

The St. John's Messenger

Volume 15 Issue 7

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July 2015

THE "GREATEST"

⁶When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. —Romans 5:6-8 (NLT)

During the summer months there is always a long list of new movies that come out in the theaters. It has become known as the summer blockbusters! Hollywood works hard to put out some of their biggest and best action / adventure movies, knowing that there is a large group of audience-goers out there who have some high expectations. Very often these summer blockbusters will involve "Super Heroes." Movies like Batman, Superman and The Avengers are typically all part of the summer blockbusters. But what does a hero really look like?

During the early part of the 1900's our country went through some unbelievable unrest, including the First World War, The Great Depression and the Second World War. It was during this time that our country saw many men and women raise up to face these problems. Journalist Tom Brokaw at one point coined a phrase for this group, he called them "The Greatest Generation." This group of heroes would press on during the deprivation of the Great Depression, and then go on to fight in World War II. This groups' productivity within the war's home front also made a decisive material contribution to the war effort. This generation did truly provide some true Heroes.

However, as Christians we still have one more hero towards whom we look. Jesus Christ! The verses above from the Book of Romans tell us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Jesus came and rescued us even though we would have still been considered his enemy. We had not shown ourselves to even be a part of the "allied forces." We not only needed to be liberated from sin, we were still strongly holding to the belief that our control over our lives in the camp of sin was our best option. Yet, God the Father sent Christ to die?

This Fourth of July season let's celebrate all of our Heroes! First, let's thank God for the men and women from

that "Greatest Generation" who preserved all the freedoms that we hold so dearly in this country. Secondly, let's not forget to celebrate our ultimate freedom, our freedom from sin and death. Let's celebrate Jesus Christ who defeated hell and the grave. He is just simply the "GREATEST."

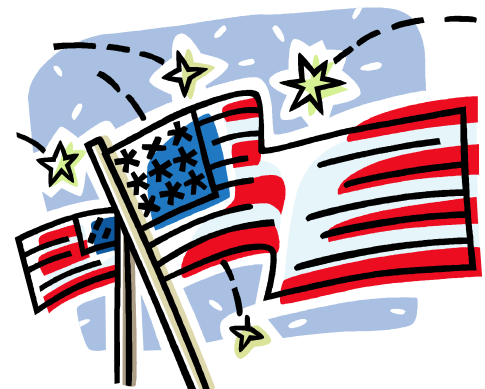
*Happy Fourth!
Grace and Peace,
Dave Swartz*



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Vacation Bible School theme for this summer is Mount Everest, Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power, July 27-31. You may help by donating new book bags and supplies, or by participating/volunteering. If you wish to participate or volunteer at the VBS, go to www.mcvbs.com and click on the registration tab or button.

Thank you to all who so generously donated milk jugs! We have all we need, you were tremendously helpful and we sincerely appreciate your generosity!



COMMUNION & SPECIAL OFFERINGS

July 5, Communion: Stepping Stone Women's Shelter

KEYS TO HOPE WISH LIST

Our community's new resource center Wish List: laundry detergent, deodorant, men's underwear & socks, and double-edged razors.

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

We continue to support and write to Ingabire Clementine of Rwanda through Compassion International.

Please pray for the student center where she studies and stop by the bulletin board in the main hallway to read Ingabire's letters.

- WANTED: OLD CELL PHONES! -

We are working with Cell Phones for Soldiers and Compassion International. The proceeds from phones help both programs. Please put them into the box just inside the library. *Thank you!! Missions*

CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES

Please start focusing on how we can help fill the Christmas Child boxes. T-shirts, small flashlights & batteries, flip-flops, etc. Our goal is to have 100 filled boxes!



ROOSEVELT PIPE ORGAN SERIES

First Congregational Church,
531 Washington Street, Michigan City
Wednesdays at 12 Noon CST

July 1: Wolfgang Rubsam

July 8: Derek Nickels

July 15: Carol Garrett

July 22: Kent Jager

July 29: Gary Powell & Guest

August 5: Mark Sudeith

August 12: Carey Scheck

August 19: Ann T. Dobie

Questions, please call 269-469-0051

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

Pastor Victoria Ubben was our speaker at the Women's Guild meeting on May 21st. She is now at BreakAway Ministry, 13 E. Lincolnway, Suite 300, Valparaiso. The mission of BreakAway Ministry is to provide spiritual and religious events and celebrations in convenient locations.

