

Peace through Jesus

Know it. Live it. Share it.

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
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Gregg Bitter, Pastor – (StJohnHancock@WELS.net)
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Phyllis Joos, Organist

Prayer

To you, our God, we fly
For mercy and for grace.
Oh, hear our lowly cry
And do not hide your face!
O Lord, stretch forth your mighty hand
And guard and bless our native land.

(*Christian Worship* 620:1)

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost July 1, 2007

Worship Focus: *Equality in Christ*

Order of Service: See handout "Equality in Christ"

Hymns: 618, 536, 310

Personal Preparation for Holy Communion p. 156

We follow the Biblical practice of close communion. If you are not a member, please talk with the Pastor before coming to communion.

This Week's Kingdom Work

Wed. 7:30pm Worship & Communion

Sun. 9:00am Worship

10:00am Quarterly Voters' Meeting

News & Notes

Pictures for fair booth: If you have any pictures of St. John's or congregational activities (Sunday school, VBS, youth outings, church picnics etc.), we could use them for the display at the fair booth. This year the pictures will be displayed on a computer monitor. So they will be returned to you as is after they have been scanned. Or you may submit them in electronic form. We would like the pictures as soon as possible to allow the volunteer enough time to scan and organize them on the computer. Please contact Pastor Bitter if you have any questions or pictures to share.

4th of July Float: We have tentatively reserved a place in the 4th of July parade. We have a trailer and driver. We still need people to decorate the float. Without volunteers, there is no float. Please contact Pastor Bitter if you can help. If we do not have volunteers by July 3, we will cancel our float this year.

Quarterly Meeting: The quarterly voters' meeting will be held after worship next Sunday on July 8. Topics for discussion include the fair booth and the outdoor worship service on September 9. It's been suggested that the outdoor worship service be a joint service with St. Paul's of Morris at Pomme de Terre Park on September 9.

Teen Outing: Our youth group (6th-12th) is invited to attend the 25th Annual Teen Summer Splash at Taylor's Falls on Monday, August 6. Activities include canoeing, water slides, and other rides. The cost will be \$13.00 plus mileage. Keep your eyes open for more information to come.

After Church Social: If you want to provide refreshments for after Sunday worship, the sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

July Ushers: Barry Nelson (capt.), Jason Brown, Jeff Flaten, Ryan Flaten, Dick Lubenow, Eric Zeltwanger

July Cleaners: Dick & Judy Lubenow; Tom & Elaine Mohr

Greeters for July 8: Dennis & Karen Schroeder

News from the WELS

WELS' 2007 Synod Convention to Discuss Ministerial Education, the Budget, and Synod Direction in July

The 400 WELS members serving as delegates to WELS' 59th biennial convention this summer will grapple with many important issues as they set the synod's direction for the next biennium. Perhaps the most critical issue they will determine is how to balance the synodical budget in the midst of limited growth of financial support.

The Synodical Council—the synod's governing board responsible for WELS' ministry plan—has made several recommendations to help delegates make these crucial decisions when they meet July 30-Aug. 3, in New Ulm, Minn. The three recommendations are

- to maintain a three-tier ministerial education system through a 1+1+1 structure (1 seminary, 1 college, and 1 synod-subsidized prep school). To accomplish this and support the system, the Synodical Council recommended that Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS), Saginaw, Mich. (one of the two current synod-subsidized prep schools), be closed at the end of the 2007-08 school year.

- to sell the MLS school property for \$1.00 to any WELS members, group, or affiliate who will use the school for synod purposes.

- to use a \$2.5 million annual gift from an anonymous donor for the next five years to offset reductions to Missions and Parish Services for fiscal year 2007-08 (July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008) and in fiscal year 2008-09 to apply about half of it to partially offset these same reductions and the other half toward debt reduction.

View the entire article in July's Forward in Christ (p. 20-21 or www.forwardinchrist.net). For more information on the Synodical Council's recommendations, visit www.wels.net/jump/rationale.