

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Vine 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



The June Vine 2010

The Newsletter of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
(718) 761-1600

Divine Service:
Sundays @ 9:30 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Church:

216 Jewett Avenue (Corner of Jewett & Post)
Staten Island, NY 10302 (no mail)

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School & Church Office

663 Manor Road (Mail Accepted)
, Staten Island, NY 10314

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Our Partnership June 2010

Which Road?

“We are asleep with compasses in our hands.”
Poet: W.S. Merwin

“Do not go where there is no trail. Go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

(Jesus) “I am the way, and the truth and the light.”
John 14:6

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

The month of June finds many facing choices as to which road they will take towards the future. In June our school's Eighth Graders will graduate and for the most part have already decided which road they will travel on during the next four years of high school. High School graduates have decided which road they will take into the future. It may be the choice of continuing their education at a college or university. Some will enter the service of our nation's Armed Forces, and others will attend special schools to learn a trade or may enter the work force. And those receiving their four year or even more degrees will chose which career they

want to pursue. No matter where we are in life the question of “Which road?” demands an answer, unless of course one does not know where they are going.

Many are like Alice, who wander through Wonderland came to a crossroads. Standing there, she asked out loud, I wonder which road I should take.” The Cheshire Cat, sitting in a nearby tree asked, “Where are you going?” To which Alice replied, “I’m not really sure.” The cat’s response; “Then it doesn’t much matter which road you take.”

At St. John’s Lutheran both our church and school have “mission statements.” Their purpose is to give our congregation direction. They tell us what our goals are, so that we as a congregation and school have a standard by which we can measure how well we are accomplishing what our mission is. A mission statement also helps us to make good decisions as we seek to properly use the gifts God has given us. When we stand at the crossroads, we can with God’s grace choose the right direction of travel.

The same is true for each of us. However, today I am especially thinking about those of us who during the month of June will find ourselves in the crossroads of life. That includes all our graduates, fathers (Father’s Day is June 20th). What will you use to make important decisions this month as you stand in the crossroads? If of course you don’t have a destination, - a personal mission statement then any road will get you there. However, if your goal is to graduate from high school and go to college, that will determine what kind of decision you will make. If you are graduating from college, and have a career in mind,

that also will determine what kind of decisions you will make. And fathers, if your goal is to be a better dad – to be the best dad possible, then those goals will have an impact upon which road you will take in the coming days.

I suggest to you today, there is even a more important decision facing all of us this month in which summer begins – what direction we will travel spiritually. It has been one of my goals at St. John’s the past seven years to raise the level of spiritually in our members, school families and staff. This year, the enrollment in Bibles Classes and Sunday School has reached a much higher level. Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit works through the study of God’s Word to bring about spiritual maturity. The results of this increased study can be clearly seen in many areas of our parish. Yet sadly, there are many who have no spiritual goals and stand at the spiritual crossroads of life not knowing which way to go.

Jesus reminds us that He is the only way to the Father and to salvation. This month many will decide that any road will do and as a result they will find themselves separated from the body of Christ and Him who is the Vine. As a result, their spirituality will diminish and it will be seen in the fruit which they produce. Jesus reminds us that a bad tree cannot bear good fruit and by their fruit you will know them. Unless they travel down the road to spiritual maturity, their actions will be anything than wholesome and God pleasing. Rather than working for unity within the Body of Christ, they will be doing divisive acts. Like branches separated from the vine, they will become spiritually dead unless they turn around and get on the right road.

“Which road?” Where do you want to be? Without clear goals, any road will do. However, God has placed before us a plan whereby we can make the most out of life. His blueprint for making the most out of life is found in His Son, Jesus. He is the way. He is the light of the world. He is the road to heaven. He is the key for life’s successes. May your decisions take down His road, so that nourished by Word and Sacrament; you will reach your destination here on earth and your eternal one as well.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Richard Lohmeyer, Pastor

**PLEASE REMEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES
WILL BE ON SUNDAYS @ 9:30 am**



June 2010

More on Stewardship.....

The Time and Talent season is once more upon us. Every June we elect officers and board members. Every position is an important one that needs to be filled. There are openings that the nominating committee is struggling to fill. A prime example is the position of Treasurer. This begins the third year that we have had no treasurer. To get the work of this position done numerous people have to get involved, some spending hours laboring over details that a trained accountant or bookkeeper would do in minutes. Some people say that they can't find the time. Others say they don't have the talent. Yet we know God sees and hears everything. He says everyone has a talent and everyone can give some of his time. Hearing the same reasons from the same people year after year for not participating in something leads me to believe much of it is pure excuse.

