

APRIL 2024

THE ST. GEORGE GAZETTE

Official Newsletter of St. George Lutheran Church

Make disciples PASTOR SHARON SMITH

I enjoy watching the birds, and this time of year it is fun to see them build their nests. I often trim my dogs' hair and put it outside in the backyard for the birds. As soon as they see it, they swoop in and carry chunks off to their nest. It is amazing how fast it disappears.

Each species of bird makes its own kind of nest. Those times when I have looked into a robin's nest or a hummingbird nest, I realize I could never make one that intricate that actually stayed in a tree (without duct tape). The passing on of the skill of building a particular type of nest from generation to generation of birds is truly awe inspiring.

In high school I ran track and always wanted to be in a relay. I never was, but it looked fun. The fun part was passing the baton. If either runner made a mistake, it could cost the race. This was particularly true in the short races which required the fastest sprinters. But what determined whether you won or lost the race was not how fast you could sprint. What spelled the difference between winning and losing was how well you worked as a team to pass the baton to one another. Nest building and the passing of the baton are symbols of the important responsibility we've been given by our Lord, the passing on of faith. It is passing the baton to others, a baton that frees them to run the race God is calling them to run.

Jesus gave this mission of baton-passing to his disciples; they in turn passed it on to the people and generations who followed them. It is now in our hands, and we continually "pass it off" to others that they might run the race of faith with us. Most of us can reflect and give thanks for those in our past who have made a difference in our faith journey.

Corrie ten Boom is quoted as saying: "When I enter the beautiful city and the saints all around me appear, I hope that someone will tell me, 'It was you who invited me here.' When you get to heaven, will people tell you, 'It was you who invited me here. It was you who passed me the baton!'"

Yet there is a significant difference between the image of the 400-meter relay race and the baton-passing image of Christian discipleship. Being Christ's disciple is not a sprint. Passing on the baton in Christian life is not something you do once and then collapse in exhaustion. It is a life long commitment. People come and go, but our mission remains the same. Show how to build the nest. Pass the baton. Make disciples.

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Birthdays and Anniversaries

04/04 Jerry Dilloway
04/06 Matthew Gabrielle
04/09 Linda Fox
04/10 Sally Headley
04/11 Joyce Engenolf
04/12 Elaine McIntyre
04/26 Emily Olbrich, Bruce
Graenser

April 21st at
10 AM WE'LL
CELEBRATE ALL
APRIL
BIRTHDAYS!

04/15 Judy and Jim Tavarozzi

Calling all cooks!

As part of St. George's 185th anniversary celebration, we are creating a cookbook. It will include recipes from every St. George family member and/or friend who wants to contribute. Share your favorites or honor a loved one with theirs.

There are three options for submitting your recipes. The preferred option involves going to typensave.com and creating a free account. User name: `stgeorge180`. Password: `seasalt454`. Log in and enter your recipes online, please proofread for accuracy.

Choice two involves emailing your recipes to the church office at stgeorgebrighton@gmail.com

The third option is using the pre-printed Recipe Collection Sheet and copying your recipe accurately. Submit to the collection box in the fellowship area.

The first two options ensure that your recipes will be recorded with complete accuracy.

The deadline for submission is May 1, 2024.

Faith-Based Workshop

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago is providing high quality, faith based workshop series for the benefit of Lutheran congregations around the country.

Led by LSTC faculty and alumni, these are offered on Sunday or Wednesday evenings via Zoom.

The spring series begins April 7. Faculty member Rev. Dr. Benjamin Stewart will lead a four part series on nature and liturgy entitled "Liturgy and the natural world." If you cannot attend, the Sunday session will be recorded. Register at LSTC.edu/events



Youth Ministries

ST. GEORGE LUTHERAN CHURCH
FREE BOARD AND BRUSH Paint Night
 April 24th from 6-7pm
COMPLETELY FREE Art evening for adults and children
 Wooden signs, stencils, paints, brushes, and refreshments all included!
 Create a custom piece of home decor! Child friendly options available.

BOARD AND BRUSH PAINT NIGHT

April 24th from 6:00-7:00pm

FREE community art evening! Create a custom piece of home décor while enjoying free refreshments. Includes: 12in wooden board, stencils, paint, brushes, and refreshments.

Visit stgeorgelutheran.org/events and follow the signuppenius link to register!

EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSES SPRING SEMESTER

Join us every Wednesday from February 14th through May 8th for free family fun!

