

Peace
through
Jesus
Know it. Live it. Share it.

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
859 Fifth Street, Hancock, MN 56244
Gregg Bitter, Pastor – (StJohnHancock@WELS.net)
<http://stjohnslutheran.freehostia.com>
392-5313 (Church) 392-5572 (Home)
Phyllis Joos, Organist

This Week's Kingdom Work

Today 10:00am Quarterly Voters' Meeting
Wed. 7:30pm Worship: *Set free to follow Christ*
Sun. 9:00am Worship: *Showing spiritual care for others*

Prayer

Jesus, your boundless love to me
No thought can reach, no tongue declare.
Dwell in my heart eternally,
And reign without a rival there.
To you alone, dear Lord, I live;
Myself to you, dear Lord, I give.
(*Christian Worship* 479:1)

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost July 8, 2007

Worship Focus: *Set free to follow Christ*

Order of Service: *Common Service*, p. 15

Hymns: 451, 465, 496, 455

God's Word

First Lesson 1 Kings 19:14-21

Elisha is called to serve the Lord as the next prophet. No matter what our job in life, as Christians we follow Jesus and serve him in the ways that he gives us.

Psalms 62, p. 88

Our strength to follow Christ comes from him who is our fortress.

Second Lesson Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Set free by Jesus, we use our freedom to serve one another as we resist our sinful desires.

Gospel Luke 9:51-62

Following Jesus leaves behind our earthly desires.

Sermon

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Walk Free in the Fruit of the Spirit

1. You're no longer enslaved by sinful desires
2. By the Spirit you're fighting sin
3. By the Spirit you're producing fruit

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: Thank you to the Chuck Nelson family, Gene DeGier, Dick Lubenow, and everyone else that helped with the float this year.

Quarterly Meeting: The quarterly voters' meeting will be held after worship today. 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.

Website: Check out our new website for St. John's at <http://stjohnslutheran.freehostia.com>. Look for pictures of our float and keep updated on congregational events. If you have any suggestions or corrections for it, please contact Pastor Bitter. Also, since different computers and browsers display sites differently, if the site doesn't display properly on your computer, let Pastor Bitter know.

General Fund Deficit: Please note that at the end of June our General Fund had a balance of about -\$215 in the hole. As the Lord blesses you, keep in mind his work we carry out here at St. John's and cheerfully support it as he enables you.

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 15: Cory & Ryan Schroeder

WELS NEWS
PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING PLAN
TO BE PRESENTED AT CONVENTION

Delegates at the synod convention (July 30-Aug. 3) will be voting on a variety of proposed revisions to constitutional bylaws—revisions designed to streamline synod structure, establish clear lines of authority, and save money—in line with the direction set by the 2005 synod convention.

The revisions are substantially modified from a more sweeping restructuring plan that was rejected by the districts in convention last summer.

Perhaps the most significant revision among the current proposals is that administrators for various areas of ministry (Ministerial Education, Parish Services, and Home and World Missions) be called by the Synodical Council (SC) and be accountable to the synod president acting for the SC.

Under the current structure, the administrators are called by their boards, who are elected by the synod convention. In some cases lines of authority have been unclear since administrators are answerable, in various situations, to their boards, the Synodical Council, and the Conference of Presidents (COP).

Under the plan rejected by the districts, the administrators would have been answerable to a National Council—a combination of the SC and the COP. “After listening to the districts, it’s really evident that they would like to see—in any structure we have—greater accountability, clearer reports, and see . . . the process to review actions of the synod,” says President Karl Gurgel. “Overall, to increase accountability is a very desirable goal.”

The plan presented to the Synodical Council and the districts in convention in 2006 was modified and reviewed by an independent panel in accordance with the 2005 convention resolution. The panel agrees with the proposed changes, but is still encouraging the 2007 synod in convention to consider going ever further with restructuring.

“All of these suggested revisions are practical in nature. None of them have to do with the doctrinal foundations of our synod,” says Gurgel. “Consequently, open discussion is encouraged as we seek to carry out the objectives of our synod in the best possible way.”

New Recording! —



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by Charles Bonow, Organist*

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America, The Beautiful The Star-Spangled Banner O Canada Amazing Grace God Of Our Father
What A Friend We Have In Jesus **God Bless Our Native Land** **Christ, The Life Of All The Living**
Battle Hymn Of The Republic Sun Of My Soul Eternal Father, Strong To Save Nearer, My God, To Thee

*Summer Listening Enjoyment or Gift Giving
4th of July Patriotic Celebrations*

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