



The Grapevine

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
15 N. Church St., Thurmont, MD 21788
Number 71 September 2014

Who We Are

Last weekend I had the privilege of doing one of the most joyous things a pastor can do—I officiated at the wedding of Delilah Miller and Michael Fox. I've officiated at other weddings, but this was the first one I've done in this church's building, and the beauty of our sanctuary was made even lovelier because the church was full of flowers, music, ribbons and smiles—what a delight! One of the very best parts of a wedding for me as the pastor is the moment when, at the very end, I can make the announcement they've been waiting for: "I now present to you...!" and I can name and proclaim to the world that two people are now officially, formally, legally, publicly married (and then, of course, comes what everyone has been waiting for—the kiss!). One thing that I always ask the couple is how they want to be introduced at that point. Are they using one name? A hyphenated name? Keeping their given names? How do they want to be identified, now that they are married?

The matter of how we identify ourselves is a very important one; it speaks volumes about who we are and how we stand in relation to others. Scripture has a lot to say about the identity we have as God's beloved people. The creation story in the first chapter of Genesis says that we are created in God's image, a phrase which says less about what God looks like and more about what God has given us—an imprint of God's own divine self and identity. Isaiah, writing to comfort a people in exile, said, "But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel, Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." (43:1) That passage assures the people of God's presence, beginning with the declaration that they aren't faceless and anonymous, but they have an identity—a name—by which God knows them. When Peter makes his confession that Jesus is the messiah in Matthew's gospel, Jesus responds by giving him a new name—Simon is now Peter, the rock. On the day of his resurrection, Jesus greets the first person to see him alive again and identifies her by name, "Mary." (John 20:16) Saul of Tarsus has not only a change of attitude on the road to Damascus when he encounters the risen Christ but a change of name—he eventually is identified as "Paul" and he takes on a whole new identity. One of my favorite Bible verses is 2 Corinthians 5:17 because to me it's all about just who we are: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" We have a name that God knows and we have an identity—God's own creation—who is always being made newly alive. I encourage you to embrace that identity; you have God's own imprint on you. You have a name that is known and precious to God. Whatever you call yourself, God has a name for you: *My own, My image, My new creation*. Claim that identity, because it has been given to you by God.

Blessings to each of you as the seasons change from summer to fall. May you awake each day knowing who you are.

Pastor Susan



ST. JOHN'S LOOKING AHEAD:

Bible on Tap is starting up again September 4, 7:00-8:30 PM, in a new location: the Shamrock pub. Bring your Bibles and enjoy an evening of lively discussion and beverages as we begin a study of the book of Revelation.

Church Picnic in the Park: September 7. We will worship at 10AM, then share a pot luck picnic. First Sunday of the month is always "Bring a friend to church Sunday," so be sure to ask a friend or neighbor to enjoy the day with us.

Fall Church Schedule to begin on September 14: 8:30, Traditional Service; 9:40, Sunday School; and 10:45, Sing and Rejoice Service.

Back to School Night for Food Bank Kids: September 16, 5:30 to 7:00 PM the Social Ministry Team is going to help the food bank children get off to the best possible start to their school year by hosting a Back to School night during food bank hours. There will be games, door prizes, healthy snacks, educational activities, and homework help available. We need older youth and adults to monitor games, and teachers (retired or working) to offer help with homework. If you can help, please sign the sheet in the back of the church, or contact Pastor Susan. We would also appreciate donations of cut-up fruit.

Adult Catechumenate to be offered in the Fall

Confirmation classes are not just for kids! The Adult Catechumenate has been a long tradition in the church, dating back to New Testament times. In the early church, it was a period of preparation and education in the faith leading to baptism. While it is geared toward those new to the faith, it has also come to be a time of growing and grounding in a faith where the person is already baptized and confirmed.

Our Adult Catechumenate classes will meet the first Sunday of each month, after the luncheon, for about an hour and will cover the same basics as we did in the youth confirmation classes, including creeds, prayer, Bible, teachings of Jesus and Lutheran theology. The classes will begin October 5 if there is sufficient interest. If you are interested, or know a friend, neighbor or coworker who would like to learn what Lutheran Christianity is about, please contact Pastor Susan by September 1.