MUSIK GARTEN
FREE EARLY-CHILDHOOD MUSIC CLASS
 WEDNESDAYS 10-10:30AM
 FEBRUARY 14TH-MAY 8TH 2024
 FOR INFANTS - 5 YEARS
 NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

ST. GEORGE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 803 W Main St. Brighton, MI 48116
FREE GYMNASTICS OPEN PLAY
 Children aged 1-6 are invited to explore gymnastics equipment, practice skills, and socialize.
 Free of charge, no registration required!
 Visit stgeorgelutheran.org/youth for more information
Every Wednesday 10:45-11:30am
February 14th through May 8th, 2024

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 24TH-27TH FROM 6:00-8:00PM.

Vacation Bible School returns this year with an important message: we can all be menders of God's world! Kids make connections to Bible stories while learning how to live out their faith in daily life.

Visit stgeorgelutheran.org/events and follow the singuppenius link to register!

BLESSINGS,
 MORGAN GIBBS
 YOUTH DIRECTOR
 ST. GEORGE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 810-599-0961
 STGBYOUTH@GMAIL.COM

OPERATION RESTORATION
 MENDING GOD'S WORLD
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
 June 24th-27th
 6:00-8:00pm
 Kids are invited to be menders in God's world. As they make connections between Bible stories and mending actions, they'll discover simple ways to live out faith in daily life.
 Visit stgeorgelutheran.org/events and follow to signuppenius link to register!

Fellowship Committee

NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee is made up of members of the Congregation that will be planning monthly events to bring us together socially. We are the group that organizes the monthly birthday celebrations. Our meetings are downstairs in the church, on the second Sunday of each month at 8am-just prior to the 9am service. We would love to have anyone that is interested, join us each month. The more the merrier! In the event that you are not able to join us for our monthly meetings, we would ask that if you have any ideas for upcoming events/activities, PLEASE share with one of our members. We welcome any thoughts and ideas that you may have. Please see Ann and Jerry Dilloway, Joanne Bellmard, Keith Boyes, Cindy Brach, or Michele Hirschman if you have any questions or ideas. Thanks!!!

We Need Help

We need to have someone help in the Nursery during the Second Service, one or two Sundays a month. We are willing to hire someone for \$18.00 per hour. If you know of someone who would be willing to do this, you can contact the church office or see me between services on any Sunday. Because this involves interacting with the children of our church, we will be very careful in the process. We have explored some outside options, job websites, local high school, church staff websites, and have not received any interest.

The other option would be to have parents volunteer to be in the nursery on one or two Sundays a month. This is something that we need to address so we can continue to provide children a safe place and parents can enjoy the worship service without worry.

Thank you for any input or consideration you have to help find a solution and for making our church a safe and enjoyable place for all to worship and fellowship.

Keith Boyes
Council Vice President



Happy April!

It's post-Easter time and Spring is officially about to SPRING. So, too, the opportunity to worship

DOESN'T end. Too often, after Easter, people choose not to attend worship, choosing to mow the lawn, read the Sunday paper, stay in bed to name a few excuses to not experience the Music, the Fellowship, and the celebrative tone of the Gospel. I pray that you make time to spend time at St. George Lutheran Church. Consider becoming a Lay reader, and Usher, a Greeter, an Assisting Minister. You are always welcome at St George Lutheran Church to EXPERIENCE worship and a vibrant Youth and Family Ministry.

Our 180th Anniversary Celebration Committee held their monthly meeting and a timeline of all the activities taking place. You heard about one this past Sunday- an AMAZING Cookbook that will be more than a cookbook. More information will become evident as we continue this journey. Our next meeting is Saturday, April 13 at 9:16am in the Church basement, and YOU ARE INVITED! Join us for an exciting, informative 60 minutes as we prepare to celebrate one hundred and eighty years of ministry. WOW!!

Did you notice that we had a Processional Cross for Palm Sunday? It is a visual reminder for all of us that Christ has died for our sins and will RISE again as our Salvation, our Savior and serves as our teacher, our guide through life here on earth and in eternal life. The Cross is a sign of God's LOVE for each one of us. We will process the Cross until further notice. The person that processes the Cross is called the Crucifer. Is that person..... you?

I pray that the April showers are showers of Love, knowing that God's Love is ever-present in the life of St George Lutheran Church. Let's MARCH into APRIL with a focused renewal. A renewal toward deepening our faith relationship, our faith journey with Christ, the Risen Lord.

Amen,

Kevin Keller

Worship and Music Ministry Chairperson

Our Council met on March 28th. As in previous months, we continued to work on our Goals for 2024. We are looking forward to sharing the goals with our congregation in the upcoming months and their implementation.

We will begin our Council monthly congregational updates in April. The first Sunday of each month during both services, will have a Council representative briefly presenting the work of our Council. If you have any questions or input, please do not hesitate to reach out to a Council representative.

I hope that the time of Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter has provided you a time of peace, family, and reflection. As I read lessons from the Bible and hear our lessons and the Gospel on Sundays, I am reminded of our Lord's mercy and steadfast love and of his suffering. I am humbled.

