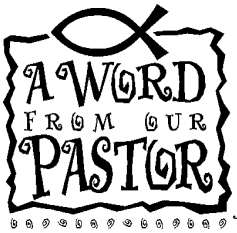
The St. John's Messenger

Volume 14 Issue 4 www.stjohnsmc. April 2014



GOD IS ON THE MOVE!

5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again." 8 Then they remembered his words. --Luke 24:5-8

In the drama and trauma of life we forget what has been told to us. When the stress of tragedy engulfs us we can easily forget the words of promise and hope. Jesus told his followers what would happen to him and how he would triumph over his terrible death.

The disciples had to discover that Jesus was alive and no longer in the grave among the dead. Life giving power was released on earth and things were going to be changing. Faith was needed to follow Jesus as he was going forward with his mission. The potential for life is now raised above the fear of sin and death. With sin and death vanquished we are free to participate with Christ in powerful works of mercy, love, and justice.

I love the verse; He is not here . . . he is risen! In other words, God is on the move. The Risen Lord is continuing what he started. You and I are to be witnesses for Christ in our community. We are witnesses who are infused with the power, joy, and hope of the living Lord.

"With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all" (Acts 4:33).

How are you responding to the call of Christ in your life? Let the grace of Christ live through you in thought and word and deed.

He is Risen Indeed!
Pastor Bill

LENTEN & EASTER SERVICES

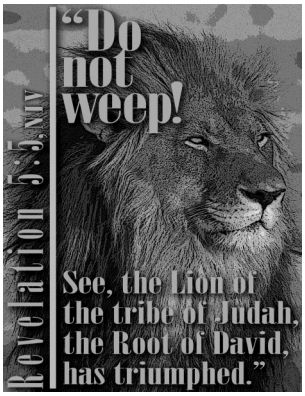
There will be special Lenten worship services in the chapel during Lent on Wednesday, April 2 & 9, from 6:15 - 6:45 p.m. We will worship, read from the Bible, and engage in reflective prayer.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

On Maundy Thursday, April 17th, at 6:30 p.m., there will be a community-wide worship service at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. 7th Street, Michigan City. On Good Friday, April 18th, our worship service here at St. John's will be at 6:30 p.m.. St. John's Easter services will be at 8 and 10 a.m. Easter morning, April 20th.

EASTER BREAKFAST

You are invited to join in St. John's Easter breakfast April 20th, Easter Sunday morning, beginning at 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Help is needed in the kitchen, with set-up, serving, and clean up. We also need your delicious coffee cakes! Please sign up on the main bulletin board outside the office!



PRAYER CONCERNS

Arbors of Michigan City
Carol Schultz
Roger Wilke
Settlers House
Dorothy Johnson
Clare Bridge Cottage, Alterra
Ruth Daschbach June Hapke
Rittenhouse
Beatrice Miller Ann Johnson
Lifecare Center of Michigan City
Libby Rogers

LENTEN COLLECTION

Church World Service and our Northwest Association are working together to assemble "Clean-Up Buckets." You may remember helping in the past. This season we are asked to provide dust masks and reusable cleaning towels such as Easy Wipes. If you prefer to write a check, please make it out to St. John's with the notation "I-K Clean Up Buckets." Deadline is April 30th. *Thank you!*

ALZHEIMER'S SERIES

The "Living with Alzheimer's" series here at St. John's will conclude for the spring. The final meeting is Thursday, April 10th, starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Mark Your Calendar!

MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET

May 13th, 6:00 pm

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This is real love—
not that we loved God,
but that He loved us
and sent His Son
as a sacrifice
to take away our sins.
--1 John 4:10

MISSIONS COMMITTEE HELP

As disciples, we are called to serve in many ways. Your help is needed on the Missions Committee. Please call Lynda (872-1427) if you are interested. Thank you in advance!

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL JONAH FISH FRY

818 Franklin Square, Mich. City
Friday, April 4th, 2014; 4 - 7:00 p.m.
$8.50 adults, 5 yrs. & younger, Free; Pie, $1.00

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Sale dates, May 1 -3, 2014

The date when you may begin to drop off your gently-used items for our Spring Rummage Sale is Monday, April 7th. Please save the dates of April 28 - May 3 to help whenever you have some free time! The sale will run Thursday through Saturday, May 1, 2, and 3; ; set-up will begin at 9 a. m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, April 28 - 30. Please plan to help, for a few hours or more!

Your generous help is always greatly appreciated!

NEW HYMN STUDY

The Partnering With Christ group is having a study in *Amazing Grace*, hymns of our faith in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. All are welcome to join in this study, as it is an on-going program.

Have you thought about – or do you think about – the words you sing in the hymns? Do they truly become your words? Why not? If they inspire you or if you have a desire to understand where they and their melodies come from, join us as we study, on Wednesdays, 4:15 to 5:25 pm. Please call Dolores at 362-3665 for further information.

RADIO TO GROW BY

Christian Nurture highly recommends and encourages you to tune in to Calvary Radio at 89.9 FM to benefit from their teaching programs all week long. You can hear great teaching from Pastor David Jeremiah and many others. Their programs may be the only way some people have to hear the Bible taught chapter by chapter and verse by verse. Please prayerfully consider supporting their efforts by mailing a donation to them so they can keep spreading the gospel over the airwaves at: Calvary Radio Network, 150 W. Lincolnway, Suite 2001, Valparaiso, Indiana, 46383, or making a donation online at: *http://www.calvaryradionetwork.com/Support.html*

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Please note, the Bible Study group will resume meeting on Wednesday evenings beginning April 16th, 6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. All are welcome! Questions, please call Jim, 874-9673.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY FUND-RAISER

Saturday, April 26th, 9:30 a.m.

