

THE EAGLE NEWSLETTER



August 2011 Eagle ~ V. 471

Do you know what you believe?

And

Do you believe what you know?

This fall, in a variety of ways, we will be wrestling with these two questions. Why, you might ask? I believe they are vital for our personal faith, and for the life and mission of our congregation. Recent surveys have shown that when it comes to their faith many people are not sure of what they believe. One of the major reasons for this confusion begins with the enormous amount of knowledge and facts that we are bombarded with every day. It's just hard to keep any set of beliefs in our heads with all this *stuff* coming at us. So part of what we will be doing this fall is setting out to describe the faith we hold in common, and to do this in ways that will make sense, ways that we can understand, and ways that will excite and inspire us. So watch for more details coming in September.

And once again, as you enjoy the rest of your summer, I hope you will spend time with these two questions.

God's Peace,

PM

Upcoming August Events:

August 1-5: Day Camp & VBS

August 7: Marion Pavlik's Birthday Party

August 15: Church Council

Fall Worship Schedule:

Saturday Worship at 5:00 p.m.

We begin two Sunday Services again on September 11th at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School also begins that day at 10:15 a.m.

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 8am – 4pm through September 1st. We will be closed on Monday, September 5th, for Labor Day and then open Monday-Friday as usual from 8am-4pm.



August 6-7

Theme – ***When All Seems Lost***

Lessons – Key Text: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-18; Psalm 105:1-11; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Prayer of the Day – O Lord release us from the fears and guilts which grip us so tightly; from the expectations and opinions which we so tightly grip, that we may be open to receive what you give so we may risk something genuinely new. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

August 13-14

Theme – ***Look at Me Now!***

Lessons – Key Text - Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 28-32; Matthew 15:21-28

Prayer of the Day – O Lord help us to believe in beginnings, to make a beginning to be a beginning, so that we may not just grow old, but grow new each day of this wild, amazing life you call us to live with the passion of Jesus Christ. Amen!

August 20-21

Theme – **The Transformers Are Here!**
 Lessons – Exodus 1:8-14, 22; Psalm 124;
 Key Text – Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Prayers of the Day – O Lord, reshape us in your wholeness to be healing people. Expand us by your power, life-generating as the sea, to accept and use our power to do something we believe in and be something more of what you mean us to be. In Jesus name. Amen
 Amen.

August 27-28

Theme – **Love or Evil, It's Your Choice**
 Lessons – Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26; Key Text: Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Prayer of the Day – Lord, at times we don't care much about you, and that is the not-so-pretty truth of it. So challenge us to care about love, about being loved, and about loving (or trying to): inspire us to wonder about love, how to do it, and what makes us want to love. Inspire us through Jesus. Amen



VOLUNTEER MINISTERS SCHEDULE
FOR COUNTERS
Month: AUGUST 2011

- 8/7 – Dave & Ryan Dau
- 8/14 – DROP BAG
- 8/21 – (Monday) Pat Hahn, Joanne Banghart
- 8/28 – DROP BAG

DID YOU KNOW...

Our Fellowship Hall is available to rent for your graduation parties, bridal or baby showers, family reunions, etc.?



Members and non-members alike can rent our space (kitchen facilities included) for a very reasonable fee. Call the church office at 586-752-4588 for details!



Meijer Community Rewards for
JUNE 2011 - \$34.90

YTD for 2011: \$161.57

NOTE: Purchases made at meijer.com, Meijer gas stations and convenience stores will now be included (must pay inside gas station.)
Thank you, Shoppers!

Thank you for saving your pop can tabs! This fundraiser is for the purchase of kidney machines. Over 302.5 lbs. have been collected since we began in February 2007!

NEW ADDRESS FOR SERENA STIEVE:

C/O AMERICAN HOUSE ELMWOOD
2251 W. AUBURN APT. 3
ROCHESTER HILLS, MI 48309

Same phone – 248-852-5509

DON'T LET YOUR WORRIES GET THE BEST OF YOU; REMEMBER, MOSES STARTED OUT AS A BASKET CASE.

Church Group – Meets at 12:30pm on the first Wednesday of the month at the church.

Please feel welcome to attend Bible study at any time. For more information, call Martha Kegler at 586-784-5439.



LOVE Day – Meets 9am-3pm on the second Tuesday of the month in the church basement. Contact Leona Thorman at 810-798-8532.

LOVE Day II – Meets 8am - 12pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the church basement. Contact Jan Alling at 586-752-7016.

Women of St. John



Women's Circles Many of you will remember when we had 11 or 12 Bible Study Circles. That was quite some time ago. As of today, we have one - the church group. We are inviting you to join us on the first Wednesday of every month (except July and August). We meet at 12:30pm in the Gathering area. We're fortunate to have Pastor Mark teaching our studies. Our next meeting is on September 7th.

