

MESSENGER

Volume 8, Number 7

July 2014

A Word From Pastor Steve

Mid-Summer Greetings,

While at the SC Synod Assembly I agreed to read a book with an 'editorial' eye and to report back before its publication in October of this year. I received the 190 page book via email on June 24 and learned the deadline for my response is July 9th. Guess what I am doing in my free time.

Truth is, it is also 'work' time because the book is focused on a problem we share with many churches across our country – the problem of a dying Sunday Church School. From 1990 to 2010, child enrollment in Sunday Church School in the ELCA dropped from 1,007,774 to 400,375 participants - a loss of 61%. (Page 10, Let's Kill Sunday School, (Before It Kills The Church)).

Let's Kill Sunday School, (Before It Kills The Church). Pretty provocative title, huh?

Author Rich Melheim knows it is and about the title he writes: *"As for the title 'Let's Kill Sunday School (Before It Kills The Church)'; we chose it not to offend but to challenge and engage the broadest audience as quickly as possible. Calling the book 'New Models for Sunday School' probably would not have caused you to pick it up. Our motivation is not to frighten, nag, guilt or complain. We are not out to diss or dismiss the years of loving service and sacrifice millions of dedicated Sunday School teachers have made over the last two and a half centuries. We simply want to engage the church in a thoughtful and proactive conversation about new models for a new day."*

I am new to St James but the Sunday Church School problem is not new to me. I have seen it elsewhere too. The fact that you all have 'stuck your proverbial toes into the Faith 5 water' makes me think we are wise to consider a stronger stepping into the stream. The folks who heard Pastor Melheim at the Synod Assembly agree. (John Harmon, Rebecca Koch, Bill Barley, Lunette Davis and Josh West attended along with Pastor Steve.)

(Continued)

So here's what we are up to. We are forming a task force of Education and Worship minded folks to consider some Rich Melheim questions, like:

1. If there were no such thing as Sunday Church School, what would you invent to insure the future of faith formation in the next generation?
2. Would your invention look more like a class or a community; feel more like a program or a process?
3. Would parents be encouraged to drop their children off at your door or be drawn into the center of the new model?
4. Would what you created be scheduled mainly in an hour on Sunday mornings at church, or would the majority of it happen at multiple sites and times with an intentional home component?
5. What part would the pastor play in this post-Sunday School, next-generation faith formation model?

There are more than these five Melheim questions, but these give you an idea of what the Faith 5 folks are thinking and what we'll be discussing. Here's another list; LESSONS they say they've learned since they started working together in 1997:

1. **WORSHIP IS CENTRAL** - A child who does not grow up worshipping with their parents will rarely grow up to worship as an adult. Worship also involves the Pastor whose buy-in and energy cannot be replaced by anyone else.
2. **PARENTS ARE CENTRAL** - Parents have been, are, and always will be the most important faith teachers, mentors and role models a child will ever have.
3. **CROSS + GENERATIONAL IS KEY** - Most of our society separates elders from children. We knew our new models needed to be different; richer, with generations together in one space. We have embraced the theme: "Every age has gifts we need, and every age has needs we gift."
4. **MAKE IT ACTIVE AND INCLUDE THE ARTS** – Don't rely exclusively words, books, print or even videos. A four-year-old and an eighty-four-year-old can all learn something together when they engage a theme through drama, dance, song and art.
5. **USE HOME HUDDLES** – Let Sunday's Bible story to spill over into homes; every night in every home set aside a few minutes before bedtime to: Share, Read, Talk, Pray and Bless.

So, it will be a busy summer as we read and talk and dream and plan for what Faith Formation will look like in the future here at St James. God promises to walk faithfully with us in our discernment. May we also walk faithfully with God.

Joy and Peace,

Pastor Steve

Saturday Sisters

Saturday Sisters will **not** meet on the first Saturday in **July**. On **Sunday, July 13** following church service, Saturday Sisters will host a Cookbook Social. Everyone is welcome stop by and pick up a cookbook to read.

All Committee Night

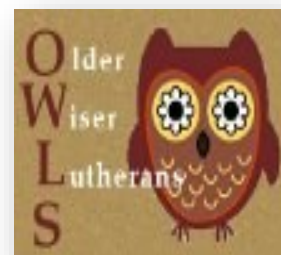
All Committee Night is scheduled for **Sunday, July 13, 7 PM**.

Council Meeting

Our Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday, July 16** at **7PM**. Please be sure to mark the date change on your calendar. Thank you!

OWLs Monthly Luncheon

St. James' OWLs will eat at Brunches on S. Lake Drive in Lexington on **Thursday, July 17** at noon. There is a menu and sign up sheet located in the narthex. We must RSVP a week in advance, so please sign up as soon as possible. All are welcome to join us for great food and fellowship!



