase before) about making sure your spouse gets more than sloppy seconds, it's *also* an act of love for your children to love your spouse well. Not only will it help provide a more stable, healthy environment in which they can grow, it also helps them to *grow*—they can see affection, mutual respect, conflict resolution, and sacrificial love played out in their own home.

Asking for a friend: spouse or children?

There have been several movies depicting marriages that fall apart when the children leave the nest. They focus on the kids so much that, over the years, they don't know how to relate as husband and wife anymore—just fellow parents. In the movies, sometimes they find their way back to each other, sometimes they don't. While I know it's possible for that story to end well, *I don't want that to be my story*. And we don't want it for our friends, either. How might we encourage each other to keep (or make) marriage a daily priority? It might be as simple as asking, "How are you and your husband doing?" Or when discussing another issue in their lives, asking, "What does your wife say?" I'm thankful my mentor made a point to ask me about my marriage. Just bringing it up helped me begin taking steps to prioritize my marriage more. In recognizing the ways I often invest in my children more than him, I'm able to assess and make a new "budget" (so to speak) of my investments.

As with many good endeavors, it will mean hard choices and sacrifices. Our marriages *need* and *deserve* our mental, physical, and spiritual energy. And the payoff has potential to bless you and your spouse, your children, and many others for generations to come.

By Laura Way

Opportunities for Service

The Opportunities for Service sheets will be filled out during services soon. Please review this list to see where you can better serve St. John's with your time and talents.



Committees and their Duties

Education Committee

The Education Committee oversees and assists the Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, including Melanie Crapser (Youth and Young Adult Director), Katie Pranger (Children's Director), the church Library, and all other educational activities of the congregation.

Education Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Elders Committee

The Elders Committee is responsible for membership records, church communications, inactive members, church discipline, oversight of church staff, and nominating persons for council.

Elders meet at 6:30 p.m. the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee oversees all financial practices of the congregation, receives financial reports from all groups that have financial accounts, does monthly audits of the church accounts and prepares the annual budget. The Memorial Fund, Lutheran Foundation and Endowment Committee fall under the Finance Committee.

Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee is responsible for Evangelism, Social Ministry, Support of World Missions, and Support of Local / Area Ministries beyond this congregation. Helping Hands is under the umbrella of Outreach Committee.

Outreach Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Property Committee

The Property Committee is responsible for the upkeep and the repair of all church property and keeping insurance coverage up-to-date.

Property Committees meets as needed.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for Stewardship education and programs for incorporating all members into the life of the congregation, for organizing and maintaining the church archives and for

providing oversight for the Stephens Ministry. Sports teams fall under the Stewardship umbrella.

Stewardship Committee meets as needed.

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee is responsible for oversight of all congregational worship services and everything needed for those services.

Worship Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Long Range Planning Committee

The Long Range Planning Committee consists of 1 member from each committee.

Many hands make light work. Please prayerfully consider how you can assist with our work here at St. John's!



The church office will be closed Monday, September 7th in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

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



Based on [Matthew 20:1-16](#)

Shaping a vision for generosity and giving is always grounded in this one simple yet profound truth — God who created everything, owns everything. Living a life of generosity is especially difficult because even though we may be more than willing to intellectually acknowledge God owns everything, on a daily basis we do not functionally live this way. As long as we live in the flesh, we have to daily wrestle with the lingering ghosts of our own selfishness. St. Augustine said it well, "God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them."

In the Parable of the Workers. After a few disgruntled employees complain that they worked more hours than a new hire and yet all received the same pay, the owner of the business goes on to say, "What's it to you. It's my business. It's my money to spend and invest anyway I see fit. Are you going to be envious and resentful because I chose to be generous? So, the last will be first and the first last."

Jesus' words "the last will be first" ([Matthew 20:16](#)), "whoever saves his life will lose it" ([Matthew 16:25](#)) and "if you want to be truly free, you must be a slave to all" ([Matthew 20:26-27](#)), echo the same trajectory. The human heart, our flesh truly struggles to let go. Jesus' words require of us a self-emptying and a self-sacrifice. And yet our hearts cry unfair and unjust. I earned it all. It is mine.

Think about it for a moment, we are consumed with "this is mine" — my life, my career, my home, my vision, my church, my pastorate, my ministry, my investment portfolio and my rights. Do you see how this mindset, "this is mine," is so embedded in our thinking that at times we don't even recognize we're saying such a thing — it is our default? Shaping a vision for stewardship begins and ends with the generosity of God. God is Giver. Although he owes us nothing, God gives us everything and His giving is flawless. When we look at the parable of the workers, entry into God's kingdom is not gained by how many hours we work, or how hard we strive to perfect and acquire more fame, fortune or power, entry into the Kingdom is solely by God's generosity. Written by Rev. Dona Johnson, chair of the Living & Giving Stewardship Team, NALC monthly devotion.

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 (15TH) 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
(513) 225-8523 - Pastor Ric Barnes
E-Mail – office@stjohnslaketownship.org

Website: stjohnslaketownship.org

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

Sunday School:

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

Church Office Hours:

9:30 – 3:30/Mon. – Thurs.
9:30 – 1:30 / Fri.

Church Staff:

Ric Barnes, 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.

St. John's Lutheran Church
7914 W. Cook Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46818

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