WELCA JULY/AUGUST PROJECT

SCHOOL KITS:

- 70 pg. spiral notebook * Pencils
- 25-30 pg. coloring book * Eraser
- Box of crayons * 4 oz. school glue
- Pencil sharpener * 12" ruler

Blunt Scissors

THANK YOU!

Over 30 women's ministry resources available to you free at www.womenoftheelca.org

NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE RECYCLING

Thank you for the tremendous response with this! In **June** we recycled **4.02 tons** and received **\$73.03**. Landfill space saved – **12.54** cubic yards. Total 2011 Year-to-date: **\$179.76**. Thank you!

LIVE GREEN

PLEASE, NO CARDBOARD or PHONE BOOKS

GREETING CARD UPDATE

1700 cards have been donated since January 2011! Thank you to all who have contributed to the WELCA Card Drive. The cards go to Veteran's hospitals of Michigan.

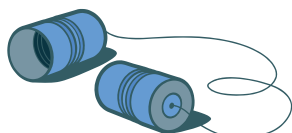
Member Service Directory

Seamstress – Deb Aude 786-9189
E.P. Collision – Bumping, Painting, Glass
752-4452

HIS TABLE

- * Important note: We may need to cancel our help with this project due to lack of participation. Please consider helping just one month a year.
- ♥ Every third Tuesday of the month we will be joining the United Methodist Church in Romeo in serving a free meal to the community. We need three to five volunteers for each service day. The meal is served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at United Methodist. Food can be prepared here and transported to United Methodist or prepared there. All food will be paid for by St. John from our Community Outreach budget. Currently the program is serving 40 meals and 4 to 5 delivered meals to shut ins. There is a sign up sheet in the gathering area if you are interested in participating. Total time invested would be about 5 hours.

♥ **PAYING IT FORWARD** ♥



Spread the Word

Funds from bottles and cans collected in the hallway will now go towards "His Table" (see next page). You may also donate, if you like, with a special envelope marked "His Table".

Thank you!



"What's with all the books?"

USED BOOKS NEEDED

For over 30 years, the Romeo Area AAUW has held a used book sale at the Community Center during the Peach Festival. The proceeds allow us to award \$4,000 in scholarships to local students.

Please donate used books (please, no textbooks), CDs, DVDs, and audio books.

Drop them off here at St. John Mon.-Thurs., 9am-4pm, Sat. 4:30-6pm or Sun. 9-10:30am.

Thank you for supporting our local students!

GUERRILLAS OF GRACE

Small Group Meeting

6:30-8:00pm, St. John is now hosting small group meetings based on "Guerrillas of Grace" by Ted Loder. Each week readings from "Guerrillas" will lead us into a discussion about our individual theologies and faith as it shapes our life together as individuals and the church. I believe that we can no longer let academics, our culture, or politics enforce upon us a faith that rightly belongs to us – transforming us to transform our church and society. Please come and join us in honest dialogue about God, Christ, and the World. Purchasing "Guerrillas of Grace" is not required.

Peace,
Dave Hudson, Licensed Minister,
586-786-1696

➤ **Please note** that there are black cupboards in both the main hallway and also up near the entrance to the sanctuary for Samaritan House Food collection.

AUGUST PANTRY NEEDS FOR SAMARITAN HOUSE

- COOKING OIL * CEREAL * SUGAR
- CANNED FRUIT * COFFEE/TEA
- SPAGHETTI SAUCE * SUGAR
- OATMEAL * MACARONI & CHEESE
- FLOUR * CHILI * BAKED BEANS
- TOMATO PRODUCTS * SHAMPOO
- TOOTHPASTE * TOILET PAPER
- BAR SOAP * DISPOSABLE RAZORS

We always need low-sodium foods and sugar-free foods in our pantry for clients with health problems.

We appreciate any non-perishable food items and toiletries that you can donate. Drop off your food donations during our normal business hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 10-6 and Friday 10 – 4. We are located at: 62324 Van Dyke, Washington, MI 48094, (586) 336-9956.

Our Garden Angels are in need of more large brown lawn bags. If you could pick up a pack or two and drop them off at the church it would be much appreciated. And a great thank you again, to those hard workers who keep our grounds so pretty.

The Romeo Salvation Army store has a deal for you! Each Tuesday through the end of August, if you bring in your church bulletin from the previous Sunday, you will receive 25% off of your purchases. Remember, this offer is only for Tuesdays, until the end of August.

INSTALLATION OF THE REVEREND DONALD KREISS TO THE OFFICE OF BISHOP

Saturday, September 24, 2011

Christ Church, Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills
Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson will officiate.

“Leonie!”

