

Monthly Newsletter of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bridgewater (LCMC)
8805 Austin Road, P.O. Box 13, Bridgewater, Michigan 48115, (734) 429-7434
Pastor Drex Morton, 734-968-7113
Summer Worship, 10:00am with Holy Communion

You can listen to the service on FM 91.1 in your car from the parking lot any Sunday

Mission Statement:

Dedicating ourselves to God through Prayer & Study, Fellowship & Service.

JULY & AUGUST, 2021 –

St John's Congregation of Bridgewater –

Dear Friends in Christ,

I recently saw an article about “the three worst Bibles you already own.” I thought the premise involved Bibles that are either paraphrases or simply less preferred translations. I was wrong. The article involves a perspective on Bibles we may each have in our homes and our attitudes toward them.

The first one is the Bible you don't read. This is not the old Family Bible. I have one that belonged to my maternal Grandmother from which my Great Grandfather read. No, this is the Bible you have to hunt for and wipe the dust off when you need to look something up in Scripture.

The next one is the Bible you don't know. Check out the following verses which unfold the importance of reading Scripture: Psalm 119:11; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Timothy 2:15, to mention a few... Each of us has the opportunity to become familiar with a series of verses which may yet bless and shape our lives as we journey onward.

The last one is the Bible we don't take into account with respect to our lives. Check out John 14:15 and Romans 15:4 as well. (Yes, I'm inviting you to dig a little into the Word of God.) The final paragraph of the article Pastor Blake Laberee recently posted in an online journal *Patheos* on June 15th of this year is spot on...

The author writes his conclusion as follows: “Grab a Christian Bible. Read it. Know it. Obey it. What are you waiting for?” Summer is a good season to include a little regular Bible reading.

By the way, Vanessa Korte is a prolific writer, and her recent reflections regarding the rite of passage we call graduation is a read I recommend for us all. You will find the two combined articles which I gave to the graduates of 2021 included in this special summer edition of “the Lamplighter.”

Peace and Blessings to you each,
+Pastor Drex

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY FOR ST. JOHN'S.....

Save the Dates – Monday August 16 and Tuesday August 17. We need you to reserve a time slot to have your family come to the church on one of those two days to have your family photo taken for our new upcoming pictorial directory. We will start scheduling appointments on Sunday June 27 for times between **2 and 8pm Monday, August 16** and from **1pm to 7pm on Tuesday, August 17**. Every family having a picture taken receives a free directory and a free 8"x10" picture of their family. Family groups of 5 or less need only 10 minutes for their family shoot. Groups of 6 or more need 5e0 minutes. We need you to bring your family and a good smile to make our pictorial directory a success. You can sign up with Esther Bowers at 734-751-9337 or Diane Schaible at 734-883-2714.

If you are unable to come in to have your picture taken, you may submit a picture to us (4"x6" or smaller) to be included in the directory for \$ 15.00 and you would receive a directory and your photo will be returned when the directories are received. We hope to have the directories by Christmas. *Hope to see you all on August 16 or 17.*

CAMPING SEASON almost here!!.....

St John's Summer Camp Outing, Kids & CO..... Apple Creek campground, Grass Lake, MI. Please let me know if you plan on coming this year. 1st weekend in August, 5th thru 8th. However, some go even earlier! We have reserved the 2 cabins, so if you were one of the families wanting one, let me know. *(Lisa Klager with questions or to register (734) 645-2318)*

THIS 'N THAT

Items for you to note.....

Celebration of Don Drake's Life:

The family of Don Drake is inviting you to celebrating his life on Sunday, August 8, from 1-4 at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds with food, drinks, and cards. For more details contact Joddy Hieber (734-846-8291) or LeAnn Drake (734-476-4668).

Thank You:

I so appreciated thoughtful prayers as I prepared for my total hip replacement and through out my recovery.

Bev Read

Thank you to St. John's folks for donations to the Clinton Food Pantry the month of June. You make a difference!

From the Discipleship and Outreach Committee a heartfelt Thank You.

New Address: Norgaard Family, Kreg, Laura, Jackson & Cole - We'll be moving in the next week or two and this is our new address: 7588 Schneider Rd, Manchester, MI 48158

Coffeetime with Jesus.....

