INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
Parish Staff/ Council Officers--------1
Contact Information-------------------1
Vice President-----------------------1
Pastor’s Ponderings------------------2
Church Meetings/ Church Mice-------3
October Birthdays and Anniversaries-3
Kids Worship------------------------4
Rally Sunday------------------------5
Kings Corners------------------------5
St John "Keeping in Touch"---------5

Vice President Needed
The position of Vice President is still in need of being filled. Please look into your hearts and consider this opportunity to help lead our church.
Pastor's Ponderings

My internship (1997-98) was divided between the Fox Valley (Christ the King in Combined Locks) and the Oshkosh Correctional Institution. That was the first time an intern had been allowed to split the time between two sites, and the supervisor at each place was concerned it would be too demanding, especially with travel to Oshkosh 3-4 times a week.

My 2nd week coincided with a clergy retreat for the entire East Central Synod; we gathered at the beautiful Green Lake Conference Center. As I stood in line to register with Pastor Steve from CtK, my OSCI supervisor stopped to chat. He asked how my congregational ministry was going, and I told him it was fine, but there were so many meetings there wasn’t much time for ministry. His words of wisdom in response completely altered my understanding of what I was supposed to be learning: “Meetings are ministry.”

I’ve learned that any sort of interpersonal contact with any number of people is an opportunity for ministry to happen. I’ve learned that, quite often, I am the one being ministered to! Martin Luther described the church as the “priesthood of all believers”; each member of the body of Christ is called/invited/empowered to minister according to his/her own gifts. There’s a very good chance that all of you who read this have ministered to me at some time, in some way, during the past 12 years! Thank you!

These past months of the COVID pandemic have taught me another aspect: the ministry of listening. With all the “sheltering in place” and quarantining, lockdowns and temporary shut-downs, listening was often the only legitimate contact. I have to listen harder, with more concentration, when the conversation is long-distanced rather than face-to-face.

How do we practice listening to God? God has often spoken to me through other people, but if I keep my mind and heart open, God can speak to me in a “still small voice” or “the sound of sheer silence” (Elijah, I Kings 19). [People of my generation will remember Simon and Garfunkel’s The Sound of Silence.]

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“Be still, and know that I am God.” (This is verse 10 of Psalm 46, Luther’s favorite psalm.) Be still, and get to know our God!
Church Meetings

Council Meeting: Tuesday, October 19 at 6:30 pm
Quarterly Meeting: Sunday, October 25 at 9:30 am

Church Mice

Hi there! It’s Tully, the oldest (and wisest) of the church mice. I got some flak about writing this column today. The other St. John mice were worried, because we heard Pastor Gail caught a mouse in her house. But I told Merry Twinkle and Timothy not to worry. She caught a house mouse, and we’re church mice. She would never do anything to hurt us!

It’s been a long time since you’ve heard from us. When the pandemic started a year and a half ago we tried and tried to find face masks that would fit us, but you know, they don’t make them so small. So we went into quarantine and have been there ever since. It wasn’t really so bad, because the 3 of us St. John mice live together in Rose’s office, and the 4 St. Stephen mice live together (inside the pulpit, I’ve heard). So we all had each other for company, and there were people around at least a couple of days a week. It’s really exciting to see all the children back now! We missed them last year. (Don’t tell anybody, but we really missed the crumbs from their snacks!)

That’s all for now, but one of us will try to report in every few weeks!

Tully

October Birthdays

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Devin</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Roddy</td>
<td>Arlene</td>
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October Anniversaries

10/02 – Riehle, Jill & Ron
10/03 – Otto, Charlotte & Wilbur
10/07 – Mroczenski, Tami & Larry
10/10 – Karlen, Gloria & Jerry
10/15 – Heiden, Mindy & Greg
10/17 – Werner, Alice & Clarence
10/29 – Hein, Eryn & Steven
**Kid's Worship**

Sunday mornings during the 10:30am regular worship.

Kids ages 2 years through 3rd grade join Eryn Hein & Colleen Dvorak after Pastor’s children sermon. We are trying to be outdoors whenever the weather permits. Please dress your children for the weather. When the weather does not allow us to be outdoors, we will be with the children in the church basement.

We are featuring a different Bible story each month. Each week we learn more and enjoy a craft, science project, or movie. We will also be focusing on “talking to Jesus” – or praying as the grown-ups call it. When our group is larger, we will split into PreK-K with Eryn, and 1st – 3rd graders with be with Colleen.

During the month of September, we learned about Genesis and the Creation story. During October, we will focus on Noah’s Ark and for November Daniel & the Lions. December will be practice for the Christmas program.

The program will be at 10:30 on Sunday, December 19.

**No** Kids Worship on the following Sundays; November 28, December 26 & January 2, 2022.

And . . . . we would love more leaders to join us! If being with the kids is not your thing, we are also looking for snack donations. Or if you would like to support Kids Worship another way, just let us know.

If you are interested, please contact us. Colleen 715-571-8277 or Eryn 715-896-6330
Rally Sunday

Kings Corners

The winner of September's Kings Corner was Steve Doran. Congratulations!

St John's Keeping in Touch

- St John Potato Pancake Brunch will be October 10.
- St John's Confirmation Sunday will be October 31st.