

SENIOR PASTOR'S PAGE

**“Fully Engaging Ourselves For Mission”**

As the summer months pass by, many persons will be busy planning and working on our **Every Member Response** plans for the fall season. All of you who are members of St. John's soon will be receiving an important survey as part of an overall Stewardship plan for the whole congregation. Mailings like this one are important because each one of you are important to our communal life together at St. John's. Because this is true, we need to hear from you.

At our June Annual Meeting of the Congregation, two persons were elected to serve on the Congregation Council, starting in January, 2009. Rich Redl and Mady Christie were nominated and elected at this meeting following the worship service on June 1. Shortly after that meeting, Chris Miller agreed to serve and fill the third position as Council Secretary. Chris' nomination and election will be made at the January, 2009 Annual Meeting scheduled for January 25, 2009.

I mention these two completed elections and one pending election because they are part of fulfilling our mission together through Congregation Council leadership and member participation as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is so easy to forget our mission statement of **“Encountering, Connecting, Responding to Jesus Christ.”** We print our mission statement on the back cover of every worship bulletin. Now we see it lived out once more in the responsive willingness of these three persons to fill the opening leadership positions of our Congregation Council for a two-year term of service. Yes, it is called a “term of service,” because people willingly offer themselves in service, serving the congregation and wider church.

Our fall Stewardship **Every Member Response** plans are being designed in such a way that each individual and family unit will be contacted and fully informed about our mission and properly tooled, so that you too, can serve the congregation and wider

church. Empowered and informed to serve, our goal is to give you the opportunities to **encounter** our mission plans for the upcoming year enhanced by the input from the survey going out; **connect**, we pray, in seeing how each person and family is gifted by God's grace with salvation **and** called to serve in our shared mission in Christ's name; and **respond** to this gift and call as baptized Christians by the level and amount of our financial support, sharing our spiritual gifts and giving our valuable time. Together, by God's grace, you and I make this mission come alive in ways that show we all participate in the communal life at St. John's.

I pray all of us will pause for reflection in these warm summer days to be open to God's Holy Spirit wherein we are daily **“encountering, connecting and responding to Jesus Christ.”** Our Stewardship prayer and hope by our Commitment Weekend on November 8 and 9, is to personally place in every individual and family unit, the specifics of our mission plans and activities for the upcoming year. We will strive to provide the very information every person needs to have in one's possession so that one's giving, personally, communally and financially, are spiritually grounded, empowered and centered in Christ for mission. Only in this way will our vital ministries in Christ's name move beyond financial deficits and fears about scarcity and cut-backs in ministry. Only in this way, will we discover just how abundant God's grace and blessings truly are, when **all of us** are fully engaged for mission.

Yours in Christ,  
Daniel B. Ward, Senior Pastor

**September/October Journal Deadline**  
Sunday, August 10, 2008

## Deacon's Corner, Diakonia & ChristCare News

### Deacon's Corner

Grace and Peace to you from the NY Metro Synod. What an honor to be your delegate to this year's Synod Assembly in Tarrytown NY and having the responsibility to elect a Bishop for the next 6 years. The whole atmosphere surrounding this time of selection of the right person to fulfill this job was overseen by the Holy Spirit. We were given a quiet time for the Holy Spirit to talk to us and then there was a time of prayer before each ballot. I was inspired by the quiet of over 500 people in the room something that usually never happens. We all know now what an Ecclesiastical Ballot is. There was no campaigning for the job. The candidates were asked questions and answered them. After all was over Pastor Robert Rimbo was chosen Bishop on the 5th ballot by 4 votes. We ask God to guide this Bishop to move forward and to lead this SYNOD in the right direction in the next 6 years.

At St. John's we are going into the summer season, the change in service times, the 5:00 PM Saturday service each week now and 8:15 and 9:30 on Sunday. This is the time of year when we all go on vacation, I hope you will visit different churches in the different places that you go, and bring back what you find. If you find something that we do not do and you think that it might work at St. John's to make the service more meaningful to you please let us know. Bring back a bulletin from that Church and let us see what others are doing. The Worship and Music Mission Team then can review it and see if it would work for us. We are open to new ideas on how to increase our attendance at all the services and we would like to see all of you at all the services. I know you're out there and have a feeling for St. John's that's why you are a member here, but sometimes we let other things get in the way of our coming to Church, and we really would like to see you. God is waiting for you and He has patience so come and let Him talk to you and maybe you will see a change in your life for as Jesus says where 2 or more are gathered there I will also be so come and gather with us to be with Jesus.

