



The Voice

St. John's Lutheran Church Serving the Lord for 114 years

September 2019

"How Amusing"

Did you see the news this morning? In a protracted renegotiation of his contract, which will now pay him \$45 million over the next 4 years, with \$11 million of guaranteed money, Pastor Wilson is back in the pulpit.

What's so funny?

William Barclay wrote (way back in 1971):

"...the world sets its highest value on that which entertains. And it would appear that no one in the world is worth quite so much as a footballer or a film star. What the world is willing to pay for is entertainment; men will pay anything to be amused. There is the strangest parallel with the Roman society of the time when Christianity came into this world. There is no doubt what the Roman world was trying to do. It was trying to escape – to escape from the weariness and the boredom which had it in its grip. Extravagance is always a sign of the desire to escape."

Barclay said, "men will pay anything to be amused." The word "amuse" is very interesting. Usually we think of definition 2 from Webster: "*to entertain or occupy in a light, playful, or pleasant manner*". But listen to definition 1 – "*to divert the attention, so as to deceive*".

The root meaning of amuse is to "not muse" – that is, to avoid thinking deeply about anything, and a thoughtless life quickly becomes careless, reckless, and bored.

This isn't a phenomenon isolated to ancient Rome and contemporary western societies – it's really rooted in human nature. St. Augustine knew it well enough, and when he finally stopped – when he had "mused" for some time – he said, "our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee, O God."



I think one of the primary functions of the Sabbath – of regular time set aside for ceasing from the frenzy which has become so consuming – is to muse: to think deeply about the things that deserve deep thought, and to do so with the help of Scripture. It's not hard to see the consequences of failing to do so, sometimes in our own lives as well as in society generally.

Ask yourself when was the last time that you were alone without a TV or a radio on; without a book (except perhaps the Bible); without any distraction for even 30 minutes?

Some of you may be able to answer "this morning." If so, excellent – and keep doing it, giving deep thought to those things that deserve it.

If it's hard for you to remember the last time, I'd recommend putting it in your day-planner, on your calendar, or whatever you use as a scheduler, within the next week.

Set aside 30 minutes – get to a place where you won't be disturbed – read a short passage of Scripture – and muse.

I think you'll like what you find.

Pastor Ben Hollingsead

2019 CONFIRMATION INFORMATIONAL/ KICK OFF MEETING:

If you have a child who is going into 6th to 10th grade, please join Pastor Ben on Wednesday, September 11th at 6:30 PM for an informational meeting to kick off the 2019-20 confirmation year at St. John's. Below is a tentative schedule for Preconfirmation and Confirmation Wednesday sessions. This year both Pre Confirmation and Confirmations groups will meet together.

September 11th @ 6:30pm Kick off Meeting (Parents Attend with Student.)

September 25th @ 6:30pm

October 9th @ 6:30pm

October 23rd @ 6:30pm

November 6th @6:30pm

December 4th @7:00pm

December 11th @7:00pm

December 18th @7:00pm

January 8th @6:30pm

January 22nd @6:30pm

February 5th @ 6:30pm

February 19th @6:30pm

February 26th @7:00pm Ash Wednesday

March 4th @7:00pm

March 11th @7:00pm

March 18th @ 7:00pm

March 25th @7:00pm

April 8th @ 6:30pm

April 22nd @ 6:30pm

May 6th @ 6:30pm

May 13th @6:30pm Last Session of the Year

May 16th @ 9:00am Confirmation Rehearsal with Photos

Confirmation Sunday May 17th @ 9:30 Service.

SABBATH SUPPORT GROUP!

Jesus said in Matthew Chapter 11 “²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”. Many of us carry burdens that weigh us down in life that can just fill us with grieve, anger and so many mixed emotions.

The next meeting will be Monday, September 9th, with Pastor Ben leading the Sabbath Group sessions. At this Sabbath group, we will create a safe community for anyone who is going through hardship to come and lay down their burdens at the feet of Christ. We will have sharing times with scripture, music, prayer and other Christian resources that will hopefully leave all with the Sabbath rest of the Gospel that those with heavy burdens are looking for.

This meeting will take place the second Monday of every month at 2:00 PM. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ben.

PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER:

Council has approved to move forward to pave the parking lot before winter. Please help us offset the cost.