Coffeetime with Jesus: Well, of all the places to have my coffeetime with Jesus, O'Hare Airport was not on my radar today. But, as often happens these days, I arrived early for a morning flight only to find out it has been delayed until later this afternoon.

So, what does one do? Well, one finds a good cup of coffee, a quiet corner, and meets with Jesus in the Bible. As I do so today I find myself beginning to pray, praying for the association of Christian Churches I am blessed to serve - LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) (I wonder what people might be thinking as they walk by and see me appearing to be talking to myself).

I find myself praying the following - and more:

Father, make us an association that is coming together as one so that millions can be drawn by You to faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord (John 6:44; 13:34-35).

Lord, make us an association of congregations where stories are increasing, stories of:

- The proclamation and power of the Gospel at work in people's lives (Rom 1:16)
- People being drawn by You to faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord (John 6:44; 14:6; Acts 16:30; Rom 10:9-10)
- People being discipled in strategic and relational ways (Matt 28:18-20)
- People being filled afresh with the Holy Spirit and discovering and exercising the spiritual gifts You give them to impact others with Your love and Your power (Acts 1:8; Eph 5:18)
- People being healed in every way: emotionally, relationally, and physically (Luke 4:18)
- Leaders longing for You to increase their capacity for emotional, relational, and spiritual wholeness (1 Cor 3:1-3; Gal 4:19; Rom 12:2)

Thank You, Lord, for the privilege of serving alongside so many wonderful women and men in this association of congregations!

Mike Bradley, LCMC National Service Coordinator
June 17, 2021

UPDATES FROM RALPH HOELZER.....

Updates from the President

After our council meeting on Monday, May 24, it was decided that masks will be optional inside the church going forward. Effective on Sunday, June 6, we will be moving to outdoor worship starting at **10:00 am.** Communion will be served with PPE protection and will be presented to you at your seat/vehicle. If there is inclement weather, worship service will be moved back indoors. The church will also reopen for activities and fellowship starting on July 1.

We are also looking for a new Sunday School Superintendent and Teachers and/or Presenters for the elementary classes. Sunday School is on summer break until September 12, starting with the Sunday School Picnic and Promotion Sunday. If you are interested in serving in one of these roles, please contact Leslie Drake or any council member.

Godspeed, *Ralph Hoelzer SPC President*

THIS 'N THAT

RESTORATION COMMITTEE UPDATE.....

Again thank you for participating in our survey. We are all excited about the input we received from the congregation, giving us direction in what restoration projects are important to you. St. Johns is a first century church preparing for the 21st century with joy and dedication to God's great commission. We are working on compiling estimates for each project and look forward to sharing the details with you in July or August at a Special Congregational Meeting.

If you are interesting in donating, please designate on your envelope to the Restoration Project. We are working on updating the eGiving to allow designated giving, please watch for more details to come. If you have any questions, please contact *Brenda Hoelzer, Restoration Chair; Julie Schaible, Director of Finance; or Ralph Hoelzer, SPC President.*

Vanessa Korte wrote.....

I feel like such a hack. Graduation Day has come and gone. Alas, here I sit staring at my laptop. I had great ambition to thoughtfully prepare some great blog filled with great advice and heartfelt inspiration on this milestone. I had a great list of cheesy cliches that would have made the coolest of the cool kids tear up. I threw it away.

Honestly, I think I am still processing the fact that it's all over. Who would have thought that I would have ever survived "School Years-The Sequel"? Hell, I barely survived the first go-around. And I think we're all still a little surprised that I have managed to keep Lena alive the past 17 years and get her through 13 years of school. THIRTEEN years people!

As always commencement brought about some great speeches. Much like many speeches I have heard in the past. They all seem to contain the same resonating theme-, "The first day of the rest of your life" ...

Not to dis' anyone's speech or the stones it takes to get up on stage to give a speech in the first place, personally, I think that whole rest of your life business is a crock. It sounds too ominous and final for my taste. Thinking back to my own commencement speech, I can't believe nobody has come up with something more original.

Ok, so I didn't really give a speech at commencement but that doesn't mean I didn't think about writing one. It even included a few hand gestures for dramatic effect! 😊

Personally, I think whether you are the actual senior or the parent of one; the rest of your life began the moment the 2 lines turned blue. And from that moment on, life is a series of beginnings. And endings.