Your servant in Christ;  
Deacon Rich

### Diakonia News

You've been confirmed, you've gone to adult Bible studies and Pastor's classes, and you're hungry for more. You know there has to be something out there for the committed, enthusiastic adult Christian lay learner. **There is! It's**

**diakonia.** Diakonia is a two-year continuing education program for Lutherans who want to dig deeper into their faith, worship, service, roots and Christian identity. Classes meet once a week at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Pleasantville. A new class cycle begins in September. Scholarship funds are available through St. John's. For more information, contact **Gloria Taylor** at 845-227-6061, or [gafc7@netscape.com](mailto:gafc7@netscape.com).



### St. John's continues building Christ Care group ministry with Group Leader Training

The interest and participation in ChristCare groups continues to grow! To meet this growing demand the ministry requires more trained group leaders than the current seven. To that end plans are being made for training another class of leaders to-be.

Just as with our first class of leaders trained last fall, ChristCare Group Leader candidates are gifted and committed people from our congregation. They will help ChristCare Group members feel included and cared for. They will organize activities that help group members grow in faith and discipleship. Through special training these individuals will learn how to lead interesting and meaningful ChristCare Group meetings.

Are you looking for a new and exciting way to serve God and others? Is the Spirit calling you to be a ChristCare Group Leader? Then consider training as a ChristCare Group Leader.

For questions about the training or leadership experience, do not hesitate to discuss it with any of our group leaders: **Jeanne Jones, Donna Knapp, Karen Smythe, Karen Olson, Randy Johnson, Bill Brunsvold, and Lois VanZanten.**

**Applications** for those interested in being interviewed for **ChristCare Group Leader training are being accepted until early August.** The training is scheduled to start immediately after Labor Day in early September and complete by early December. Application packets are available in the church office or from one of the Equipppers (Mark Glass, Steve Jones, Bob Knapp, George Proto and Pastor Ward). As always, the easiest way to contact the Equippper's Team is via e-mail [christcare@stjohnelc.org](mailto:christcare@stjohnelc.org).

**COORDINATOR OF LAY MINISTRY'S PAGE**

**Coordinator of Lay Ministry's Page**

Cut and place on your refrigerator

**Future St. John's Events**

July 21—25—Vacation Bible School for ages 3 years to 6th grade 9AM—12 noon each day

August 16—Adopt-a-Highway Service Project—Meet at church at 9AM

September 4—October 30—New Member Classes from 7—8:30PM in the Blue Room

September 7—Sunday School starts at 9:30AM, 3 year olds—12th grade

September 7—Rally Day Activities following the 9:30 Service

September 7—Confirmation Parent/Student Orientation at 7PM

September 10—Pre-school Orientation for 3's at 9AM and 4's at 10AM

September 10—October 22—Adult Education Class from 7—8:30PM in the Blue Room "Luther—the Movie Focus on the Reformation"

September 13—Middle and High School Youth—Bon Fire Event at 6PM

September 27—Middle and High School Youth—Road Rally Event at 4PM

**Register for pre-school now at St. John's**

3's—Tuesday and Thursdays, 4's—Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 9AM—11:30AM. Our program provides a Bible-based, hands-on, learning center approach that develops the social, emotional, physical and cognitive needs of each child in a relaxed, loving atmosphere. Call Jean Morehouse for more information at 452-6391.

**Pastor Hinlicky and Pastor Wiecher accept Call**

Pastor William Wiecher, Redeemer Lutheran Church, New Paltz, and Pastor Wynemah Hinlicky have both accepted new calls to serve College Evangelical Lutheran Church in Salem, Virginia. Pastor Wiecher's last Sunday was June 1 and will serve as a part-time pastor with his wife, Pastor Hinlicky, serving there as a full-time pastor, starting August 1. Pastor Hinlicky's last Sunday at Redeemer was June 29.

Pastor Hinlicky served as an Assistant Pastor at St. John's for three years (1989-92). They have three children, Joseph, Mikaela, and Liam and will be moving in July to Salem.

**Receive the Journal Electronically**

If your household would like to start reading the St. John's Journal via email rather than receive it through the mail please let me know at [janie@stjohnselc.org](mailto:janie@stjohnselc.org). This fall the Journal will also be available on our website.

**Past Journal Pages found in the Kiosks**

The following pages will no longer be found in the Journal. They can be found in the kiosks weekly.