Our Heartfelt Sympathy to the family and friends of:

Madeline Jean Myers
who died on
June 30, 2014.

She was an active member of
St. John's Church and Preschool.
Jean was the wife of Rodman Myers.

and

Emma Hicks Zentz
who died on
August 15, 2014.

Emma was a past member who
was living in Shillington, PA.
Emma had been the secretary
at St. John's for 25 years.

CHRIST ON CENTER STAGE

by Ann Marie Bezayiff

By refusing to provide contraceptives for their employees, the Little Sisters of the Poor are now on the center stage of American politics. Regardless of personal opinions on this debate, everyone can agree that their mission to help the elderly poor is right on, commendable. I saw a segment of their video describing their work and explaining their vision for serving others. To paraphrase: They try to find the face of Christ in those they serve. Then those they serve can see the face of Christ in them (the sisters and volunteers). This is an admirable attitude, but one that is difficult to maintain in our everyday interaction with others. People can be so frustrating, so unlovable.

I remember a couple we met at a New Mexico rest stop. It was midmorning and the sky was a gorgeous array of colors after a rainstorm, and the vista was sweeping. David got out his camera and clicked away in silence. I left to use the facilities and when I returned, a man was standing next to David, talking non-stop. I noticed David would move and he'd move with him. As soon as I joined him, the man's wife started talking to me. The conversation was about their exceptional granddaughter who was attending a prestigious college in the East. The couple wanted to tell us about her high school awards and her musical talents. "Very nice." I moved away; she followed. Realizing we weren't going to enjoy the panoramic view, I told David, "Time to go." She continued talking even as our car drove away. We were happy to get away. I never thought of trying to see Christ in their faces, but they probably wouldn't have found Christ in my face either.

Another woman I met on a tour wanted to tell me about her brilliant and successful children, each earning six-figured incomes. I was more focused on the excursion but I tried to carry on a conversation with her. I quickly realized the conversation was about her exceptional family and her prosperous lifestyle. She had no interest in anything I said, except to play a one-upmanship game with me. Finally I turned away, ignoring her. She moved on to someone else. Is it possible to look for Christ in someone who is so annoying? Why even try?

Once in a while I'll volunteer at a local food bank. Christ's face is all over the place. It's in both those serving and those being served, but after the doors are closed everyone goes home. Helping the elderly, homeless or under-employed is right on. We're supposed to be workers in the field, but it's also about seeing Christ's face in all sorts of people and those people seeing Christ in our reaction towards them.

How about the neighbor who irritates you? It's about the kid at school who's obnoxious but wants to hang out. There's the child who needs constant reminders to study spelling words, do the chores or put away toys and games. It's about the driver who cuts in front of you on a busy interstate, or the driver behind you at a stoplight, honking the horn just as the light turns green. It's about showing patience in a long checkout line while a customer questions the cost of an item. There's the irritating co-worker. Don't forget the relative who's always late to every event or those who have an answer for everything. Difficult to find Christ in those who irritate you!

Frustration and annoyance are normal. How we react is the difference. It's all about putting Christ on center stage.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female, he created them. Genesis 1:27

Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and is in all. Galatians 3:11

Thurmont Thespians “Anne of Green Gables”

Condensed report!

Our summer teen show had 646 people attend. The show made some amount of profit that the Thespians will donate to Wayside sometime soon. The cast included some of the younger crowd this year since the script called for all ages. This gave our younger thespians a chance to strut their stuff. We had enough to double the cast this year which always makes for an interesting and exciting two weeks of theatre as families come on alternate nights to see how their youngersters change up in different roles.

Book Sale—August 23 and 24

I am writing this before it has happened but hopefully everyone receiving a newsletter purchased their winter reading at our semi-annual book sale at St. John’s and got their home made soup to tide them over—or a brownie or two if that was your taste this year!!

We thank you for always supporting us!!