Film Premiere in Novi, August 1st

‘Leonie’, filmed in part here at St. John, is a made-in-Michigan feature film with an all-Michigan cast of 87. It is now complete and a local Premiere will be on August 1, 2011 at the Emagine Theatre in Novi. Tickets for the Premiere will be available on-line only at www.emagine-entertainment.com, then click on ‘Novi’ and order your tickets.

The screening will take place at 7 PM on August 1, however arrivals will start at 5:45 PM and the principal stars of the film will be arriving at the ‘red’ carpet entrance. Vic Faust, co-anchor of Action News on WXYZ-TV, will MC the Premiere.

The feature film depicts a chronic and emotionally-disordered bourgeoisie woman with learning disabilities. She is living in the late 1800s in France and she wreaks havoc with the religious superiors in the monasteries she tries in vain to enter. Her episodes subside after she meets Sister Jeanne Marguerite, played by Paige Pilarski of Romeo. The befriending helps Leonie endure her trials and the roller-coaster-like rites of passage for Christians, officials of the film said.

Mother Dolores Hart calls Leonie! “A totally heartwarming story”. Mother Dolores is a voting member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. “Leonie!” is directed by Joseph Robert Maher from a screenplay he wrote based on the life of Leonie Martin of Alencon, France, sister of St. Therese.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Barbara M. Middleton, Exec. Producer –
586.243.6199
barbaramm@sbcglobal.net

WHERE: Emagine Theater
44425 West 12 Mile Road

More details will be announced

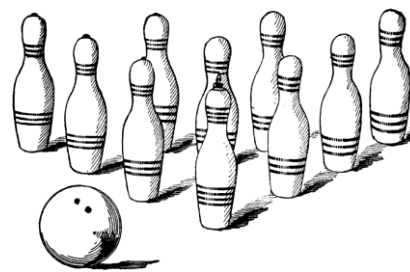
Novi, Michigan 48377

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR BACK-TO SCHOOL DRIVE

Last year, Samaritan House provided backpacks filled with school supplies to 374 area children. We are anticipating the need to be greater this year. Please drop off any donations by **August 20th** so we can fill backpacks and be ready to distribute them to clients on August 27th & 28th. In addition to a filled backpack, each child will receive a \$20 gift certificate for Payless Shoes.

Items Needed:

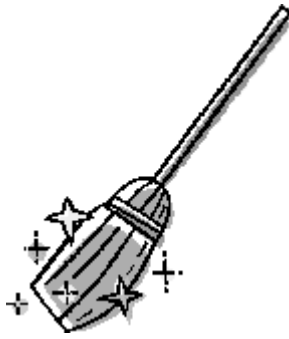
New Backpacks, Spiral Notebooks, Pocket Folders, 1” Binders, Crayons, Wide-Ruled Filler Paper, Children’s Scissors, Erasable Pens, Markers, Colored Pencils, White School Glue, Glue Sticks, Flash Drives, 12” Rulers, Paperback Dictionary, Paperback Thesaurus, Composition Books, Erasers, White Glue, Hand Sanitizer, Highlighter, Pencil Box, Ruled Paper, Pencils, Pens (blue, black & red)
Watercolor Paints
Cash to purchase shoe gift certificates



Join the fun and help feed a family on Saturday, August 13,

2011. 6:30pm at Shelby Lanes enjoy 3 games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and soda for \$20.

Proceeds benefit the Samaritan House.



MAKE CLEANING REWARDING

For many older and disabled adults who are struggling to remain in their own homes, simple tasks that we take for granted like dusting and vacuuming can become next to impossible. Not only can a cluttered or dirty house be uncomfortable, but it can become a real health and safety hazard.

The Macomb County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program provides supportive services such as these to neighbors in our community who cannot afford to pay for professional help and do not have family available locally to assist them.

If you have a couple hours once or twice a month that you can offer to provide some light housekeeping for a struggling neighbor, you can make a real difference in someone's life - and gain immeasurable rewards in the process! We will schedule around your other commitments. For more details, please call (586) 757-5551

Registration form available in church office.



TAKE ONE

Please take one of the Stephen Ministry bookmarks from the pew card holder.

Use it as:

- * A great bookmark
- * Give it to a friend having a hard time – no words needed
- * Reminder that Stephen Ministers are available not just to St. John members
- * Reminder that this ministry survives by confidentiality
- * Think about becoming a Stephen Minister

St. John Lutheran will be training another class of **Stephen Ministers** this fall.

Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time. If

God gave you the gifts for caring, encouragement and listening, please begin to prayerfully consider whether you might want to be part of this exciting ministry. If you think you might be interested, or just have questions, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders (Jan Alling, Jan Gallagher, Bob or Jan Gallardo, Jerry Foor), Pastor Mark or call the church office..