Monthly Calendar, Flyers, Reservation Forms and Prayer Concerns

**St. John's Mission Interpreter**

Gloria Taylor is our Mission Interpreter. She's been distributing a magazine Stories of Faith in Action / 2008 to members recently. This resource is filled with inspiring stories of mission and ministry in the daily lives of ELCA members. Gloria reminded us at the June Congregation Meeting that we are all connected in Christ. If you would like to have a copy of this magazine talk with Gloria.

**Church Office Summer Hours**

Monday—Thursday 9AM—4PM  
Friday 9AM—3PM

**September/October Journal Deadline**

Sunday, August 10, 2008

## JUNE 1ST CONGREGATION MEETING SUMMARY

**Opening Prayer**—Pastor Ward

**Council President's Remarks**—Art Upright extended a thanks to all members who participated in the Cottage Meetings this past winter. An additional \$10,000 was pledged after these meetings. The Lutheran Care Center will be starting an Adult Day Care Program "Circle of Friends" at St. John's during the week from 8:30AM—3:30PM starting this month.

**Pastor's Inspiration**—Pastor Ward thanked Tony and Peggy Hlavacek for editing and proofing the Journal these past 16 years. Tony and Peggy created the calendar for the Journal when Nancy Higgins was the editor and then Tony took over as Editor September 1992. A gift certificate to a local restaurant was given to Tony and Peggy from the congregation to show our appreciation for their years of service.

This spring our New Members Class followed the format of a ChristCare group. In our sharing we gained a deeper appreciation of one another. God is on a mission to Love the World and we are Gifted and Called to participate in this mission. This year we have chosen the ChristCare program as our ministry to enhance St. John's passionate spirituality.

**2008 Synod Assembly Report**—Rich Ferolito stated that a banner that read "God's Works, Our Hands" was at center stage throughout the Metropolitan New York Synod's Assembly that was held in May. Rich and Carol Ferolito and Art and Linda Upright were our voting members at the Assembly this year. Robert Rimbo was elected Bishop of the Metro NY Synod on the fifth ballot by 4 votes. A member of St. John's, Paul Lumpkin was elected as a Lay Male Church Wide Assembly Voting Member and Pastor Ahlstrom was re-elected to the Synod Council. Several resolutions were presented and passed. These can be found on the Synod Assembly Summary Report posted on the ELCA Churchwide Messages Bulletin Board outside the Chapel. A number of prominent guests brought greetings, but the most inspiring visitors were the Bishops from our partner Synods in Tanzania and Romania. The synod announced that it has met its one million dollar endowment fund goal for Tanzania and is still accepting donations for this endowment. Another highlight was the Mission Interpreters presentation. It gave a short overview of the varied, exciting, innovative mission outreach activities of the numerous churches in our Synod. Gloria Taylor represented St. John's in this event.

**Council Member Election**—Chris Rigby: Mady Christie and Rich Redl were elected to serve as council members starting in 2009. The Nominating Committee (Barbara Brunsvold, Rob Cohen, Cheryl Croulet, Melanie Potter and Kat Weaver) are still looking for a Council Secretary and have some Mission Team Chair positions to fill.

**2007 Audit Report**—Read by Burt Berge. The Audit Committee (Burt Berge, Jack Feldborg and Mike Guinan) believes that based on their review St. John's records present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position and operating transactions for the year ended December 31, 2007.

**2008 –9 CJK Budget Approval**—St. John's CJK 2008-2009 Budget was distributed. The budget is based on an estimate of 12 children in the Junior (3-year-olds) class and 16 children in the Senior (4-year-olds) class. The Budget shows a surplus of \$2,956 for next year if the enrollment numbers are met. Janie Hopkins asked for a motion to approve the 2008-2009 CJK Budget as presented. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

**2008 Financial Status**—Janie Hopkins read the Treasurer's Report submitted by Caryl Morris. This report can be found on the Mission Team News page in this Journal. Overall, our current Income of \$205,445 vs. Expenses of \$214,029 leaves us with a deficit of \$8,584 at the end of May, 2008.

**Five Year Plan Status**—Bob Cohen gave a presentation on St. John's 5-year Financial Projections. Our current projections indicate a financial crisis. Unless we change our current path, there will be insufficient funds to pay 2010 expenses. A 5% income increase with a 2-3% increase in expenses will result in a balanced budget by 2011. Making a drastic expense reduction of \$40,000 each year and assuming a 3% income and expense increase will also result in a balanced budget. A Change will take place at St. John's, but it's up to us what kind of Change.

Art Upright listed some Five Year Plan actions under consideration. Every Member Response Program, Offer Fellowship Hour every Sunday, Start an Education Program between Worship Services, Offer Saturday Worship year round.