I remember Lena's first day of school. I was determined that her ending was going to be so much different than my own. In some ways it was and yet in many ways it always felt way too familiar. For 13 years, there have been so many new beginnings and I freely admit that not everything ended the way I envisioned. In both good & bad ways BTW.

Granted my kid didn't walk out the hallowed halls of high school as class valedictorian, super student of the year or most likely to be the best team mom of all times like me 😊, she did do some spectacular things. She did great academically, was an exceptional athlete, was able to skate through school on the shit-list of only a couple of teachers (more than I can say!) and managed to make a few friends along the way.

She survived many beginnings (and endings) and in my humble opinion has turned out to be the main thing that I could have ever wished for her-a good person with a good heart. I have no doubt she will face her post high school journey with the same chutzpah as she has the past 13 years. As did many of her peers that I have grown to love over the years.

Much like the many littles I used to work with, I have spent the past 13 years trying not to get too attached to Lena's many friends (and frenemies-you know it's true!). Sounds harsh, I know. There was a reason for it though. Beyond, girl drama, mama drama and general growing pains, much like the various subbing assignments I have had over the years, I knew there would be an ending.

All of them, Lena included, would reach graduation day and it would begin-the First Day of the Rest of Their Lives. And I would want to tell them things. Things that might make sense. Things that might make them roll their eyes. Things that would probably twist the whiskers of the other adults in their lives who would take issue with my being so bold as to tell their kid anything.

Still, we've reached the end of the road. It's time to go big. While some might breathe a sigh of relief that they never have to deal with me again, here's hoping my next post, my version of a Commencement Speech, will mean something to someone. (To be continued...)

My Commencement Speech (WARNING: cliches ahead...)

"Today is the first day of the rest of your life". No matter how you say this, believe it. Life has an expiration date. You're not immortal. Life is too short to be complacent. Live in the moment. Appreciate every part of your life.

Indeed, graduation is an important day. And then life happens. You will learn many things, encounter the real problems. Do not take life for granted or just accept your fate. You are not limited by your past. If you want to be something or do something today, make the choice.

Reflect on the past but remember the past is unchangeable and tomorrow, also is infinitely far from this moment. Don't waste your time on what happened, spend your time on what you can do now.

Understand that every day is Day 1. So go and chase your heart, do what it is you truly want to do. This path does not belong to your parents, your teachers, your leaders, or your high school "true" love. Your path is your character defining itself. Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.

The most important thing in your life is to live your life with integrity and to not give into peer pressure to try to be something that you're not. It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are.

If you are like most people, you don't think you are like most people. Ask yourself what makes you unique. It doesn't matter what you say you believe - it only matters what you do. Thank your teachers and parents. Recall class memories they hold many life lessons. Try not to rely on pop culture for guidance.

You may never have proof of your importance, but you are more important than you think. There are always those who couldn't do without you. The rub is that you don't always know who. Be ok with losing people who are ok with losing you. Peace arrives at your door in the form of choices.

Walk into every room like they need you in it. Know what you bring to the table but don't be afraid to eat alone. Be afraid but do it anyway. Cry but don't quit.

Take pride in how far you've come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don't forget to enjoy the journey. Now that you've graduated, just remember: Bosses don't usually accept notes from your mother. But remember if at first you don't succeed, do it like your mother told you.

To those of you who received honors, awards, and distinctions, I say job well done. No doubt you will do amazing things. And to the C students, I say, graduation is only a concept. In real life every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life. If you can grasp that, you too, will do amazing things.

Don't be trapped by dogma— living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. Have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.

You have what it takes to be a victorious, independent, & fearless. If you're willing to stand for what you believe in . . . you won't need advice from me, because you will be able to handle whatever comes.

Now go, and make interesting mistakes, break rules. Leave the world more interesting for you being here. I encourage you to live with life. Be courageous, adventurous. Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.

You don't have to be famous. You just have to make your mother and father proud of you, and you already have. All your family are extremely proud of you. And so am I...

You thought graduation day was the first day of the rest of your life, but it turns out today is. Every day is.

