



St. John's Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod

901 SW Fillmore Street • Topeka, Kansas • 66606-1445 • 785.354.7132 • www.stjohnlcmstopeka.org

VOL. 84 NO. 7 MONTHLY

JULY 2015

RELEASE LETTER FROM PASTOR LANGE

Dear Members of the Body of Christ at St. John's Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

In light of my recent election to the office of president of the Kansas District—LCMS, and in keeping with the tradition of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, I have requested a peaceful release from my call to serve you as senior pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

As we discussed during the months leading up to the election, it was with very mixed feelings that I approached this transition. And it is with those same mixed feelings that I have now accepted this new office to which the Lord has called me through the election of the Kansas District.

It has truly been a great joy to have served you as your senior pastor since August of 1999. You welcomed Marcia and me and our family with open arms, and have wonderfully supported me in my ministry for 16 years now. Thank you for the great privilege of serving such a wonderful congregation, and for your patience as I grew and matured during that ministry in your midst.

I have asked, and the church council has granted, that my last day of service to St. John's be June 30, 2015, so that I can begin my service to the Kansas District—LCMS on July 1.

One of my highest priorities in the days just before and after June 30 will be to vacate my physical office at St. John's and to move the contents over to the district office. After a few weeks of orientation with the outgoing president of the district, I then look forward to a farewell Sunday on July 26, 2015.

I know that my departure from the office of senior pastor at St. John's will come with the responsibility to defer to, and support, whoever occupies that office going forward. And I fully intend to do just that. But still, the bitter part of this bittersweet transition is made so much easier knowing that our family will remain members at St. John's where we will continue to be fed richly with the Lord's gifts of Word and Sacrament.

Thank you again for all that you are and have done for me and my family.

In Christ,

Pastor Peter K. Lange

Assistant Pastor - Rev. Jon S. Bruss, ext. 104
Deaconess - Linda S. Kinnett, ext. 102
Kantor - Rev. Roger M. Goetz
Visitation Pastor - Rev. Glenn R. Bitter
Day School Teachers - Ashley Jensema, Andrea Kosmicki,

PLEASE NOTE JULY SCHEDULING CHANGES

During the month of July, please note that with the exception of July 5, which will retain the normal Sunday schedule for the first Sunday of the month, the remainder of the Sundays each have some significant changes.

- On Sunday the 12th, there will be two divine services at 8:15 and 11:00. The 8:15 divine service will have individual-cup communion. During those two divine services, we are also blessed to have Vicar Cody Norton preach. Vicar Norton presently serves at Risen Savior in Basehor. Because of the two divine services that day and because of the Farewell Sunday for Pr. Lange, there will be no monthly breakfast on the 12th.
- On Sunday the 19th, our congregation will be blessed to have Pr. Goetz back in the pulpit and chancel. That Sunday at both 8:15 and 11:00 we will have spoken Matins.
- Finally, on Sunday the 26th, our congregation will gather for a single divine service at 10:00 a.m. Pr. Lange will deliver his farewell sermon that Sunday, and immediately following the divine service we'll have a congregational potluck and program in celebration of and thanks for Pr. Lange's nearly 16 years of faithful labor among the saints of St. John's.

2015 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN "FIRST OFFERING SUNDAY"

Sunday, July 5, 2015 is "First Offering Sunday". While the fiscal year runs January through December, our pledge year runs July 1 through June 30 of next year. This is done to allow the church to develop a budget based upon pledges for approval by the voters toward the end of this year. If you were not present for Stewardship Sunday, you can pick up a pledge card from the office, or find them at the end of each pew. Fill it out and place it in the offering plate or on the secretary's desk. Again note, this pledge year begins on July 1, 2015 and ends June 30, 2016. This pledge is separate from the "Continuing the Journey" building fund pledge made in January 2013.

We encourage those who completed a pledge card to begin their new pattern of giving on First Offering Sunday on Sunday, July 5, 2015. If you have any questions about the pledge card or about the nature of your commitment, please contact Yvonne Berry at 354-7132.

2015 Board of Christian Stewardship

SINGLE CHURCH SERVICE ON JULY 26

Due to Pastor Lange's Farewell celebration, there will only be one service at 10 a.m. on this date. We hope all will be able to attend the 10 a.m. service and join in the pot luck luncheon, information below.

