

St. John's
Evangelical
Lutheran Church

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Tidings

June, 2010 Volume 64, Issue 6

“The heart of Christ...in the heart of the City.”

from the desk of Pastor Skip

I have been thinking a lot lately about our ministry of listening. This is our first service that we owe to each other in the fellowship we share. *We listen to each other.* Just as love of God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to their words. It is God's love for us that He not only gives us His Word but also lends us His ear. So it is God's work that we do for our brother and sister when we learn to listen to them. I must confess, I often think it my duty spiritually to contribute something to every conversation when I'm in the company of my sheep. I suffer from the illusion that you expect that of me. Sometimes I forget that one service you expect that I must render is listening. It can become a greater service than speaking.

Most of us wonder through life seeking to be understood. That results in always looking for somebody else's ear. We are a whole lot better at seeking to be understood than we are at seeking to understand - talking rather than listening. I'm as guilty of that as anyone. He who can no longer listen to his brother or sister in Christ will soon be no longer listening to God, either. This is the beginning of spiritual death. For a Pastor, that means all that's left is clerical condescension arrayed in pious words. Anyone who can not listen long and patiently to others will soon not be conversing with anyone. Those who think they have no time for unprofitable, unproductive listening will soon experience no time for God in their lives.

Our pastoral care of each other consists of passionately proclaiming the Gospel coupled with the obligation to listen. Realistically, unless I listen first, I'll never know the needs I have been sent to meet in another when God has called me into fellowship with them. We all have experienced the kind of listening with half an ear that presumes already to know what the other person is trying to say. It is an impatient, inattentive listening that is only listening for an opportunity to interrupt. This is no ministry. The greatest service of listening that God has invested in our fellowship is that done hearing our brother's or sister's confession. Consider this mine if you have ever thought I wasn't listening to you. It is little wonder that we are no longer capable of assuring others of the forgiveness of Christ if we refuse to listen to our brother's or sister's lesser concerns. We Christians must never lose touch with this ministry of listening committed to us by our Great Listener. We must listen with the ears of God that we may speak the Word of God. The most sacred gift I can give to another is my undivided attention.

In Our Prayers

Please pray for the following members and friends and family of the congregation:

Aaron Baker Sr.
Aggie Behrens
Alfred & Rosie Saenz
Alison Donatucci
Anslemo Martinez
Ardene Wuthrich
Blake Tondre & Family
Brenda Buell
Cameron Saenz
Carol Baker
Cora Ottmers
Daniel Wood
Edgar Stahl
Elaine Kourt
Ella May Wolff
Elton Boehme
Faye Clauss
Gail Folk
Gladys Garrett
Heather Barta
Heather Taraskiewicz
Henry Grun
Hope Garcia
John Perez
Judi Bullington
Julia Chatwell
Julie Wedel
Karl Nentwich
Lillian Bourgeois
Linda Ruger
Lisa Giusti
Louis Vance
Mark Rech
Megan Wilford
Micaila Larson
Michael Helms
Michael Larson
Nick Doize
Ottie Neitzke
Ralph Evans
Robert Hengel
Wesley Wolfshohl
Zachary Teegardin

Family & Friends

James "Jim" Heady
William Allen Spreen

 **THANK you!**

Thank you for these gifts received in memory or honor of someone during the month of April, 2010:

To the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Thomas Chavana by
Louis & Mary Ann Spreen
Karen Olson by
James & Linda Drury;
Ruby Wehmeyer
Kenneth Weaver by
Betty S. Boldt; Genie Hurta;
Ruby Wehmeyer
Elnora Zunker by Bill Brewer;
Gary & Dona Walston; Ruby
Wehmeyer

Congratulations Confirmands 2010

Margaret Monier Saathoff

Caroline Carolus Saathoff

Susannah Stewart Saathoff

Joshua Samuel Kopecky

HELP WANTED

Triumphant Lutheran Church in Garden Ridge is looking for an energetic and enthusiastic person to serve as full-time Youth Director. Duties include leading, coordinating, planning and promoting the youth activities of this congregation for grades K-12. Contact Pastor Bill Irons at 210-651-9090 or
pastor@triumphantlutheran.org.

Prayers for our Troops

Bob Recio
Dan Leingang
Dennis Kruse
Eric Oglesbee
Jared Raymond
Matthew Helms
Micah Jenkins

 **THANK you!**

Victor:

What a delight to be able to present our season finale at St. John's! Your warm hospitality made our time there very comfortable. We hope to sing at your lovely venue again!

