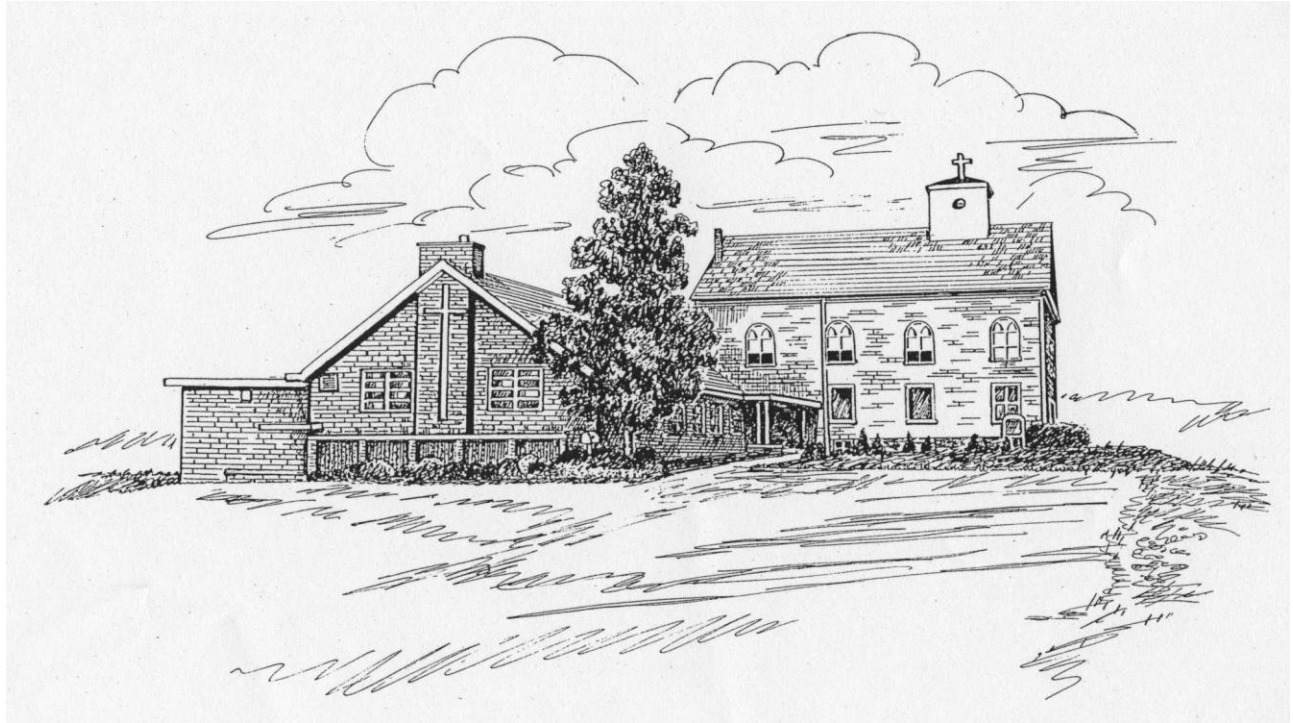


WISPS OF STRAW



St. James Lutheran Church Newsletter

July 2013

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*“Serving Christ in Word and Deed”
for over 260 Years*

The Pastor's Letter

TO THANK YOU!!!!!!

Dear Friends,

Over the last number of months, we have tried to keep you informed as to our financial status. It has been complicated by changes in folk in our financial ministry.

While we are continuing to work on the mechanics of financial reporting, both to council and to you, there is one thing we have neglected to do especially since we began the journey together with me as your pastor.

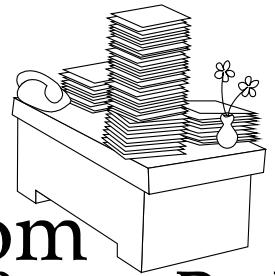
We have neglected to say "thank you" for your support both financially and spiritually to the ministry of St. James. While we still have many challenges, your faithfulness in giving and support in other areas has really helped put us along a better path.