Parents and grandparents are invited to attend a retreat with their children ages 4 - 8 years, on Saturdays, July 11th and July 18th from 9 - 11:00 a.m. "Pilgrims Rest Retreat Farm" is in Kouts, Indiana.

Betty Johnson led devotions and Elaine Burkhart served pizza. We had a good group of guests, Elaine Alonzo, Lisa Kay Swartz, Pat Beebe, Lynda Ferry, Meredith Rumsey, Leni Barugh, Judy Kerestury, and Jerre Applegate. There were 37 sick calls made by the members. On July 16th the Guild and guests will attend the Mainstreet Theater play "Patsy Cline."

**ORGAN RECITALS,
VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY, July 5-10**

SUNDAY, JULY 5TH

7:00 p.m. VU Student Recital, Worship Service, and Demonstration at Chapel of the Resurrection

MONDAY, JULY 6TH

7:00 p.m. Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) Faculty Recital at Chapel of the Resurrection

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8TH

7:00 p.m. Recital by Christopher Houlihan at Chapel of the Resurrection

(General Admission - \$10; Students, Seniors - \$5; AGO Members - FREE)

THURSDAY, JULY 9TH

2:00 p.m. Recital by Jonathan Rudy at Chapel of the Resurrection

(General Admission - \$10; Students, Seniors - \$5; AGO Members - FREE)

7:00 a.m. (POE) Faculty Recital at Chapel of the Resurrection.

FRIDAY, JULY 10TH

10:00 a.m. (POE) Student Recital at Chapel of the Resurrection.

DIRECTIONS: Chapel of the Resurrection is located on the campus of Valparaiso University, 1700 Chapel Drive, Valparaiso.

SOUP KITCHEN DONATIONS

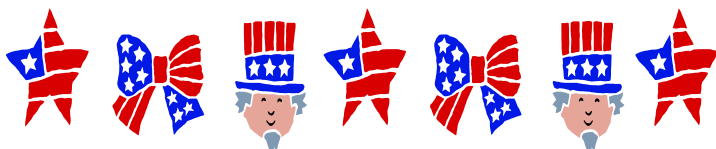
Thank you for continuing to remember the soup kitchen at New Disciple Love Church, Pine St., Michigan City. They are always in need of paper goods and toiletries. You may drop off your donations in the library. *Thank you!*

BE A GREETER!

Please choose a Sunday and add your name to the Greeter sign up sheet on the main bulletin board and help keep this wonderful St. John's tradition alive! We need YOU!



Church Picnic:
September 13, 2015
After the 10 a.m. service



**BAKE SALE AT FARMER'S MARKET
~ Supporting Vacation Bible School ~**

On Saturday, July 4th,

we will be having a bake sale at the Michigan City Farmer's Market, 8th & Washington Streets. We are joining with the other churches involved with our VBS. Please let us know if you can either help at the booth and/or donate delicious baked goods! Cookies and brownies are usually best-sellers. (Due to the heat and no refrigeration available, our baked goods must be frosting- and cream-free, please!) Your baked goods may be dropped off at St. John's on Thursday morning, July 2nd, or brought to our booth the day of the sale (July 4th). Please call Lynda (872-1427) if you are able to help in any way.

Thank you very much!

OFFICE CLOSED



Please note, the church office will be closed Friday, July 3rd, in recognition of the Fourth of July holiday. The office will reopen on Monday, July 6th.

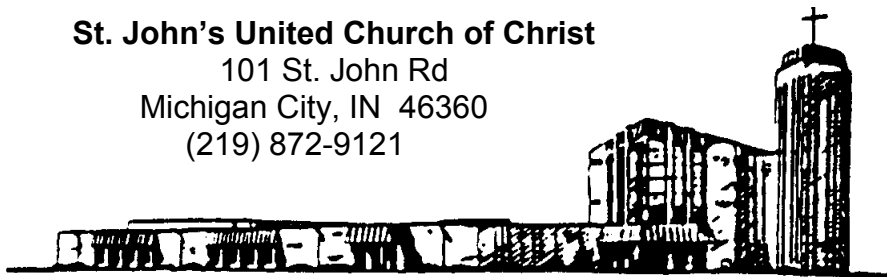
THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

A most sincere Thank You! to everyone who so generously contributed to the success of our annual Jonah Fish Fry! To you who donated your time to help set up, serve, sell, & clean up, or who baked delicious pies for our dessert table, to all who sold or purchased tickets and joined us in a delicious meal, to all who supported our Fish Fry by your prayers--to EVERYONE who helped in any way--we offer our most heartfelt *thanks!*

It was a great success!