Thank you,
Ruth &
The Women of Voci di Sorelle

Birth Announcements

Congratulations

Debbie Garcia's cousin had her baby.

Emily Lair was born Friday, April 2, 2010. She weighed 7 lbs 11 oz and was 19 1/2 inches long. Proud parents are Chris and Alicia Lair, brothers Brett and Dylan Lair, grandparents Roger and Jeanette Land and great grandmother Pearl Land.

Congratulations to Russell and Elizabeth (Iredale) Walker on the birth of their daughter Sydney Elise. Sydney was born Tuesday, April 27, 2010. She weighed 8 lbs 5 oz and was 20 1/2 inches long. Proud big brother is Barrett Walker, grandparents Lee and Karen Iredale, great grandparents Stanley and Irma Schmidt, aunts and uncle are Kristi Small and Kati and Alan Johanningmeier and great aunt and uncle Belinda and Ron Schmidt.



BAPTISM

Congratulations to Steven and Kathrine Tondre on the baptism of their son, Blake Allen, on May 9, 2010.

Congratulations to Rebekah Dome Lang on her birthday on May 18, 2010. She was inadvertently left off the birthday list for May.

CONGRATULATIONS *June Birthdays*

- June 1 Julia Chatwell
Stephen Schenk
Lee Moore
- 2 Rosemary Petry
- 3 Emily Mae Schenk
Arlene Schirmer
- 4 Tricia Wolff
June Airheart
Shawn Peavler
Margaret Bendele
- 6 Ronald H. Krueger
- 7 Patricia Lang
Carol Detwiler
Theodoro Brigodo Lopez
- 8 Alton Otto Schulze
Kristina Davidson
- 9 Karen Koehler
Andrea Land
- 10 Agnes Behrens
Nikolas Rosen, Jr.
- 11 Viola Kolmeier
- 12 Dan Robison
- 13 Joshua Kopecky

CONGRATULATIONS *June Birthdays*

Continued

- 14 Alan Ostrau
Courtney Kramme
- 15 Lillian Marie Levis
John C. Powell
Riley Marie Wudel
- 16 Bethany Webb Corley
- 17 Margaret D. Braulick
Kitty Page
Ryan P. Burk
John Ray Stapleton
- 19 Betty J. Boenisch
- 20 Donald K. Reynolds
Glenn R. Michalek
Melvina Turner
- 21 Lucile Dammann
Kathy Mellenbruch
Pamela Garteiser
Jonathan Villanueva
Nathan Teegardin
- 22 Vanessa Burk
- 23 Alexandra Berry
Ryan Hudel
- 24 Samantha Villanueva
Brook Elizabeth Burk
- 25 Jeromy Kniker
Joseph Wilson
- 26 Christina Zelenak
- 27 Amanda Lee Jackson
- 28 Hilda Simmons
Curtis R. Franz
Desirea Gonzalez
Jonathan Riemenschneider
- 29 Carolyn DeJavanne
Sarah Cooper
Alex B. Cauble
- 30 Julie Shadrock
Nicolas Gomez

ANNOUNCING!

Jonathan Sulaica graduates from Three Rivers High School as Salutatorian. He will be attending Texas A & M Kingsville, majoring in GO Science.

Elisabeth Sulaica was awarded the Gathright Scholar Award at Parents Weekend All University Awards Ceremony at Texas A & M, College Station. The selection criteria calls for nomination of outstanding students by the Dean of their respective college. The prospective nominee shall be that he or she has the highest overall grade point ratio within his or her college. Elisabeth's major is Pharmacy. Jonathan and Elisabeth are children of Pastor Norm & Laura Sulaica of Three Rivers. Proud Grandparents are Ted & Dorothy Bowles

Casey Passant, grandson of Irma and Stanley Schmidt, is working on his Masters degree in Actuary Science at the University of Texas San Antonio. He is president of the Statistics Club on Campus. He also works as a teaching assistant. Casey has been inducted into two Honor Fraternities; Alpha Chi, a scholastic Fraternity and Omicron Delta Kappa, a Leadership Fraternity. We are very proud of Casey.