We have raised \$1091.05 so far!

Let's keep going!

You can put your donation in the offering on Sundays or drop off with Rachel in the office.



RALLY DAY SEPT. 8TH:

Join us after 2nd service for food and fun games. Come and enroll your kids for Sunday school, which starts Sept. 15th from 9:30-10:30 AM, and Faithweavers, which starts Wednesday, Sept. 18th from 7-8 PM.

ACOLYTE LIST FOR SEPTEMBER:**September 1st**

8:00 Nicole Robbins

9:30 Evan Locke

September 8th

8:00 Grace Johnson

9:30 Broox Gajeski

September 15th

8:00 Bella Johnson

9:30 Jordan LeRoux

September 22nd

8:00 Janet Horsfall

9:30 Emily Willing

September 29th

8:00 Nicole Robbins

9:30 Evan Locke

**BAKE SALE & FARMERS' MARKET
SEPTEMBER. 8th**

We are in need of any “baked goods” and/or “garden vegetables” that you can donate towards the sale.

Any questions contact Barb Peterson at 763-670-1533

**YOUTH EVENT:**

Sunday, Sept. 8th, the youth group will be having a pancake breakfast fundraiser between services and after 2nd service. Join us to support our youth!

**UPCOMING MISSION EVENTS
September Mission of the Month****Red Cross Blood Drive – September 17th
“Give Blood. Help save Lives”**

An American Red Cross blood drive will be held at St. John's Lutheran on Tuesday, September 17th from 1:00 – 7:00 PM. Please look for more information in next month's issue of the Voice, the Mission's display, and Sunday bulletins.

**Feed My Starving Children – October 12th**

Please join us on Saturday, October 12th at 5:00PM at FMSC in Coon Rapids. Missions is sponsoring this event and we are asking you to join us for a 1½ hour shift as volunteers to “Turn Hunger into Hope with Your Own Two Hands”. Look for more information in next month's issue of the Voice, the Mission's display, and Sunday bulletins.

Contact Harvey Berg at 651- 462-1168 if you would like more information about each of these events at this time.

**BROTHERS, BREAKFAST
and BIBLE**

Calling men of St. John's! Our next morning men's breakfast will be September 17th at 7:00AM. It will be a great opportunity to share in fellowship while eating breakfast together at the Village Inn in Wyoming, MN. We will have a devotion to reflect on as a group. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ben 651-323-3293.



St. John's Lutheran Church – LCMC
Church Council Minutes

Date: 7/22/2019
Present: Pastor Ben, Linda Welch, Sue Lein, Linda Miller, Bethany Hardy, Jim Johnson, Derek Fitcher, Nicole Anderson, Hal Satter
Absent: Patha Vue, Roxann Berg, Vickey Nelson, Paul Dahlstrom

Meeting called to order at 7: 05 PM by Linda Welch.

Pastor Ben

Opening devotion and prayer.

Minutes Approved

Linda M motioned to approve the minutes from 6/17/19, Nicole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Financial Report was reviewed.

A generous family donated \$10,000 to the church in appreciation to the changes that are being done. \$3,500 was also donated by an anonymous donor for the pastoral discretionary fund.

Pastor's Report

In the past month, there have been 5 children baptized.

Been able to reconnect with some members.

Upcoming absences are covered.

12 youth are going to be attending Camp Luther in August.

Discussion about reaching out to our confirmed youth who graduated to keep in touch and help them feel blessed.

New Business

Advent Mid-week Service

Discussion about changing the lent services from our current format. Looking for feedback on restructuring for the future.

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Financial Report July 2019**

