

St. John's *EAGLE*

**ST. JOHN'S
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Peg Otte, *Interim Pastor*
Robert McConnell, *Music Director and Organist*
Brooke DeJong, *Director of Youth & Community Outreach*
Janis B. Wendel, *Administrative Assistant*
Efren Frausto, *Custodian*

1235 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois 60091
phone 847 251 1730

web stjohnswilmette.com
e-mail churchoffice@stjohnswilmette.com
Facebook St. John's Lutheran Church
Wilmette, IL

September, 2018



September always feels to me like a transition month, with lots of endings as well as plenty of fresh starts. I don't have to list all of them for you, but I do want to recall the big fresh start of last year, as construction was nearing completion on the building renewal at St John's.

To make that fresh start, you had taken a look at your future and then boldly, creatively transformed your spaces for ministry. You thought carefully about what was needed for current users and those yet to come. You worked together with a vision that's been supported by generosity and excitement.

That "working together" thing is defining St John's as much as the new spaces. But rather than being done and over like building construction, working together is ongoing, with possibilities for new relationships and new ideas for doing things. Worship, fellowship, serving, learning, fixing, feeding all happen because you're working together, each one of you pulling toward a vision of St John's being a place of energetic hope and grace.

On Sunday, September 9th there's an opportunity to get a fresh start on working together after a good summer by participating in God's Work, Our Hands. There's a line-up of projects to help others, as St John's partners with ELCA congregations throughout the United States on this special day. Most of the projects will be available immediately following worship and all are suitable for all ages:

- **Prepare and deliver treats with thank yous to Wilmette first responders.** Making trays of goodies and taking them to the police and fire stations
- **Make some knots in a Lutheran World Relief quilt.** It takes more than 70 of them to attach each hand-crafted top to its underlayers. These quilts will provide warmth and shelter for those who are refugees, impoverished or disaster-struck
- **Haul out a box or 2 of the many books for donation to get rooms ready for Sunday school and Family Promise.** Time for the final clean-out to prep for the new year of ministry

- continued

- **Create flowers and cards** for at-home members and beautifying the fellowship space
- **Write a postcard to your Congressperson** in support of ways to address families' hunger and nutrition needs. Bread for the World organizes and provides information for hunger advocacy, and provides templates and examples for these effective postcards and letters
- **Set up tables and chairs for the St John's neighborhood** ice cream social. That's right! The Ice Cream Social will be from noon-2:00 pm. It's FREE and it's so easy to invite your neighbors and friends to enjoy an end-of-summer treat with you
- **Brother Dano's Sandwiches** will also be making the monthly bag meals for The Night Ministry at 4:00 pm

See you on the 9th! And before and after, as well!

Pastor Peg Otte

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES &

Birthday and anniversary blessings to the following members who are celebrating special days during the month of September:

Happy Birthday to:

Andrew Hogarth (9/1)
 Britany Beretta (9/2)
 Claire Radde (9/5)
 Jillian Radde (9/5)
 Elias Abudayeh (9/8)
 Jan Matik (9/8)
 Ray Fitzgerald (9/11)
 Sony Noe (9/11)
 Kevin Clarke (9/15)

Elaine Hoos (9/15)
 Hannah McConnell (9/15)
 Candace Yurkonis (9/15)
 Diane Kastman (9/20)
 Serena Klosa (9/20)
 Maggie Seymour
 Peter Seymour (9/21)
 Ed Matik (9/23)
 Janet Kiernicki (9/30)

Happy Anniversary to:

Chad Johnson & Linda Basnik (9/7) David & Karen Stover (9/12)
 John & Michel Hauser (9/17)

If your birthday or anniversary is missing from this list, please let the church office know. Thank you.

BAPTISM

Congratulations and God's blessings to Anna Lorraine Loesel, who received the sacrament of holy baptism on Sunday, July 22, 2018. Anna is the infant daughter of Lisa & Michael Loesel and the sister to Mae & Jack.

Greetings St. John's Youth and Families!

It's that time of year again. School has started and we are trying to find our new normal. First of all, welcome back and I hope you all had a great summer. We are so happy to have you at St. John's for the first time or for another year. There is a lot going on. I don't want to overwhelm you. So, here are the highlights, needs and important dates:

Important dates

Ice Cream Social: September 9th

Sunday School Kick-Off and First Day of Class: September 16th

Parents Meeting After Church: September 30th

NEW- Sunday School Classes for 5th-6th Graders.