“Noises Off”

Mike Brown has cast this rollicking farce and it is in rehearsal. You will see familiar faces—Paul Smaldone, Jen Brown, Emily Cofer, Greg Ochoa, Kyle Tirak as well as newcomers Matt Bannister, Erin Schwartz, Rose Alexander and Ian Fowler. Because this farce is so hard technically (the whole set turns around and you watch from backstage for the second act before returning to original for the third act). We will be moving into the Legion the last week-end of October. Mark your calendars now for the first two week-ends in November for an unforgettable theatre experience!! I promise you will not be disappointed!!

Take Note: Curtain time this year will be 7:30 p.m. for all evening performances!!

Beth Watson

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

ST. JOHN’S MEMBERS

Marie Seiss
Janet Heckert

Luke Bradley
Dorothy Stowell

Jane Tresselt
Beth Watson

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Dale Wireman—friend of Debbie Ayers
Kristen Kelly—daughter-in-law of Forrest and Mary Lou Kelly
Roy Stonesifer—family of Jen Wathen
Larry Haga—family of Becky Smith
Joseph Reed—family of Becky Smith
Jeremy Hahn
Kevin Orndorff— son-in-law of Debbie Ayers
Michele Myers—niece of Harriet Valentine
Rick Baker—brother of Darlene Fogle and Debbie Ayers
Andrea Scotto—friend of Spahrs
Ethel Brauer—friend of Carolyn Fraley
Dede Himes—St. John’s Admin. Asst.
Kelly Heath—daughter of Belle Grimes
Jesse Wolf—son of Belle Grimes
Jacob and Edna Matthias—parents of Belle Grimes

THANK YOU

Dear Friends at St. John's,

I have returned to work and am doing well. I want to thank everyone who sent cards and meals to our home during my recovery. It was greatly appreciated and I felt so honored.

Sincerely yours,
Dede Himes

THANK YOU

My family and I would like to thank Pastor Susan Beck for assisting Rev. Paul Leatherman at Jean's funeral on July 5th. The celebration of Jean's life and contributions was an excellent tribute to her. We also appreciate Pastor Susan coming to our home and sharing prayers with us.

Jean truly enjoyed serving on the St. John's Christian Preschool Board for many years and working with other members on the Preschool committee.

Also many thanks to Nancy Riffle and the Women of the Church members who provided salads, fruit, deviled eggs, pickled eggs and many other delicious food items for the luncheon after Jean's funeral.

Our family appreciated all of the visits at the funeral home, flowers, cards, expressions of sympathy and monetary donations to the Community Foundation in Jean's memory, which will benefit many people in future years.

God bless each of you.

C. Rodman Myers and Family



**Prayer
Requests**

St. John's Mission Outreach Prayer Kiosk is On-Line!

Having someone pray for you is a very powerful experience. God answers our prayers and the prayers of others on our behalf. It's just not always easy in the rush of a Sunday morning or the other activities in our lives to communicate our prayer requests. The Prayer Kiosk in our day entrance seeks to solve that issue. The Prayer Kiosk displays a web page that accepts prayer requests and sends them to a designated "pray-er." Requests can be made anonymously if desired. Within seconds of hitting "Submit Prayer Request" the request is on its way to a rotating list of folks who will pray for you and your concerns. Because this feature is open to anyone who may be in our day entrance or accessing our web site we feel this could be a valuable outreach to the community both inside and outside St. John's.

**1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
FELLOWSHIP PROVIDERS' SCHEDULE**

JANUARY: *Thurmont Thespians*

FEBRUARY: *Social Ministry*

MARCH: *Worship & Music*

APRIL: *Neighborhood Niche*

MAY: *Evangelism*

JUNE: *Fellowship*

JULY: *Women of the Church*

AUGUST: *Fundraising*

SEPTEMBER: *(Picnic)*

OCTOBER: *Youth/Sunday School*

NOVEMBER: *St. John's Preschool*

DECEMBER: *Church Council*

The provider of the month will bring the main dish (sandwiches or whatever dish desired).

