



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor Brian's Message

“It's Not About Me”

And He [Jesus] said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” Luke 9:23 The world says “look out for number one.” Pop culture and advertising push us to please ourselves and to grab whatever we can get, ignoring what the peripheral costs may be, whether we or someone else will be adversely affected by our self-indulgence. This is not only the message of the world, it's that of the devil; Satan. In the Garden of Eden he played to the ego and pride of Eve and Adam to get them to disobey the clear command of God. The peripheral costs of that one act of self-indulgence were disaster to the two, and to everyone else down the road. Sin entered the world, and with it suffering and death, three things that had up to that time not existed. Now, because of one selfish act, all of us are slaves to sin and subject to continual suffering and imminent death. That's some heavy stuff when you stop to really think about it! We all know how God responded to this situation (at least I hope you do. If not, please come talk to me). Yes, He responded in justice and condemnation. As the holy and righteous God, He had to so as to not violate His character. But ultimately, our Father responded in mercy, grace and love. He, in the person of His Son, came into the world to take on all the sin, face the judgment and condemnation for it Himself, and suffer eternal punishment in our place. This way, and only in this way, could we be made right before God, and reconciled back to Him. The blood of Jesus, shed on the cross has paid our penalty in full, while His glorious resurrection justifies us before God our Father. This precious outpouring, this gift, of love comes to us through faith in Jesus and His completed work on our behalf. There is no other way to be saved from sin and death. God gave everything for us! The Son sacrificed His life for us and for our salvation. To a self-indulgent world that makes no sense at all; the Creator of the universe giving up His rights, privileges and comforts, His glory, honor and splendor, to be born into this sinful world as a helpless humble baby. And then to live the life of a homeless rabbi and be brutally murdered by the very people He created and chose to have the most special place in His mission of love. In a humanistic world that doesn't compute. It's deemed foolishness and superstition. It's ridiculed, marginalized and ignored. Today there are some that even wish to criminalize and rid the planet of it. That has been going on ever since Jesus died and rose again. In the light of this love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord is calling us to do the same. In the 9th chapter of Luke Jesus is speaking to the crowds. He had recently fed more than 5000 of them with five little loaves and two small fish. He had walked on the water and calmed the fears of His followers and the fierce storm on the Sea of Galilee. He had healed many, raised the dead and driven out demons. He was a “Rock Star”! But now He lets all of them know what the cost of being a disciple would ultimately be. ‘And He said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”’ Denying myself, that's hard to do! I want to have things my way. I want to be comfortable, secure, in control. I want to be listened to, obeyed, and taken care of. Not only that, but He says that I need to take up a cross. To all in the crowd that day the cross, the Roman cross, had a clear meaning. It was the place of death...a brutal tool of execution. To take one up meant to die; to give up our life for the sake of the Lord, just like He did for the sake of all of us. The bottom line is that our life is not our own. It was bought with a price, a very steep price, the blood and death of the Son of God. We who have been called to be his disciples, and have responded in faith, belong to and are subject to Him. That means we are to do what He tells us to do, not necessarily what we want; what makes us happy and secure. While that may sound like a pretty raw deal it's quite the opposite. By dying to the world and living in and with Christ our joy and security, our comfort, glory and honor, will come will be ours today, and last for all eternity!



MINISTRY COORDINATOR CORNER

Where has the Summer gone? We're just starting the third month of the Summer months and already it just seems like the Summer is barely here. Time seems to go so much faster as we get older. And unfortunately, we do get older and older, it's inevitable for all of us.

Summer is when praising God for the weather is easy and heartfelt, at least for me. Even with the wonderful warm sunshine on our faces, we still take almost a joy in complaining about the weather. It seems to always be too hot or too cold, too rainy or too dry for us. This calendar year we have had quite a diversity in weather. Over the Winter months we broke records for snowfall (over 94 inches) and ours was considered one of the snowiest winters in the country. We even had several low temperatures in the single digits. It went on record as the coldest winter since 1992. Oh joy! And now we are in the hot months of Summer with already a few days that broke the 100 degrees mark.