**St. John's Mission Interpreter**—Gloria Taylor reminded us that we are all connected in Christ.

**The meeting was closed with prayer.**—Pastor Ward

## MISSION TEAM NEWS

### Socks for Soldiers Update

Recently, our high school youth collected Socks to be sent to our soldiers overseas. The socks were chosen from the many items on the list being asked for by 'Operation Shoebox' an Organization that distributes the donated items overseas to our servicemen and women. During the months of January and February socks, and donations for the purchase of socks, were requested. Our Congregation was very supportive, and in addition to the socks we received, we also received donations totaling \$170.00 towards the purchase of additional socks to be sent.

While shopping for the socks at EMS (Eastern Mountain Sports) on Route 9, a very surprising encounter occurred. I was approached by a young salesman who asked me if I needed any help. I explained I was looking for socks to be sent overseas to the soldiers and I wanted to get a good sock at the best value. Mike said he understood and could help. He informed me he was a National Guardsman who had just returned from Iraq. He expressed appreciation that the people of St. John's were sending socks overseas. He told me how the boots they must wear hurt and wear down in pressure points if the sock is not cushioned in certain areas. He told me stories of his own experience and told me, "you have no idea how great a good pair of socks feel". He showed me various socks and explained which would be good and why. He explained how soldiers keep their boots on for days at a time, sleeping in them because there wasn't enough time to take them on and off. We spent about 30 minutes together. I wasn't actually purchasing that day; I was on a scouting trip. When I left, I thanked Mike for his help and for serving in Iraq. He thanked me for our church thinking of them overseas and sending socks. As I walked away, he reminded me, "When you're ready to purchase, please don't forget to buy some smaller sizes, we have a lot of women over there too." It didn't surprise me at all that Mike wanted to make sure I didn't forget anyone. I wish you all could have been there with me in the store that day.

Later in the month, I went back to talk with the manager regarding the possibility of a discount for our purchase. The Manager of EMS on Route 9, Walter, was wonderful. He offered me a generous discount and made a donation of his own on behalf of the store.

In addition to the socks that were donated in the box at the Narthex, we sent an additional \$300.00 worth of cushioned socks to our soldiers. Thank you to all the members of our Congregation who supported our youth with this project and to Mike and Walter at EMS for all their help. Please remember our local businesses that

support us.

On behalf of our Youth Ministry,  
Pray for Peace,  
Terry Di Salvo

### Finance MT News

#### Treasurer's Report to the June 1st Congregation Meeting

The following are comments regarding the May Statement of Income and Expense for St. John's Lutheran Church.

Income from Envelopes at this time is approximately 107% of the budget. This is due to the increased pledges received as a result of the recent Cottage Meetings. We expect income to exceed 100% for the remainder of the year.

All expense line items are within budget as of May 31, 2008 with the following exception: Natural Gas is at 100% of budget, \$20,000. St. John's January bill was more than 2007 due to colder weather and the increased cost of fuel.

Overall, our current Income of \$205,446 vs. Expenses of \$214,029 leaves us with a deficit of \$8,584 as May 31st. Please try to stay current with your offerings this summer. Our bills don't go on vacation.

### Children's Ministry News

#### Calling all S.C.S. Volunteers!

We are looking for Fall '08 Sunday Church School teachers and assistants. No experience necessary, just enthusiasm and a love of children! We still have a few openings K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and we are also in need of people willing to be called last minute as substitutes for sick days, snow days, car days...Just call Chris and Maria Rigby at 298-8979 and let us know!

We are also looking for donations of anti-bacterial wipes, paper towels, napkins, baby wipes, and tissue boxes -- so handy for craft and snack clean up, and of course those winter noses! We will leave a basket in the office. Thank you!!

#### Rally Day Activities—September 7th

Sunday School resumes at 9:30AM. Don't miss the Rally Day Activities on Sunday, September 7th after the 9:30 Service. Watch for more publicity.

## St. John's Scholarship Program

### Call for College Scholarship Applications Issued

Applications for scholarships available to members of St. John's will be accepted from July 1 until September 2. The following awards are included and require the completion of only one application form:

1. St. John's Lutheran Church Scholarship Award
2. Viola Locker Swanson Scholarship Award
3. St. John's Scholastic Achievement Award
4. The Mackey Collegiate Scholarship Award

Application materials will NOT be sent to members known to be eligible for awards as has been done in past years. Application materials are available in the scholarship folder in the church office.