MONTHLY BREAKFAST NEWS

Because the congregation will be celebrating Pastor Lange's 16 years of ministry here at St. John's on Sunday, July 26, and because that celebration includes a potluck lunch at 11:15 that day, the regular monthly breakfast will not take place on July 12. Please plan to attend the single divine service at 10:00 and the potluck following. So please bring a main dish **and** a side dish, or dessert to share.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

On Sunday, July 12, at 9:45 a.m. Pastor Goetz will begin teaching the Adult Bible Class in the nave using a series of six lessons on 1 Corinthians 13 (commonly called, "The "Great Love Chapter of the Bible"). It will not meet on July 26 or August 2. The last session will be on August 30. Pastor Goetz invites you to attend his classes on this fascinating subject! Dennis Hintz class on Genesis will also be available for adults in Rm. 202.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

Plan to be a part of **The Neighborhood Block Party**—National Night Out Against Crime Event
Saturday, August 8, 6-8 PM.

Hosted by Historic Old Town NIA, St. John's Neighborhood Care Team,
and many additional St. John's volunteers)

Signup sheets will be posted soon!

The *National Night Out Against Crime* is a great way for St. John's:

- To promote and enhance safety in our neighborhood and throughout Topeka
- To help and support our partner leaders in the Historic Old Town Neighborhood Improvement Association.
- To build bridges for further sharing of the Gospel with those in our neighborhood.
- To love those around our church "in deed" as well as "in talk" (1 John 3:18).

WOMEN'S LEAGUE CARING & MISSIONS

We are preparing Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief through July.

Items needed are:

- Light-weight bath-size towels (approx. 52" x 27", dark color)
- Bath-size soap bars (4-5 oz., any brand, in original wrapper)
- Sturdy combs
- Metal nail clippers
- Adult-size toothbrush in original wrapper

If you would rather us do the shopping, monetary gifts will be accepted by:
Geri Tate 272-0886; Marcia Wade 286-1119; Carol Ravins 266-7088

Also, we are preparing SCHOOL KITS now.

Items needed are displayed on the table beneath the LWML bulletin board, with baskets for collection in the Information Center.

Items needed at this time:

- 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper 8 ½ " x 11"; no loose-leaf paper
- 30 cm. ruler or a ruler with cm on one side and inches on the other
- Pencil sharpener
- Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- Box of 16 or 24 crayons
- Eraser approximately 2 ½" long

Thank you in advance for your donations. Again, monetary gifts will be accepted.

VOTERS MEETING

There will be a quarterly Voters Meeting Sunday, July 26 at 1:30 p.m. This meeting will follow the ceremony for Pastor Lange and will be in the Undercroft. Thank you.

2015 FLOWER CALENDAR

The following services are available in the next few months if you would like to provide flowers for any of them: August 2 & 23 October 4, 18 & 26 November 1, 8, & 15 December 13 & 27

Just sign your name and phone number on the date of your choice on the Flower Calendar posted outside of the church office. The office staff will call to remind you.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE BARGAIN/BAKE SALE

Bargain/Bake Sale—The Women's League is planning to have a Bargain Bake Sale August 20 and 21. As you do your Spring Cleaning, save your good useable items for the sale. The sale helps us to fund our expenses through the year. However, this year we will be designating half of our profit for LWML Mites. Our "mite" money goes to Kansas/National mission projects. An example of a Kansas mite project is \$5,000 for the Food Bank at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. An example of a National mite project is \$30,000 for training K-9 Comfort Dogs for LCMS Chaplains.

THANK YOU NOTE

We at Work Center #31 of The Lutheran Braille & Large-print Workers at St. John's would sincerely like to thank those of the congregation who contributed to the ongoing mission of Bringing Christ to Those in Darkness. Your generosity will go a long way in making it possible to produce God's Word in Spanish Large-print to be shipped to those who seek The Good News of Jesus Christ, both individuals and through missionaries in Spanish speaking countries and here in America.

DOORSTEP'S CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Ten years ago Doorstep started "Christmas in July" to help alleviate the strain for donated items at the end of the year. Each year Doorstep adopts 250 households through the Christmas Bureau. Christmas in July has been a big help to their Christmas Store staff to know what they are lacking in donations for November and December.

This year they are especially in need of school supplies and health kit items. Currently, they have none of these items for the Store. Every household receives a health kit and all school age children receive supplies to start the second half of the school year. Last year they were also short on 'main gift' toys for the children they adopted. Each child receives one bigger toy as their gift and then other smaller items are available along with games, books, stuffed animals, stocking stuffers etc. If you can help with toys for children ages 2-12 and gifts for teens they would be grateful.