During these times of extremes and hardships, be they cold or heat, this is when praising God for the weather stops and complaining abounds. But we need to change our thinking and consider God's work of providence. God is the God of all weather. He didn't create the seasons to run themselves, but carefully ordains every ray of sunshine, drop of rain, bolt of lightning, and falling snowflake. If we look carefully at the weather, we can see the awesomeness of God.

God is the God of all weather. He is the God of rain, the God of storms and even the God of snow and ice. "He gives rain on the earth and sends water on the fields. (Job 5:10) "Are there any among the idols of the nations who give rain? Or can the heavens grant showers? Is it not You, O LORD our God? Therefore we hope in You, For You are the one who has done all these things. (Jeremiah 14:22).

While storms seem unpredictable and uncontrollable, they always remain under the control of our great God. His finger draws the path for the wind and it can't stray from it. He fixes the exact volume of thunder and the intensity of the rain. "He set a limit for the rain and a course for the thunderbolt." (Job 28:26)

As I've gotten older, I've come to dislike winter more and more. But I must remember that all the weather is in God's hands. Snowflakes are delicate, if you try to catch one it immediately melts on your hand. But God can create and mold each snowflake into a uniquely beautiful creation, directing where it should land and how long it should last. We need to rejoice in what God gives us. We can rejoice that it is not happening without purpose, and that our affliction will work for our good. We can praise God who is presently involved and will use both pleasant and painful weather for his glory and our sanctification.

*With the love of our Glorious Heavenly Father,
Karen Schatz, Ministry Coordinator*

GETTING TO KNOW ME

TONYA GASKINS

Administrative Assistant

Tonya is the new person at the front desk of St. John's Lutheran Church.. She is the first person you will see when you come in the door during the week. We are truly blessed to have her. Here's an introduction to her.

I am a mother of two wonderful children, Matthew, who is 14 years old and Emily, who is 10. I originally come from North Carolina and joined the Air Force right out of High School. I spent 8 years as a project manager and as a paramedic. I spent 6 months in a combat zone giving medical attention to our troops. Now that I am out, I find comfort in working in a calm environment. I moved 5 times in 8 years with the military, gradually moving my family west. I am happy to say Spokane will be a place to finally plant some roots.

I graduated college with a BS in Health Care Administration and have over 15 years of administrative experience in many office settings, working with a diverse population. My faith in God has always been a primary focus in my life, and I am driven with a servant's heart. I am looking forward to grounding my family in God and in our community. I have been told that I have never met a stranger!

In my free time, if there is any, I enjoy spending as much time outdoors, camping, hiking, fishing, usually with my kids. I have ridden horses since the age of 6 and would love to find like-minded friends here in Washington. I find physical health extremely important and am also trying to squeeze in some extra time for exercise. My rule of thumb is to try to leave things better than I found them and try to help as many people find joy in life as I possibly can! I am blessed to be a part of St. John's Lutheran Family and look forward to meeting everyone here!

VOTERS MEETING IS COMING SOON

We will be having a Voters Meeting of the congregation on **Sunday, August 20th** between the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services. This will be your opportunity to hear what the Call Committee is working on as well as forms will be made available to receive nominations from the congregation for a new Pastor. September 10th will be the closing date for Pastor nominations.



NEW MEMBERS: We will soon be welcoming new members into the family of faith here at St. John's Lutheran, and if you are interested in becoming a member please let me know. Even if you just want a bit more information about membership I would love to hear from you. I am planning a membership seminar in the near future, so look forward to more information on that. ~ **Pastor Brian**



**MISSION COMMUNITY
OUTREACH CENTER
7TH ANNUAL SCHOOL SHOES
FOR KIDS**

7th Annual School Shoes for Kids at MCOC shoe distribution days will be here soon! We'd appreciate your help to properly fit shoes for our local children in need. Distribution takes place over two days: Friday, August 18th from 12:00-7 PM and Saturday, August 19th from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. We'll need help setting up for the event on Thursday and on also on Friday morning.

