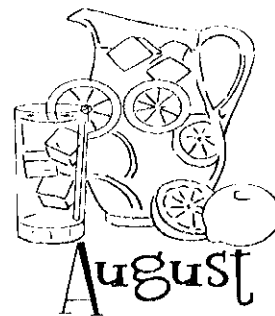


# WORSHIP WITH US!

Thursdays at 6:00pm  
Sundays at 8:00am & 9:30am



AUGUST 2017

OUR SAVIOR'S MESSENGER

No. 7

Telephone 452-4005 ♦ e-mail [oslcsheboygan@gmail.com](mailto:oslcsheboygan@gmail.com) ♦ website: [www.oslcsheboygan.com](http://www.oslcsheboygan.com)

## Children Communing before Confirmation

When the pastor gives the very body and blood of Jesus under the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper, the believer receives forgiveness, life and salvation. For that reason, Martin Luther said about the Lord's Supper: "This sacrament is the gospel." It is nothing less than a miracle that Jesus, who is true God and true man, gives us his very body and blood – the same body and blood given and shed on the cross, and risen from the dead - to eat and to drink so that we might be forgiven of our sins and preserved for our own resurrection to eternal life.

At Our Savior's we include the celebration of Holy Communion at every weekend and feast day service because it is the gospel - and we need the gospel! Catechesis and preaching regularly call attention to what Christ gives us in the Sacrament. It is not surprising then that children notice and want to receive the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. Or at least it shouldn't be surprising. Children can understand the simple gospel of Holy Communion, which Jesus himself explains when he said, "Take, eat/drink. This is my body/blood. For you. For the forgiveness of sins." Simple. In fact, based on what our Lord said about children and faith, children may even find the theology of Holy Communion easier to believe than adults do. In the Small Catechism Luther asks and answers the question about who is worthy to receive Holy Communion: "Who receives this sacrament worthily? ...that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" Children can understand what Holy Communion is and offers. They can be worthy and prepared to receive it.

The experience of most Lutherans in America has been that children do not receive Holy Communion

until after taking part in a rite of Confirmation at the end of eighth grade. This is a practice and tradition that goes back only a couple of centuries. The longer-standing practice in the Christian Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church from the time of the Reformation has been that believers in Jesus received Holy Communion when they were ready at any age, and the age varied.

The process and rite of Confirmation as we practice it today is the result of later developments in the Lutheran Church that emphasized a personal confession of faith and a vow of obedience to life in the Church. Unfortunately, because of these later emphases an unintended consequence developed where instruction in the Christian faith using the Catechism became a means to an end. Catechesis was regarded as a required course to qualify for receiving Holy Communion, rather than as part of the life-long process of forming faith through hearing God's Word and receiving Holy Communion. Not only the Lutheran Church, but other denominations that practice Confirmation as we do today, often see the confirmed drift away from regular worship and life in the church soon after Confirmation because they have come to believe they have "graduated" from church.

Today, many in the Lutheran Church are trying to reverse that trend with practices that better reflect the theology of Holy Communion and the purpose of catechesis in our time and culture. Because Holy Communion is the gospel, because children often want to and can receive Holy Communion, and because for almost two hundred years after the Reformation the Lutheran Church did not deny it to them, Our Savior's would like to begin a process that will allow children, no matter their age, to commune who are prepared to receive it. The process would happen like this: When a child wishes to receive the

Sacrament, and the child's parents believe he or she is ready to do so, they may begin to prepare them for the Sacrament. The primary focus of this process will be in the home. Working with the parents, children will learn by heart the Catechism (the Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, and institution texts for Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution and the Sacrament of the Altar). They will learn the basic meaning of the six parts using the Small Catechism. Parents and children will meet with the pastor so they can receive instruction in the basic meaning of the Catechism. If the parents think their child is ready, and the child is sufficiently prepared as demonstrated in the examination with the pastor, the pastor will invite the child(ren) to receive the Sacrament using the Rite of First Communion Prior to Confirmation which is found in the LCMS *Lutheran Service Book Agenda*.

This does not mean that Confirmation as it has been practiced at Our Savior's will be changed. Children who wish to commune will be expected to have an understanding that matches their age and ability. Catechesis in our Christian Education Program (CEP) will continue to be the time during which children develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of Christianity that we expect of confessing congregation members. Youth who began communing as a child but for no legitimate reason do not take part in CEP will not be allowed to continue to commune because it undermines the unity of our common confession.