**St. John Lutheran Church
June 2011 Finance Report**

General Fund: Jan. 1 to December 31, 2011

Total Contributions and Other Income:	\$	15,131
Expenses Paid in June	\$	(18,570)
Surplus(Shortage) for June	\$	(3,439)
Expenses Not Paid in June	\$	-
Actual Surplus(Shortage) for June 2011	\$	(3,439)

General Fund: Year to Date Through December 31, 2011

Total Contributions and Other Income Year to Date:	\$	115,224
Total Expenses paid Year to Date:	\$	(120,631)
Surplus(Shortage) Year to Date 2011	\$	(5,407)
Add Unpaid Expenses:	\$	-
Actual Surplus/(Shortage) Year to Date 2011	\$	(5,407)

Mortgage Reduction Fund Through June 2011		
Contributions June	\$	6,447
Interest Received:	\$	-
Total Income:	\$	6,447
Less Mortgage Payment to Thrivent:	\$	(6,401)
Surplus(Shortage) for June	\$	46
Total Surplus(Shortage) Year to Date 2011	\$	(590)

	<u>05/15/1997</u>	<u>06/30/2011</u>
Mortgage Principal Balance Remaining:	\$ 900,000	\$ 306,771
Months of mortgage Remaining:	240	55

NOTE: Thank you for your generous contributions that make all of our ministries possible.

In his name:

Finance Committee

When Those In Need Are Right Next Door

MITCH ALBOM sees we don't have to go far to help others

Thursday night, inside a huge, decaying Detroit church, two worlds were nudging each other like kids sharing a bed.

On one side was a movie set. A TV film was being shot of my book "Have A Little Faith," and massive cameras, cranes and monitors - not to mention more than 100 workers, from actors to set designers - were clamoring about the sanctuary, applying makeup, erecting lights.

On the other side, inside the gym, some three dozen homeless men were bedding down for the night.

It could not have been more surreal. I Am My Brother's Keeper Ministries on Brainard houses the homeless three nights a week, Thursday being one of those nights. And on this Thursday, the unshaven men in raggedy clothes didn't care if huge trucks and giant lights were jamming the streets around the church. This was their routine. And they needed a place to sleep.

So they entered through the side door, as always, and they stepped aside for production assistants or prop guys or costume designers. The movie people went to the right, the homeless went to the left.

"How ya doing?" they said to each other.

And each side went about its business.

Reality check

This went on for several hours. The movie was shooting a joyous scene from the book - a celebration service. Big-name actors took their place alongside actual congregants of the church (the film is, admirably, using many real-life people on-screen). An organ played. A drummer kept a beat. The director yelled, "Action!" and an "Amen" chorus broke out.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the wall, the homeless men dragged vinyl mats and lightweight blankets and placed them in rows on the gym floor.

I found myself wandering between the two scenes. They were separated only by a narrow vestibule. At one point, the movie had to reset all the cameras, and the workers spilled outside and grabbed food and drink from the catering tents and vans.

I had some, too. And then, in the middle of a bite, I had one of those moments. I had to remind myself to swallow. I wandered into the catering area, amidst shelves stacked high with snack food, and grabbed big boxes of Nutter Butters, Chips Ahoy and Twinkies.

And I went to the gym.

You can pretty much figure out the rest, including the gratitude of the men offered a midnight snack. "I'll take a Twinkie." "You got

any Ho Hos?" "Thank you, man." "God bless you, man."

Out in the street, the movie makers were chewing quickly. Inside, the homeless were eating, too. Twenty minutes later, the crew returned to the sanctuary and the weary men lay down and closed their eyes.

It got noisy on the right.

It got quiet on the left.

Bridge the gap

The movie folks have been extremely generous to the church, paying a large rental fee, doing repairs, employing many congregants who would not otherwise see such paychecks. And they are sharing the church's inspiring story with the world.

But there is something to be learned from that surreal moment Thursday night. I know it. I felt it the moment I was eating and they were not.

In many ways, our city is just a big scale version of that scene. Our haves and have-nots live so close to each other. The two sides of 8 Mile. The Grosse Pointe-Detroit border. Many of us need not go far to share the bounty of our lives with people less fortunate. And yet we rarely do.

We stick to our side. They stick to theirs.

It needn't be that way. It's actually pretty easy to share food with hungry people. It's pretty easy to share your skills, your time, your talent. The hardest part is crossing between worlds. We are afraid. We are unsure. We don't have the time. Or we tell ourselves we don't.

I know it's rarely as easy as walking from one side of a church to the other. But we can reach out to others over our normal boundaries. In a place called I Am My Brothers Keeper, it was fitting to witness the power of those words.

**WILL YOU HAVE THE
TIME??**

BE THE CHURCH

OCTOBER 9, 2011