



Building the family of God by spreading
the Word of God to all people.

September 2019

Grapevine

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Address:

9193 Cleveland Avenue
P.O. Box 67
Baroda, MI 49101

Phone: 269-422-1449

Website: stjohsbaroda.com

E-mail: stjohsbaroda@hotmail.com

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday,
9AM-12PM

Sunday Schedule:

Worship 9AM

Refreshments 10AM

Sunday School 10:30AM

Pastor – Nanette Dehnke

Ministers.....All People

Council President.....Paul Kasten

Administrative Assistant.....Amy Semenk

Accountant.....Bonnie Hodge

Webmaster.....Alan Anderson



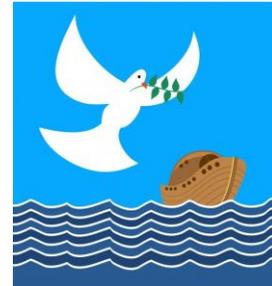
Find us on **Facebook!**

Page: **St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



**A NEW C-SON = CHRIST TIME
(SEASON)
OF SPIRITUAL LEARNING**

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING:

NOAH "PG" RATED

YOUTH SUNDAY MORNING:

NOAH "G" RATED



COME AND SEE

**Thursday afternoon –
Bible Study – will begin in
October**



Need a Ride?

Transportation is available for all our worship services and events throughout the week. If you would prefer not driving yourself, especially amid weather conditions and darkness, we still want you to come and join us at St. John's!

Transportation is available on an individual basis. So please call the church office 269-422-1449 for details or to schedule a ride. Don't let anything stop you! Come, share, and celebrate God's love!



Our Homebound Members:

Elaine Lochner
Woodland Terrace
8850 Red Arrow Hwy
Apt. 29
Bridgman, MI 49106

Chet & Val Nitz
3017 Johnson Rd.
Lot 88
Stevensville, MI 49127

Dorothy Spitzke
8948 2nd Street
Baroda, MI 49101

Sandy Spitzke
9935 Red Arrow Highway
Bridgman, MI 49106

Carmen Hora
2700 Lake Pine Path, Apt. 104
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Ruth Heimbuch
15977 W. Clear Lake Road
Buchanan, MI 49107

Ileen Tollas
8850 Red Arrow Highway
Lilac Bldg Room 13
Bridgman, MI 49106

Barb Reynolds
3355 S. Lakeshore Drive #203
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Ray Mak
1123 W. Marquette Woods Rd
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Memorial Funds

Memorial funds may be designated to:

- Altar/Worship Enhancement Fund
- Confirmation Camp Memorial Fund
- General Memorial Fund
- Harold Hafer Memorial Fund,
- Sound for Sanctuary
- Kitchen Improvement Fund
- Parsonage Renovations

Our Church Leaders:

Rev. Elizabeth Eaton
Presiding Bishop, ELCA

Rev. Craig Satterlee
Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA

Our Companion Synods:

Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

4	Kyle Zielke	21	Chuck Krueger
7	Marissa Feole	24	Alan Anderson
11	Lori Davis	27	Ruth Ehlert
13	Tim Hicks	28	Bobbi Betts
21	Tyler Cramton	29	Austin Barker



If a birthday, anniversary and/or baptism is listed incorrectly, please call the church office so that we can correct our records.

9/4	Steve and Joie Nitz
9/11	Keith and Sandy McClintock
9/13	Eric and Kim Perrin
9/29	Chet and Val Nitz



2	Ella Barker	19	Max Nitz
13	Donna Tober	23	Jenna Cramton
17	Val Nitz	29	Kyle Zielke

Celebrate your Baptismal Anniversary!

