

The St. John's Messenger

Volume 15 Issue 8

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UNDER CONSTRUCTION

I have heard people say there are two seasons in Chicago, winter season and construction season. Well, we are not far from Chicago and we too are in a season of construction.

Highway 421 and the overpass south of town are in the midst of a major upgrade. The old concrete has been removed and the road bed has been excavated on the northbound lane. The northbound lane of the bridge has been removed as well. All of this work is being done to build a firm foundation for the new road and bridge. The foundation must be right and true to support everything that is built upon it.

The life of every Christian is always under construction. We are continually being built up on the firm foundation of Christ. Your firm foundations are laid in the faith "as you have been taught." That's why Sunday school, Bible Study Classes, and personal study are so important. You are laying a foundation for your faith. The wise person builds in fair weather to be ready for foul. Don't wait for the storms of sickness, death and failure to break upon you before you have laid your foundations.

Matthew 7:24-27: ²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

How many times have we sung the hymn, "HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION"?

Remember this verse:

*"How firm a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!"*

Two farmers from western Kansas were joking about the difference between agriculture and farming. "They are the same," they said, "except farming is doing it." What's the difference between theology and thanksgiving? They are the same, except thanksgiving is doing it.

Those who are built up in Christ "abound in thanksgiving." I like to be around thankful people, don't you? And I think I know why.

If they are down, they never despair; if they are up, they are never proud. They are always thankful because they look at life as a gift. Accepting life as a gift means you can't grumble when it is bad, or brag when it is good.

To grumble because you have less of this world's goods is to regard them as a right instead of a gift and thus to insult the Giver. To boast because you have more of this world's goods is to deny that everything you have is an unmerited favor.

With our firm foundation in Christ, build up your faith to be thankful and content in all situations. The faith you live is a gift to those around you.

*Because of Christ,
Pastor Bill*



CROP WALK

Please help us end hunger one step at a time when St. John's UCC hosts the 30th annual La Porte County CROP Walk. Participants will gather at 1:30 pm on Sunday, September 27, 2015, with the walk beginning at 2:00 pm. Funds raised will help support the La Porte and Michigan City Salvation Army Food Banks. Any questions, please contact Jan Lubiniecki at 879-3712 or Kristen Jasicki at 874-2176. We hope to see you there!

SALVATION ARMY

As you enjoy summer days, please don't forget the Food Bank, their needs continue!

Soup
Cereal
Vegetables
Bar soap
Detergent
Toilet paper

PRAYER CONCERNS

Arbors of Michigan City

Carol Schultz, Ruth Thompson

Settlers House

Dorothy Johnson

Rittenhouse

Beatrice Miller, Anita McKee, Alice

Flotow, Betsy Berry, Ann Johnson

Lifecare Center of Michigan City

Libby Rogers

Sterling House

Lou Hapke, Alice Roth, Lois Koepke, Betty Bowlby

Hamilton Grove

Lynn Dawson



LIONS CLUB FUNDRAISER

The Michigan City Lions Club is proud to announce a joint fundraiser with Scarby's South Shore Pub. On Saturday, August 8, 2015, dine at Scarby, 1716 Franklin Street, and present a coupon to the server. Mr. Scarborough will generously donate 15% of your food bill to the Michigan City Lions Club Charities. Coupons are available in the office and on the main bulletin board outside the office.



CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES

Needed: T-shirts (Dollar Tree usually has them), colored pencils, coloring books or pads of paper that fit into shoe boxes, small flashlights & batteries, flip-flops, toothbrushes, bars of soap

Since these are assembled in October and early November, we can shop the sales now!

CHURCH PICNIC

September 13, 2015

After the 10 a.m. service



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

September 13: Church Picnic

September 27: CROP Walk, at St. John's

November 14: Christmas Bazaar

December 5: Christmas Tea

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

At the June 18th meeting, the Guild members signed up for the program/devotional or refreshment committees for the coming months of '15-16. Betty Johnson led devotions and gave information on Citizens Concerned for the Homeless (1602 Franklin Street). Karen Lawrenz presided and Esther Schlegelmilch read the May Minutes. Betty Johnson gave the Treasurer's report. We welcomed four new members, Elaine Alonso, Judy Kerestury, Emma Jean Kinsey, and Meredith Rumsey. Thirty-two sick calls were made. On July 16th, members and guests attended the play "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline."