Your support makes ministry happen at St. James, and the outcome is some very special things, such as our special history celebration in May, having ten children make their First Communion in March, having seven youth confirmed in June, seeing growth in our Sunday School, a vibrant Youth Group, and two services of Holy Communion which are meeting the needs of those who attend either one.

Thank you for all you've done to contribute to the ministry here as well as your efforts in the future!

Your Brother in Christ,

Pr. John



From
the Pastors Desk

Synod Assembly 2013 - Hilton Hotel East Brunswick

This year's synod assembly was perhaps one of the most significant in the history of the New Jersey Synod. A new bishop was to be elected with the retirement of our current bishop, Bishop E. Roy Riley, after 22 years of service.

The election process dominated the three day assembly. For such an election there needed to be an officer from the national church to preside over it. That person was David D. Swartling, Secretary, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. There can be, and were in this case five ballots cast for bishop. The winner had to have a certain percentage for election, with the winning percentage declining with each new ballot. So as you can well imagine the winning percentage for the first ballot was quite high. The first ballot was open to any rostered (clergy) person in the synod or ELCA. There were many candidates on the ballot, and many had

only one vote. Needless to say many of these dropped out leaving fewer, with the field narrowing on each succeeding ballot. On Saturday morning there was no election on the fourth ballot, which left only two candidates. The final fifth ballot with the two candidates required only a simple majority of the voting members of the assembly. At this point, it would be good to summarize the results with an e-mail from the ELCA that reported on the election:

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, Lawrenceville, N.J., was elected June 8 to a six-year term as bishop of the New Jersey Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Bartholomew was elected on the fifth ballot during the synod's assembly June 6-8 in East Brunswick, N.J.

"I ask for prayers for me and for our congregations as we transition into this new chapter in our synod. I can't wait to see what new adventures lie ahead," said Bartholomew.

Bartholomew was elected with 232 votes to 204 votes for the Rev. Scott C. Schantzenbach, assistant to the bishop of the ELCA New Jersey Synod. The Rev. Michael C. Gebhart, pastor of St. Michael Lutheran in Cherry Hill, N.J., was also a nominee on the fourth ballot with 131 votes to 145 for Bartholomew and 160 for Schantzenbach.

Bartholomew has served as assistant to the bishop in the ELCA New Jersey Synod since 1998. She was pastor of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Ewing, N.J., from 1993 to 1998, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lexington Va., from 1991 to 1993, and associate pastor of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Roanoke, Va., from 1989 to 1991.

The bishop-elect earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va., in 1985, and a Master of Divinity degree from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in 1989. The seminary is one of eight ELCA seminaries.

Bartholomew will be installed Sept. 29. She is married to the Rev. Dan Whitener, who serves at Abiding Presence in Ewing, N.J. They have two children.



Bishop Riley & Bishop-elect Bartholomew

There also was an election held for members throughout the synod to synod council, as well as a preliminary budget for 2014. Budgeting for the synod is done in a two year cycle. Reports were given from various organizations related to the synod, and there were installation and sending rites for various folk and groups doing different mission tasks in the name of the synod. Finally, various resolutions on the issues of our day were voted on. Information about them can be found at the New Jersey Synod website at <http://www.njsynod.org>

A personal comment here: I have been attending various assemblies such as these for three denominations in my almost thirty years of ordained ministry. Resolutions are almost always brought up, and when passed have very little impact outside of those in the assembly. I understand the need to speak up, debate, and speak out on the various issues of our time. While I don't profess to have the answer here, I still wonder if there is a better way, a more meaningful way to do this.

For me this was a "once in a lifetime assembly" because of the historic "changing of the guard" in the New Jersey Synod. I want to thank you for being able to attend and to thank Ralph Avard who came faithfully each day to be a voting member from St. James.

Pastor John

Pohatcong Historic Tour

St James has been asked to be included in the next historic tour of Pohatcong Township. The tour day will be on Saturday, October 19th, 2013. We will have more details about what we need to do, and how you can help, in the next issue of Wisps.