Marriage of
Delilah Kay Miller
and
Michael Brandon Fox
August 16, 2014
at
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Thurmont, MD
Pastor Susan Beck



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Marie Seiss	9/01
Wendell Zentz	9/05
Amy Delauter	9/11
Kaitlin Getz	9/12
Mary Lou Royer	9/17
Dottie Valentine	9/18
Sharon Lewis	9/20
Rick May	9/21
Becky Carpenter	9/24
Carolyn Fraley	9/25
Brian Fox	9/27
Kurt Johnson	9/29
Brandon Humerick	9/30

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Dylan Goins	10/01
Mitchell Unger	10/01
Melinda Jarvis	10/04
Delilah Miller Fox	10/06
Kaitlin Mueller	10/10
Eric Royer	10/12
Jessica Zentz	10/18
Forrest Kelly	10/22
Donald Creager	10/26
Kevin Fox	10/26
Kendel Pfister	10/27
John Ford	10/28
Barbara Roderick	10/30

NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS: September 11 and October 9, 2014

Council Highlights — July 8, 2014

Old Business

- a) Discussion of boiler bids received from DeWees and Mick's. Vote is to accept DeWees bid.
- b) Discussion of Quick Books vs Church Windows and the cost.

New Business

- a) A \$10,000 donation was received in memory of John and Louise Hoffman, and the donors have requested that the money be used to reduce the building note.
- b) Sidewalk replacement – State Highway Administration will begin replacement of sidewalks in downtown Thurmont this summer - probably by the end of July.
- c) Town House Realty is opting out as the parsonage rental management company effective July 1. Council is currently seeking a new agent.

Open Discussion

Council is working on securing scholarship funds and sending one child to Mar Lu Ridge Camp.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Donovan, Secretary



PRESCHOOL NEWS

We will begin our new school year on Tuesday, September 2. We are pleased that all of our teachers will be returning. They are:

Ann Kruhm, Education Coordinator and Teacher, 2- and 4-year-olds
Tammy Tingler, Teacher, 3-year-olds
Janice Grams, Assistant Teacher, 2- and 4-year-olds
Heather Marshall, Assistant Teacher, 3-year-olds
Mariah Beard, Aide, 3-year-olds
Sandi Shriner, Aide, 2-year-olds

The Preschool Board consists of Stacey Brown-Hobbs, Chairperson; Cathy Delauter, Wanda Mathias, Gayle Spahr, and Dottie Valentine.

On Thursday, September 4, and Friday, September 12, parent receptions will be held in the Fellowship Hall. These are sponsored by the Evangelism Committee. Light refreshments will be served and each parent is presented with a small gift from the church and preschool. This is an opportunity for the parents to get to know each other. Pastor Susan spends time at these receptions mingling with the parents.

We are looking forward to another successful school year.



St. John's Preschool Board and our Preschool teachers are deeply saddened by the loss of Jean Myers. Jean was a long time member of the Preschool Board. She was a faithful and caring coworker who had a heart for children. Jean will be missed by our members and our teachers as a very special friend.

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 TT Rehearsal	2 Preschool Begins 6 Food Bank	3	4 9:30 Preschool Parent Recep 1:00 Preschool Parent Recep 7:00 Bible on Tap - Shamrock 7:00 TT Rehearsal	5 3 Food Bank	6
7 Church Picnic 10 – Worship In the park! Followed by Potluck Picnic 6:00 TT Rehearsal	8 7:00 TT Rehearsal	9 6 Food Bank	10	11 7:00 Council 7:00 TT Rehearsal	12 9:30 Preschool Parent Reception 3 Food Bank	13
14 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sunday School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice 6:00 TT Rehearsal	15 7:00 TT Rehearsal	16 6 Food Bank Back to School Night for Food Bank Kids	17	18 7:00 TT Rehearsal	19 Fair Day School Closed 3 Food Bank	20
21 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sunday School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice 6:00 TT Rehearsal	22 7:00 TT Rehearsal	23 6 Food Bank	24	25 7:00 TT Rehearsal	26 3 Food Bank	27
28 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sunday School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice 6:00 TT Rehearsal	29 7:00 TT Rehearsal	30 6 Food Bank				

OCTOBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7:00 Bible on Tap @ Shamrock 7:00 TT Rehearsal	3 3 Food Bank	4
5 9:40 Sunday School 10:45 a.m. ONE SERVICE SING AND REJOICE 2:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals 6:00 TT Rehearsal	6 7:00 TT Rehearsal	7 6 Food Bank	8	9 7:00 Church Council 7:00 TT Rehearsal	10 3 Food Bank 9:00 GRANNY'S ATTIC	11 COLORFEST 9:00 GRANNY'S ATTIC
12 COLORFEST 8:30 One Service Only 6:00 TT Rehearsal	13 7:00 TT Rehearsal	14 6 Food Bank	15	16 7:00 TT Rehearsal	17 3 Food Bank	18
19 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sunday School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice 6:00 TT Rehearsal	20 7:00 TT Rehearsal	21 6 Food Bank	22	23 10:00 Worship and Music 7:00 TT Rehearsal	24 3 Food Bank	25 11:00 Party of Parties
26 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sunday School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice 6:00 TT Rehearsal	27 7:00 TT Rehearsal	28 6 Food Bank	29	30 7:00 TT Rehearsal	31 3 Food Bank	

September Lay Ministers' Schedule

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

DATE	SERVICE	ASSIST MIN	LECTOR	WELCOMERS	ALTAR
9/7/14	10:00 a.m.	G Spahr C Fraley ONE SERVICE IN PARK- Worship at 10:00 with Potluck Picnic following			
9/14/14	8:30 a.m.	S Brown-Hobbs	G Spahr	J & C Ford	L Riffle
9/21/14	8:30 a.m.	K Muegge	M Skillinger	B & J Urian	L Riffle
9/28/14	8:30 a.m.	L Riffle	S Brown-Hobbs	H & R Valentine	L Riffle

SING & REJOICE SERVICE

DATE	SERVICE	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	WELCOMERS	PRAYER
9/7/14	10:00 a.m.	One Service in Park - Worship at 10:00 with Potluck Picnic following			
9/14/14	10:45 a.m.	R Johnson	S Getz	Hauk Family	C Kreitz
9/21/14	10:45 a.m.	M Donaghue	A Mumm	T & A Mumm	G Spahr
9/28/14	10:45 a.m.	J Muegge	R Johnson	J & C Muegge	M B Johnson

CHOIR PERFORMANCE AND REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Repertoire TBA

Performances	Oct.	26	Reformation
	Nov.	2	All Saints
	Dec.	7	Advent
	Dec.	24	Christmas Eve
	Feb.	1	Epiphany
	Mar.	1	Lent
	Mar.	29	Palm Sunday
	Apr.	5	Easter
	May	31	Trinity

Rehearsal Sundays

8:45 —9:45

Oct.	5
Nov.	2
Dec.	7
Jan.	4
Feb.	1
Mar.	1
Apr.	5
May	3

Rehearsal Sundays

9:45—10:35

Oct.	12, 19
Nov.	23, 30
Dec.	14, 21
Jan.	18, 25
Feb.	15, 22
Mar.	8, 15, 22
May	10, 17

Tentative Wednesdays 7:00

Oct.	22
Dec.	3
Dec.	17
Jan.	28
Feb.	25
Mar.	25
Apr.	1
May	27

Church Office: 301-271-7877

Pastor: Rev. Susan Beck

PastorSusan@saintjohnlutheran.org

(H) 410-442-9946

(M) 410-707-4640

Administrative Assistant: Dede Himes

Email: admin@saintjohnlutheran.org

President: John Brown

Web Site: www.saintjohnlutheran.org

St. John's Preschool: 301-271-4109

Chairperson: Stacey Brown-Hobbs, 301-271-2390

Registrar: Marie Skillinger

Email: stjpreschl@aol.com

Thurmont Thespians

Beth Watson, 301-416-0864

Email: beth.watson@myactv.net



**St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
*15 N. Church Street
Thurmont, MD 21788*

"Loved by God ... to love others!"
Ministers: The People of St. John's
Pastor: Rev. Susan Beck

Fall Schedule Resuming Sept. 14
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:40 AM Sunday School all ages
10:45 AM Sing & Rejoice Worship



*Please submit articles for the
October 2014 Grapevine by
September 20.*