And some special advice for my own.... "Whatever you choose, however many roads you travel, I hope that you choose not to be a lady. I hope you will find some way to break the rules and make a little trouble out there. Of all the dreams I prayed you'd be, are all the things you are. You were once my little girl, and now my shining star."

Happy Another First Day of the Rest of Your Life....

June 8, 2021

Vanessa Korte

PRICELESSS GIFT TOY STORE.....

We are once again collecting new and gently used toys for this program.

This mission is located in Jackson, MI. It allows parents to shop for Christmas gifts to give their children. Without this program, these children would NOT have a blessed Christmas.

We are also collecting personal care products for family gift bags: shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper, soap, deodorant, dental floss, toothbrushes/paste, washcloths, shavers, lotions etc. Also Ziploc bags of all sizes, batteries, baby wipes and Mr. Clean erasers.

In November we will be going and helping at this mission like we did in previous years.

There is a "**Toy Box**" in the overflow area to collect the toys and other items. If you have any questions please see *Dianna Tommelein*.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUSITY!!!!!!

THIS 'N THAT.....

MARY MARTHA CIRCLE NEWS.....

We will once again be collecting items for School Kits for LWR in 2021. Items requested are:

Rulers - 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side & inches on the other.

Notebooks – 3 ring; Scissors – Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel lades work well)

Pens - Ballpoint pens (no gel ink); Pencils - Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; Erasers - Eraser, approximately 2 ½: long

There is a box in the overflow room marked **SCHOOL KITS** for your donations. *Any questions, please feel free to contact Shirley Kruger.*

Thank you in advance for helping us with this mission

Mary Martha Circle --We will have no meeting in July. Our annual picnic will be held on Thursday, August 12, 2021 in the pavilion at 12:30pm. Please note time change as in the past we have had it in the evening. All women are welcome to come and join us and please bring a dish to pass along with your own table service. Chicken and water will be provided. Please RSVP to Shirley Kruger or Jill Rymanowicz by Sunday, August 8th.

St. John's -Bridgewater
Mission of the Month
2021-updated 04/26/2021

<u>Month</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Offering</u>
January	Gideons	Ralph Myers	
February	Gideons	Ralph Myers	
March	Brecon Memory Support Ctr	Dave St. Clair	
April	Christian Mission Inc.	Ruth Myers	
May	Manchester Food Bank	Kay Miller	
June	Clinton Food Bank	Kay Miller	
July	192 Ministries-Lenawee Children's Mealpaks	Carol Wahl	
August	192 Ministries-Lenawee Children's Mealpaks	Carol Wahl	
September	Priceless Gift Toy Box	Dianna Tommelein	
October	AFC Families with Needs	Dianna Tommelein	
November	AFC Families with Needs	Dianna Tommelein	
December	Evangelical Home-Saline	Dave St. Clair	

ST JOHN'S WEB SITE.....

www.stjohnbridgewater.org – We're in the process of updating. If you would like to assist with the keeping of the web site current, volunteer to Jack Coffey. You can/will be trained on this! The weekly bulletins and monthly lamplighter are now on the web site.

EMAIL BLASTS to CONGREGATION.....

We are trying to send out our church email blasts more often. Please update your email address with Betty, bwchugrch@ymail.com, if you are not receiving the church email blasts.

HOW TO ACCESS PASTOR'S MESSAGES.....

From a browser or smart phone search look for YouTube App (Smartphone) or from PC Browser type YouTube on Search Bar. Next YouTube.com should show up. From YouTube Search type StJohns Bridgewater. All one word or space and you should see a list of videos we have put out there. Simply pick one and also one can subscribe to the channel and get notified when we put additional content (Video) on the site. To subscribe you must have a google account not necessarily Gmail just a google account.

THIS 'N THAT.....