Vacation Bible School

St. James will have VBS for children ages 2-10, from **July 22** through **24** starting at **6:30PM**. Bring a friend and come have fun while learning about "Fruit of the Spirit".

Guardian Angels

This month, Guardian Angels will meet in the parlor on **Monday, July 21** at **6:30PM**. Don't forget the prayer box is located in the back of our sanctuary, if you would like to leave prayer requests for yourself or a loved one.



Lutheran Men in Mission

Lutheran Men in Mission will hold their monthly meeting on **Monday, July 21** at **6:30 PM**.

Rebekah Circle

During the months of **July** and **August**, the Rebekah Circle will not meet. We will start meetings again on **Tuesday, September 16** at **7PM**.

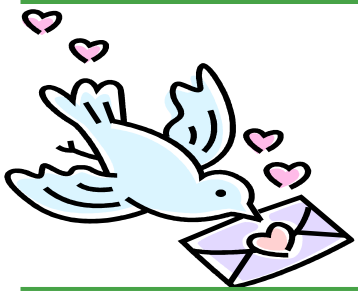
A Note From Your Church Office

Please be aware that there are deadlines before which the church office must be contacted if you want announcements or prayer requests in either the weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter. These deadlines are to insure that publications are complete and in print form in a timely manner and are as follows:

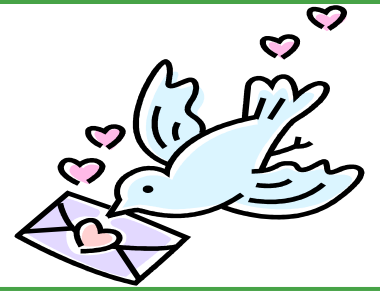
Weekly Bulletin—Noon on Wednesday each week.

Monthly Messenger—By 2PM the third Wednesday of each month.

Thank you for understanding and helping us present to you the most complete and thorough publications possible.



Notes of Thanks and Hope



In Sympathy

Thank you to everyone for the calls, cards and prayers during our family's time of mourning. These gestures are deeply appreciated.—Margaret Hollis

Gifts

Dear St. James Women of the ELCA,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$665.00 made to Lutheran Services Carolinas Child and Family Services, to support Angels House, and LSC transitional home for homeless female veterans. Your gift will help LSC bring healing and hope to women who have served our country and now need our help.

Over the years, Angels House has helped dozens of vulnerable female veterans to find stability in their lives and overcome wounds, both physical and psychological, that they have suffered during their service to our country. Thanks to your donation, we may continue to serve these women and help them become self-sufficient by securing long term employment and permanent affordable housing of their own.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of LSC!

Yours in Christ,

Ted W. Goins, Jr., President

July Birthdays

07/02

Jenna Feaster

07/05

Stephanie Fett

Lizzy Turner

07/06

Rhonda Areheart

Aubrey Poplin

07/07

Faye Kirby

Robert Germershausen

07/08

Lenora Bond

David Frazier

Eric Roland

07/10

Penelope Areheart

Melissa Crumpton

Dick Kyzer

07/11

Lisa Tyson

07/13

Walker Crumpton

07/18

Charlene Crumpton

07/19

Sarah Areheart

07/23

Allen Hollis

Michael Shealy

07/26

Daniel Sharpe

07/27

Caleb Strickland

07/29

Michelle Feaster



Council Notes

Council Mini Minutes

- Devotions were given by Byron Roberts on a reading about prayer from Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection (1614 - 1691) lay brother in a Carmelite monastery in Paris.
- The treasurer's report was accepted as presented. Of note: While income is below projected income for the Original Budget and the Amended 2014, Spending Plan, we are currently receiving more money than we are spending
- President Robert Sharpe called our attention to the 'Million Dollar Love' article from The Lutheran and commented, "That's the kind of thing we look forward to doing in the future with our new Mission Endowment Fund." He also made reference to the Synod Assembly report in Pastor Steve's Messenger article.
- Pastor Steve presented a monthly statistical report and in the comments section made two observations: 1) There is significant overlap in the work of the Call Committee, the Spirit Led Time of Renewal event, The 2012 Long Range Discernment Process and our Healthy Congregations Workshops; 2) Following Synod Assembly presentations on Faith 5 materials and changes in St James' Christian Education leadership it seems an appropriate time to consider a renewed emphasis on Faith 5 in our congregation.
- Motion was made and approved for the July church council meeting to be held Wednesday, July 16th at 7 p.m.
- Make-up of the Mission Endowment Fund Board will be discussed at the next council meeting.
- Motion was made and approved to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator (AED unit) from the memorial fund.
- Motion was made and approved to create a fund for Healthy Congregations, which is currently taking place, giving any left over money to the regular offering.
- Reminder, the deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 3rd Wednesday of the month.
- Council gave permission for the Guardian Angels to light votive candles in our 'prayer center' at the back of the sanctuary during the Sunday worship. Council requested more information about the creation of a Narthex Prayer Wall before the Guardian Angels implement the plan.





