

THE GIFT

**A CHRISTIAN PUBLICATION
BY ST. JOHN LUTHERAN**

JUNE 2007

Memorial Day is behind us, for some reason we are worshipping earlier, and just this evening I saw the very first fireflies of the year. Summer is most certainly here. As a person who has lived most of his life in a part of the country that does not really have seasons (much less fireflies) outside of fall and summer, watching the seasons change brings a constant sense of awe and amazement.

Along with the change of seasons come a variety of other changes – we partake in different activities, we wear different clothes, and some people even have changes in mood. In many churches, the change that happens in the summer is sort of a summer vacation. Sunday school comes to an end, adult education is put on hold, families leave for much needed summer vacations, giving drops off, and even many committees and ministries are put on hold until advent.

While certainly there are appropriate changes in the church (as well as the rest of life) that go along with the seasons, I hope that a distinct drop in activity is not one of them. And I don't think that this summer will be one of those summers where things slow down at the church.

This summer I have an 8-week adult education series planned, it is a set of topical, individual sessions, where each week is distinct from the others so that folks can come as time and interest allows. I know that folks have a variety of obligations through the summer, so my hope is that even if someone can't come to all 8 sessions, they can come to the ones that interest them and not feel like they are behind if they have not been present the week, or weeks, before. Keep your eye on the bulletin for a list of upcoming topics and times.

We are also going to try to kick-start a new Jr. / Sr. high youth group. This is still in the planning stages, but our hope is to put together a group that will be beneficial to both the young adults in the congregation and to the larger community as well. I remain very hopeful about this.

Of course no conversation about the summer activities would be complete without a conversation about the sesquicentennial calibration! The sesquicentennial committee has planned quite a bash for the 15th of July. Worship in the morning, followed by musical entertainment for adults, games for the kids, a tasty afternoon meal, drawings, displays, and even visits from former pastors. No doubt it will be a great time for all.

And that is not all – while VBS is still uncertain at this time, tiki torches are back (check your calendar) and there might be a few other nice surprises for us yet this summer as well.

All in all, this summer is certainly going to be a season where some new things happen, but I don't expect it to be a season where the church goes on hiatus for a few months – and you shouldn't either.

Yours in Christ – Pastor Anderson

WORDS OF THANKS....

Special thanks to all of the children who sang during the church service on Sunday, May 20th. It was great to hear you!

Kathy Guenzler

A very belated thank you to the church council for agreeing to purchase my music books for the church services. Now I don't have to carry them back and forth! It really was appreciated!

Kathy Guenzler

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, phone calls, and food brought in when I had my knee surgery.

Donna Wurster

VAN-TASTIC, INDEED!

Give yourselves a pat on the back, everyone! St. John contributed \$1654.00 from Lenten offerings toward Pastor Hansen's van.

CROSSING THE FINISH LINE....

St. John was once again present in the community on Saturday, May 19th as 27 members volunteered to grill and serve the lunch to over 1400 athletes and guests at Galena Recreational Park for the annual Triathlon/Duathlon. Those who volunteered were:

Rene, Carl, Laura, and Jessie Albrecht
Brenda and Kyle Baltierra
Joan Beyer
Charlotte and Marvin Blackbourn
Connie and Michael Carroll
Joe Dvorak
Kathy Guenzler
Marilee Hejna
Eileen and Ron Hughes

Tyler Huttenlocher
Janice and Calvin Klopff
Carol and Jim Krohmer
Minnie Lieb
Helen Muto
Cindy Paisley
Cass and Bill Thompson
Merideth Townsend

The Galena Convention Bureau will be giving a check to our church for \$1,000.00 as a "thank you" for the volunteered hours.

Wasn't it awesome to see people so physically fit, especially Massbach's own Peggy Harmston? Congrats, Peggy!

Thanks again, Volunteers!
Charlotte and Marvin Blackbourn, Co-chairs

THANKS, DAD!

A father's description of how to diaper a baby:

Spread the diaper in the position of the diamond with you at bat. Then, fold second base down to home and set the baby on the pitcher's mound. Put first base and third together. Bring up home plate and pin the three together. Of course, in case of rain, you gotta call the game and start all over again!

"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society" - Billy Graham, Christian Evangelist

WELCOME, SARAH!