Friends of the Library Collector's Corner Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 26, at 9:30 am at St. John's UCC Fellowship Hall in Michigan City. Martin Papke of Kathy's Antique Shop in Chesterton will entertain. Each ticket holder will be allowed to bring one item to be appraised by Mr. Papke. Breakfast will be catered by Great Lakes Catering in memory of longtime library friend and colleague Jeannie Vanderplough. Proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Library's efforts to provide services and programs at the Michigan City Public Library. Tickets are $25 per person and will be on sale at the library circulation desk, The Beacher, 911 Franklin St. and Joy of Flowers, 613 Franklin St. No tickets will be sold at the door on the day of the breakfast. Please call Robin Kohn (873-3049) for more information.

GOODTIMER'S: April Outing to the South Bend Chocolate Company!

~ April 12, 2014 ~

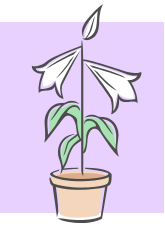
Be there at 1:00 p.m. our time (CST)

Cost: $4.00 per person

We will carpool to the Chocolate Company. We will also tour the factory. Please RSVP to Karen (872-5087) by Thursday, April 10th, if you will be attending.

Everyone is welcome!

EASTER LILIES ORDER



Please note the Easter Lily order form in this Messenger. Lily orders are due by Monday, April 7th.

Now is the perfect time to place your order for an Easter lily or to make a donation towards the St. John's Mission Committee. Forms are also available in the Narthex and in the office. If you wish to order a lily, please return your form to the office no later than Mon., April 7th.

USHERS

Ushers for the month of April are:
Betty Johnson, Phyllis Nowatzke, Betty Bauer, Karen Lawrenz, Christine Dombrowsky, and Elaine Alonso

COMMUNION & SPECIAL OFFERINGS

April 6, Communion: CUE Seminaries
April 18, Good Friday: Leadership Development
April 20, Easter: Open Door Health Clinic

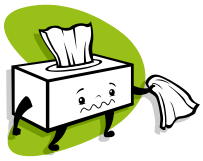
DISCOVERY DINNERS

Please remember to contact Beth Ann Ast at 872-5292 if you will be attending a Discovery Dinner, held each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Come to praise God, and enjoy good fellowship and food!

MEROM CONFERENCE CENTER

Please check the bulletin board outside Pastor's office for information on 2014 camps and retreats at Merom Conference Center, Merom, Indiana.

NURSING HOME DONATIONS

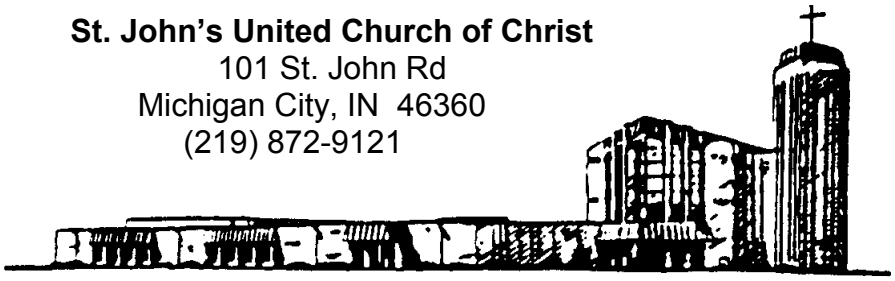


Please remember our members who are nursing home residents with cards and visits. We are in need of lip balm, small sizes of lotion, and tissues for our Eastertime giving. You may leave your donations in the office.

CEMETERY PLOT AVAILABLE

The best reasonable offer for 2 grave sites, 1 marker and 1 vase at Swan Lake Memorial Gardens will be considered (acceptable bidding will begin at $1,500). Please contact the church office 872-9121.

St. John's United Church of Christ
101 St. John Rd
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-9121



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US POSTAGE
PAID
MICHIGAN CITY, IN
PERMIT NO. 96

Return Service Requested

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

In late July, St. John's UCC will host a Vacation Bible School. The program will run Monday through Friday, from 6 to 8 pm, for children entering grades 1 through 5 in the fall. Pastor Fine has already invited two other local congregations, and they seem eager to join us in this effort. Lisa Kay Swartz leads our task force and we are on fire!

We invite you all to join us, and we seek your prayers and support for this work.

GREETERS ARE NEEDED!

Please choose an upcoming Sunday and add your name to the Greeter sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board! Almost every upcoming Sunday is in need of someone to greet our guests on Sunday morning. Please help keep this ministry of welcoming alive and well at St. John's. *Your smile and friendly hello are needed!*

COMMUNITY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP SEDER MEAL

Celebrating the commemoration of the Exodus from Egypt, the Community Men's Fellowship group that meets here at St. John's on Saturday mornings is planning a Seder meal for Monday, April 14th, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for their members. As this will be the group's first Seder meal, once they have gained experience their hope is to then open this and other festivals to people in the community. Planning the Seder meal are Community Fellowship members Bill Newton, Nathaniel Brown, and Doug Moon.

LOST!

If you happen to find a black "Side Affects" sweater jacket, please drop it off in the office.

It was recently lost at church. Thank you very much!