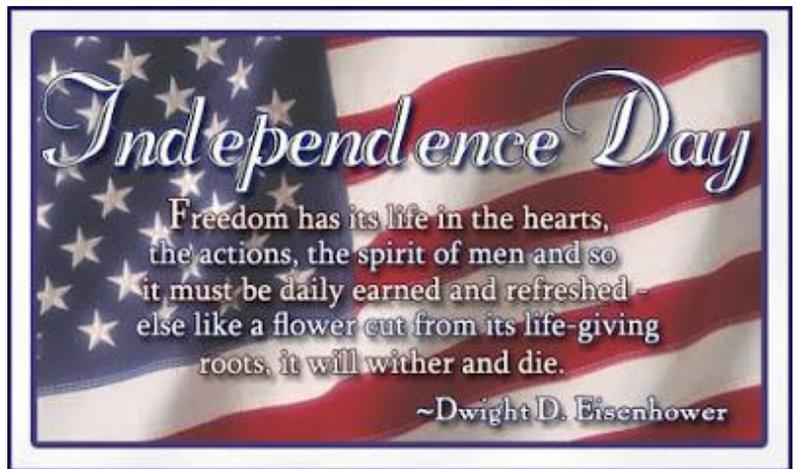
Credit/Debit Card or Checking/Savings Account Giving

- **By Computer**

- Go to <https://stjohnbridgewater.org/>
- Scroll down to the blue Online Giving box and click on "Click Here"
 - First time – click on "Create Profile" and enter the requested information; you will receive an email from cs@vancopayments.com once your profile has been created with St John Lutheran Church Bridgewater
 - Enter email and password; then click "Log In"
- You will be taken to your St John Lutheran Church Bridgewater Summary page where you can do the following
 - Summary Tab – add/view donation information; add/edit payment method
 - Profile Tab – change/update your information & password; Log Out Tab – log out

- **By Mobile**

Note: your email and password, once set up, will be the same for either. As the people of God, we are strong, we are compassionate and we are calm in the midst of a storm. We carry on, for we know that neither disease nor fear can shake our resolve to remain faithful. We also remember that, even though we cannot meet together, we can come together in our resolve to continue our mission and our worship. To that end, we will still need to maintain our church building and financial obligations through this time away. Please consider these weeks away when we are able to "pass the plate" again, and, if our hiatus continues for several weeks, please consider mailing your offering to God through the Church. We pray that we will be able to worship together again very soon.



JULY 2021

St. John's Lutheran Church, Bridgewater, Michigan

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <i>Kay Miller</i>	2	3 <i>Kreg Norgaard</i>
4 <i>Worship with Holy Communion, 10030 a.m.</i> <i>Brandon Brown</i>	5	6 <i>Debbie Ellison</i>	7 <i>Teri DeZwaan</i>	8 <i>Kade Blakeney</i>	9 <i>Cassidy Polzin</i>	10 <i>Bette Tucker Jason Tower</i>
11 <i>Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.</i>	12	13 <i>Rachel Weidmayer</i>	14	15	16 <i>Ellie Haist Autumn Studnicka</i>	17 <i>Donna Marion</i>
18 <i>Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00am</i> <i>Christian Korte</i>	19	20 <i>Carolyn Hewitt</i>	21	22	23	24
25 <i>Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.</i>	26 <i>Strategic Planning Council, 7:30</i> <i>Adelyn Lupi</i>	27 <i>Ted Miller</i>	28 <i>Jolee Meagher</i>	29	30 <i>Kerri Blakeney Tracy Young</i>	31

Birthdays listed by dates!



AUGUST 2021

St. John's Lutheran Church, Bridgewater, Michigan

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
1 Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m. <i>Barb Schaible</i>	2	3	4	5	6 Camping weekend→	7 →→→→→→→→→→
8 →→→→→→→ Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m. <i>Olivia Nation</i>	9 <i>Sue Weidmayer</i>	10	11	12 <i>Mary Martha Circle Picnic, 12:30pm</i>	13	14 <i>Patrick DeZwaan Brad Korte Emily Schaible</i>
15 Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m. <i>Brian Renaldi</i>	16 <i>Directory Pictures, 2-8 pm</i> <i>Steve Eversole</i>	17 <i>Directory Pictures, 1-7pm</i>	18 <i>Amanda Clark</i>	19 <i>Carol Wild</i>	20 <i>Wendy Aho Cole Norgaard</i>	21 <i>Raymond Feldkamp</i>
22 Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00am.	23 Strategic Planning Council, 7:30 <i>Kelsey Bohnett</i>	24	25 <i>Erica Drake Brian Myers</i>	26	27	28
29 Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00am.	30	31				

Birthdays listed by date!