The response and dedicated effort from our supporting churches, the MCOC Family and the community is very encouraging. This year we are planning again to raise 1,200 pairs of shoes and socks. Please ask friends in your network to consider volunteering for the event.

A quick review of our volunteer jobs shifts for both days is listed: Thursday: Set-up 10 AM-4 PM
Friday: Set-up 9-11:30 AM
Friday: 12-3 PM, 3-5 PM, 5-7 PM
Saturday: 10 AM-12 PM, 12-2 PM

Here's a quick list of our volunteer needs for both days:

- Shoe fitters - This position involves client contact and a fair amount of bending over to ensure the shoes are fit properly.
- Shoe runners - These are the folks who bring the shoes to the shoe fitters from our "shoe store"
- Shoe store workers - These people are responsible for keeping our store stocked and organized and helping the shoe runners find appropriate shoes.
- Line managers / client greeters - These are the folks who interact with the clients and help maintain order while clients are waiting to be fit for shoes.
- Front desk workers - These people will collect selected demographic data from the clients as they come through our doors.
- Entry and exit monitors - These people will ensure people enter and exit the facility in an orderly manner.
- Bathroom monitors - This position helps clients navigate to and from our bathrooms.
- Host/Hostess - This person ensures our break room is clean and orderly for the volunteers to take a breather and grab a snack or beverage.
- Lemonade Crew- Prepare and serve lemonade to our patrons.
- Saturday: Clean-up 2:00-4:00 PM

Last year we had almost 100 people involved in the event and we'll need even more this year. Please let me know if you can help and the position you'd like and the shift you're able to work. Nearly everyone who helped last year told us how much they enjoyed it and what a treat it was to see the smiles on the faces of both the kids and parents we could help.

Ruth Wagley
Executive Director, MCOC

Shoe Event Volunteer Applications can be obtained from Carole Nesbitt or Karen Schatz



**SCHOOL SHOES FOR
KIDS**

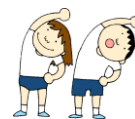
Drive: July 1 – August 12
Event: August 18 & 19

It's time for the 7th Annual School Shoes for Kids Drive at Mission Community Outreach Center. The goal is to collect 1,000 pairs of new, affordable shoes and socks to be distributed to children grades K - 8 at the Center. The School Shoes for Kids event needs your support. New well fitted shoes and socks to start the school year contribute to children's self-esteem, confidence and directly impacts school performance. Meeting this need in the MCOC community environment, while sharing the love and care of Jesus continues to be an important element within our local support network for low income families. We will continue to collect new quality, affordable shoes and socks now until August 12th. Children's size 5 through adult size 13 will be needed for this event. Athletic shoes are the primary need, but MCOC does like to have some street shoes on hand for those who prefer this choice.

We have two collection barrels in the Narthex area for your shoes/socks donations. Cash donations can be given to Carole Nesbitt or Karen Schatz or left at the church office. Please make checks out to Mission Community Outreach Center. Shoes/socks donations will be taken to MCOC each week.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1Peter 4:10

~~Carole Nesbitt, Outreach Ministry



FIT AND BALANCED. Our class is back once again with instructor Carol. Class runs from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. every Thursday morning. All ages are welcome. Come join a great group of people.

ST. JOHN'S MISSION STATEMENT

Our purpose is to worship God and to glorify our Lord, Jesus Christ by sharing His love, bringing people to Jesus and His family, growing together toward Christ-like maturity and equipping each other for service.

SUMMER SWANSONG?

On the final Sunday of August, the 27th, the Fellowship Board is planning an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social. This will be held after the 10:30 a.m. Worship as kind of a Summer wrap up before Labor Day and our return to a "regular" routine. More information will be coming in the weeks ahead as we get closer to the date.

