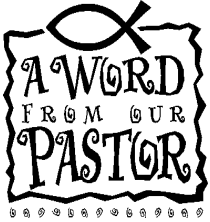


# The St. John's Messenger

Volume 15 Issue 5

[www.stjohnsmc.com](http://www.stjohnsmc.com)

May 2015



## WALKING DAILY WITH CHRIST

Each day you and I have the choice to allow Christ to lead. Every situation that unfolds in the day before us is an opportunity to learn how Christ is shaping us to be like him. Many times our weakness is the point of intervention where his strength is to be applied in our lives.

All of us have issues of weakness and that is where the Spirit does great work. Let's consider occasions in our life that make us fearful. Most of our fear has a beginning in a past experience.

It is easy to build a case in our minds regarding why we need to be afraid of a situation or a person. But God is bigger than our fears. He does not want us to be fear-driven. This is not healthy for us or those around us. We can replace fear with faith and recognize that He is at work. Sometimes what we create in our minds are just caricatures of fear.

All of us have experienced situations that incited fear within us. If we fail to confess those fears and entrust them to Christ we will continue to carry remnants of that fear as unwanted baggage.

Shed the light of God's Word and Christ's confidence on them, and they quickly evaporate. Pull back the curtain of fear, and it is gone.

We tend to fill in the unknown with fear and negativity. But you can choose by faith to fill in the unknown with peace and trust

in God. Most circumstances are out of your control, but nothing sneaks up on God. He has it under control. The storm may be raging around you; however, focus on the captain of the ship—Jesus—rather than the hostile waves slapping against the sides of the boat. Dismiss fear and embrace Christ's comfort.

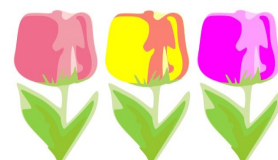
*"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4).*

Keeping our focus on Christ,  
Pastor Bill



## TREE OF LIFE

Spring is the time for new life and our Tree of Life is a wonderful way to remember our family members with an engraved leaf. It can be used as a memorial, in celebration, or in honor of a loved one. Let's continue to help our Tree grow. Please visit the office to pick up your Tree of Life form.



## COMMUNION & SPECIAL OFFERINGS

May 3, Communion: Habitat for Humanity  
May 24, Special Envelope: Strengthen the Church

## USHERS

Ushers for the month of May are: Con Eichelberg, Elaine Burkhart, Paul Beebe, Bob Alonso

## MAY FOOD BANK

Thank you to everyone who remembers the Food Bank! For the month of May, suggested items are toiletries, paper goods, and canned fruit.

## MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET

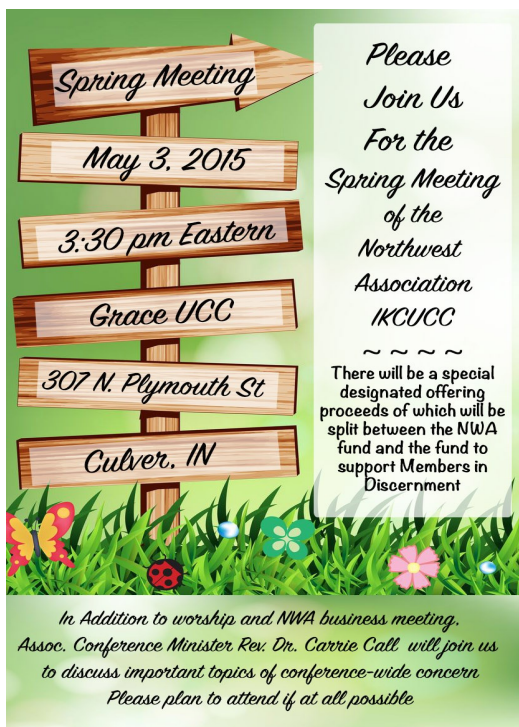
May 12th, 2015,

6:00 pm

Tickets now on sale!

## UPCOMING MISSIONS ACTIVITIES

The Missions group is planning to assist in the Crop Walk and the Fish Fry.



A graphic of a wooden signpost in a grassy field with flowers and butterflies. The signpost has several directional signs pointing right. To the right of the signpost is a block of text.

