



# The **St. John Eagle**

*“Celebrating over 100 years, 1904 - 2008”  
Member Congregation of the ELCA and LCMC*



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

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

As I pick up the Pastor's pen for this edition of *The Eagle*, I have just come back to my study from the church, where a new roof for the steeple is being installed. We have been planning on this work for some months now and anticipate that it will be a necessary job well done by the men working on it.

However, there is an aspect of the work that we did not anticipate. In the course of stripping the old roof off the steeple, the workmen removed the steeple cross and brought it down to the ground. Once there, it became readily apparent that the cross has sustained a great deal of weathering and wood rot over the years that it has adorned the church.

Indeed, the cross is so far gone that it is only reasonable to replace it. Happily, the workmen have already constructed a new cross, at a very reasonable cost, and are prepared to remount it at the top of the steeple when the roofing work is completed.

Without considering that the cross might have to be replaced, the Church Council authorized that the old cross be repainted and covered with a protective material that would no longer need painting. We then discussed briefly whether that would warrant rededicating the cross once the work was done. Now that the old cross is to be replaced with a new one, I believe there's little question that we should rededicate it.

When we were discussing this possibility, some members of the council recalled, as I do now, what we did when we dedicated the old cross to the glory of God. We conducted our Sunday morning worship service as usual, but included the rite of dedication, and then proceeded outside to the front lawn of the church while singing the departure hymn, "Lift High the Cross." It was a fun and, indeed, inspiring thing to do, and I believe it is appropriate that we do something like it when we rededicate the new cross.

When we do, I pray that we will not only dedicate the cross but will also rededicate ourselves to "lifting high the cross." We are going through uncertain times economically and politically right now, and a certain malaise has settled over so much of our personal and communal lives. But I firmly believe that, if we reawaken to our calling as disciples of our Lord, that is, to lifting high the cross of Jesus Christ, we will break out of the uncertainty surrounding us and will once again face the future as boldly as the church steeple will lift high the new steeple cross.

Of course, the cross we are called to lift high is not just a product of wood and good carpentry, but rather is the result of our Lord's death on the "old rugged cross" and his subsequent resurrection from the dead. His promise of new life to each one of us is such breathtaking good news, how can we not share it with everyone

around us, including with each other as we worship together each Sunday? I urge you to use the rededication of the new steeple cross to reexamine your own worship habits, to recommit to your calling as one of God's people, and to rededicate yourself with the conviction of the gospel to lifting high the cross of Jesus Christ. I assure you, there is no more uplifting experience than that!

SERVING ST. JOHN WITH OUR TIME AND TALENTS –

**During June:**

**Ushers**

Anna Snow  
Carole Grayson

**Lay Assistant**

6/1 Angie Cornwell  
6/8 Church Picnic  
6/15 Sue Reed  
6/22 Linda Phyles  
6/29 Steve Gemma

**Custodial**

6/1 Gemma  
6/8 Valletti/Carson  
6/15 Dancewicz  
6/22 Reed  
6/29 Phyles

**Lector**

6/1 Susan Dancewicz  
6/8 Church Picnic  
6/15 Susan Dancewicz  
6/22 Fred Faust  
6/29 Fred Faust

**Childcare**

6/1 Rick & Cheryl  
6/8 Church Picnic  
6/15 Kristin & Kira  
6/22 Chip & Shannon  
6/29 Heather Phyles

**Coffee Hour**

6/1 Judy & Cheryl  
6/8 Church Picnic  
6/15 Lydia  
6/22 Linda & Becky  
6/29 Bert & Mary

**During July:**

**Ushers**

Fred Faust

**Lay Assistant**

7/6 Fred Faust  
7/13 Angie Cornwell  
7/20 Sue Reed  
7/27 Linda Phyles

**Custodial**

7/6 Berg/Grayson/Othote  
7/13 Gemma  
7/20 Valletti/Carson  
7/27 Dancewicz

**Lector**

7/6 Phil/Sue Reed  
7/13 Phil/Sue Reed  
7/20 Tom Knowlton  
7/27 Tom Knowlton

**Childcare**

7/6 Rick & Cheryl  
7/13 Kristin & Kira  
7/20 Chip & Shannon  
7/27 Heather Phyles

**Coffee Hour**

7/6 Linda Berg  
7/13 Mary & Jack Plumb  
7/20 Shannon & Angie  
7/27 Raudna & Carole

**During August:**

**Ushers**

Rick Cormier  
Steve Gemma

**Lay Assistant**

8/3 Steve Gemma  
8/10 Fred Faust  
8/17 Angie Cornwell  
8/24 Sue Reed  
8/31 Linda Phyles

**Custodial**

8/3 Reed  
8/10 Phyles  
8/17 Berg/Grayson/Othote  
8/24 Gemma  
8/31 Valletti/Carson

**Lector**

8/3 Judy Othote  
8/10 Judy Othote  
8/17 Linda Phyles  
8/24 Linda Phyles  
8/31 Susan Dancewicz

**Childcare**

8/3 Rick & Cheryl  
8/10 Kristin & Kira  
8/17 Chip & Shannon  
8/24 Heather Phyles  
8/31 Rick & Cheryl

**Coffee Hour**

8/3 Linda & Susan  
8/10 Judy & Cheryl  
8/17 Linda & Becky  
8/24 Bert & Mary  
8/31 Mary & Jack Plumb

**\*\*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.**

## AN OPEN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP –

Have you been wanting to come to Bible Study on Wednesday nights but find yourself too pressed for time during the school year? Do you wish you could engage in an open dialogue with other Christians on topics of interest to you?