“Remember and rejoice,
Renewed by floods of grace.
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ,
That time cannot erase.”
(ELW 454)



dates
to
Remember

Sunday, October 27
Sunday, November 3
Sunday, December 1
Tuesday, December 24
Wednesday, December 25

Reformation Sunday
All Saints Sunday
First Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day

PASTOR LETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A chicken and a pig made their way from eastern Michigan to St. John's. Approaching Stevensville, they stopped at Full Circle Cafe, assuming that since a few members of St. John's regularly breakfasted there, the food had to be good. They were soon seated and handed menus that read:

TODAY'S SPECIAL: HAM & EGGS. The chicken looked at the pig and said, "I guess you could say I'm committed." The pig peered back from behind his menu and replied, "You may be committed, but I'm involved!!!"

I first heard this parable (minus the St. John's references) as a high school student. My home congregation used it to make a simple but important point about church membership, one that has stuck with me through the decades and has rung true in every church where I've been a member. It's one thing to say, "I have a commitment to Jesus and to his Church!" It's quite another to be involved in the Church's mission and ministries.

Congregations normally have an abundance of chickens—members who believe their commitment is accomplished simply by dropping some eggs into a basket—perhaps showing up for a worship service, or making an occasional offering, or contributing money to support a favorite program or cause. Of course, people gathered to worship, and gifts gathered to fund ministry are necessary to the church and are celebrated with thanksgiving. But what if more members were involved? What greater life would come if chickens also invested their time, energy, patience, encouragement, leadership, and talents to the work done together in God's name at St. John's?

If I could use this letter to talk with you personally about church membership, I'd want you to know: St. John's is a good congregation, but it can become a great congregation. It simply needs more members involved in its life and work. As noted by the pig in the parable, such involvement asks for sacrifice. To be more involved at St. John's may mean sacrificing time and energy given to your other life priorities. God may ask you to step outside of your comfort zones.

Indeed, it's a fair argument that those priorities may be where God wants you to serve. So, I ask one favor. *Will you take the time to ponder and pray over these questions?*

- What must I sacrifice in order to be more involved in the ministries carried out by my congregation, St. John's?
- What keeps me from making that sacrifice?
- What would happen if I did?
- Can I trust God's lead in this?

Just a word of caution before you pray. Jesus is not afraid to make sacrifices for our sake, even to giving his all. If you're serious about following him, be prepared to make some sacrifices. Here are some ways to begin in the weeks ahead:

Pray about your giving of time, talents, and finances.

Continued on next page

DISCIPLESHIP IN ACTION

Thank YOU all!

**All the hands, feet, voices and prayers that helped us serve the
Tollas family with servant love**

**Education team - working now for several weeks to plan programming
for our youth**

**Community life team - continuing to provide us with options to share
and fellowship**

**Weeders in the church and parsonage gardens, so our grounds look
well maintained**

Thermostat helper so we had AC when needed

For Mowers each week who keep all of our property looking good

**For our prayer warriors who pray and keep praying for people and
challenges in our world**

**Prayer quilt makers who teach and share knowledge and guidance to
our group, for prayer quilts for people in need in our community and
outside of it**

Thank you! Thank you!

Thank You

St. John's Family

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time. We deeply appreciate your kindness. We are grateful to have such a wonderful Church family.

Mark, Cheryl, Matt, Lilly and Luke Tollas



RALLY DAY MARCH - September 8th

**after Worship service
Balloons, Music, and Streamers**

Let's celebrate the start of the new education year!!



Sunday School Starts - September 15th



The new church year is upon us and St. John's would like to ask for your help in getting the sanctuary ready. If you have the time pew pencils need to be sharpened, pew envelopes restocked, Prayers Request cards restocked, attendance sheets refilled, Kleenex packets restocked, and pew cubbies cleaned out.

Needs for the coming year – boxes of Kleenex for the winter months. Small packets of Kleenex for the pews, and hand sanitizer.



Next Blood Drive – October 8th

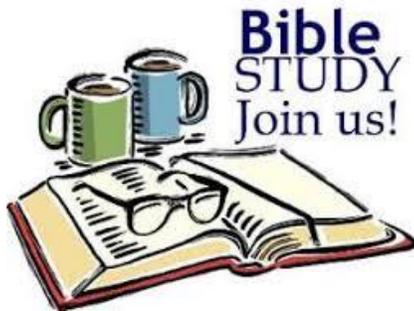


Pull for the House.



