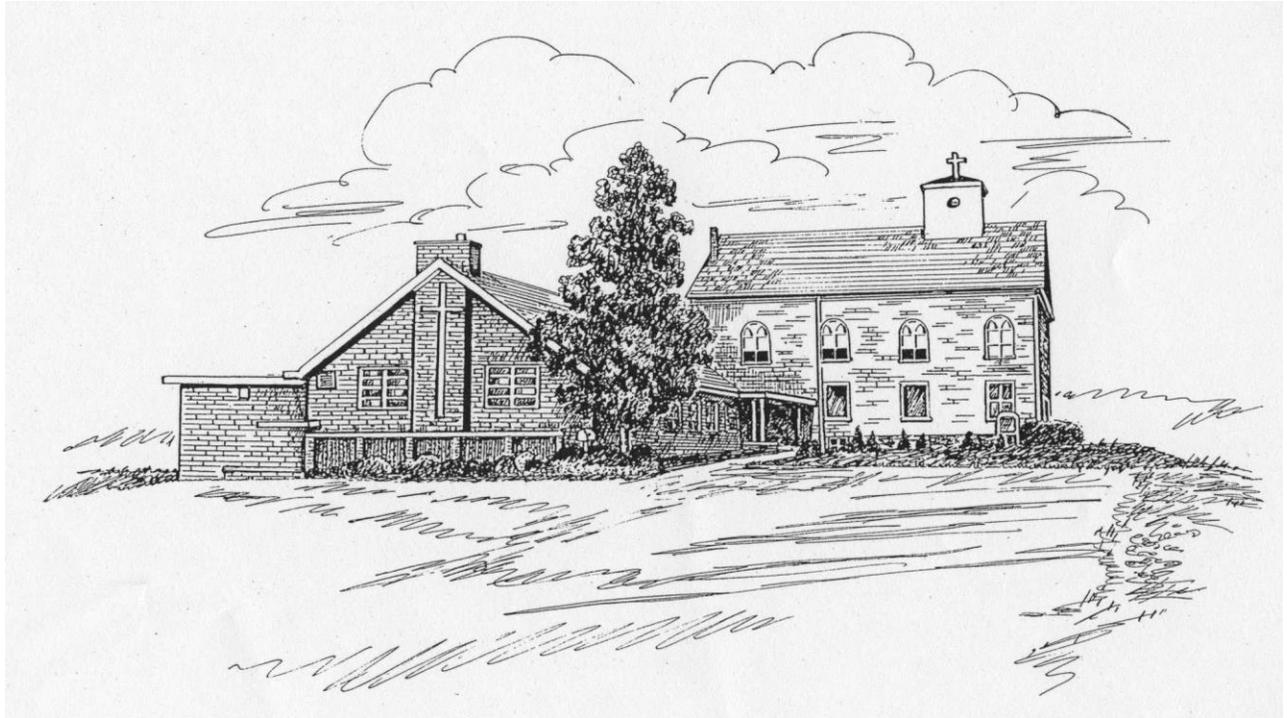


# *WISPS OF STRAW*



*St. James Lutheran Church Newsletter*

*September - October 2014*

*Pastor: Rev. John H. Van Haneghan*

Church Office Phone: 908-454-2864

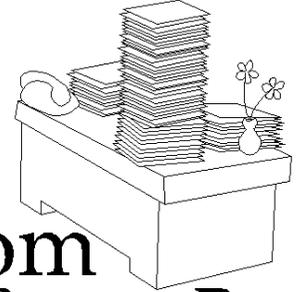
E-mail: [strawchurch@verizon.net](mailto:strawchurch@verizon.net)

Web site: [www.strawchurch.org](http://www.strawchurch.org)

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

## *Pastor's Letter*

*A tourist visiting Italy came upon a construction site.  
"What are you doing?" he asked the three stone masons.  
"I'm cutting the stone," answered the first.  
"I'm cutting the stone for 1000 lire a day," said the second.  
"I'm helping to build a cathedral," said the third.  
(from Bucket of Surprises)*



## From the Pastors Desk

Dear Friends,

In my years in ministry, every church somehow, some way manages to have at least one sign-up list in a gathering spot of the church. Whether it is a fundraising activity, participation in a service, help with property or another matter, a sign-up sheet is one way of getting help.

Then there are those who take the personal approach, and ask individuals directly. I'm sure if you have ever been approached to help with anything, perhaps you've looked at your calendar and processed it as another claim on your time, another activity, and most likely it may wind up on the bottom of the list of things to do. Then sadly, we assume someone else will do it.

However, the "someone else strategy" can cause those who always step up to the plate to get frustrated or even "burned out" Perhaps then, another way to look at it is through the lens of the quote at the top. You are not just, for example, "helping at a fundraiser", "serving on the council", "teaching Sunday School" or "working on the property".