If so, you'll be glad to know that the Bible Study group will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 – 9:00 pm during the Summer months. Our group has grown from a number of 2 to a fellowship of 10 members, and we would be pleased to have you join us as well!

We're currently reading the book of Philippians and using the verses as a launching base for a variety of discussions pertinent to Christian life today, including the nature of free will and our relationship to God, what salvation and fellowship mean to Christians, and our responsibilities toward God's creation and to each other.

No prior knowledge of scripture is required. You don't need to wait until we begin a new chapter or new book. Our focus is on reading the Bible (usually a few verses at a time) and applying what we learn from those verses to our daily lives. Our group ranges in age from 14 to 70+, so all are welcome to participate! Refreshments, including coffee, tea and snacks, are provided. Please come!

## ST. JOHN NEWS AND NOTES –

We ask for your prayer and concern for these members and friends of St. John:

Ellen Hepburn  
Dorothy Fender

Sylvia Moynihan  
Mary Dancewicz

David Fredrickson  
Raudna Pelletier

On Sunday, March 30, our WELCA group presented a Bible to Jolie Alana Sousa-Todd. In accordance with the commitment made during her baptism, we, as a congregation, have promised to place the word of God into her hands. Congratulations to Jolie.

Following the service on March 30, a brief Special Congregational Meeting was held. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the expenditure of funds to repair the steeple roof. During the past year or so, many of the shingles have been blowing off during storms. The Church council filed a claim with our insurance company who has agreed to pay for a new roof. The contractor the council elected to use provided 4 quotes for different materials. The options were, asphalt again, rubber membrane, metal flashing, or use a plasticized rubber architectural shingle. It was agreed to have the plasticized rubber shingles installed for approximately \$4,000.00 above the amount received from the insurance company. This option was selected mainly due to the warranty (50 years) compared to the 10 years we got from the asphalt currently installed. In addition, it was agreed that the blue offering envelopes would be used to collect funds to pay for this additional cost. The work commenced on the roof May 19 and has now been completed. Please continue to make contributions using the blue envelopes to offset the additional cost.

Alvan B. Rikkola, an early member of St. John, was born in April of 1912. He spent most of his life in Peabody until several years ago when he moved to Lake Worth, FL. He died there recently at the age of 95. When he was a member of the congregation, he served as a member of the church council and was very active in other church functions. In addition to his church activities, he was instrumental in bringing the Babe Ruth and Pony League to the Peabody community. He was an active member of the Elks Lodge 1409 and the Red Cross. Our condolences go to the Rikkola family.

On Sunday, April 13, the sacrament of holy baptism was administered to Summer Marie Westfield. Summer has been attending Sunday Church School for some time. We rejoice with her and her family now that she has been baptized into the household of faith.

Our WELCA group held their annual Spaghetti Dinner on April 19. The dinner was followed by board games including the large scrabble board. It was an evening of good food and fellowship. Thanks to all who helped make the evening a success.

On Saturday, April 19, Camp Calumet held its annual walk to raise funds for their campership program. Steve Gemma, Kristin Phyles and the Cormier Family participated representing St. John. Calumet raised approximately \$15,000.00 this year with this event. Thank you to those who contributed.

Pastor Phyles administered the Sacrament of Holy Baptism to Christopher Steven Messina on the afternoon of Sunday, April 6. Christopher is the infant son of Christopher and Brianna Messina. Christopher was born in Salem on October 24, 2007. We rejoice with the Messina and Von Ende families now that Christopher Steven has been received as a child of God.

We extend a special welcome to six of our fine young people who were welcomed to the Lord's Table on May 4. Julia Cartier Bott, John David Caves, Alexander John Scouras, Todd Alan Sousa, Dana Ruth Valletti and Summer Marie Westfield received the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time. We rejoice with them and their families as they reach this milestone in their spiritual journey and begin their lifelong reception of the Sacrament.

Altar flowers are now being supplied by Evans Florists. The price is now \$30.00 per Sunday. Please check the flower chart as there are still open Sundays available.

Congratulations to Andrew and Melissa Reed who were married on Saturday, May 10.

In honor of Mother's Day, May 11, our LCW/WELCA group presented geranium plants to all women who were present for worship. We joined with them in honoring the Christian family and in celebrating our mothers past and present. Our men of the church participated in the celebration by serving the coffee hour.

Most of us are aware of the terrible natural disasters in China and Myanmar recently. If you wish to contribute toward relief efforts, please place your donations in a clearly marked envelope on the offering plate. We shall forward all contributions received to relief agencies that have access to these countries.

## FUTURE EVENTS

Our annual Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 8, at Camp Naumkeag in Salem. Please mark your calendar and plan on another fun and relaxing day in God's good creation. Please be aware that the use of Camp Naumkeag costs more than \$400.00 for the day. Therefore, a jar is on the piano downstairs asking for a suggested donation of \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family to cover some of the costs for the picnic. Please be as generous as you are able.