To allow children to receive Holy Communion before Confirmation would not be blazing a new trail for our congregation. Not only was this the practice of the Lutheran Church for centuries after the Lutheran Church was founded (500 years ago this October 31, by the way), but the LCMS as a denomination and several LCMS congregations in the Sheboygan area encourage and carry out the practice. The idea was presented and approved by the voters of Our Savior's as part of the intentional interim ministry this past year. The Boards of Elders and Education, as well as the Church Council have evaluated and approved implementing the practice. The voters at their meeting on July 16th have also heard and approved an implementation of communing children who are ready before confirmation.

Offering to commune children before confirmation is not required nor expected. Parents and children who wish to wait until after confirmation in eighth

grade are free to do so. Our goal is to make Christ's gift of the Sacrament available to children who are prepared to receive it, to encourage learning about the basic truths of Christianity in the home, and to affirm the on-going, life-long importance of God's Word and Holy Communion in the believer's life in Christ.

The Lord be with you!  
Pr. Schulz +

### **New Sunday Adult Bible Class**

Join us beginning Sunday, September 10th at 9:15 for the Bible study "Christian Decision Making." It is sometimes difficult to decide what to do when faced with course of action. The Bible study Christian Decision Making leads us to trust God's love and to be confident that He will be with us as we make decisions in life. Lessons explore scriptural principles and examine people in the Bible who have made wise or foolish decisions.

This study covers the following eight lessons:

- What Shall I Do?
- Absolute Right or Wrong
- Decisions and Adiaphora
- I Would Like to Know the Future
- God's Word Builds Maturity, which Enables Us to Make Good Decisions
- Be Willing to Follow Where God Leads
- Don't Fear When Unclear
- Freedom, Not a Blueprint

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES**

It's important for all of us to learn God's Word. Through our study and discussions about the Word, God gives us the strength necessary to stand our ground against the devil. Ongoing Christian education is a vital tool in that struggle.

Our Savior's Sunday school will start classes on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am. Look for registration information in the mail!

### CEP Parent Orientation Meeting

A special CEP Orientation will be held on **Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** This meeting is ***MANDATORY*** for all students and at least one parent must be present before your child can start CEP on September 13<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting you will meet individually with your child's CEP teacher and review the class requirements for your child's grade. Also, the 2017-2018 handbook will be distributed. All information forms will be sent out to all CEP homes in mid-August.

In addition to the evening meeting, we are planning a special presentation for all 5<sup>th</sup> graders and new students at the **10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**. During the service Pastor will ask all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and any new students to come forward to receive their 'Faith Alive' Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. Following a blessing of the Bibles and catechisms, the Board of Christian Education will distribute the books to all students. These tools will be used through all four years of CEP.

Our CEP staff looks forward to working with you and your child(ren). As we work together (and that's the key) we know that Christ will bless our Christian Education Program at Our Savior's. See you there!

### Ladies' Night Out

We have planned another Ladies' Night Out for Wednesday, August 9th starting to gather at 6 PM and planning to sit down at 6:30 PM. Our next restaurant to visit will be Town and Country Golf Course (upstairs dining room). It is a casual evening of conversation, good food, and relaxation. It is also an opportunity to meet someone new or reconnect with someone who you have not seen in a while. Please come! If you have any questions, call Clara Murphy at 457-2658.

### Rummage Sale, 2017

We are encouraging you to drop off your items as soon as you can. We are in the process of sorting, pricing, and repacking items according to category every Monday morning from 9 AM to Noon. We will not meet on Labor Day however. We are looking for willing hands to assist in the process--so please come down.

We also need someone to do some testing of some electronic items for us. You can take the items home to do it. Mike and I are not techie people and could use assistance there.

Another area that help is needed--we would like to list some items on e-Bay prior to the sale as we think we can get more money for them than if we just try to sell them at the church sale. Please call Clara if you can help.

You have been very generous and we appreciate it. As a reminder, we do not take car seats, mattresses, anything with Freon (like dehumidifiers), computers, or TVs. Furniture can be dropped off the week of the sale.

Hours for the sale are 1 to 5 on Friday, October 20th and 9 AM to 2:30 PM on Saturday, October 21st. A sign up sheet will be in the church lobby after Labor Day.

If you have items to donate but need assistance getting them to church, call Clara Murphy at 457-2658 or Mike Feudner at 451-4759. Again we appreciate your donations and your help in this process. We cannot do it without you!

### Pastoral Acts:

#### *Funerals*

Mr. Frederick Nierode  
Age: 94  
Died: May 23, 2017

Mr. John Schumann  
Age: 90  
Died: June 29, 2017  
Laid to Rest: July 3, 2017

## NOTES FROM THE PARISH NURSE

Dear Friends in Christ:

I attended the parish nurse conference in May. The theme was "O Give Thanks." Key note speakers included Rev. Dr. Dan Paavola who presented "Thanksgiving for God's Gifts." He is a wonderful speaker and now the author of *Our Way Home* – a journey through the Lord's Prayer. Some of you heard about this book during Bible class.