This time of the year has always been spent with family. As I reminisce and reflect, I conjure up memories of our family attending Easter services, of Easter egg hunts, and of joyful moments. I am thankful for our immediate and extended families as well as of our St. George family. Our Lord is at the center of so much and I hope that I am able to promote and participate in that continued experience.

As a last thought – a reminder, Council meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM in the Parish House. If you would like to attend, please let Office Staff and/or myself know. We would welcome you.

- Lorna Durand



Friendship Circle

Our members met on a brisk March morning with no feeling of spring in the air. However, we were an enthusiastic group happy to be together. After a beautiful reading from Jesus Calling, our meeting commenced at 9:55 am.

The secretary and treasurer read their account and we moved to current matters.

We all know that Easter is right around the corner, and it has been suggested that we don Easter bonnets to celebrate this special day. (This is just for fun!) On May 7, 2024 the Friendship Circle is planning a Mother's Day Brunch. It will be held at 11:00 am in the lower level of St. George. We have invited a florist from Hartland who promises to give us some hints on flower arrangements. New ideas for worship and entertainment are blooming every day!!!!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 9:30 am at the Parish house.

PS. Don't forget Book Club on Thursday, April 18, 2024

The Wishing Bridge by Viola Shipman
Mary Lynn Thomson

New Creation

On Thursday, April 4 we will be providing the meal for the New Creations Ministry (Through Love INC). This program meets weekly and is geared toward lifting people out of poverty through developing their personal life skills, job skills, and faith. It is a great program, and we are glad to support it.

On this month's menu is sloppy joes, macaroni and cheese, green beans, and dessert. Please sign up in church if you are willing to donate food items or to help work at the meal. It is held at Grace Lutheran Church in Howell and we meet at 4:15 p.m.



Needleworker of the Month: We are so happy to welcome Ann Method as one of our newest members. She is a wonderful MahJongg teacher at the Brighton Senior Center, and when I was talking about Needleworks one day after a game, she decided to come over and get acquainted. She has been knitting and crocheting since she was 10, and her favorite items to create are sweaters knit in the top-down method. In her several months with us, she has crocheted blankets in beautiful color combinations. Ann is a very energetic and friendly person, and since she left her home in the U.P. two years ago, she has continued her volunteer work with the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance, and she has made many friends here. We are very glad to have her warm and lively presence in our Needleworks group.



March donations: To LACASA: 2 shawls, 1 hat & scarf set, and 5 scarves
To Providence Park Hospital: 26 blankets



Next meetings: 1st and 3rd Fridays at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall
April 5 and 19; May 3 and 17; June 7 and 21

“Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other.” -Pope Francis



APRIL 2024

	1 OFFICE HOURS 8-1	2 OFFICE HOURS 8:30-12:30 1:30 SE SYNOD CONFERENCE MTG	3 OFFICE HOURS 8-1	4 OFFICE HOURS 8:30-12:30 10 BIBLE STUDY 4:15 NEW CREATION	5 OFFICE HOURS 8-1 10:00 NEEDLEWORKS	6
7 9 & 11 SERVICES 10 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL	8 OFFICE HOURS 8-1	9 OFFICE HOURS 8:30-12:30 9:30 FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	10 OFFICE HOURS 8-1	11 OFFICE HOURS 8:30-12:30 10 BIBLE STUDY	12 OFFICE HOURS 8-1	13 180TH ANNIV. COMMITTEE 9:16 AM
14 8-FELLOWSHIP MTG 9 & 11 SERVICES 10- SS AND BREAKFAST	15 OFFICE HOURS 8-1	16 OFFICE HOURS 8:30-12:30	17 OFFICE HOURS 8-1	18 OFFICE 8:30-12:30 10 BIBLE STUDY 3:00 FRIENDSHIP BOOK CLUB	19 OFFICE HOURS 8-1 10:00 NEEDLEWORKS	20
21 9 & 11 SERVICES 10- BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION SUNDAY SCHOOL	22 OFFICE HOURS 8-1	23 OFFICE HOURS 8:30-12:30	24 OFFICE HOURS 8-1 6-BOARD & BRUSH	25 OFFICE HOURS 8:30-12:30 10 BIBLE STUDY 5:30 COUNCIL MTG	26 OFFICE HOURS 8-1	27
28 9 & 11 SERVICES 10 SUNDAY SCHOOL	29 OFFICE HOURS 8-1	30 OFFICE HOURS 8:30-12:30				



ST. GEORGE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. GEORGE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
803 WEST MAIN STREET
BRIGHTON, MI 48116
810-229-6670

SUNDAY SERVICES
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 9:00

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 11:00

BOTH SERVICES ALSO ONLINE

VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE:
www.stgeorgelutheran.org