Congratulations to Jonathan Riemenschneider for accomplishments and awards received. Jonathan recently participated in and completed the National Leadership Challenge at North George College & State University. As part of the Awards and Recognition Ceremony for East Central High School JROTC, Jonathan received the following awards:

- Senior Army Instructor Award
- Cadet Challenge Superior Performance Award
- Best Company Award
- Superior Cadet Medal

Jonathan was also named Battalion Commander, JROTC, for the 2010-2011 school year. Congratulations, Jonathan!!!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN'S

Vacation Bible School will be held on Sundays in June and July at 11 a.m. during the Christian Education hour in the loft. The theme is "Baobob Blast"

God's Great Get-Together! One of the world's oldest life forms, Baobab (bä'obab') is a gigantic tree found in Africa that creates its own ecosystem. A baobab tree's hollowed-out trunk, leaves, foliage, nectar, fruit, and bark provide basic life needs for many different creatures. The enormous tree can grow to 98 feet tall and 36 feet wide. The baobab tree serves as a meeting place for many people to gather, discuss, and share stories.

Set under the impressive baobab tree, kids will have the opportunity to hear the Word, be amazed at God's wildlife creations, and be a part of a supportive community. Activities will include music, storytelling, crafts, and science. A trip to the San Antonio Zoo is being planned on June 13 in conjunction with the Vacation Bible School program. This will be a great experience for your kids as you gather together as a community and grow in faith. Recommended ages to participate in VBS is preschool through 3rd grade. 4th through 6th grade and Luther League age students are welcome to participate as Bible School helpers and Christian life mentors. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sam or Nina Mendez at 541-8596.

CELEBRATE GOD'S GLORIOUS CREATIONS

On **June 13, 2010** the children of **St. John's** will be exploring the **San Antonio Zoo** together to study God's creations. Parents are also invited. We will leave the church at 9:30 a.m. and return by 12:00 noon in the church bus. Please let either Irene (223-2611) or June (225-2392) know if your children will be joining us. Permission slips will be available on June 13, 2010.

I graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio MAY 2010 with a BA in Education and a Minor in Sociology. I am 42 years old and have finally graduated from college. Because I worked so hard and my last and hardest semester (Spring 2010) was during the time of my Dad's illness and death, I still finished out the semester and received a 3.25 GPA. I know my Dad is in Heaven and is proud of my accomplishments too!!! I plan on getting my LCDC, which stands for Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor and go into my graduate work in counseling. Thanks to Pastor Skip and St. John's for all the support to my family during the most difficult time in our lives; during my Dad's illness and death. Thanks again!!!!
Deborah S. (Weaver) Johnson

**The Tradition Continues
We Honor Karen Olson
Her life, her ministry, her Legacy
The Baptismal Banner**

You may have noticed the Baptismal Banner at the last few baptisms. One of our faithful members, Karen Olson, who recently went to be with our Lord, brought this idea to St. John's when she joined about four years ago. The last year of Karen's life, she was unable to make the baptismal banners. A few of the ladies from WELCA/Quilting Group along with Carole Cauble decided to resurrect this wonderful tradition in memory of Karen. Carole is in the process of making a banner for each of the children who were baptized this past year. If your child was baptized in the past year, please drop a note in the offering plate or call the church office. Carole and several other ladies in the Quilting Group will be making future baptismal banners for the children who are baptized at St. John's.

2010 Assembly Election Results

Sam Mendez has been chosen to be a delegate from our Synod to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly August 14 - 20, 2011 in Orlando, Florida.

Jon Moline has been selected to serve a six year term on the Synod Consultation Committee.

Pastor Skip Courter has been elected as Chair Commission for Professional Leadership. This is one of four Commissions in our Synod.

Our Christian Mission Statements

St. John's Church
"Forming Faithfulness to the love of God
...in traditional worship,
...through enlivened discipleship
...with service and honor to all."

St. John's Day School
"As a ministry of the congregation,
St. John's Lutheran Day School
provides a safe, nurturing Christ-centered
environment for young children."

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Thanks to the efforts of Pastor Steve Lunning, Director Jen Bauer, and Professor SueAnn Pemberton (Haugh), our San Antonio Lutheran Campus Ministry is coming alive here at St John's in a ministry to students at our UTSA Downtown Campus. For the past several weeks, we have hosted a good number of students at our "Wednesday Church" dinners. These students are a delight and I hope all of you have a chance to meet and get to know them.