NEW- High School Youth Group. Please see or email Brooke to be added to the doodle to vote on a start date. We will be working through some important topics like faith and science, God, the Bible and gender, and does God endorse violence?

Events

Botanical Gardens Meet-Up- September 15th from 3 pm-5 pm

Parent's Night Out- A November Friday or Saturday. Keep an eye out for a doodle!

Needs

Snacks for 1-4th graders.

Room volunteers to help with crafts and supervision for 1st-4th and 5th-6th. Our safe child policy states that there must always be at least two adults in the room with the kids.

Volunteers are needed to help organize a first floor clean out and sale. Currently all of our old Sunday School rooms are being used as storage rooms and it's time to reclaim them for the kids. We need to create a safe welcoming and open space for the children to grow in and to help welcome new families. "If you build it, they will come!"

Volunteers and food donations for parent's night out.

Brooke De Jong

Director of Outreach and Youth & Families

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Thanks to your generosity, the wading pool got filled and the shelves restocked at Hillside Pantry with 18 very full bags of groceries. AND many birthdays were made extra happy with the 27 birthday kits!

Thanks for responding to Abundant Grace with your own abundant compassion!

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee has been following up with two very strong candidates.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Peter Hauser, Chair

Lisa Hogarth, Bill Kaspar, Chris Maglocchi and Christi Wise

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

ALL women in the congregation are included in the Women of St. John's group. There are no dues, meetings or other requirements for membership. Our primary goal is fellowship.

Quilt Raffle

Fall means that it is time to pack up our years' worth of quilts to send to Lutheran World Relief. But first we will raffle one to raise funds for next year's batch. For \$1 or six for \$5 you have a chance to win a one-of-a-kind quilt! Tickets go on sale Sunday, 9/9 and continue until the drawing on Sunday, 9/30.

Quilting

And speaking of quilts...we have completed 67 and counting. Help us get to 80 by joining us in the fellowship hall on Sunday, 9/9 when we will have two in progress. You just need to be able to tie a knot to help!

And as always, we will be working the **second & fourth Thursday of the month-- that's 9/13 and 9/27** from 10am-2pm. Newcomers always welcome!

Book Club

After a few delays, we will FINALLY be discussing "The Woman Who Smashed Codes" by Jason Fagone on **Sunday, 9/9, 3pm**, at church.

Wine Tasting

After a few years' absence this fun event is getting back on to our schedule. We are hoping for an October date...stay tuned!

ADULT FORUM

We continue to meet 11:00 am - Noon on Sunday mornings, after a time at the coffee hour. The current home for our gathering is the meeting area adjacent to the parish hall. We have a discussion portion that is lively, and all are able to participate.

Sept. 16th: We'll look at an article from The Christian Century titled: Bible's #Me Too Stories." For those who like to preview the gathering's session, look for a handout at the Adult Forum table on Sept. 9th.

Sept. 23rd and 30th: We'll do something similar to September 16.

Oct. 6th We'll begin a new DVD series. Watch for announcements.

Peter Knobel

21st CENTURY PSALMS

Announcing a special series presentation!

Dr. Esther Menn, professor, author & lecturer who is currently at LSTC, our seminary in Hyde Park, will be coming to St. John's on Saturday, Sept. 22nd, at 10:30 am to help us understand who some of the authors of the psalms were, why they were written, and how psalms can be very important in our lives today.

Saturday, Sept. 22nd, will be the first of three consecutive Saturdays, from 10:30 - 11:30 am, that Dr. Menn will be with us. Following the discussion portion of each hour's presentation, those choosing to share a meal together may either bring a bag lunch or purchase one from a local store. Look for further announcements, and plan to join us, and other members of our faith community, for an exciting, three-Saturday series. Reports on each presentation will be available for those who may not be able to attend all three Saturdays.

Peter Knobel

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Our annual Ice Cream social is planned for September 9th from Noon until 2 pm, following "God's Work Our Hands" activities.
- A proposal from Music Director Robert McConnell was approved by the Council to reduce costs, while maintaining a high level of quality for our music offerings.
- The Council continue to identify cost-saving opportunities to help with our current budget deficit.
- New forms and policies are available to manage space rentals and key deposits.

HELLO FROM LCMNU

As you all know, "food" is very important to college students and at LCMNU, every Wednesday night there's a home-cooked meal that draws students to the table and into community and worship. In fact, our Wednesday Supper Worship has been a comfortable entry point for many students. Some of you have provided meals in the past and/or have joined us for Supper Worship, and I am hoping that St. John's might consider making a meal and joining us again this upcoming academic year.