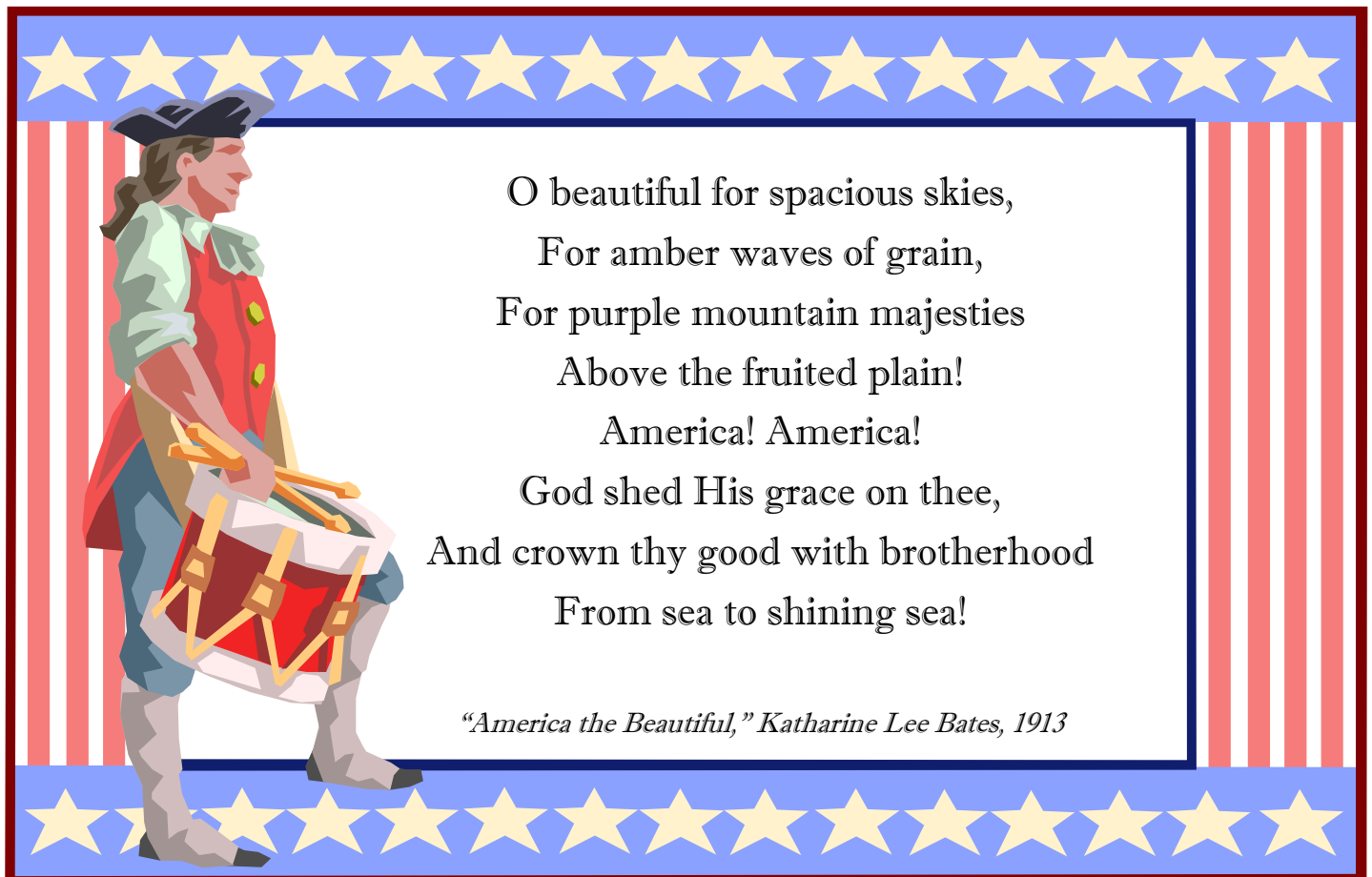
Your 2015 Fish Fry Committee

St. John's United Church of Christ
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(219) 872-9121



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O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

"America the Beautiful," Katharine Lee Bates, 1913