The blessing to us is that they are not coming empty handed. They are all architecture students and very involved in our community. Soon you will see a display related to a hunger project they are involved with through the San Antonio Food Bank. They are designing and will build a structure at North Star Mall in the fall of this year made completely out of canned food item (later donated to the food bank.) They will be in competition with other organizations. We at St. John's can help our students by sponsoring them with our donated canned goods or making a monetary contribution. Just drop them in the box next to the display when it becomes available. Our Social Ministry Committee has approved this effort and from now until September all canned goods collected here will be donated to our student's effort. After September, we will resume our collections for CAM. Let's all chip in this effort in support of our students and their new ministry among us.

They are also involved in "Freedom by Design, a non-profit organization run by Audra Biediger, one of our students attending the "Wednesday Church" events. As an architecture student at UTSA, she leads "Freedom by Design, which is an organization of students helping low-income elderly and disabled people or families that have trouble moving in, around, and out of their home. They are currently working on a design for a ramp to be installed by them on Saturday May 15th in the downtown area. The good news is that this organization is asking if there are those here at St. John's that might need their help in similar projects at their home. They are eager to assist our members. See Pastor Skip if you have such a need.

Thanks to all of St. John's for their wonderful support of Lutheran Campus Ministry and Director Jen Bauer. Jen, Mike, and Hannah Grace (baptized here on February 22) are members of the faith community here at St. John's. Remember, "God's work, our hands."

Congratulations Graduates

Steven Baker - La Vernia High School - grandson of Cora Ottmers

Henry Gaither Grun III - Alamo Heights High School

Kayla Dianne Reynolds - Bandera High School - granddaughter of Lucienne & Karl Traeger

Nikkolas Thompson - Roosevelt High School

Caitlin N. Jandt - Pleasanton High School - granddaughter of Robert & Carole Cauble

Levi Jenkins - Winston School - brother of Debbie Garcia and grandson of Pearl Land

Kathrine Tondre - Masters in Management from the University of Phoenix

Deborah S. Johnson - BA in Education and a Minor in Sociology from the University of Texas at San Antonio

Come, Let Us Worship Together on June 13 at 7:30 PM

The South Texas Chapter of Lutherans Concerned/North America will sponsor a second worship service celebrating the faithfulness of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 13 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in San Antonio. The Rev. Magdalene Holm-Roesler will preach, special music will be provided by members of Christ Lutheran Church. The offering received at the service will be designated for ELCA mission support and the ELCA campus ministries at Texas State University and The University of Texas at Austin.

The service will celebrate decisions made at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August 2009. The assembly directed changes to ministry policies, creating the possibility for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders in the ELCA.

Lutherans Concerned/North America works for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church and congregations.

Good Shepherd is located at 1630 Goliad Road in San Antonio. Members of St. John's are most welcome to join us in this special worship service. Several St. John's members will assist with a reception following the service.

Barbara Neller-moe



A Small but Productive Cemetery Cleanup Crew!

Saturday May 1 was a busy day and our turnout was small but no less enthusiastic and productive than on past workdays! Most of the morning was cloudy and it did not warm up until close to quitting time. The cemetery was green and recently mowed. Still, there were the usual limbs to be trimmed and picked up, shrubs to be pruned, including some freeze damage, and faded flowers and debris to be collected. Fred Pfeiffer was on light duty and spent the morning continuing Madeline Weaver's photography project. He photographed over 150 headstones! Robert Hartman and W.C. Spenn did the heavy lifting and I did the lighter lifting. We were amazed at the debris piles that we collected. When we finished and the trimmings were collected the following Monday, the cemetery was in good order for Mothers' Day. We have tentatively scheduled the fall workday for Saturday, October 30. Pencil that in and we'll finalize the date after we check for any major conflicts (church trips, marathons and other events that diminish turnout). Remember to always consider donations to the cemetery trust fund in honor of friends and family members, and be sure to visit St. John's website to see the often updated cemetery data base.

Maria Pfeiffer
Cemetery Task Force Chairman

PUBLICATION DEADLINE

Information for the next newsletter must be submitted (preferably by email) by **Friday, June 11, 2010**.

Information for the weekend bulletins and announcements are due by **Tuesday afternoon** each week.

Submit to: Mary Boehme in the church office:
(ph.) 223-2611 x 200, (fax) 223-5667, (email)
mboehme@stjohnsroosterchurch.org.