*Spring Meeting*  
*May 3, 2015*  
*3:30 pm Eastern*  
*Grace UCC*  
*307 N. Plymouth St*  
*Culver, IN*

*Please Join Us For the Spring Meeting of the Northwest Association IKCUC*

~ ~ ~ ~  
There will be a special designated offering proceeds of which will be split between the NWA fund and the fund to support Members in Discernment

*In Addition to worship and NWA business meeting, Assoc. Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Carrie Call will join us to discuss important topics of conference-wide concern. Please plan to attend if at all possible.*

## ~ 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 very much! Missions*

## 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LAPORTE COUNTY NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST

Gathering at 7:15 a.m.,

7:30 a.m.: Program to follow

May 7th, 2015

~ here at St. John's ~

The Potawatomi district of LaSalle Council, Boy Scouts of America, invite you to participate in the National Day of Prayer. Join them for a delicious breakfast and inspirational program. All proceeds from this event support Scouting for at-risk youth in LaPorte County. Please see the bulletin board for more information.

## 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!



## 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.

## LION'S CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, May 3, 2015

8 a.m.—1 p.m.

at Michigan City Senior Center

\$7.00 Adults, \$4.00

Children 4 - 10

Under 4, Free

All you can eat!

Includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage links, juice/coffee/milk



### **BLOODMOBILE**

The next Bloodmobile will be on Tuesday, May 5th, at St. John's, from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. Please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to schedule your blood donation appointment.



### **NOISY OFFERING**

There are 5 Sundays in May and that means the children will be collecting the Noisy Offering on Sunday, May 31st. 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!!



### **SPAGHETTI SUPPER**

**Saturday, May 9th, 2015**

**4:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

All You Can Eat!

Venturing Crew 871 & Boy Scout Troop 871

~ Here at St. John's ~

Includes salad, bread, & beverage  
(Desserts available at additional cost)

11 & older: \$6.00

4 - 10 years: \$3.00

3 & Under: Free

Tickets may be purchased  
at the door.

I will give thanks to the Lord  
with my whole heart;  
I will tell of all Your wonderful  
deeds. I will be glad and exult  
in You; I will sing praise  
to Your name, O Most High.

—Psalm 9:1-2



### **FUTURE COFFEE HOURS**

First, we want to thank God for the gift of hospitality that Karen and Rollie Lawrenz have shown in making sure that there was always a Coffee Hour after the 10:00 service when no one else wanted to sign up.

This was important to Karen and Rollie. With Karen's recent surgery and recovery along with Rollie's health, it is now time for others to step forward. If you want to see the Coffee Hour continue, please be sure to sign up on the main bulletin board outside of the church office. We would love for this time of hospitality to continue here at St. John's.

### **PRESCHOOL SIGN-UPS, 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR (M-W-F a.m. class is full)**

If you or someone you know is interested in having their child attend St. John's Preschool for the upcoming '15-16 school year, please pick up a registration form in the office as soon as possible. Classes are filling quickly! Registration fee is \$35. Questions, please call the office, 872-9121.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

The Vacation Bible School theme for this summer is Mount Everest, Conquering

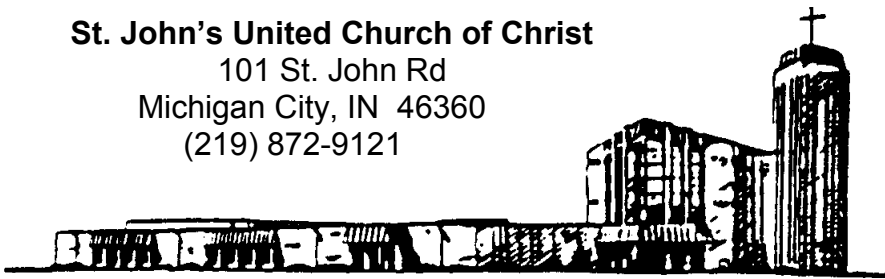
Challenges with God's Mighty Power, July 27-31. Please consider helping by donating new book bags and supplies. A red collection box is in the hallway. Plastic gallon milk jugs are also being collected in a box outside of Dave's office.



### **DISCOVERY DINNERS**

Please remember to contact Beth Ann Ast at 872-5292 if you will be attending a Discovery Dinner, held each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Come to praise God, and enjoy good fellowship and food!

St. John's United Church of Christ  
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Michigan City, IN 46360  
(219) 872-9121



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O God, Our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the  
stormy blast,  
And our eternal home!  
under the shadow of  
Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.  
Amen.

--O God, Our Help in Ages Past,"  
Watts & Croft  
The Hymnal, Word Music, 1986