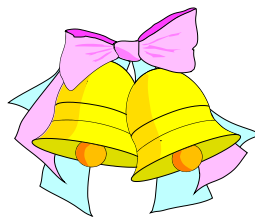
Charlotte Morris

Youth Camp

Zion Lutheran Church is having an overnight camp July 21st to 24th at Crossroads for students in 8th through 12th grades. The youth will participate in charitable work during the day and have fun at the camp at night. A \$60 fee includes meals. Flexible days are possible for those unable to attend all three days. Please call Pastor Summer at 908-439-2040 if interested.

Wedding Bells

On Saturday, June 29th, Barbara Wrede and Daniel Gulick exchanged marriage vows at St. James, with Pastor John officiating and Ralph Avard assisting.



The bridal party included Karoline Avard, Polly Newbold, Amanda Gulick and Danielle Leonard, with Ashley Wrede as Maid of

Honor and Emily Miller as Junior Bridesmaid.

Best Man was Patrick Schilling, with Douglas Wrede, Mark Dubowe, Jon Jesko and Ray Shady as Groomsmen.

Flower Girls were Allison and Cassie Miller, and Matthew Gulick served as Ring Bearer.

Vocalist Alexandra Wittchen had the able accompaniment of Harpist Andrea Wittchen.

Links of Love

Social Ministry would like to make the congregation aware of the extent to which your generosity is helping needy families throughout the world. With the money collected we have been able to fund the following donations:



| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| One pig | \$30 |
| Two goats | \$100 |
| One alpaca | \$175 |
| One duck | \$20 |
| Water purification tablets | \$50 |
| Textbooks for one child | \$15 |
| Vaccinations for one child | \$50 |
| Ten sets of Bibles and hymnals | \$100 |

Summer Food Drive

For the month of July, Social Ministry is looking particularly for donations of tuna, soups, and peanut butter. Please leave items in the cylinder in the Frey Hall foyer.

BBQ Chicken Dinner

Our BBQ chicken dinner will be held on Saturday, July 27th. You have a choice of take-out (meal only) for \$12.00, or eat in for \$12.50 with a drink included - free refills on the drink.

Meal includes $\frac{1}{2}$ BBQ chicken, smoked baked beans, coleslaw, corn on the cob, and a roll.

Please call 610-597-7473 to pre-order your dinner. Pick-up hours are 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Crop Walk

On Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, our Youth Group once again participated in the annual area-wide Crop Walk, raising money to help feed the poor.



The Lutheran Church in the Civil War South

With all the attention these days on the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, it would be interesting to examine how the Lutheran churches in the Confederacy dealt with the situation.

The General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Confederate States of America was formed in 1863 for synods in the states that had seceded from the Union. Several existing synods were affected by secessions, and other synods were added later.

In 1866, after the war, the General Synod in the CSA took the name United Synod of the South and began publishing the Lutheran Visitor.

Confirmation

On Sunday, June 2nd, we had the pleasure and privilege of witnessing seven young people affirm their baptisms in the rite of Confirmation, thereby entering into full adult membership in the St. James family.



The confirmands, shown with Pastor John, are (l-r):

Dean George Peppe
Anastasia Marie (Ana) Marciello
Emily Mae Carducci
Jordan Christopher Holman
Hayley Anne Hardenbergh
Ryan Philip La Courte
Victoria Taylor (Tori) Esposito



Their families and the congregation enjoyed a reception in their honor immediately after worship.

Historic Cabinet and Area Dedication

Thanks to the return of a large body of records and documents, and the hard work of the Historic Committee in organizing them, we have now a great many more tangible reminders of our long history as a congregation. On Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, a dedication was held of the new cabinet housing many of these items, as well as of the entire corner of Frey Hall now devoted to displaying them and pictures of many of our Pastors and early church leaders.



The Sunday School children provided some enjoyable and inspirational singing, and a light lunch capped off the dedication ceremonies.

"Thank Yous" to St. James

June 25, 2013

Dear St James,

Thank you for the
beautiful flowers!
They are very cheerful
and make us smile!

Thank you,

John & Elaine Pritchard

Dear Reverend Van Haneghan -

Thank you so much for allowing
us to hold the PHS Baccalaureate at
St James on June 9, 2013. It was a
beautiful service filled w/ inspiration.
I truly appreciate everything that
you and the members of your church
did to make it such a wonderful
evening.