HANDBELL RINGER NEEDED!

Our Handbell Choir is in need of a handbell ringer this coming year.

Handbells practices every

Wednesday evening at 6:30p.m.

If you can read music, enjoy praising God with music and enjoy fellowship with others, please contact Dave Swartz or Debbie Dill as soon as possible. August 19th will be the first meeting, with practices beginning Aug. 26th.

IT'S SCHOOL SUPPLY TIME!

We've been asked to help gather supplies for our city schools. Please bring them to the box in the library by August 11th. Any brought in after that date will be given to our "sister school" Knapp. St. John's Preschool also uses supplies. We help them keep tuition to a reasonable rate when we donate to them.

THANK YOU!!

Thank you for our generosity as you share with our neighbors. Please pray that each will know God is love and that they will find what they need in Him.

--Missions

THANK YOU!!

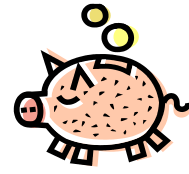
Thank you to all who baked and helped with our July 4th VBS Bake Sale! The display banners (thank you to Don Briggs!) attracted customers and also neighbors interested in St. John's. The last of the cookies sold at Coffee Hour on the following Sunday.

Again, thank you to everyone!



MEALS on WHEELS

The St. John's Meals on Wheels team is in need of four reliable people to volunteer to deliver meals to those who are unable to provide for themselves. The schedule will be once every two months on Wednesdays only between 11:00 a.m. and 12 noon. If you are able to help in this worthwhile and rewarding activity please contact Dale Schultz at 872-5904.



NOISY OFFERING

There will be 5 Sundays in August and that means the children will be collecting the Noisy Offering on Sunday, August 30th. The offering will be collected after the 8:00 service and during the children's sermon at the 10:00 service. Let's make a joyful noise!!



GREETERS NEEDED!

Please add your name to the list on the bulletin board to be a Sunday morning Greeter and help keep this wonderful St. John's tradition alive! All upcoming Sundays are available. Don't be shy—all that is needed is your sunny smile and welcoming spirit!



MEN'S CHOIR

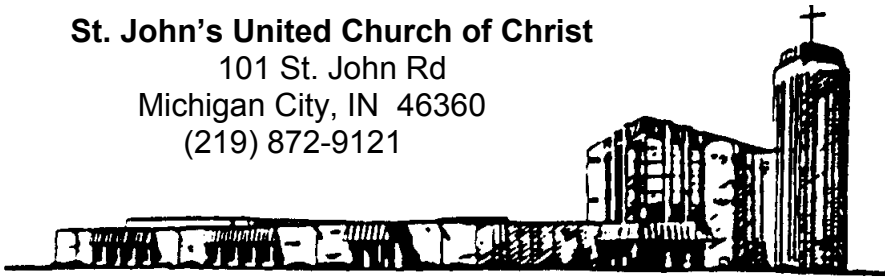
The Men's Choir needs men with willing hearts - the voices will come! Practices for the Men's Choir will begin Sunday, August 30th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Choir room. Please call Dolores, 219-362-3665, if you are willing to lend your voice to praising and glorifying God! We need you!

UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY

There are copies of the updated Church Directory available in the office. If you are homebound and would like a copy, please call the office at 872-9121.



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(219) 872-9121



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**PRESCHOOL SIGN-UPS
2015-2016**

**Availability for Mon.-Wed.-Fri.
afternoon & Tues.-Thurs. Classes!**



If you or someone you know is interested in having their child attend St. John's Preschool for the '15-16 school year, please have them stop into the church office as soon as possible and pick up a registration. Both the Tuesday-Thursday class and the Monday-Wednesday-Friday p.m. class as of this printing have vacancies (the M-W-F a.m. class is currently full). The registration fee is \$35. If you have questions, please call the office, 872-9121. Classes begin the week of Labor Day.



*"Those who accept My commandments
and obey them are the ones who love Me.
And because they love Me,
My Father will love them.
And I will love them
and reveal Myself to each of them."*

—John 14:21



