

The Vine

June 2008

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to lovingly proclaim the Gospel among all people in order to form and nurture loving communities which confess by word and deed that Jesus is Lord and Savior





Our Partnership June 2008

“Who’s Following You – Where are You Leading?”

“And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that He had done for Israel. And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals.”

Judges 2:10,11

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”
Deuteronomy 6:5

“As the head of the family should teach (the Christian truths) in a simple way to his household.”
Martin Luther, Preface to Small Catechism

“Fathers do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4

Dear Members and Friends of St. John’s Lutheran Church and School,

The month of June is a month of transitions and closure for many of our young people. During the month of June, the Preschool, Kindergarten and 8th graders will be participants in graduation exercises at St. John’s Lutheran. They have followed their leaders (teachers at school) who have provided them not only with knowledge and guidance, but also served as their role models.

The month of June is also the host of Father’s Day. This year that day is Sunday June 15. However, when we discuss the role of providing proper Christian leadership, we certainly do not want to limit our discussion to father, for the biblical implications of being a Christian father apply also to mothers, grandparents, older brothers and sisters to whom little brothers and sisters look up, to all teachers and to every person who is in a leadership role. So I want to ask the question: Who’s following you and where are you leading?

Scripture has much to say about fathers and all of us who are being watched. God’s Word tells us that we are to; “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength.” In other words, our lives are to be focused on God and not on ourselves. And that is often a major problem – we are looking in the wrong direction. As someone who has someone who often times is younger looking up to you, where are you focused? Is it a proper focus? Is it based upon God’s unchanging Word, or on those things which will never last nor stand the test of time.

Gillian McKeith authored “You are What You Eat.” You are also what you read and surround yourself with. What you have around you and in your home not only says much about you, it has a tremendous effect upon those who look up to you. What do people, children see when they come to your home? Are there Christian symbols – signs that tell those who are following you what are important to you? Does a lack of Christian symbols tell them that your relationship with Christ is not that important? Where are you leading and where is your focus?

A seminary student told about his 4-year-old boy who walked into a friend’s home and said; “Oh, Daddy, this is a church house, just like ours!” Is yours a church house? What we surround ourselves with says much about where our focus is.

A sainted pastor and friend of mine always reminded his congregation, that we are only one generation from becoming atheist. Father and all leaders have an important responsibility when it comes to providing proper leadership for those who are following them. How are you doing?

The Good News is that God does through the power of the Holy Spirit, provide with all that you need to be the kind of leader He aspects and called you to be. Even more than that, He sent His only Son to death on the cross, to pay for the sins of failing to be the leader He expects you to be. It all begins, however, with your partaking in the ministry of Word and Sacrament, for through these “means of grace” the Holy Spirit imparts His gifts so that you can be a leader with a proper focus.

It is during this Pentecost season, that we see the wonderful work of our Triune God in our everyday lives as Christians. May each of us, by God’s grace fulfill our high calling as parents and teachers and leaders of others. Remember, someone is following you. Where are you leading them to?

Happy Father’s Day to all dads and God’s very best to all!

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Richard Lohmeyer, Pastor

NewsLetter
DEADLine

June 9th

STEWARDSHIP



June 2008

With elections soon to be upon us we are experiencing difficulty getting people to help us. We need five people to work on the Nominating Committee. The response has been poor. Thinking about this it would seem some stewardship principles are lacking.

A Christian Steward works as an instrument of God...in all aspects of life. There is no need to dwell on our responsibility, for it has been clearly presented to us in Holy Scripture—The command to take care of creation and the command to love one another. As stewards we should joyfully be giving our time and our talents for God's work on earth.

Our time and talents are ours in a sense, but not ours to possess as entirely our own. They are in reality, gifts from God. We are stewards of those gifts and will be held accountable for how well we manage them for all God's people.

Because our gifts and circumstances differ, we cannot all be pastors, teachers, missionaries, leaders, etc. But we can give of our time and energy right where we are. Yes, right here in St. John's Lutheran Church. This is where such gifts are most needed at this time.

Sharing these God-given gifts with others generally brings great satisfaction. It also brings peace and joy to the giver's heart. St. Paul in Acts 20:35 made comments:,,,We must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of Jesus who himself said "It is better to give than to receive".

We need everyone's help in filling various positions at our upcoming election, as well as responding to calls to assist in other jobs.

God has given us our life and each day, as well. Every day has 24 hours, each hour has 60 minutes and each minute has 60 seconds. Please God that you make the most of your time and when there is no time left, it will be time to go home to God. May He grant it.
Amen.