St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians writes: "Serve on another through love...bear one another's burdens, and you will fulfill the Law of

Christ.” Keep in mind that the life of a steward lived in imitation of the life of Christ, is always challenging and at times very difficult. Call the Church Office or speak to a member of the nominating committee and help us fill the vacancies.

Our Time and Talents are ours, but not ours to possess as ours alone-Not when we know that they are in reality gifts of God. As stewards of these gifts we will be held accountable for how we manage them for all God’s people.

I was reading Proverbs this morning and the following words jumped off the page:

One man gives freely, yet gains even more;

Another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

A generous man will himself be refreshed.

May God grant that we will all become better stewards.

The Stewardship Committee

Walter Francis, Chair



From Our Church Fathers:

Gregory of Nazianzus (c. 329 – January 25 389 or 390) (also known as **Gregory the Theologian** or **Gregory Nazianzen**) was a 4th-century [Archbishop](#) of [Constantinople](#). He is widely considered the most accomplished rhetorical stylist of the [patristic age](#). As a classically trained speaker and [philosopher](#) in the [early church](#), establishing the paradigm of [Byzantine theologians](#) and church officials.

As man He was baptized, but He absolved sins as God; He needed no purifying rites himself-his purpose was to hallow water. As man He was put to the test, but as God He came through victorious-yet, bids us be of good cheer, because He has conquered the world. He hungered-yet He fed thousands. He is indeed “living, heavenly bread.” He thirsted-yet He exclaimed: “Whoever thirsts let him come to me and drink.” Indeed He promised that believers would become fountains. He was tired-yet He is the “rest” of the weary and the burdened. He was overcome by heavy sleep-yet He goes lightly over the sea, rebukes winds, and relieves the drowning Peter. He pays tax-yet He uses a fish to do it, indeed He is emperor over those who demand tax. He is called a “Samaritan, demonically possessed”-but He rescues the man who came down from Jerusalem and fell among thieves. Yes, He is recognized by demons, drives out demons, drowns deep a legion of spirits and sees the prince of demons falling like lightning. He is stoned, yet not hit, He prays yet He hears prayer. He weeps, yet He puts an end to weeping. He asks where Lazarus is-he was man: yet He raises Lazarus-he was God. He is sold, and cheap was the price-thirty pieces of silver, yet He buys back the

St. John's Lutheran Church encourages ALL to go online to view the newsletter, if possible. Click onto the church side, and then click onto the "VINE". There is also a link that has the church calendar and the serving schedule. If you are viewing the "VINE" online and wish to opt out of the mailings, please contact the church office via e-mail, to request being taken off the mailing list.

Saints and Church Dates June 2010

- 12 [First Ecumenical Council](#), 325
(Commemoration) W – LCMS
 - 12 [Elisha](#), prophet
- 24 The [Nativity of Saint John the Baptist](#)
 - 25 Presentation of the [Augsburg Confession](#), 1530
- 26 [Jeremiah](#), prophet 27 [Cyril](#), Bishop of Alexandria, 444
 - 28 [Irenaeus](#), Bishop of Lyons, c. 202
- 29 [Saint Peter](#) and [Saint Paul](#), Apostles

stjohnslutheranchurchoffice@gamil.com



Dearest Friends in Christ Jesus,
It's hard to believe that our choir year is coming to an end. Thank you to the adult and children's choir and to the school chorus for a successful year. I appreciate everyone's hard work and dedication towards our music program. I'm happy to report that our children's choir is slowly growing but I am still encouraging children and adults to join both choirs in September. Thank you pastor Lohmeyer for your continuous support and encouragement to our music ministry. Good luck to you and Judy as you begin the next chapter in your ministry that God has given to you. Thanks again for your service and dedication to our church and school these past seven years, you will be missed. I am especially thankful for a call that I received from pastor in the winter of 2005 asking me if I would be interested in being the Saturday evening organist. God has truly blessed me with the current positions that I hold within the church and school. I couldn't picture serving anywhere else. I pray that everyone has a relaxing and enjoyable summer. Please remember that beginning on May 30, 2010 we will be going to one service on Sunday's at 9:30 am. If you are interested in joining the choirs or if you have something you would like to address to the elders, please contact me at, (917) 696 5227.

In Christ,
Thomas Sax

Evangelical Pamphlets

The Evangelism Committee of St. John's offers for your interest, booklets published by the Lutheran Laymen's League, pertaining to everyday problems and concerns.