On Sunday, May 27th, Sarah Alexander was baptized here at St. John Lutheran with Sandy Anderson as her sponsor. We welcome you into the Lord's family and look forward to worshipping with you!

UP -N- AT 'EM!

Just a reminder about summer service hours, as church will begin at 9:00 AM starting June 3rd. No Sunday School for the summer!

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE....

Congratulations to the following individuals for their recent graduations!

College – David Albrecht

High School – Jacob Guenzler and Jessica Workinger

Eighth Grade – Jessie Albrecht, Kyle Baltierra, Michael Carroll, Jacob Eden, Ashley Randecker, and Ryan Randecker

HURRY UP AND GET YOUR SHOTS!

FHN cordially invites everyone to a Retirement Party for Charlotte Blackburn on Friday, June 15th from 4-6 PM.

Charlotte has served the community as a practicing Registered Nurse for the past 42 years. Please come to the JoDaviess Medical Office in Stockton to honor her many years of service and extend many well wishes!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Warren Parker, Allison Hillen, Allen Wurster, Jim Krohmer, Lucille Groezinger, Donna Wurster, Dennis Ulicny, Robert Hickman, Donna DeMoss, Bailey McMannus, Cletus Eden, Robert and Jeanette Yeager, John Haas, Warren Dailey, Joan Bonvillain, Raymond Steffes, David Knauer, Marlow Townsend, Dan Koester, and the men and women serving in the world's armed forces

ONE OR TWO SCOOPS?

Mark your calendar for the annual Ice Cream Social, which will be held here at St. John on Thursday, June 21st from 4-8 PM. There are many ways in which you can be of help, starting with a sign-up sheet in the entryway! Hosting the ice cream social is a huge endeavor requiring many people to help make it a success. Please see Minnie for details. See you all at the ice cream social!

WE SALUTE YOU, GREG!

“What do you hear from Greg?” Many of you have asked that question during the past year. We can report he is doing well. He was home in El Paso, TX for two weeks for his R&R. He spent most of his time with his bride, Kate. His arrival at Dallas Airport was quite momentous. As the plane stopped, fire trucks pulled up on both sides of the plane and started spraying water on the plane. The pilot came on the intercom and said that was the fireman’s salute to the soldiers on board. When they disembarked from the plane, they were told to go down the concourse, where they would be leaving on their individual flights and to just look for a crowd of people. Seeing no one, they went through a set of doors to find themselves in the midst of a cheering crowd. People came up, shook their hands, and patted them on the back, wishing them well. Greg thought that was pretty amazing! Greg is now back in Iraq somewhere near the Turkish border. He still works in the motor pool repairing Humvees. They are also starting to teach the Iraqis how to service their own vehicles. His spare time is spent studying for the Sargeant’s exam and watching DVDs. Greg isn’t very talkative, but he appreciates your support!

Calvin and Janice Klopf

LET THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN!

Our 150th celebration is fast approaching! The committee has been working hard to plan a great day. Following are some ways in which your help would be much appreciated:

- ✓ Picnic Tables and Lawn Chairs: There is a sign-up in the entryway for anyone willing to loan a picnic table or tables and/or lawn chairs for the celebration day. Plan is to have them at the church by Sunday, July 8th so they can be arranged accordingly.
- ✓ Flowers: Anyone with potted flowers is welcome to help adorn the tables and church grounds on the day of the celebration. Bringing them to the church at least by Saturday, July 14th would be greatly appreciated.
- ✓ Commemorative Items: Contact Shirley Scheele at 947-2690 if you have any commemorative items (i.e. books, pictures, old quilts, etc.) you are willing to have displayed during the celebration. They will be protected well and returned in the way they were received!
- ✓ Tickets: Tickets will soon be available to sell in advance. Cost for adults will be \$8.00 at the door and \$7.50 in advance. Children’s tickets will be \$4.50 at the door and \$4.00 in advance with children 3 and under free. Meal will include: BBQ beef or ham sandwich, baked beans, macaroni salad, raw vegetable salad, fresh fruit, bag of chips, cookie, and beverage. See Pam Staver for more details.
- ✓ Don’t forget about our commemorative cookbooks, cups, and crocks for sale! Visit the church entryway to order/purchase items.
- ✓ The committee members would appreciate additional assistance on the day of the event with parking, kids games, serving, taking money, carrying trays, setup/cleanup, etc. so be ready to donate your time and talents where you see fit! Thanks!