NewsLetter
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June 9th

From Our Church Fathers

Sydney Eckman Ahlstrom, [16 December 1919](#) to [July 3, 1984](#), was a [Yale University](#) professor and a specialist in the [religious history](#) of the [United States](#).

Ahlstrom was born in [Cokato, Minnesota](#), the son of Joseph T. and Selma Eckman Ahlstrom. He graduated from [Gustavus Adolphus College](#) in [St. Peter, Minnesota](#) with a B.A. degree in 1941, and served in the [U.S. Army](#) during [World War II](#). He earned a master's degree at the [University of Minnesota](#) in 1946 and a Ph.D. at [Harvard University](#) in 1952. He was a [Fulbright fellow](#) at the [University of Strasbourg](#), France, and an instructor at Harvard before joining Yale in 1954.

In 1973 he received the [National Book Award](#) for his book *A Religious History of the American People*, published in 1972. In 1979 he was awarded [The Christian Century](#) Award for the Decade's Most Outstanding Book on Religion. At the time of his retirement from Yale in 1984 he held the position of Samuel Knight Professor of American History and Modern Religious History.

In the case of the Swedish Lutherans who founded Augustana (the Swedish Church in America) a hundred years ago, it must be said that their response was quite unequivocal. The resurgence of Pietism in Sweden had certainly made them insistent upon “experiential religion”- the life in Christ, they knew was not a dead and formal thing. Yet they did not make experience the Alpha and the Omega of the Christian life. The very name they chose for their synod indicates another concern. The liturgy they adopted, the principles of church order they formulated, the government they established: all these attest to a single-minded determination to create a church that would withstand the seductions of culture and popular religious pressures...

At mid-century-and as Augustana completes its first century-the threat to the church in America is not less than it has ever been. The church continues to face all the temptations to accomodation that it has faced in the past. The threat of a Christianity that will be simply cultural and not prophetic is forbidding. the major social trands of our time suggest that the temptations will become even more alluring, the total situation more acute. A return to religion is not necessarily a revival of the Christian faith. The pious utilitarianism of Main Street crowds in on us. The “Organization Man” finds place in the church itself. the church and membership in it becomes simply useful. The real proclamation is smothered by overmuch kindness.

What Augusta (or any other body into which it may be transmuted) will need most is strength to resist religious seductions in whatever form they come. We must strive with sonstant diligence and concern lest ours become a mere “culture Christianity”, so adapted and conformed to the world that it has nothing to say or do but provide tea parties for young adults, recreational facilities for their children, and old peoples’ homes for their parents. I believe we have resources which may, with God’s help, prevent that circumstance from cmoing to pass. The American situation not only drmatizes the need for our concern, but provides circumstances favorable to the necessary reforms. Freedom, voluntary churchmanship, and a livley sense of leadership, co-operation, and stewardship in the laity-all of these factors open the way to experimentation and fresh discovery. But we must claim and use the resources which are ours if the Lutheran Church is to be a “countervailing force”.

NewsLetter
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Word Search

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R S G T D S L N U T V L D S C R A I R D O N B O U

Words to Find:

burgers vacation
celebration
cold
fries
graduation
hot
hotdog
party
school
soda



Recycling Crafts: Dad's Faux Leather Pencil Holder

This is a recycling craft that makes a practical gift for Dad - a pencil holder with a polished finish that looks like leather!

Recycled Pencil Container

Supplies:

- Container(I used a crystal light container)
- Masking tape
- Brown shoe polish (not liquid)
- Rag for buffing

Faux Leather Pencil Holder Craft

Instructions:

Tear off small pieces of masking tape and, starting at the top, attach them all around the container. Keep tearing and breaking off pieces, working your way down the container and all over the bottom.

Draw shapes on the roll of masking tape to use as decorative accents. I used a fish and small circles for the bubbles. Cut the shapes out and stick them to the container, on top of the other pieces of masking tape.

Roll a long piece of masking tape into a snake so that the sticky side is on the outside. Place that onto the top of the container as a lip.

Take the brown shoe polish and rub it all over the masking tape surface of the container. With another piece of cloth, rub the container until shiny. It will look like leather. I think this is a great gift for DAD!