Budget Offerings (4 Sundays)	\$	13,350.56
Actual Offerings Received	\$	7,383.00
Offering Budget Shortage	\$	(5,967.56)
<hr/>		
Office Expense (\$335.10 copy machine fees including over use)	\$	604.00
Ins-Bldg-Liability	\$	1,663.00
Sunday school	\$	53.00
Computer Operations	\$	125.00
Worship supplies	\$	19.00
Advertising/Evangelism	\$	44.00
Sunday school	\$	53.00
Payroll service Fees	\$	18.00
Administrative Exp.	\$	2,579.00
Excel Electric	\$	368.00
Gas	\$	121.00
City Water & Trash	\$	199.00
Custodial Supplies, Misc.	\$	220.00
Building Expenses	\$	908.00
Employee Salaries	\$	10,251.00
Visiting Pastors	\$	0.00
Work Comp. Ins.	\$	244.00
Total Salaries	\$	10,495.00
Christian Outreach	\$	131.00
Total Expenses	\$	14,113.00
End of Month Total	\$	(6,730.00)
<small>(offerings minus expenses)</small>		
<hr/>		
Check Book Balance	\$	156,411.00
Liabilities	\$	0.00
Actual Cash Balance	\$	156,411.00
Dedicated Accts. Balance	\$	147,575.00
Church Acct. Balance	\$	8,836.00
N. Branch School Rental Balance	\$	3,780.00
Gen. Offering Bal.: Year to Date	(\$	19,094.00)

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call Patha Vue Treasurer at (651) 313-3165
Thank you!

FOOD PANTRY

Let us all remember to donate food items into our Food Pantry. Local food shelves are always in need of non-perishable food items to help the less fortunate. Also, don't forget paper needs like baby formula, diapers, soap, toilet paper, etc... are always needed. Buy one item for yourselves, but also buy one for the Pantry. Christian Outreach Committee will see that the items are delivered to the local food shelf.

Little Angel Preschool

Clarification that the Wednesday Work Crew could be working in the building during the school day, as long as space continues to be a safe space.

An open house will be on August 15th.

Presented the council with the *School Board Member Code of Ethics*, policy #101, that has been approved and adopted by the school board.

Also presented the *Chain of Command*, policy #402, that has been approved and adopted by the school board.

Discussion about dividing the nursery with a temporary, accordion-style wall. Bethany will work Linda M to determine some possible solutions. These suggestions will be brought to the August council meeting.

Property

Some great updates on the outside of the building. For next year's budget, we need to take into account covering the fresco's in the fall.

Roof Update

Hal has worked with multiple contractors and has received estimates from three companies, which were presented to the council. Linda M motioned to accept the Built Strong Exteriors quote for \$14,368.00, with the understanding that the price may increase due to unforeseen damages, Sue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bethany motioned to allow Built Strong Exteriors to post their signs in the yard and to write a thank you in the bulletin for their work. Derek seconded. Motion carried.

Constitution rewrite

Discussion about proposed changes to St. John's Current Constitution Chapter 2, Confession of Faith. Suggestions were made and Pastor Ben will bring edits to the August meeting.

Music Director

Discussion about using some for the Frenning Trust to pay a music director to lead the various choirs. Good discussion over the needs of the church.

Safety Council Meeting

Will seek funds from the city of Stacy to help with funding trauma kits since we are their emergency evacuation site.

BCA background checks will cost \$12 per person if they are not Chicago County residents. Derek is going to research some other options before moving forward.

Old Business

All financial documents attached to the church are now being sent to the church.

Batteries are being checked on all items within the church.

Parking Lot - money from the Frenning Trust and donations are close to covering the cost of the parking lot. Linda will move forward with contacting to get bids.

Sue motioned to give Linda Miller and the property committee the authority to seek bids for the completion of the parking lot project before winter. Nicole seconded. Motion carried.

Update on North Branch renting space. Suggested a rent increase due to an excessive amount of plowing that occurred last year. A lease is in negotiation.

Sue motioned to extend the meeting by 15 minutes, Hal seconded, motion carried.

Jim motioned to adjourn at 9:22, Linda M seconded, motion carried.

Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Ben.

Respectfully submitted by,

Bethany Hardy, Council Secretary

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Worship & Music Sept. 5th, 6:30PM

Youth Sept. 1st, after second service

Safety Team Sept. 2nd, 7:00 PM

Missions Sept. 9th, 7:00 PM

Evangelism Sept. 3rd, 6:30 PM

Christian Outreach Sept. 9th, 6:00 PM

Council Meeting Sept. 16th, 7:00 PM

ROOFING UPDATE:

Council has approved to hire Built Strong Exteriors for \$14,368 to repair roof damage. This is under what we expected for cost but there may be underlying issues that could add to the cost. Please consider a donation to cover our repairs.