We feel truly blessed that you
were so welcoming and helpful!

Thanks again! Sincerely,
Lynette Knoble

P.S. Can you please also
thank all of the clergy that
participated at your next
gathering!

And a special thank you to my
amazing father-in-law, Ron Knoble,
for all of his help and guidance and
to Steve Stocker for his help w/ the
hall!

† In Memoriam †

Former member Alfred C.
Butler, 83, of Greentown, PA,
went to be with his Lord Jesus
on Monday, May 27th. Active in
the community during his years
here, he was a member of the
Huntington Volunteer Fire Company. He also
helped start the Pohatcong baseball program
and coached there for 15 years.



Marlynn Mae 'Marn' Dorko, 73,
of Alpha passed to her eternal
reward on Saturday, June 22nd.
Devoted to her family, she was
very involved in the Alpha PTA
during the years her children
were in school.



A New Memorial Weekend Worship Tradition

At our worship on Memorial weekend, Pastor
John began the practice of reading the
names of veterans of the nation's wars who
are buried in our cemetery.

This year the names of all the Revolutionary
War veterans were read. The intent is to
continue this tradition by reading the names
of veterans from one conflict on each
successive Memorial weekend.

Hopefully it will help make this annual
holiday more meaningful by reminding us of
how much we owe these heroes, as well as
how much is tied to our own history as a
congregation.

Baccalaureate Service – Phillipsburg HS 2013

This year St. James hosted the annual Baccalaureate Service honoring the graduating class of Phillipsburg High School. It was held on the evening of June 9th, and clergy from several area churches participated. Music was provided by the high school choir, accompanied by piano and trumpet. We were honored to have the event take place at our church this year, and it is very likely that the graduates and their families appreciated the air conditioning as well!



This year's graduates from St. James were:

Patrick Csiszlak
Cortney Esposito
Evangelia Marie (Lia) Marciello
Christopher Miller
Olivia Raub

We congratulate them and all the graduates, and wish them best of luck and future success.

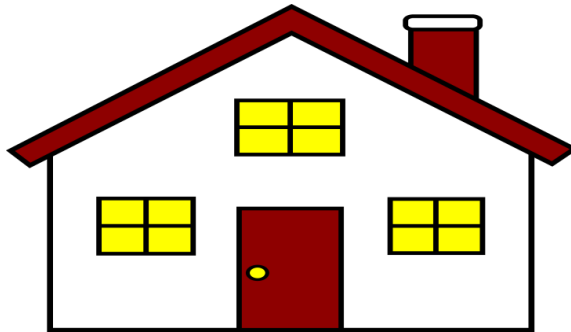
Senior League Notes – “Fellowship over Fifty”

The last meeting before summer break, on June 5th, consisted of the traditional pizza and “make your own” sundae meal. In addition, we enjoyed several games of Bingo, complete with prizes. What made the game more interesting (and appropriate) was that, in place of the usual letters and rows, we used cards having spaces which consisted of foods from the Bible - everything from wheat and grapes to lamb and goat.

Join us when our next season begins, on Wednesday, September 4th, at 6:00 pm.



REMEMBER...JUST AS YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS EXPENSES OVER THE SUMMER.....



..... SO DOES OURS



**REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR REGULAR GIVING CURRENT OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS
OR CONSIDER ON-LINE GIVING AS WELL AS DIRECT GIVING THROUGH YOUR BANK**

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU !!!!!!!!!!!

Straw Church Picnic

Our second annual picnic was again held at Pohatcong Park on June 9th and was every bit the success we had last year. Between the food provided by Social Ministry and that brought by a number of our members, we all left very well fed. The games for the children, as well as their own creativity at play, obviously gave our youngest members a lot of enjoyment as well.

It looks as if this is going to become an annual tradition of good food and fellowship at St. James, as well it should.



However, there is no reason to let an annual picnic be the only time for good food and fellowship - not when we have that opportunity the first Saturday of every month. Of course, those are the times for our justly famous **Straw Church Breakfasts**. Be sure to join us in Frey Hall on August 3rd, September 7th, and every succeeding first Saturday. Your taste buds will thank you, as will your church.