Marcy Schnorr, Ed.D., RN-BC, presented "Thanksgiving for Parish Nursing: Looking in a 3-way Mirror" with an emphasis on "O Give Thanks" that we got to serve – not that we have to serve.

Tom Giordana presented "Thanksgiving for Music – Hymns of the Lutheran Reformation", taking us back to the 1500s and what was happening in the world that allowed Luther to be able to advance his reformation. We went through key reformation hymn writers. It was a great presentation of history and singing.

Raeda Mansour from Bethlehem, Palestine, is a parish nurse living in an Islamic environment. Her presentation brought tears and a standing ovation. We are so blessed to be in America.

Rev. Steve Smith presented "Thanksgiving for Prayers and Prayers of Thanksgiving" using several biblical examples.

I attended breakout sessions on the meaning of infertility, and giving thanks for people of all (dis)abilities, a presentation about Bethesda Lutheran Communities.

As usual, the conference was spiritually uplifting. Thanks be to God.

Prayerfully submitted:

Deb Kuitert, Parish Nurse

Blood Pressure screening: August 6

Office Hours:

Mondays – 9:00-11:00am

Thursdays – 3:45-5:50pm

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

\$175 in memory of John Schumann

\$75 in memory of Fred Nierode

## Membership Changes

### *TRANSFER OUT*

Marcus and Linda Powers to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sheboygan

### *RELEASED*

Anthony, Jane, Jason, Dylan Roe  
Alissa, Miles & Isabelle Knoebel

### *AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*

Martin, Deb, Katherine and Colin Haynes  
James Ziegler

## LUTHERAN COMMUNITY EVENTS AND INFO

**Griefshare at St. Mark's . . .** St Mark Lutheran Church will be offering a Griefshare class that will start on Wednesday, August 2nd at 10:00am. Griefshare is a 13-week Christian based grief support group. Seating space is limited to 12 people for the session. There will be a \$15 refundable fee upon completion of the course. Contact Carolyn Eiden the Parish Nurse at 920-458-4343 ext. 104 with questions or to register.

### **Spirit of Wellness 5K run & 3K Fun Run/Walk**

. . . Saturday, August 19 at 9:00 a.m. Join us in the Spirit of Wellness as we run and walk this year in memory of LHS Alumna, Juli Baird, who passed away from breast cancer last year. Juli was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran in Sheboygan. 50% of the profits from the run will be donated to Vince Lombardi Cancer Care of Sheboygan. Watch for more information in future newsletters, bulletins, and via our website at [www.lutheranhigh.com](http://www.lutheranhigh.com).

# HighLites

*"Preparing Christian Leaders—One Student at a Time"*

A Monthly Newsletter

August 2017

## A place to be proud of.

Just like every summer, there are several projects in the works in and around Lutheran High School. We are so grateful for all the help and support that the school receives from friends of LHS who go above and beyond.

A few projects that the Building Committee had on their list are in progress or were completed in July. The gymnasium floor has a new coat of stain and varnish, and is looking sharper than ever. A few classrooms received a fresh coat of paint and new carpeting. And new tile flooring replaces the carpeting in the front hallway, which hosts the most traffic. Thank you to Wayne LeClair, Terry Stenklyft, and Tom Rusch for the flooring expertise.

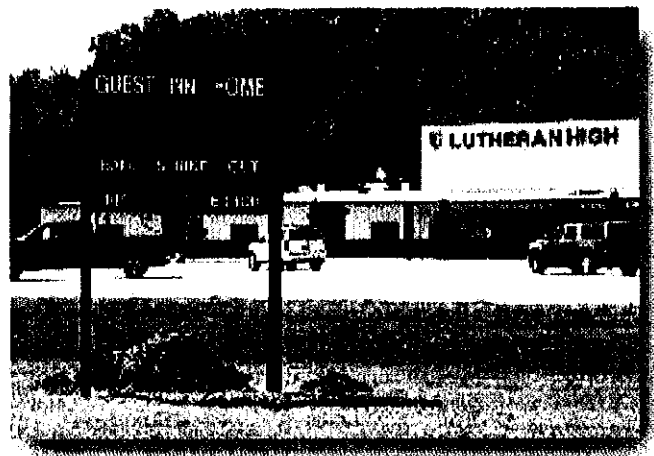
This past spring, LHS was able to take the opportunity to obtain a scoreboard for baseball from Sheboygan North High School. And through a very generous donation, LHS purchased a new scoreboard for the soccer field. With that donation, new posts and electrical needs were installed for both boards and they are now ready for action.