WE WISH EACH ONE OF YOU A BLESSED DAY AND PRAY THAT GOD WILL BLESS YOU THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

SEPTEMBER WILLING WORKERS FOR CHRIST



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

8 AM SERVICES GREETERS

01 Bea Palmer
08 Amber Hollingsead & Girls
15
22 Dave & Kim Schmidt
29 Amber Hollingsead & Girls

READERS

01 Bea Palmer
08 Barb Peterson
15 Linda Miller
22
29

USHERS

01
08
15
22 Duane & Nancy Nelson
29 Chris & Andrew Frost

LAY SHEPHERD

01 Bea Palmer
08 Corky Peterson
15 Linda Miller
22 Linnea Kment
29

ACOLYTE 8 AM

01 Nicole Robbins
08 Grace Johnson
15 Bella Johnson
22 Janet Horsfall
29 Nicole Robbins

9:30 SERVICES GREETERS

01 Judy Curry
08
15
22
29

READERS

01
08
15
22
29

USHERS

01
08
15
22
29

LAY SHEPHERD

01
08
15
22
29

ACOLYTE 9:30 AM

01 Evan Locke
08 Broox Gajeski
15 Jordan LeRoux
22 Emily Willing
29 Evan Locke

FELLOWSHIP HOST

01
08
15
22
29

ALTAR GUILD

Set Up
01 Floyd Pinotti
15 Floyd Pinotti
29 Floyd Pinotti

Clean Up
Louise Wilner
Evie Dockham
Sharon Jaworski

Set Up
08 Loreen Beckett
22 Floyd Pinotti

Clean Up
Sharon Jaworski
Louise Wilner

St. John's Lutheran Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 & 9:30 AM Traditional Service Youth meeting after second service	2 Safety Team 7PM	3 Evangelism 6:30 PM Master Key Bible study/ Vessel training 7PM Preschool Starts 8:30-11:30AM	4	5 Worship & Music 6:30PM	6	7
8 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 Contemporary Service Youth Pancake Breakfast fundraiser Rally Day Bake Sale & Farmers Market	9 Sabbath Group 2PM Outreach 6PM Missions 7PM	10 Master Key Bible study/Vessel training 7PM	11 Confirmation Kick off meeting 6:30 (parents attend w/student)	12	13	14
15 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 Contemporary Service Sunday school starts	16 Council Meeting 7PM	17 B-B-B 7AM—Village Inn Red Cross blood drive 1PM-7PM Master Key Bible study/vessel training	18 Faithweavers starts 7-8PM	19	20	21
22 8:00 & 9:30 Traditional Service	23	24 Master key Bible study/ Vessel training 7PM	25 Confirmation 6:30PM Faithweavers 7-8PM	26	27	28
29 8:00 & 9:30 Traditional Service Pastor Ben @LCMC	30 Pastor Ben @LCMC					

An All But Silent Thank You

Little Angel Preschool staff and students extend a big thank you to all who participated in our silent auction held at St. John's Community Get Together. Through the generous bids on many items donated by you and area business, as well as monetary donations from local businesses, over \$1700 was generated.



Adopt an Angel

In September, Little Angel Preschool and St. John's Missions Committee are excited to bring the Adopt an Angel program back allowing us to continue to expand our mission of reaching children in the community, giving them a good education and a good experience in which they can connect with Jesus. A display similar to last year will be set up with Adopt an Angel magnets labeling a student's need of either prayers, or tuition and prayers that you will be able to take home and commit to the needs listed. So many of you were able to share God's love with our students in past years through this program and we hope you feel it in your heart to do it again.

Feeling "Board"

Do you feel you have extra time to give? Please consider being a member of St. John's Preschool Board. The board typically meets monthly and makes decisions on school curriculum and activities, budget, fundraising, staffing needs, and other ways to make it possible to bring Jesus into the lives of young children. Please contact Bethany Hardy, Chairperson at (218) 831- 2038 or LAP-chairperson@gmail.com for more information

Preschool starts Sept.3rd 8:30-11:30AM

- ◆ *Little Angel Preschool*
- ◆ *Willing workers/Calendar*
- ◆ *Confirmation Schedule*
- ◆ *Acolyte list for September*
- ◆ *Events/Announcements*
- ◆ *Pastor's Article*
- ◆ *Inside This Issue:*

Pastor Ben Hollingshead
Cell: 651-323-3293
Church Office: 651-462-5115

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The Voice of St. John's

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