



# The **St. John Eagle**

“Celebrating over 100 years, 1904 - 2007”

Member Congregation of the ELCA and LCMC



Volume 8 Number 4

June 2007

## **St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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### **From the Pastor's Pen Macintosh**

Over the years, I have used this page to address a number of concerns, from theological issues to more mundane matters that affect the life of our fellowship. For this edition of The Eagle, I want to look at the summer that lies ahead and share with you some modest changes planned for our Sunday worship schedule. While these changes may be of interest to you, I pray that they will make little difference in your attendance to worship.

The first upcoming change is little different from what it has been for the past decade and more. On Sunday, June 10, we shall enjoy our annual Church Picnic at Camp Naumkeag in Salem. In addition to good food and games for young and old, we look forward to our usual abbreviated outdoor worship service beginning at 10:30 a.m. or so. I encourage everyone to attend at least the worship service because, as in the past, there will be no service at the church on that day.

The next change has been discussed and approved by the Church Council. Since summer usually has a more casual pace and our attendance to worship is usually somewhat less than usual, the council and I feel that, for June, July, and August, we can celebrate the communion sacrament only on the first Sunday of the month without affecting too adversely our regular reception of the sacrament. This means that, on the third Sunday of the three summer months, we shall not celebrate the Eucharist.

The remaining changes to our summer worship schedule ultimately constitute little change at all. They involve my own vacation schedule and my participation in leading our worship. These changes involve four summer Sundays, the fourth Sunday being no different from what has been in years past.

The first two Sundays, June 24 and July 1, bracket a week's vacation for my family and me. We will be away for June 24, but I will be back to celebrate the Eucharist on July 1. The second two Sundays, August 26 and September 2, bracket a second week in which Linda, Heather, Kristin, and I will be away. My high school reunion (we won't mention which one) is scheduled in Baltimore for the first of these two weekends. The second of the two is, of course, the Labor Day weekend. As usual, we will be away and the celebration of the sacrament on that Sunday will be postponed to the second Sunday in September.

I count it a blessing that I will have a chance to relax and re-create with my family for two weeks this summer, but equally I count it a blessing that St. John has three competent and committed individuals who are willing and able to give leadership to our worship in my absence. We all, of course, know Tom Knowlton, Tom Powell, and Steve Gemma. Each of them has led our worship in the past and will do so again this summer. As you may be aware, Tom Knowlton is a graduate of Gordon-Conwell Seminary, Tom Powell begins his studies at Gordon-Conwell this summer, and Steve Gemma has long experience in bringing style and substance to the gospel message.

It's not every congregation that enjoys the abilities of three individuals such as these, and St. John is truly blessed to have them as part of our fellowship. Needless to say, they deserve our support and appreciation when they provide leadership in the chancel. As the summer wends its way and is gone much too quickly, I pray that all of us will attend to worship as usual, welcoming a different voice in the pulpit from time to time.

SERVING ST. JOHN WITH OUR TIME AND TALENTS –

During June:

Ushers

Carole Grayson  
Judy Othote

Lay Assistant

6/3 Angie Cornwell  
6/10 Church Picnic  
6/17 Steve Gemma  
6/24 Sue Reed

Custodial

6/3 Reed  
6/10 Phyles  
6/17 Berg/Grayson/Othote  
6/24 Gemma

Lector

6/3 Judy Othote  
6/10 Church Picnic  
6/17 Fred Faust  
6/24 Fred Faust

Childcare

6/3 Rick & Cheryl  
6/10 Church Picnic  
6/17 Kristin & Kira  
6/24 Chip & Shannon

Coffee Hour

6/3 Lydia  
6/10 Church Picnic  
6/17 Bert & Mary  
6/24 Sue & Lisa

During July:

Ushers

Fred Faust

Lay Assistant

7/1 Linda Phyles  
7/8 Fred Faust  
7/15 Angie Cornwell  
7/22 Steve Gemma  
7/29 Sue Reed

Custodial

7/1 Valletti/Carson  
7/8 Dancewicz  
7/15 Reed  
7/22 Phyles  
7/29 Berg/Grayson/Othote

Lector

7/1 Linda Phyles  
7/8 Linda Phyles  
7/15 Sue Dancewicz  
7/22 Sue Dancewicz  
7/29 Phil/Sue Reed

Childcare

7/1 Kyle & Heather  
7/8 Rick & Cheryl  
7/15 Kristin & Kira  
7/22 Chip & Shannon  
7/29 Kyle & Heather

Coffee Hour

7/1 Shannon & Angie  
7/8 Linda & Becky  
7/15 Judy & Cheryl  
7/22 Raudna & Carole  
7/29 Linda & Susan

During August:

Ushers

Rick Cormier  
Steve Gemma

Lay Assistant

8/5 Linda Phyles  
8/12 Fred Faust  
8/19 Angie Cornwell  
8/26 Steve Gemma

Custodial

8/5 Gemma  
8/12 Valletti/Carson  
8/19 Dancewicz  
8/26 Reed

Lector

8/5 Phil/Sue Reed  
8/12 Tom Knowlton  
8/19 Tom Knowlton  
8/26 Judy Othote

Childcare

8/5 Rick & Cheryl  
8/12 Kristin & Kira  
8/19 Chip & Shannon  
8/26 Kyle & Heather

Coffee Hour

8/5 Linda & Mary Plumb  
8/12 Bert & Mary  
8/19 Lydia  
8/26 Shannon & Angie

\*\*Please ask someone to fill in for you if you are unable to make it when you are scheduled. Phone numbers are in the church directory.