I know with work schedules that may be difficult, but would you consider "sponsoring" a Wednesday meal? You could order in food, and you could maybe join us for the worship service at 6pm?

Click on the link below, and you will see more information about our Wednesday Supper Worship as well as the dates that are available for sign-up in the upcoming academic 2018-2019 year.

<https://mealtrain.com/82ln41>

If you have any particular questions for me, please email me. deanna.langle@u.northwestern.edu I am on sabbatical until September 12 and will respond to your questions at that time. Thank you so much for considering this request!

Pastor Deanna Langle

Would anyone like to join me in hosting a meal at LCMNU sometime during October and perhaps one of the last two Wednesday's in February? It only takes a few of us to bring a salad, bread, main entrée and dessert. It's a great evening meeting these faith-inspired students. Let me know
- Cindi Rachowicz

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise is returning to St. John's!

SAVE THE DATES! October 14-21st

Look for further information and sign-up sheets on the table in the gathering area beginning September 9th!

TREASURER'S ALCOVE

Below are the year-to-date figures for the general operations of St. John's as of July 31, 2018 with a forecast for the rest of the year.

	7-31-18	7-31-18	2018
Income	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Forecast</u>
Envelope & Loose Offerings	\$102,969	\$130,646	\$190,582
Benevolence Fund Raising	2,172	0	2,172
Other Revenues	<u>12,142</u>	<u>13,340</u>	<u>33,588</u>
	<u>\$117,283</u>	<u>\$143,986</u>	<u>\$226,342</u>
Expenses			
Benevolences	\$ 14,832	\$ 14,817	\$20,679
Salaries	75,793	85,443	143,013
Program Expenses	17,498	26,339	34,705
Property Maintenance	<u>43,700</u>	<u>40,059</u>	<u>70,778</u>
	<u>151,823</u>	<u>166,658</u>	<u>269,175</u>
Deficit from General Operations	(34,540)	(22,672)	(42,833)
Apartment, Net	<u>14,660</u>	<u>15,994</u>	<u>30,990</u>
Deficit July 31, 2018	<u>\$(19,880)</u>	<u>\$(6,678)</u>	<u>\$(11,843)</u>

Income -

Revenues are running at 81% of our budget.

Expenses - July had several bills that took its toll on our cash position. The replacement thermostat in our sanctuary and another for the boiler was \$855. The handicap lift needed a pressure test and contract renewal for \$1,210. Electric charges for the air conditioning in our gathering space, although reasonable, were an additional \$130 more than our regular monthly bill.

In trying to find ways to cut expenses, we have stopped our subscription to Wilmette Life (savings of \$95) and the Living Lutheran magazine (savings of \$548). Copies will no longer be sent directly to your home, but they will still be available at church.

Robert has come forward with several proposals to decrease the music budget, but don't impact the quality of music we all love. The council has approved the new budget which will be a savings of \$5,000 for the remainder of 2018 and \$7,600 in 2019.

Ministries - St. John's is a thriving, caring community of members whose generosity will continue to grow in volunteering and stewardship. Let us know how we can help you on your road to fulfilling your purpose as a disciple of Jesus.

Benevolences - The Staff Bake Sale garnered \$758 for the ELCA Disaster Response to the Guatemala Fuego volcano relief. Along with several members' donations, we sent well over \$1,100 for this disaster. We have paid 7 months of our benevolence to the Synod. Hillside Pantry was restocked with food from our collection worth several hundred dollars.

The executive committee and council have taken a look at the amount in the budget set aside for other benevolences. \$3,600 was designated for Sandwich Ministry and \$6,175 for other benevolences. Because the Sandwich Ministry already had \$1,177 in restricted funds for that purpose, we decided to use that offset to be able to send \$1,800 to Lutheran Campus Ministries at Northwestern. Considering our cash position, we will not be able to fund any more benevolences, other than Synod, from our budget for the remainder of the year. Please don't forget that our Extended Ministries Fund paid out \$15,000 in benevolences this year.

What on earth (or in heaven) is “High Church Blended”?