The following booklets are available at the display rack in the Narthex of the church. If there is a subject of concern not listed, please contact Rhoda Browne (718) 698-3356

Alone, Alive, Fulfilled
Alzheimer's
Battles with the Bottle
Coping with Cancer
Dealing with Depression
Finding Peace
Forgiveness Is for Giving
Has God Abandoned Me?
How to Know What's Right...And Do It
No Need to Fear
Now You're Talking
Overcoming A Painful Childhood
Parenting with Purpose
Prayer and Thoughts for Caregivers
Setting Priorities
Raising Your Children with Respect
So You Prayed for A Miracle...
Surviving A Loved One's Suicide
Surviving Breast Cancer
Take Heart in Your Grief
Talking with God
The Purpose of Living, The Purpose of Dying
The Truth About Angels
"THHHPPPTT!" *And Other Helpful Ways to Manage Anger*
Too Much to Do, Too Little Time
Unlocking the Prison of Guilt
When in Doubt...Read the Book!
Where's God in All of This?
Why Should I go to Church?

Joseph

Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster,
PA
October 16, 2010

Motor-coach will leave the School at 8:30AM in order to arrive to see the show at 1:00PM. Dinner will be at Miller's Smorgasbord. This is an OPEN trip, 1st come, 1st seated. The price includes Transportation, Show, Dinner and ALL taxes and tips.

COST

\$125.00 Per Adult

Children (4-12) \$60.00 Per Child

Payment Plan is as follows:

\$40.00 p.p. due on or before June 21, 2010

\$40.00 p.p. due on or before July 21, 2010

\$40.00 p.p. due on or before August 21, 2010

Mail check to Ken Birstler:

21 Amelia Court, Staten Island, NY 10310

Make check payable to:

St. John's Lutheran Church

Any questions/reservations call Ken Birstler

At (718) 273-0991



You are cordially invited to
attend a Farewell Dinner for
Pastor & Judy Lohmeyer to wish
them well in their future
endeavors

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Café Del Mondo

2530 Victory Boulevard
Staten Island, NY 10314-6610
(718) 494-2233

From 6-10PM

Tickets are \$25.00, per adult and
\$20.00 per child 3-10 years,

RSVP by June 4, 2010

Please make check payable to:
St. John's Lutheran Church

*In appreciation for Pastor's years of faithful service
we are planning to present him with a purse.*

*Please send your gift made payable to St. John's
Lutheran Church and send to the church office, so
we can present him with one check.*

Pastor Lohmeyer Accepts Divine Call

Pastor Lohmeyer announced on Sunday April 25th that he was going to accept the Divine Call issued to him from the Board of Directors of Ohio District LC-MS to serve as a Mission Pastor in that district. His responsibilities include teaching pre-seminary students, leadership development and planting a new congregation in the Greenbrier Valley of West Virginia. Pastor Lohmeyer's final Sunday as worship leader at St. John's will be June 27th.

The Following Were Confirmed

The following young people were confirmed during the 10:45 service on May 23rd, Pentecost Sunday:

Fiona Karen Gannon

James Fredrick Hart

William Colbert Heming III

Rachel Lenore Johanesson

We congratulate them and pray that will as promised remain faithful to the faith which they have confessed. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Pentecost: Some Facts

The word "Pentecost" is derived from the Greek word for "fifty." The Day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2, occurred 50 days after Jesus' resurrection and 10 days after His ascension. The day celebrates the sending of the Holy Spirit to the disciples following Jesus' ascension. On the 50th day after the Sabbath of Passover week, the Jews celebrated a festival of thanksgiving for the harvest. It was known by a number of different names:

- Feast of Weeks (Ex. 34:22; Deut. 16:10)
- Feast of Harvest (Ex. 23:16)
- Day of First fruits (Num. 28:26)

The "Feast of Weeks" was the second-most important festival for the Jews. (The most important was Passover.) This explains why so many people from all over the Roman empire were in Jerusalem on the day when the Holy Spirit was sent (see Acts 2:8?11). The Day of Pentecost is seen as the culmination of the Easter season. In many calendars, the day is listed as "Whitsunday." This comes from the phrase "White Sunday," and refers to practice of the newly baptized appearing in their white, baptismal garments on that day. The color of the day is red, symbolizing the tongues of fire that appeared on the apostles. In the early church, Jesus' ascension and the sending of the Spirit were celebrated together. By the seventh century, Pentecost had become such an important festival that the whole week following was set aside to observe it. Law courts were not in session, and most work was forbidden. By the 12th century this was limited to only three days. In most European countries the Monday after Pentecost is still observed as a holiday.

This was taken from:

The Lutheran Church Missouri-Synod website

**The July & August newsletter
will be one publication.
THE DEADLINE FOR THIS IS
JUNE 14, 2010 @ 11AM**

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