<p>Annual Budget Request for 2011 for committees and organizations are due in the church office by JUNE 28, 2010.</p>

Restoration Project

March 31, 2010

Total Restoration Cost		1418372.71
Funds Received to Date		1314751.37
Funds on Hand		3260.66
Balance Due to Endowment Fund		106882.00
Original Loan from Endowment Fund	538616.99	
Amount Paid Back	431734.99	
Balance Due	106882.00	
Amount paid Back (Does not include Interest)		
First Quarter 2010	2700.00	
Second Quarter - 2010		
Third Quarter - 2010		
Fourth Quarter - 2010		
Total amount paid in 2010	2700.00	
Balance of Restoration Pledges	15521.50	

Tidings - Quarterly - Members Benevolence - Other

Donation by members for special benevolence from Jan. 1, 2010 - March 31, 2010

ELCA World Hunger	550.00
LWR - Haiti	300.00
Total	850.00

Average Weekly Attendance & Commitment Offering

1st Quarter				
Year of 2009	168	attendance	5475.53	commitment offering
Year of 2010	152.15	attendance	5886.72	commitment offering

**OFFERINGS
AS OF MARCH, 2010**

General Fund Income	Current Month	Year to Date
Weekly Commitment	23129.50	76567.37
Parking Lots	29308.47	65920.72
Cemetery Operating	175.00	275.00
Other Income	3839.25	12433.09
Income Transfer from Endowment Fund (designated for General & Cemetery Operations)	1025.79	2895.37
 Total General Fund Income	 57478.01	 158091.55
 Expenses		
Salaries, Benevolence, General & Committee Expenses	57326.29	171473.21
 General Fund - Net Gain or (loss (-))	 151.72	 -13381.66
 Restricted Funds		
Restricted Income	9149.27	19116.59
Restricted Expenses	1866.66	6017.13
 Restricted Fund - Net Gain or (loss (-))	 7282.61	 13099.46

Notes:

	Budget	Amount Paid	Balance
Benevolence			
SW Texas Synod	20000	5000.06	14999.94
TLU-Congregational Aid	650		650
TLU -General	1350		1350
CAM	1500	1500	0
SAMM	1000		1000
CSS	1000		1000
Z-Place	500		500
Synod Assembly Special Offering	1500		1500
SA Conference	500		500
Cross Trails Ministries	300	300	0
Lutheran Campus Ministries	1000	1000	0
LSS	250	250	0
Lutheran Vespers	250	250	0
SA Community - Churches	250	250	0
Pastoral Discretionary	250		250
Council Discretionary	4700		4700
Total Benevolence	35000	8550.06	26449.94
 Capital Reserve	 25200	 6300	 18900
 Money set aside for property taxes		4800	

**OFFERINGS
AS OF APRIL, 2010**

General Fund		
Income	Current Month	Year to Date
Weekly Commitment	25474.00	102041.37
Parking Lots	34195.67	100116.39
Cemetery Operating		275.00
Other Income	6141.17	18574.26
Income Transfer from Endowment Fund (designated for General & Cemetery Operations)	978.48	3873.85
Total General Fund Income	66789.32	224880.87
Expenses		
Salaries, Benevolence, General & Committee Expenses	60058.53	231531.74
General Fund - Net Gain or (loss (-))	6730.79	-6650.87
Restricted Funds		
Restricted Income	24542.23	43658.82
Restricted Expenses	9044.17	15061.30
Restricted Fund - Net Gain or (loss (-))	15498.06	28597.52

Notes:

	Budget	Amount Paid	Balance
Benevolence			
SW Texas Synod	20000	6666.72	13333.28
TLU-Congregational Aid	650		650
TLU -General	1350		1350
CAM	1500	1500	0
SAMM	1000	1000	0
CSS	1000		1000
Z-Place	500		500
Synod Assembly Special Offering	1500	1500	0
SA Conference	500	500	0
Cross Trails Ministries	300	300	0
Lutheran Campus Ministries	1000	1000	0
LSS	250	250	0
Lutheran Vespers	250	0	250
SA Community - Churches	250	250	0
Pastoral Discretionary	250		250
Council Discretionary	4700		4700
Total Benevolence	35000	12966.72	22033.28
Capital Reserve	25200	8400	16800
Money set aside for property taxes		5400	

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502 East Nueva Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Postage paid in San Antonio, Texas
Periodical



**STJOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND DAY SCHOOL**

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Sunday Worship Time

9:15AM - Pre-Worship Preparation

9:30 AM - Worship

10:30 AM - Fellowship in Memorial Hall

Christian Education Classes

11:00 AM