



The Voice



August 2020

Happy Birthday

- 13- Darrell Kiehl
- 19- Marjorie Mutzner
- 26- Darla Paxson-Brumfield
- 31- Lena Stangel

*Maybe when social distancing
is a thing of the past,
we'll hug a little harder,
hold on a little longer,
and remember nothing
matters more than the time
we spend with the
people we love.*

- Lori Deschene



Member Spotlight: Preston King



Preston is going to be an eighth grader at Covington Junior High School this school year. He and his family have been members of St. John's since before he was born. He was Baptized and has taken Communion. In the fall, he will also be

confirmed. His favorite memories of church are Spaghetti Dinners, bowling parties, skating parties, pool parties, Ft. Rowdy, youth lock-ins, and helping with Vacation Bible School.

Outside of church, Preston enjoys Boy Scouts, cross-country, and basketball, and he is looking forward to trying track this year. In his free time, Preston loves reading and outdoor activities like hiking, geocaching, and fishing. In school, Preston is a great student who enjoys learning about science and technology. When he grows up, he doesn't know what he wants to do, but he definitely wants to have a lot of good stories to share.

Preston says that to be a Christian means to believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and that God forgives us of all our sins no matter what because Jesus died on the cross. He also says that he practices his faith by going to church, praying, and being kind to others.

Preston is looking forward to attending the ELCA Youth Gathering, Cedarmania, and future parties. He is also looking forward to his Confirmation. Preston says that what he loves most about our church is that we have nice people, and we have a great coffee hour.

PRAYER LIST

HOSPITALIZED, RECOVERING AT HOME, and OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS

Ann Horman (knee replacement)
 Marian Fenner Jerry Schroeder Uta Schroder
 Matthew Hahn Jim Perry Leon Hollopeter
 Roger Colby Jack Besecker Erica Hollopeter
 Judy Fletcher Sally Griffin Linda Iddings
 Helen Kellar Luella Roeth Kathy Short
 Bill McKibben Harold Roeth Keith Fletcher

IN EXTENDED CARE

Linda Morrow (Cincinnati)
 Barb Besecker (Versailles Health Care Center)

FRIENDS & RELATIVES OF MEMBERS

Paula Hahn (daughter-in-law of Richard & Gloria Hahn)
 Larry & Tracy Laub (friend of Jim Perry)
 Bernice Davis (cousin of Jim Perry)
 Jack McCoy (friend of King family)
 Darlene Wise (friend of Jim Perry)
 Bridget Simon (friend of Jim Perry)
 Howard Chaney (friend of Jim Perry)
 Kathy Bless (friend of Laura Schmidt)
 Mary Brady (friend of Laura Schmidt)
 Shirley Sheffer (friend of Dawn Flory)
 Bob Bruyere (uncle of Charlie Bruyere)
 Owen Gauntt (friend of Dawn Flory)
 Jeff Gowen (friend of Jim Perry)
 Lester Smith (friend of Jim Perry)
 Joel Miller (Connie Adams' brother-in-law)
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Burlieson (friends of Jim Perry)
 Asher Cantrell (grandson of Stephanie Wood)
 Joanne Schmidt (mother of Jim Schmidt)
 Kenton Stacy (grandson of Wanda Stacy)
 Joan Will (cancer-aunt of Laura Schmidt)
 Michael Laub & Family (friends of Jim Perry)
 Toni Riley (friend of Mindy Gearhardt)
 Gary Holfinger (son of Opal Holfinger)



FAMILY & FRIENDS IN THE ARMED FORCES

Faith King- Army- Bravo 1-134th Field Artillery, Piqua, OH
 (niece of Brooks and Briana King)
 Fletcher Metz- Army- Fort Benning, Georgia
 Brandon Moyer – Navy, Pyndell AFB, Florida
 Jon Osterman- Army
 Cory Purvis- Army, Alaska (Pattie Perry's grandson)
 LT Mary Strade- USS Bainbridge- deployed (sister of Laura Schmidt)
 Jerrid Stangel- Army
 Tristin Stangel- Marines, Keesler AFB, Mississippi

SCRIPTURE

Sunday, August 2, 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 (16)
Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 9, 2020

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13 (8)
Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15
Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16, 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm: Psalm 67 (3)
Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Gospel: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Sunday, August 23, 2020

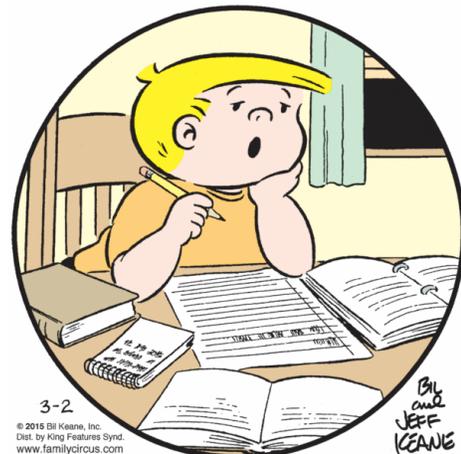
First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm: Psalm 138 (8)
Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30, 2020

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm: Psalm 26:1-8 (3)
Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21
Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

“We must not allow the clock and the calendar to blind us to the fact that each moment of life is a miracle and mystery.”

-H. G. Wells



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“How will I ever learn history when every day the world keeps makin' more?”



