SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:00 A.M. – Adult Bible Study

10:30 A.M. – Worship
Service of Holy Communion

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 obey everything that I have commanded you.

~ Matthew 28:19-20 ~

NRSV

Our Prayer Circle prays for members of our parish and for people in the community at large with special needs or concerns. If you have a prayer request or would like more information, please contact Theresa Steinman at 788-2058 or email: hstein@ptd.net. All requests are strictly confidential.

…but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

~ Isaiah 40:31 ~
Our Purpose
(Our sense of what God is calling us to be and do in the mission of the Church)

God’s purpose for our congregation is to be a Christ-centered community, glorifying God and sharing the gospel and blessings with our neighbors.

Our Guiding Principles
(The things to which we will hold ourselves accountable in all circumstances)

We proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

We recognize that Baptism is our entrance to our life with Christ; remembering our Baptism, we always strive to forgive others as God forgives us.

We recognize our neighbors as all people that God places within our reach or influence as we boldly share God's grace and blessings.

We seek guidance from our God by embracing the Holy Spirit working through us and encourage every believer to use his or her spiritual gifts for God's service.

We gather often in His name to offer prayer and praise, worshiping at least weekly around Word and Sacrament.

We communicate openly, honestly, and patiently with one another, honoring the presence of Christ in each believer.

MARCH CELEBRATIONS:
Please remember these people in your prayers on their special days. May they rejoice in the life, and the new life, which God graciously has given, and may they spend their days faithfully in service to the Lord. Best wishes from our congregation to each one!

MARCH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARIES:
1 - Irene Heidrich
3 - Lori Opiary
16 - Wyatt Koch
16 – Brent Sims
17 - John Koch
26 - Nancy Reed
28 - Raymond Corra III
28 - Walter L. Bloss

MARCH BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES:
13 - James Barr, Jr.
17 - Melody Hinderer

We publish these celebrations as permission and information has been given. If your celebration is missing from our list and you would like it included, please write the information on a slip of paper and submit it to the church office. Thank you.

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The deadline to submit information for our April newsletter is March 18.
2018 ELCA World Hunger Appeal Kickoff
“Buck-a-Chick”, “Stock a backpack with food”, and a challenge to our congregation!

Luke 6:20-21
“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.
Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.”

Lent is a time of reflection; one in which we look within ourselves and reflect on who we are and how can we serve our Lord with faith beyond our own understanding.

How can we spread the news of love and grace that our Lord Jesus Christ gives to each one of us?

How can we share our gifts with those that “God places within our reach or influence?”

The following report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2015:

795 million people, that’s 1 in 10, cannot access the food that they need to live active lives.

The World Bank Poverty Overview: 1 billion people live in extreme poverty, living on less than $1.25 a day.

USDA (US Department of Agriculture) 2015: in the United States, more than 48 million people were unsure where their next meal might come from at some point last year.

US Census Bureau 2015: 46.7 million Americans are living in poverty.

The above statistics are very uncomfortable to read about. You can see why the ELCA has put emphasis in bringing to our attention the needs of our own people here in our country and also in our world.

We will begin by participating in the “Buck-A-Chick” initiative to bring awareness to those living in poverty.

On March 4th, during the coffee hour, please stay and enjoy coloring a “chick” and making a donation to the Hunger Appeal/Good Gifts called “Stock a backpack with food”.

One thing that schoolchildren have in common: a backpack. More than 30 million children in the United States depend on school meal programs each weekday. So what happens on the weekend? Solution: fill the child’s backpack with a weekend’s supply of food each Friday afternoon. Enough food for the entire family; healthy and nourishing food so the family does not have to worry about how to provide for their family. What a great idea….

The cost is $10.00 to fill a backpack; I am challenging this congregation to the following: for every $10.00 collected, I will match that donation to fill another backpack.

This initiative will continue through the month of April, please indicate “Backpacks” for your donations. Please keep those who will benefit from your donation in your prayers and Lenten and Easter reflections.

Melody Hinderer
Congregation World Hunger Appeal Advocate
Fearless Generosity

As I was reading an article about stewardship, I came across this quote:
“Vision is a picture of the future that produces passion.”
(Bill Hybels, Senior Pastor of the Willow Creek Community Church)
As chairperson of the Call Committee, I was drawn to this quote and wondered,
What is your vision for St. John’s?
Do you have fears that keep you from “visioning” a future for our church?
We shouldn’t fear because we have an awesome and powerful God who loves us and
is with us during our doubts, struggles and fears.
Visioning and focusing on our God, our ministries, our church, our members, our
service and time we spend together is what our church is all about.
We have to be “fearless”; we must believe that God can and will give us all we need.
Believing and trusting God makes us “fearless” to give generously of our gifts God
has given each of us.
As a community of faith:
We are “fearless”, we are “generous”, and we are “family”.
Giving of ourselves is being a disciple, it’s committing to the cause or vision of the
future. It’s not just about giving money, it’s about investing in the future of this
congregation and God’s church. God is in our hearts which gives us the power to be
“fearless” and “generous”!
So, again, I ask you,
What is your vision for St. John’s?

~ Melody Hinderer