Each time you are saying "*I 'm helping to build the church*".

So think, pray and ask yourself the question, "*How can I help build the church?*"

In gratitude for all of you who are already "helping to build the church",

*Pastor John*

## Thanks to You --- September

- Again kudos to all on the Property Committee who are very conscientious in the ministry of our buildings and grounds (that also includes Steve Stocker and Glenn Gercie)
- To Tori Esposito who sang beautifully at Senior League in September
- To Dave Miller for his ministry of music both at the piano and organ
- Again for a successful Saturday morning breakfast, and much thanks to Steve Stocker and ALL those who volunteer their hard work and time, as well as donate food items which contribute to the successful results of the breakfast.
- To all who helped make Rally Day successful again this year
- To the youth crew who gave up part of their day on September 27<sup>th</sup> to supervise the activities at our table during Greenwich Community Day
- To my wife who sends pictures and info to all the Sunday School families
- To David and Charlotte Morris who helped spruce up the entry area to the Christian Education Building
- To our Senior League organizers, and to all who contribute such nice meals each time we gather.
- To all of you who make sure our barrel is overflowing with food for Norwescap.
- To Senior League who honored me (and Pam) with a nice cake and gift for "Pastor Appreciation Month"

*Pr. John*

“STRAW CHURCH: PRIDE IN OUR PAST, STRENGTH IN OUR PRESENT,  
LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR OUR FUTURE”

### *Fall Bake Sale*

The bake sale on October 4<sup>th</sup> brought in \$275 for our church. Thanks both to all those who baked and those who bought.



### *Scouting for Food*

Troop 56 will be collecting non-perishable food on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.



## Baptism

On Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, we witnessed the baptism of Rylee Ann Robertson. Rylee is the daughter of Michael Robertson and Ashley Groff, and was sponsored by Nicole Fatzinger and Nick Amicucci.



## Thanksgiving Ministry

This year we are collecting turkeys and all the fixings for two local families to be able to have real Thanksgiving dinners. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Frey Hall foyer. To avoid duplication, we are asking that you select items to donate from this sheet and mark them.



Also, if anyone has an extra turkey (such as from supermarket promotions) please call Liz Kolba (908-995-7513) by November 21<sup>st</sup>. These turkeys will be donated to a local food bank.

## Hats, Gloves, & Scarfs

With the approach of winter, Social Ministry is again collecting these cold-weather necessities for less fortunate children and teens in our area. Please leave your donated items in the Frey Hall foyer by November 16<sup>th</sup>.



## Senior League Notes

The highlight of our September meeting, kicking off the new year of gatherings, was the lovely voice of Tori Esposito, singing a number of favorites for our enjoyment.

The October meeting recognized Pastor Appreciation Month with a cake and gift for Pastor John and Pam. They both have been an amazing blessing to our church, and deserve our sincere thanks throughout the year.



Our next meeting will be at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

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*We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.*

## *Youth Group Greenwich Community Day*

As in previous years, we had a booth at Greenwich Community day, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Activities included tissue paper craft, face painting and fall coloring sheets and we gave away candy. A lot of children visited our booth.



## *Rally Day – September 7<sup>th</sup>*

We welcomed the next three months of church activities with a Straw Church Festival. Pictures were displayed of our summer activity, and we had games, crafts, face painting and Bingo, topped off with cake.



WESTERN DISTRICT FALL ASSEMBLY

Crossroads Camp and Retreat Center

November 2 , 2014

Meeting 3:00-5:30 Dinner 5:30

29 Pleasant Grove Road Port Murray , NJ 07865

**ELECTIONS AND AT LARGE NOMINATIONS FOR 2015 SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

**ELECTIONS AND AT LARGE NOMINATIONS FOR 2016 CHURCH-WIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMEBRS**

**WORSHIP**

**THE REV. J.AARON RICTER, Assistant to the Bishop for Communications and Mission Interpretation -"COMMUNICATION METHODS TODAY"**

**FELLOWSHIP DINNER— 5;30 P M AT CROSSROADS,COST 15.00— RSVP BY 10/19—CHECKS SENT TO ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH 1213 US HWY 22,PHILLIPSBURG,NJ 08865 . MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO “:ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH “WITH “DISTRICT DINNER” ON MEMO LINE**

Questions ? Contact your local cluster councilor , district dean Pr, John Van Haneghan at 908-454-2864 or at [strawchurchpastor@Verizon.net](mailto:strawchurchpastor@Verizon.net)

We are allowed three voting members at this meeting (two adult and one young adult), but others are welcome to attend. Contact Pastor John if you are interested.