Doorstep always needs blankets (full/queen is most popular) as each household receives a blanket. You can check the 'Clearance Section' at your favorite stores as you may still find great deals on blankets, household items, clothing for all ages and maybe even some toys!

The Christmas Store has a 'Family' section which has knick-knacks of all sorts, but it also has household items that people need and are always thankful to receive. Items like toasters, coffee pots, pots & pans, hand mixers, new sheet sets, dishes (set), silverware, are items that are greatly appreciated. Please look over the Christmas in July flyer in this newsletter and see how you can help. Doorstep's success depends on their member

congregations working together to provide for their neighbors in need. If everyone pitches in just a little, big things can happen!

Last year with your help they provided Christmas to 679 individuals. Christmas in July gives them a jump start on collecting new clothing, toys, health kit items, family gift items and blankets. Please bring your Christmas donations to worship in July and place them in the Doorstep box near Luther Hall.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION UPDATE

In January, the Board of Missions and Evangelism established a working committee to address digital communication at St. John's, specifically the website and social media efforts. Here's what's happening:

Social Media: St. John's now has an active Facebook page, where you can find announcements, reminders, and photos. If you're on Facebook, "like" St. John's to stay connected. We may add other social media accounts (e.g., Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram) in the future, but for now, we're starting small.

Website: You may have noticed a few changes on the St. John's website, including the addition of service times, sermon snippets, and a new footer on the homepage. We'll be rolling out more changes (e.g., new layout, lots more pictures, reorganized navigation) over the summer, with the goal of completing the website update by August 1. If you notice anything amiss as we're making changes (e.g., something doesn't look right on your device or in your browser), please let us know.

Committee members: Clayton Kinnett, Timothy Humphrey, Wendy Humphrey, Kris Bruss, Jacob Kosmicki (BOME rep), and Pastor Bruss (staff rep).

THE THEME FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: "TE DEUM" AN EXCITING AND QUALITY VBS CURRICULUM FROM HIGHER THINGS Save The Dates: **July 20 - 24, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

In addition to the children, we invite adult and teen volunteers for these positions:

Elementary helpers Preschool helpers Craft helpers Recreation

We are looking forward to a good time at VBS this year. Each day the children will learn portions of The Lord's Prayer and hear Bible stories that correspond to The Lord's Prayer. The stories will be presented in drama form, which is why we need actors for each day. We will also need props and costumes to represent the various characters. Those needs are listed below. Please consider your God-given gifts and pray that the Lord would lead you to assist the children and the church in this endeavor. Call the church office at 354-7132, or speak to Deaconess Linda, or email kinnett@stjlcms.org.

Here is a list of items we would like to borrow if you have any of them and care to lend them to us.

Shoes of all kinds: Sport shoes (golf, baseball, soccer, etc.); Beach shoes (flip flops); Ballet slippers; School shoes; Hunting boots; Hiking boots; Penny loafers; Bedroom slippers; Mario slippers (or something to represent video games). A Captain's hat; A flight attendant hat or jacket; Something to represent a customs agent.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR JULY 2015

Second Article of the Creed: I believe in Jesus Christ, His Son, our Lord

- | | |
|----------|--|
| July 5: | <i>Jesus Is True Man: Jesus Is Born</i> |
| July 12: | <i>Jesus Is True God: Jesus Rebukes the Storm</i> |
| July 19: | <i>Jesus Is Our Savior: Jesus Suffers, Dies, and Rises</i> |
| July 26: | <i>Jesus Is Our Lord: Jesus Ascends to Heaven</i> |

(No Sunday school classes on July 26)

BIBLE WORDS FOR JULY:

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:14

[Jesus Christ] is the true God and eternal life. 1 John 5:20

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8

[Jesus says,] “I will come again and will take you to Myself.” John 14:3

“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” (Deuteronomy 6: 6-7). Parents, this command from God’s Word is for you, and the Sunday school is here to support you in the nurture of your children’s spiritual growth. Please accept God’s invitation to bless your children through the Sunday school and worship service each week.

RECEIVE THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Go to the church www.stjlcms.org and fill out the form at the bottom of the homepage, then “Subscribe to St. John’s Newsletter.” Enter your name and email address. Then click on subscribe. You will receive the newsletter via email next month. The list is administered by the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Graversen.



THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

[Jesus said] “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19–20a

So that we may obtain faith in Christ, God instituted the ministry of teaching the gospel and administering the sacraments. Through the gospel and sacraments, as through means, God gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when He wills, in those who hear the gospel. The Augsburg Confession, Article 5