## ST. JOHN NEWS AND NOTES –

St. John's youth group has an on going drive to raise money for children in the area. Once a month, on the Sundays that the Youth group has meetings, a collection box will be put out during the coffee hour for any extra coins you may have. All contributions will be appreciated. Thank you in advance! All money collected this year will go towards buying books for the children at the Inn Between Shelter in Peabody. Remember, look for the "Coins for Kids" collection box.

Our volunteer lists need more volunteers! Please consider serving your church as lay assistant, lector, or a member of the choir. There are also other opportunities to serve as a cleaner, coffee hour host, usher and the list could go on and on! If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas in this regard, please speak with Pastor, Linda Phyles or Steve Gemma.

The Eastern European Mission team from Atlanta (Georgia) Chinese Church. A mission that we support with our benevolence, has left for a three-month-long ministry in eastern Germany. They have asked us for our prayers that God will bless their work. A member of the team has committed to visit us when the team returns to report on their work.

### IN MEMORY

Ellen Berg died on March 4 at the Peabody Glen Nursing Home. She was a very active and dedicated person serving her church in many ways; always ready to lend a hand whether in the kitchen making her famous coffee or helping to keep the church well maintained. A funeral service was held for her at St. John. The Berg family has donated new matching chairs in her memory. We thank the Berg family for their generous contribution.

A funeral service was also held at St. John for Joan Brickelmaier. She died in Beverly Hospital and was very active in the WELCA group, faithfully attending its meetings. She will be missed by her family and friends.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Kyle Danciewicz is graduating from Peabody Veterans Memorial High School with many honors in June. He will be attending Harvard University in the fall with a major in political science. We are sure he is taking his musical talent with him, too.

Donna J. Quill received a Masters Degree in Education from Salem College earlier this year. She will put this degree to good use in her teaching.

### PAST HAPPENINGS

On Wednesday, March 14, Pastor conducted a Service of the Word for Healing. The Prayers for healing are a series of brief bidding collects. The congregation was invited to pray for a specific need, then they were invited to the altar where Pastor anointed them with oil as he was laying his hand on each individual. Nails were also available to be carried with you, then hammered into a wooden cross on Maundy Thursday.

Saturday, March 24, there was a workday at St. John. Painting, curtain cleaning and other needed repairs and maintenance were completed. All who assisted in this workday are to be commended for all their hard work. Your work has brightened the building.

Palm Sunday fell on April 1 this year, thus the beginning Holy Week. As we have done in the past, a Table of the Lord Service was held on Maundy Thursday. After sharing a light meal and then receiving Holy Communion we were given the opportunity to hammered the nails (received on Ash Wednesday) into a wooden cross. This is a very meaningful way near the end of Holy Week in preparation for Easter.

On Sunday, April 8, there was a festive Easter Worship Service held at 9:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated during the worship service. Special music for the service was provided by Margaret Knowlton and members of the church choir.

After Worship our annual Easter egg hunt was held—outdoors, This was held in conjunction with the Sunday Church School Staff for their students. There were many prizes and surprises found in the eggs. This has been an annual event for a good number of years and everyone looks forward to it.

Saturday evening, April 28, the WELCA hosted a spaghetti supper at the church, followed by a Giant Scrabble Game. Additional board games were made available as well. This was a fun evening of good fun and fellowship. (Note: The scrabble dictionary is in a safe place for use next year!)

On May 6 we extended a special welcome to Timothy Robert Caves as he received the sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time. We rejoice with him and his family as he reached this important milestone in his life.

On Mothers Day, May 13 the WELCA group presented geranium plants to all the women who attended worship that Sunday. As has become a tradition on this particular Sunday the men of the congregation served the coffee hour. Not bad, guys!!

## THANK YOU

Thank you to Cheryl Cormier and Peabody Supply for donating new sinks and faucets for the restrooms. As you may recall, they also donated hot water units for the restrooms not too long ago. We are hoping to start the installation of everything soon.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Looking forward to June, please mark your calendars for the annual Church Picnic, which will be held on Sunday, June 10 at Camp Naumkeag in Salem. You are invited to arrive any time after 10:00 a.m. An informal worship service beginning about 10:30. There will be no service at the church. Plan to bring your own lawn chairs plus salads and desserts for the pot luck. As we did last year, we are requesting a volunteer, no-obligation donation of \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family to help cover costs. A jar is on the coffee hour counter for any contributions.

## A LITTLE CHUCKLE

Reverend Nichols must have known what affect his long sermons were having on the congregation when he accidentally referred to them as “bored-again Christians.”

The staff of The Eagle would like to wish everyone a safe and fun filled summer.