Dear friends in Christ,

When we normally approach August, thoughts turn to the start of a new school year and all the fall sports. In the Church, we think in terms of fall programs such as Sunday school, catechism, youth events, adult fellowship, etc. Yet, this year nothing is certain. For example, IF things stay consistent concerning the virus, we plan to have Sunday school, catechism, and choir starting in September. It's a big IF though! We will continue to do those things which keep everyone safe as possible.

Along these lines, I would encourage you to join with me as we pray for all involved in decisions about school opening. Primarily, we think of the decisions that parents make for their children and the teachers who spend hours with the students. We must also pray for administrators and all of the support staff who interact with students and other staff. I pray for God's wisdom. I pray for healing. I pray for compassion, and I pray for understanding for those who take a different path.

There seems to be a growing discord among people on different sides of the education of our children. It may be an overly simplistic view, but it seems to come down to masks or no masks and open or remote learning. Folks take sides; things get heated and nasty, and, once again, the evil one has entered into our human experience causing conflict and chaos.

Yet, here at St. John's, I do not see that. We have so many members who are or have been involved in education at some level or another. When listening, I hear concern for students and their wellbeing and future. I hear parents thankful for the educators involved in their children's lives. I see people dedicated to understanding and supporting one another. Continue to be that witness, an example of how we are to live as people of God in these difficult days.

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and glorify our Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:16

God bless and keep you.
Pastor Jon



The **Covington Outreach Association** annual Back2School program will kick off Sunday, August 2nd. The bookbag tags will be on the table beside the offering plate. Tax free days in Ohio for school supplies is August 7th, 8th, and 9th. Bookbags with supplies and ID tag need to be back to church on Sunday, August 16th. Distribution of bags to families will be Tuesday, August 18th. Monetary donations are always welcome. Make checks payable to COA with B2S (Back to School) on the memo line.



ELCA Unveils New Design for Future of the Church

7/22/2020 10:05:00 AM

CHICAGO — This week, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) unveiled a new, innovative design for the future of the church that will ensure the answering of God's call to invite more into the way of Jesus. This design will focus on attracting young, diverse people to position the ELCA for the future.



"The world has changed but the message of the gospel has not," said the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop. "What needs to change is the way the church engages the world to invite more people into the way of Jesus – the way of love, grace and justice. This new design positions the ELCA to accomplish this mission."

The ELCA is one church body organized in three expressions – congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. In this new design, these three interdependent expressions will work holistically to bring the gospel to the world. Staff from the churchwide organization will be aligned around the design for the launch in early 2021.

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8048>

Youth!

After much prayer and consideration, the ELCA leadership have decided to postpone next summer's ELCA Youth Gathering to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis. We look forward to seeing you and experiencing the boundlessness of God in Minneapolis in 2022!

POSTPONED: St. John's annual Pool Party. Stay tuned for a One Call as well as church announcements for a new date.



Let's show Fletcher some support and encouragement! Send him a note, but please no food, candy, newspapers, magazines, or electronic devices. They are very strict about this.

PV2 Fletcher Metz
D Troop, 6950 Old Cusseta Highway BLDG 4225
2nd Platoon
Fort Benning, GA 31905

St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
July 8, 2020

Present: Pastor Jon Schrieber, David Larson, Mindy Gearhardt, Kevin Marten, Derrek Shively, Katilyn Flory, Holly Turner, Scott Gephart, Brandy Hahn, Chad Reese

1. Devotions – Devotions were led by Pastor Jon.
2. Pastor's Report – David moved to accept Pastor's report, seconded by Derrek. Motion carried.
3. Financial Report – This month we are showing an above average income, and that is due to some members giving online every few months. Mindy moves to accept the financial report, seconded by Brandy. Motion carried.
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Property – Scott and Rick met at the Eagle's Nest, and the following repairs will be taking place: storm doors will be replaced. Because they are a special

width, it is an extra charge. The window air conditioner unit that is in the pastor's office was not tilted correctly and therefore moisture got in and some of the wood work was damaged. Rick is going to refinish the wood. The office carpet will be replaced with a commercial grade carpet so that a chair will be able to roll around. A new executive desk will be purchased. The plexiglass on the signboard in front of the church is starting to get foggy and will be replaced by Hemm's Glass.

- b. Finance – Dave will give a reminder on how to give online on Sunday.
 - c. Youth & Education – Pool Party will be held at Jim Larson's pool on July 19th after church.
5. Old Business
- a. Call Update – The committee had another interview and will be bringing the candidate back for a second interview.
 - b. Facebook Live Services – Dave and Rick will continue to look into a more permanent recording of our church services.
 - c. Returning to Live Worship – Council will continue to monitor the governor's and synod's guidelines for safety and will continue to review our guidelines that have been set. As of right now, no new guidelines will be in place.
6. New Business
- a. Communion + Prepackaged Elements – We will continue to have the prepacked elements for the August communion.
 - b. Church Printer – Stephanie's printer is currently not working and after troubleshooting still has not been able to get it to work. Mindy moved to have Stephanie purchase a printer under the amount of \$300 taken out of the Felder Any Fund, seconded by Derrek. Motion carried.
 - c. Resuming Sunday School – Council feels that we will be able to resume Sunday School after Labor Day. Room assignments will be moved around to accommodate proper distancing.
 - d. Organ – Pastor Jon has noticed some of the notes from the organ are out of tune and would like to contact the Lima Pipe Organ Company. Council has agreed for him to make contact with the company and to contact Rick to see when it was last tuned.
7. Adjournment – Holly moves to adjourn, seconded by Mindy. Motion carried. Council adjourned by saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Holly Turner