

The St. John's Messenger

Volume 17 Issue 9

www.stjohnsmc.

September 2017



LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE

I am writing this article in the aftermath of the Charlottesville protests. News reports that day contained video footage of demonstrators releasing their hatred and prejudice in acts of violence. What an ugly display of bigotry and prejudice.

Charlottesville is just the latest manifestation of racial prejudice in this country. Certainly we can all attest to the presence of persistent racial prejudice and hatred even in our city. In regard to civility, human dignity and honor we are in some very dark days. We are losing our moral compass.

As we know from Scripture the Son of God came into the world as Savior at a time of great darkness. He suffered everything a human being could possibly suffer and overcame evil with an overpowering love. Jesus' love was a weapon that disarmed hatred, sin and death.

Christ's love is dispatched into the world through the Holy Spirit working through us. As followers of Christ we bear witness to His Word and Spirit.

Christ equips us to confront hatred and bigotry. Scripture reminds us that God created all human beings in God's image.

Genesis 1:26

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

That image of God in all people is to be honored with dignity and love.

Hatred seeks to dehumanize the image of God in another person. Dehumanizing a person based on skin color, nationality, gender identity, or creed is the basis for racism. In obedience to God's word I encourage you to oppose racism which

defames the image of God in other persons.

In Christ we can build the bonds of love by the way we build relationships of understanding and peace. The personal wounds of hurt and anger that lead to racism need to be confessed and healed through an introduction to the love of Christ.

St. John recorded Jesus' prayer for His followers in John 17:20-21.

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me."

In His Mighty Grip, Pastor Bill



CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, September 17th

A congregational meeting is being called for Sunday, September 17, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The trustees have become aware of the instability of the cross affixed to the top of the tower. This matter must be addressed before winter weather arrives. The scope and cost of the Tower Project is as follows:

1. Remove cross.
2. Repair roof
3. Repair interior ceiling.
4. Construct an insulated interior ceiling in tower.
5. Attach cross to east exterior side of tower.
6. Up-light the cross.
7. St. John's to remove TV control panel at base of tower.

The cost is expected to be \$10,245. We are asking the congregation to allocate \$13,000.

Please plan to attend this brief meeting. Thank you for your attention to this matter.



DO YOU SELL ON EBAY?

The Women's Guild has two collectible Christopher Radco Christmas ornaments to list. Of course, any cost to you would be reimbursed. Please contact Judy Kerestury, 872-4128, if you can help our Guild!



OFFICE HOURS NOTICE

Please note, the church office will be closed on Monday, September 4th, in honor of Labor Day.

The office will reopen at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Sep. 5th.

Also, we will continue our August office hours through the month of September: the office will be open through September on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

The office will close at noon. We apologize for any inconvenience. Thank you very much!

FOOD BANK

Thank you for continuing to contribute to the Food Bank! Your donations of any soaps, toilet paper, macaroni & cheese, tuna, mayo, and peanut butter & jelly are always greatly appreciated!



MEN'S CHOIR

New members are always welcome! Please come join us for a "harmonic experience." We meet Sundays, 10:00 a.m., prior to the second service. Any questions, please call Dolores at 362-3665.

REUNION TIME!! ALL ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL ALUMNI!

We want to hear from you!



Our St. John's Preschool will welcome its 40th class this September. We encourage any former students to submit a few thoughts about their memories of their time in our school. We are planning a special celebration later in this school year and would like to include any of these thoughts in an anniversary publication. Please send them to our church office at 101 St. John Road, Michigan City, IN, 46360, or email them to secretary@stjohnsmc.org by September 30, 2017. Thank you for your thoughts!!

CHURCH PICNIC!

**Mark your calendars for
Sunday, September 10th!**

One service, 9:30 a.m.



St. John's will provide fried chicken & sweet corn, you may bring a dish to share.

Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the main office if you plan to attend.

MANHOOD INITIATIVE

LifePointe Church 2017 Calendar

The Manhood Initiative is designed to engage, empower and establish men who have the ability to function in the current world. All men are welcome to join every third Saturday at 8:00 a.m. Meetings are held at the St. John Campus in the Youth Lounge. For additional questions or if you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Vernon Jones by email at vernonjonesjr@yahoo.com.