The LHS campus was tidy and prepared for our very special event of retiring Sam Dekker's basketball jersey. This was the school's first retirement of this kind and we anticipated a big day as we welcomed the public to our grounds for a jersey presentation, gymnasium banner unveiling, and recognition our 2012 State Champion Boys Basketball team. Very special indeed.

We look forward to many more special times as we welcome this coming school year. We pray that God will continue to bless us as He has done to this point. We are very thankful for the families and friends who continue to keep Lutheran High School in their heart. Be sure to stop in and take a look around sometime.

In His Service,

Paul W. Gnan, Executive Director





## Spirit of Wellness 5K run & 3K Fun Run/Walk in memory of Juli Baird Saturday, August 19 at 9:00 a.m.

*Join us in the Spirit of Wellness!*

50% of the profits from the run will be donated to  
**Vince Lombardi Cancer Care of Sheboygan.**

Watch for more information in future newsletters, bulletins, and  
via our website at [www.lutheranhigh.com](http://www.lutheranhigh.com).

*Juli lost her seven year battle with Stage 4 Metastatic Breast Cancer last year. She attended St. John Lutheran grade school in Plymouth and was a 1987 graduate of Sheboygan Lutheran High School. She was very active in her union - UAW 833, serving as President of the Women's Committee. She volunteered at Bethlehem Lutheran School with Reading Partners and the school lunch program.*

*Juli was of strong faith and family was very important to her. Despite her illness she was always willing to help other people. She always said "I AM FINE" even if she wasn't feeling well. She touched so many lives in her own way. Walk with us, the Baird Family.*



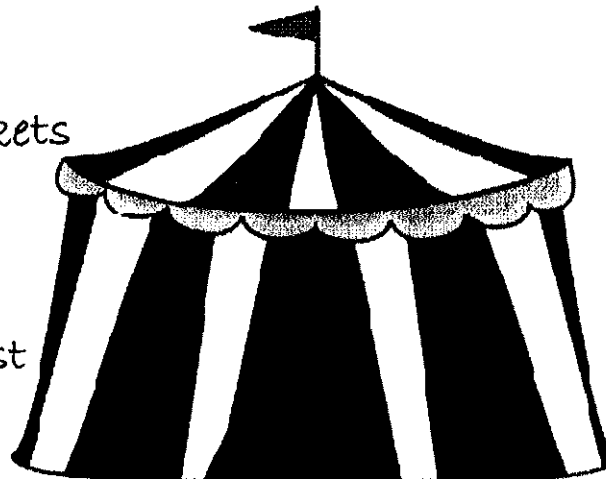
## Family Festival

Saturday, Sept. 16 ~ 3 - 7 p.m.

Drawings for  
family fun baskets

Carnival Games  
& Prizes

Pie-eating Contest  
Concessions



40 Foot Inflatable  
obstacle course,  
bouncing houses,  
slam dunk,  
fire truck frenzy,  
and more super  
inflatables!

Everyone is welcome to this community-wide event. Kids of all ages can enjoy a variety of games and activities. Tickets are \$1 each and are available at the event. A list of the activities can be found on our website under Upcoming Events. Volunteers are needed for the day. Please use the SignUp Genius found on the LHS website or contact Kim Werth at 920-917-7311.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church – 452-4005 – oslcsheboygan@gmail.com – oslcsheboygan.com

August 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Service	4	5
6 7:30-9:30am Blood Pressure Screening 8:00am Divine Service 9:30am Divine Service	7 9:00-11:00am Parish Nurse 9:00-12:00pm Rummage Sale Set Up 6:30pm Board Meetings	8	9 6:00pm Ladies' Night Out at Town & Country Golf Course	10 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Service	11	12
13 8:00am Divine Service 9:30am Divine Service	14 9:00-11:00am Parish Nurse 9:00-12:00pm Rummage Sale Set Up 6:30pm Council	15	16	17 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Service	18	19
20 8:00am Divine Service 9:30am Divine Service	21 9:00-11:00am Parish Nurse 9:00-12:00pm Rummage Sale Set Up	22	23	24 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Service	25	26
27 8:00am Divine Service 9:30am Divine Service	28 9:00-11:00am Parish Nurse 9:00-12:00pm Rummage Sale Set Up	29	30	31 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Service	<b>Notes: Sunday School &amp; Bible Classes resume September 10<sup>th</sup>. CEP orientation is September 6<sup>th</sup> and classes start on September 13<sup>th</sup>.</b>	