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God Bless the Family of:

The June Vine 2008

The Newsletter of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church & School

Divine Service:

Tuesday: 7:30 PM at the Church
Saturday: 5:00 PM at the Church
Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM at the church
Family Education Hour: 9:15 AM at the church
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Church:

216 Jewett Avenue (Corner of Jewett & Post)
Staten Island, NY 10302 **(no mail)**
Email: stjohnslutheranchurchoffice@gmail.com

School & Church Office

663 Manor Road, Staten Island, NY 10314
School Email: schooloffice@stjohnslutheransi.org

Website: www.stjohnslutheransi.org

JUNE

Facts about June

According to the Georgian calendar, which is used over most of the world today, June is the sixth month. On the Roman calendar, it was considered the fourth month and had only 29 days. Julius Ceasar gave the month 30 days in 46 B.C., when he reformed the Roman calendar. Spring ends and summer begins around June 20, 21, or 22 in the Northern Hemisphere. It's the time that the flowers are beautiful. It is especially the month for roses. In the Southern hemisphere, winter begins during June, and it brings cold, rainy weather to this part of the world.

[Flag Day](#) is observed in the United States on June 14. It commemorates the day in 1777 when the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as our flag. It then had only 13 stars, to match its 13 stripes. It's not an official national holiday, but in Pennsylvania, it is a legal holiday. The President has proclaimed a public flag day observance every year. It was first observed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the selection of the flag. President Harry S. Truman officially recognized June 14 as Flag Day by signing the National Flag Day Bill.

[My American Flag](#)

The Philippines' **Independence Day** is on June 12.

Sweden celebrates **flag day**, its national holiday, on June 6.

Finland's **flag day** is the Saturday closest to June 24.

The **JUNE BUG** also known as June beetle, is the name for several large beetles seen in the United States during May and June. They are usually seen at night, when the light attracts them. June bugs eat the young leaves of trees and plants. They deposit their eggs in the ground. The young larvae bury themselves in the soil in the autumn and stay there two years. They then come out in May or June as adult beetles.

- Gems for June are the pearl, alexandrite, and moonstone.



- The rose is the flower for the month of June.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Pastor and Judy Lohmeyer and the congregation of St. John's Lutheran who helped us through the illness and passage of John's mother Evelyn Owen. Your spiritual guidance, concern and support is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Susan, John, Matthew and Elizabeth Owen

+++++

Never Separated

The sign between us and home read "Road Under Construction." Since we were almost home from vacation, we decided to keep driving and see if we could get through. We drove on the shoulder, turning onto our street. There between us and our driveway was a big trench.

Life is full of obstacles like that trench. Sometimes sickness or an accident causes us to miss school, which keeps us from our friends. Oops, trench. Parents may fight and even get divorced. Oops, another trench. We may even have to move to another town and make new friends. Other children might make fun of us. Someone we love may die, leaving us sad and lonely. More trenches. They make us wonder if God still loves us.

The apostle Paul understood obstacles. He traveled more than 10,000 miles to preach about Jesus, and he started churches in at least 20 cities. He suffered shipwrecks, a stoning, beatings, and staying in jail. Paul must have known that eventually he would be killed for his faith. He had good reason to think that God didn't love him.

But Paul wrote, "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angles nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (vv.38-39)

God's marvelous love caused Him to send His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. That love of God gives us forgiveness for Jesus' sake. It keeps us as His, even when everything around us seems wrong. For nothing can ever separate us from God's love.

As part of the Lutheran Womens Missionary League Triune

June 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00A Divine Service 9:15A SS & BS 10:45A Divine Service/Baptism 12:15 Voters Meeting	2	3 10:00A Mary/Martha 8:00P Adult Choir	4	5 7:30P Ladies Guild	6 8 th Grade Prom	7 5:00P Divine Service
8 8:00A Divine Service 9:15A SS & BS 10:45A Divine Service	9	10 10:00A Mary/Martha 8:00P Adult Choir	11	12 Spring Concert	13 Field Day	14 5:00P Divine Service
15 8:00A Divine Service 9:15A SS & BS 10:45A Divine Service Father's Day	16 11:30A Dismissal Preschool Graduation	17 9:30A Kindergarten Graduation 10:00A Mary/Martha 11:30A Dismissal 7:00P 8 th Grade Graduation NO AFTERCARE 8:00P Adult Choir	18 11:30a Dismissal-Last Day of School gr. 1-7 NO AFTERCARE	19 Study Registration for 2008-2008 school year	20	21 5:00P Divine Service
22 8:00A Divine Service 9:15A SS & BS 10:45A Divine Service	23	24 10:00A Mary/Martha 8:00P Adult Choir	25	26	27 7:00P Wedding Rehearsal	28 3:00P Wedding-Sollog & Douglass 5:00P Divine Service
29 8:00A Divine Service 9:15A SS & BS 10:45A Divine Service/Baptism	30					