Upcoming 2017 meetings will be:

September 16th, October 21st

November 18th, December 16th



USHERS NEEDED!

Would you like to be an usher at the 11:00 a.m. worship services? Two ushers are needed to join the 11:00 a.m. usher group. Please speak with Pastor Bill or call the church office (872-9121) if you are interested in helping with this important mission at St. John's!

BLOODMOBILE

The next Bloodmobile at St. John's will be on Tuesday, September 5th. Please call 1-800-Red Cross to schedule your blood donation.

TREE OF LIFE

If you would like to donate a leaf in honor of, celebration of, or memory of a loved one, there are forms available in the church office.
Minimum donation is \$50.

NEW DISCIPLE SOUP KITCHEN

Our Michigan City neighbors extend hospitality every day by offering lunch. New Disciple Church is one site that can use help, with paper plates, bowls, cutlery, cups, and napkins as well as lemonade mix and juice.

Please bring your items in a bag marked "New Disciple" and put them by our Food Bank collection.

VOLUNTEER HOST HOME NEEDED

A volunteer host home is needed for a 16 year-old boy from China. He will be attending Marquette H.S. He will have insurance and spending money, and is under a strict set of behavioral rules (no drinking, drugs, or driving). Hosts provide a bed, food, and a measure of guidance. Host for one or two semesters, or be a short-term "Welcome Family." Call Lisa at 219-874-4375 or Sandy 1-844-528-1145 for more information.

RITTENHOUSE MINISTRY

The next worship and fellowship hour at Rittenhouse will be Thursday, September 21st (the third Thursday of every month).

All are welcome to join us!

PRESCHOOL TURNS 40!!

This September the St. John's Preschool welcomes its 40th class of students! Later this year an official celebration and rededication of this Christian endeavor will take place.



During the school year, there sometimes are family situations which may occur like loss of a job, reduced work hours, a medical situation, etc. which affects our student's attendance. The Preschool Board maintains a fund to assist our families during such times. If you wish to give a gift or memorial to this fun to celebrate this anniversary, please send to the St. John's church office. Thank you on behalf of our school children!



CHRISTMAS CHILD

Please help us fill our Christmas Child boxes with t-shirts, small toys, and bar soap. They will be distributed in November. There is a display outside Fellowship Hall to drop off your donations. Thank you for your generosity!

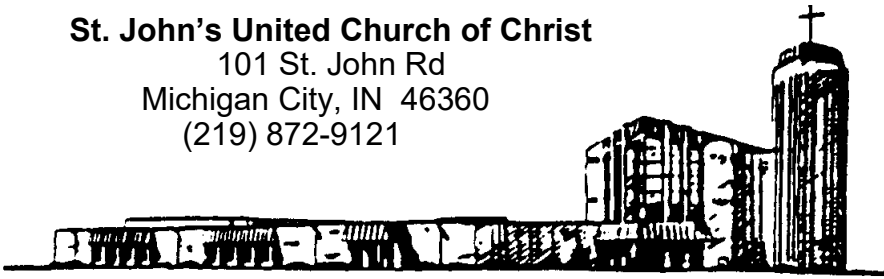


THANK YOU!!

**~ MCAS SCHOOL
SUPPLIES DRIVE ~**

Thank you so much for all your generosity in helping our community's children start the school year off well-supplied with school necessities! Your donations were delivered to the Michigan City Area Schools and were very much appreciated! St. John's folks can always be counted on to help out those in need. *Thank you very, very much!*

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



NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
MICHIGAN CITY, IN
PERMIT NO. 96

Return Service Requested

HOLY DAY SET BY FLORIDA COURT!

(This is great!! I know God is giggling!)

A Florida Court Sets Atheist Holy Day!

A proper decision by the courts.....for a change.

~ A FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY ~



In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days. The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring,

"Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood and objecting to the ruling saying,

"Your honor, How can you possibly dismiss this case?

The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others.

The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah,

Yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counselor, is woefully ignorant." The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists." The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day.

Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.'

Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool.

Therefore, April 1st is his day! Court is adjourned!"

You gotta love a Judge who knows his Scripture!