When colleagues ask me what is the prevailing style of music in my church, I usually tell them it is “High Church Blended.” I say this primarily for shock value since “High Church” and “Blended” are not categories that traditionally go together, and given my famously impish sense of humor, combined with a general aversion to being pegged as either “Conservative” or “Progressive,” I must confess that I take a certain degree of delight in the puzzled reactions I receive. I use “High Church Blended” in a slightly tongue and cheek way since I don’t consider worship at St. John’s to be particularly “High Church,” the threshold for which, in my understanding, is when you need your GPS to get to altar because you are lost in a fog of incense. Then you might be High Church.

In practical terms though, this is what I mean by the phrase. “High Church,” for my purposes, refers to a commitment to the continued use of the historical liturgy of the Church, and particularly the liturgy as a mode of worship that is primarily *sung*. From the earliest days of the church, most of the liturgy was either sung or chanted, and even in Luther’s time the only part of the communion service that wasn’t sung was the sermon, though one could of course imagine Vater Martin breaking out into song from the pulpit. At the Calvin Institute on Christian Worship that I attended in January, I heard a Reformed speaker talk about the use of “short songs” used for various liturgical elements, say for the absolution after confession, or the prayer of illumination before the scripture reading. Such things are being rediscovered by those in the Reformed tradition after they fell out of use in that tradition 500 years ago. But they were never lost by the Lutherans. Indeed, I was extremely encouraged by this, since in the past year I had starting using short contemporary songs for the various elements in the Lutheran liturgy. Song, whether old or new, elevates worship because it elevated the intellect, the emotions and the soul, and thus I always aim to have as much song as possible in worship.

This brings me to the term “Blended,” which I understand as a liturgical musical aesthetic which mixes “traditional” and “contemporary” music. “Traditional” and “contemporary” are notorious slippery terms which mean different things to different people. For our brothers and sisters in the Eastern Orthodox Church, everything written after about the year 500 is contemporary, and for Evangelicals in their 20’s, everything written before 2010 might as well be Mozart. I think the consensus view is that “traditional” means metrical hymns played on an organ, and “contemporary” means pop-influenced music written after 1970, played on any instrument except the organ. Now recalling my famously impish sense of humor, I love to confound these categories. I have played songs by the Getty’s and Chris Tomlin on the organ, and I have played “Praise to the Lord the Almighty” as a praise song with the band. I love mixing genres like a cook mixes spices, and so I take the word “blended” to mean nothing more than a mix of lots of different styles and aesthetics, the more the merrier.

Putting all this together, what I mean by “High Church Blended” is a style of worship that hews closely to the ancient liturgy of the church, includes as much singing as possible, and mixes as many musical styles as possible, both old and new. I view this project as being quintessentially Lutheran. Vater Martin did not through out the liturgical baby out with the baptistry, as Calvin did, but retained the form of the ancient liturgy in a way that was accessible to the people. His music was a mix of old an new - chants that were hundreds of years old translated into the vernacular, Latin polyphony, and chorales based on distinctively declassé German dance tunes. This fusion of old and new, high and low, was part of the genius of Luther’s liturgical reforms, and it is the vision that will continue to be my guiding light in the months - perhaps years - ahead.
Keep singing,

-Robert McConnell, *Music Director and Organist*

WHO'S SERVING IN SEPTEMBER 2018

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018, 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Jan Wendel
Communion Minister: Bill Kaspar
Minister of the Word: Alla Rusz
Ushers: Luke Rasmussen,
Greeters: Ralph & Janet Kiernicki
Carillon: Jan Wendel

SEPTEMBER 9, 2018 - 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Bill Kaspar
Communion Minister: Alan Swanson
Minister of the Word: Robert McConnell
Ushers: Tom Morrison, Jeff Danielsen
Greeter: Margye Smith
Carillon: Susan Crist

SEPTEMBER 16, 2018 - 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Alan Swanson
Communion Minister: Jan Wendel
Minister of the Word: Kristen Danielsen
Ushers: Tom Morrison, Jeff Danielsen
Greeters: Nancy & Larry Wood
Carillon: Rachel Cordts

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018 - 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Cindi Rachowicz
Communion Minister: Ken Kastman
Minister of the Word: Millie Braun
Ushers: Luke Rasmussen, John Hauser
Greeter: Tina, Ziegler, Cathie Knobel
Carillon: Tina Ziegler

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 - 9:30 A.M.

Assisting Minister: Jan Wendel
Communion Minister: Ken Kastman
Minister of the Word: Rob Seymour
Ushers: Buck Crist, John Hauser
Greeter: Julie & Rob Seymour
Carillon: Tina Ziegler

ALTAR GUILD: Cindi Rachowicz