BOOK CLUB NEWS. The Book Club will be held at the home of Grace Miller at 9:30 on Saturday Sept. 16. We will be discussing **The Faith Club**. I know we have read so many ideas in this book that this will be a memorable discussion. Please come prepared to discuss. There's so much to chew on in this book. *Blessings,~ Grace*

AUGUST DOOR GREETERS

August 6	8:30	Linda & John Whitcomb
	10:30	Barbara Purcell
August 13	8:30	Vikki and Peter Paulovic
	10:30	Phyllis & Bob Luiten
August 20	8:30	Barbara & Glenn Duncan
	10:30	Donna & Virtus Young
August 27	8:30	OPEN
	10:30	Bonnie & Gary McMorris

Please call Marcia Graham (998-3645) if you want to be a Door Greeter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

General fund offerings for June 2017: \$18,838
(Amount needed monthly to meet 2017 budget \$15,070)

Total for 2017: \$104,157 (Amount needed to meet 2017 budget \$96,498)

Building mortgage income for June 2017: \$3,387
(Amount needed monthly to meet 2017 budget \$3,338)

Total for 2017: \$23,783 (Amount need to meet 2017 budget \$20,028)

--- Ron Mindemann, Parish Council Treasurer

August Happy Birthday

2	Alijah ARMSTEAD
3	Marietta MCGOURIN
3	Julie LEE
4	Linda ROWLEY
5	Lynda MATZ
6	Jaylene MELCHER
8	Krista FORD
11	Melina NEHRING
12	Corinna EHRGOTT
13	Julie MINDEMANN
16	Nora BRAUN
17	Irv GARBERG
17	Don WOEHL
18	Allen BREMNER
20	Jeffrey NEHRING
24	Kathleen JOHNSON
25	Stephen WOEHL
27	Eleanor WINDLER
29	Robert BREMNER

August Happy Anniversary

8/3/1973	Bill & Kristen LOGAN
8/21/1971	John & Linda WHITCOMB
8/22/1987	Joe & Lisa DAVIS
8/22/2014	Peter & Vikki Paulovic
8/24/1963	Gary & Bonnie McMorris
8/25/1979	Tom & Kathy GOODWIN
8/26/1972	Allen & Lois BREMNER

AUGUST COUNTERS

Aug 6Allen Bremner, Kevin & Sheri Jenkins
Aug 13	Lois Bremner, Bonnie Heimbigner, Louis Huang
Aug 20 Ron & Julie Mindemann, Marilyn Smith
Aug 27 Carole Anderson, Bud Ehrgott

WHAT IS THE BUILDING FUND?

The Building Fund was established to raise funds for the portion of our land and building process that could not be covered by cash on hand. Currently it is used to cover the cost of our mortgage, apart from the general fund. Pledge forms are available on Sunday mornings for those who would like to help. No commitment is too small or too large.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Use "Joyful Response" to give consistently and share your generosity efficiently and predictably. This is a service through Lutheran Church Extension Fund. This is a free service for our church. You can designate your electronic offerings (general fund, building fund, etc.) on the forms found on the table just outside the Fellowship Hall.



DON'T FORGET TO USE THE PRAYER CHAIN!!

The Prayer Warriors are here for you. Please utilize them. If you or someone you know needs prayers, please contact them. Call Barbara Purcell (808-2357) or Grace Miller (340-1864) and they'll contact the prayer chain to get those prayers going.

Prayer requests for the weekly Announcements can be emailed or phoned to the Church office.

SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30pm. At other times if you need assistance please contact Pastor Brian at 509-995-8083.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....	Brian Albrecht
Organist, Choir Director	Laurie Eash
Ministry Coordinator.....	Karen Schatz
Administrative Bookkeeper.....	Christine Miller
Administrative Assistant.....	Tonya Gaskins
MCS Director, Lead Teacher.....	Jolee Wilke
MCS Teacher.....	Shannon Lorenz
MCS Librarian.....	Kay Albrecht

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