### High School Advanced Placement Scholarship Applications

High school students who undertook advanced placement courses during the 2007 – 2008 academic year are eligible to receive partial reimbursement of expenses incurred under provisions of the Mackey Scholarship Program. Complete details are available in the church office. Application forms must be submitted by September 2.

Comments or questions concerning these programs should be directed to Walt Reynolds, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee.

### Mackey Music Scholarship Award Recipients Announced

The following seventeen students have received an award of seventy-five dollars each as recipients of Mackey Music Scholarships. To receive an award the student must be undertaking private music studies and actively participate in St. John's music activities.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>INSTRUMENT</u>	<u>MUSIC ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION</u>
Caitlyn Bailey	Piano	Middle School Choir
Philip Beard	Piano	Elementary School Choir
Anna Bordi	Violin	String Ensemble
Joe Cox	Percussion	8:15 Music Ministry/Chapel Choir
Katherine DeSousa	Cello	Elementary School Choir
Matt Guse	Bass	String Ensemble/ High School Bells
Chelsea Hadden	Violin/Viola	String Ensemble
Greta Huber	Viola	String Ensemble
Silvija Kristapsons	Viola	String Ensemble/ High School Bells
Talija Kristapsons	Cello	String Ensemble
Brendan McGuckin	Percussion	Interfaith concert/ Jazz recital
Michael McGuckin	Piano/Guitar	Interfaith concert/Jazz recital
Andrew Morris	Guitar	8:15 Music Ministry
Margaret Patkus	Piano	Elementary School Choir/Bells
Lyssa Pelton	Violin/Viola	String Ensemble/ Promise Bells
Adam Schlak	Piano/Trombone	Elementary School Choir
Diane Von Dehsen	Flute	Worship service solo/duet/Bells

These young people are to be congratulated for developing their God given talents and sharing them with the congregation.

## New Members Received June 1 & News from the Evangelism MT Welcome to St. John's

**Rachel Davis-Robinson**

**Bob Harmon**

88 Autumn Drive  
Poughkeepsie NY 12603  
845-463-8394

**Kristal Diaz-Rojas**

skmurgai@gmail.com  
20 Cambridge Ct.  
Highland NY 12528  
845-401-7665

**Shaunesy McIntyre**

**Jason Sczerba**

zerb57@hotmail.com  
42 W. Dorsey Lane  
Hyde Park NY 12538  
child: Quinn  
845-485-8326

**Barbara Murphy**

bam0422@optonline.net  
11 Surrey Lane Apt. F  
Wappingers Falls NY 12590  
845-765-0491

**Heather O'Brien**

henobrien@yahoo.com  
50 Stuart Drive  
Poughkeepsie NY 12603  
child: Akiera Scott  
845-462-6176

**Cindy Peck**

17 Prospect St.  
Wappingers Falls NY 12590  
845-297-0162

**Kyle Raymo**

kray5302@acc.msme.edu  
394 Smith Road  
Hyde Park NY 12538  
845-723-4114

**Joan Shand**

26 Hooker Ave.  
Poughkeepsie NY 12601  
child: Abigail  
child: Rachelle  
child: Jaalah  
845-454-4523

**James and Jocelyn Swart**

2 Cambridge Ct.  
Highland NY 12528  
child: Benjamin  
child: Nathaniel  
845-691-8189

**Evangelism MT News**

Adopt-a-Highway

Mark Saturday August 19 on your calendar to meet at the church at 9:00 AM to support our local community service project. It usually takes about 2 hours to pick up trash on Rt 44 from Adams west on Rt 44/55 to North Grand Avenue. Looking forward to your support. Bring gloves.

LCC Adult Social Day Care "Circle of Friends"

opens at St. John's

As reported in Pastor Ward's article in the Journal in May the LCC is operating an Adult Social Day Care Program "Circle of Friends" Monday- Friday 8:30AM - 3:30PM in the Blue Room starting Monday June 9. LCC has purchased new appropriate furniture for this program. They will be paying a monthly fee to St. John's for the daily use of the room. The Blue Room is available for our use after 4:00 PM daily and all day on the weekend. If you would like to volunteer to help please contact FaLisia Cotton at 845-486-9494 ext 103 or stop in to the Blue Room to speak with Vanessa Graff.

Greeters needed

Please sign up for a Sunday to greet St. John's members and newcomers as they enter our facility for worship services. There is a sign up poster located in the Narthex. A description of duties is located on the table in the Narthex. Questions or additional information please contact Dave Hawkinson at 485-8796.