Many Hearts. One Home.

We are collecting pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. A collection jar is located on the table in the Narthex. Please contact Amy in the church office if you have any questions 422-1449.



Bible Study – September 9th at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Please contact Jean Jasper if you have any questions. ***This bible study is held the second Monday of every month and is open to all members of the congregation.***

Thank You,
Thank You,



Connect Church of Michiana was so happy to receive our excess Sunday School classroom furniture. They said our Facebook reply to their plea was a godsend. The Pastor and his wife were so excited about their new church. It's in a store front next to the Hardings in Buchanan. Before, they were holding services at the Niles Community Center and had to set up and tear down every Sunday.

ELCA Estate Legacy Planning September 15 at Saron Lutheran Church

Saron Lutheran Church Legacy Planning

Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!!

Sunday, September 15, 2019

Join us for a light lunch in the dining room following the 11:00 service, and then welcome Patricia Hartig as she shares information on the free estate planning services provided by the ELCA Foundation. The presentation will begin at 12:45.

Pat will be available for questions and answers after her presentation, and will also schedule one-on-one follow-up visits with anyone who wants additional help.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity! To aid in planning the luncheon and other logistics for the seminar, please let us know in advance if you are interested in attending. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you can call Don or Bob to get your name added to the list.

Don Hafer (269-985-3637)
Bob Kynast (269-921-2786)

Sponsored by:
Project Fortify & Fly
Planned Giving Committee

Faithful Stewards. Lasting Impact.

Your passion... Your plan ...

Your gift for those you love, and God's work in the world!

You are invited to explore how you can make a difference in the lives of your loved ones and to ministry, both now and in the future.

On Sunday, September 15, Patricia Hartig of the ELCA Foundation will share information about the free services provided to us by the ELCA Foundation. This presentation will get you thinking about your estate, the gifts you've received throughout your lifetime, and how your family and ministry can benefit from these gifts to make a lasting and meaningful impact in this world through your Legacy Plan.

Pat helps congregations set up policies for the wise use and management of legacy gifts and meets individually with members to develop confidential gift plans. She shows you how to potentially save taxes and become an eternal steward!

See the reverse side for additional information.



ELCA Foundation
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



**Patricia
Hartig**
Regional Gift
Planner
ELCA Foundation
Southeast Michigan Synod

Cell: 734.558.7495
patricia.hartig@elca.org

You may contact Pat at any time to discuss your legacy plans and/or schedule a free, no obligation



If you need emergency pastoral care, for situations such as hospital admissions or a death in the family, you may contact:

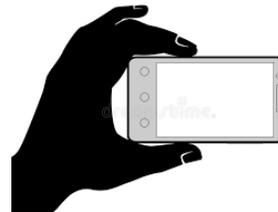
Pastor Nanette Dehnke – 317-464-9434

August 30 – September 7, please contact Rev. Wayne Shearier at 269-921-2496



Help the Homebound with the Caring Card Program!

Please remember our homebound. Either by prayer, visits, or just a card to say “Yes! We remember you”. Haven’t seen that person in church lately? Wonder why so and so hasn’t been there? Remember: these were once very active members of our church and just a phone call, card, or a visit from you lets them know they are still loved and thought of by our St. John’s family. Please contact the church office at 269-422-1449 if you know of anyone needing a visit, card dropped off, or a prayer said. There are preprinted labels on the bulletin board in the Narthex for ease of addressing.



FACEBOOK AND ST. JOHN’S WEBSITE

We love to share pictures of St. John’s ministry on our Facebook page and website and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. **If you do not want your picture shown, please submit a dated letter to the church office specifying so.**



Finance Meeting – September 9th at 4:30PM in the Fireplace Room.

Council Meeting – September 19th at 7PM in the Fireplace Room.



**Don't forget to direct
Choice Dollars®**

Please consider directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John's.

Any unused Choice Dollars expire at the end of the year.