Members

Virginia Hall
 Mendel Lindler
 Norma Moore
 Paul Pilkington
 Floyd Prevost
 Dollie Pounds
 Dot Shealy
 Betty Jean Tyson

Friends & Relatives of Church Members

Gina Amick - Niece of Russell Taylor
 Harold Boone - Brother of George and Evelyn Knox
 Courtney Cagle - Granddaughter of D. Pounds
 Darren Corley - Cousin of Randy Summers
 Richard Culliver - Student of Mot Caulder
 Clarence Davis - Father of Jason Davis
 Randy Dickerson - Friend of D & M Hines
 Chris Farmer-Friend of Joel & Lisa Tyson and Mike Long
 Donna Florence - Mother of Megan Joyner
 Ralph Frazier - Brother of Bobby Frazier
 Mildred Gunter - Cousin of Anna Ree Roland
 Vera Havird - Aunt of Miranda West
 Lanell Hicks - Mother of Miranda West
 Tim Jackson - Friend of Gwen & Ben Freeman
 Billy James - Relative of Virginia Hall

Rick Kyzer - Son of Richard Kyzer
 Roger Lindler - Brother of Mendel Lindler
 Cindy Miller - Friend of Tina Poindexter
 Sherrie Musselman - Friend of Gwen & Ben Freeman
 Loretta Nettles - Cousin of Hilda West
 Frankie Pounds - Grandson of Dollie Pounds
 Jerry Pounds - Son of Dollie Pounds
 Randy Pounds - Son of Dollie Pounds
 Pam Pressley - - Friend of Charlene Crumpton
 Janice Satterfield - Wife of J Miller's Nephew
 Fred Sharpe - Friend of Danny & Cheryl Austin
 Johnny Starnes - Brother of Anna Ree Roland
 Jerry Steele - Brother of George Steele
 Mary Jane West - Mother of Eric West
 Emily Whitten - Mother of Lynn Sloan

The Family of Forrest Henry "Bull Dawg" Hendrix - Son in Law of Margaret Hollis

Our Military Workers:

Michael Anderson - Friend of St. James
 Dwight Barrs - Grandson Eunice Backman
 Ryan Caulder - Son of Mot Caulder
 Daniel Herb - Son in Law of Mot Caulder
 Jeremy Jolly - Grandson of Hazel Rawl
 Wayne Watkins - Nephew of S. Jeffords
 Keith Zeigler - Son of Tom Zeigler

Our Shut-ins:

Mollie Harrison
 Jerry Hutto
 Roberta Pound
 Kathleen Smith
 Alvin "Jr. "Sharpe
 Dot Shealy

Worship Assistants

Acolytes 10:30AM

July 6 - Emerson Hibbs
 July 13 - Marshall Hibbs
 July 20 - Callie Poplin
 July 27 - Nick Roberts

Altar Guild

July - Lynette Steele

Communion Assistants

July 9:30AM

6 - Carolyn Steele
 13 - Rebecca Koch
 20 - Byron Roberts
 27 - Carin Seward

Lectors

6 -
 13 -
 20 - Carin Seward
 27 - Robert Sharpe

Ushers

Allen Hollis
 Frank McLeod
 Hank Poplin
 Guy West

Sound System

Mike Long

July 2014

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4	5
6 9:30AM-Holy Communion			8	9	10	11	12
13 9:30AM-Holy Communion 10:45 AM - Sat. Sisters Cookbook Social following service	14		15 2PM-Harvest Hope	16 7PM - Council Meeting Newsletter Deadline for announcements	17 12PM-OWLs Luncheon	18	19
7:00 PM - All Committee Night							
20 9:30AM-Holy Communion	21	6:30 PM-LMM 6:30PM-Guardian Angels	22 6:30PM - VBS	23 6:30PM - VBS	24 6:30PM - VBS	25	26
3PM - Pastor Steve and Susan Thisell 's Wedding, RSVP by July 1st							
27 9:30AM-Holy Communion	28		29	30	31		

Non-Profit Org.

U. S. Postage

P-A-I-D

St. James Lutheran Church

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office@stjameslex.com

Visit us on the web at
www.stjameslex.com

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Steve Plonk

Worship Service: 8:00 AM

Sunday School: 9:15 AM

Worship Service: 10:30 AM

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00 AM-2:00 PM



St. James
LUTHERAN CHURCH