

The Eagle

*I carried you on eagle's wings and brought
you to myself.*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania 17740
570-398-1676**

*Our Mission Statement:
Called Together
Sharing Christ
Serving Others*

August/September 2018

Check out our congregation's webpage at www.stjl.org, or St. John Lutheran on Facebook

What is Beauty? By Lisa Leonard

When I was nine years old my mom took me shopping for new shoes. Mine were worn out and too small and it was time for a new pair. As we entered our local Payless shoe store, I spotted a pair of emerald green flats and fell in love. These shoes were going to change my life.

“Please mom?” I asked.

“They’re not very practical.” She answered. “Do you promise you’ll wear them?”

“I promise.” I said

We drove home and I skipped into the house thrilled with my new green shoes. I could hardly believe I owned something so beautiful. They were mine, all mine.

I wore them even though they gave me blisters. I wore them when the color scuffed off around the toes. Eventually they wore out completely. No matter how tightly I tried to hold on, their beauty faded. I felt a little sad when we cleaned out my closet and bagged them up along with other too small or not needed items. But soon something else caught my eye.

A couple weeks later, my friend Marie invited me to her house to play. When she opened her bedroom door I saw a fourposter bed with a white ruffle canopy. I had never seen anything so fancy. It was so beautiful I could hardly stand it.

It is the first time I remember feeling jealous.

I wanted that bed to be mine. But no matter how much I begged and pleaded, I knew my parents would never buy me a fourposter bed with a ruffle canopy.

The green shoes wouldn’t be the last time I would try to own beauty and hold it tightly.

Marie’s four poster bed with a ruffle canopy wouldn’t be the last time a would feel jealousy and longing. As I became an adult I still craved beauty. When Steve and I were engaged I was sure I could find something—incredible wedding photos or the perfect couch or the right lipstick—to satisfy my craving. For a short time, I would enjoy these things but their beauty faded.

Nothing seemed to keep that jealous ache away for long.

When I was 38 weeks pregnant, we learned something was wrong with our baby. I was quickly admitted to the hospital and two days later, Steve and I held our first son, David. He was 4 lbs, 2 oz and had only had two fingers on his left hand. We were told he had a rare genetic disorder called Cornelia de Lange Syndrome. This wasn’t the baby I dreamed about. The beautiful life I had planned was slipping through my fingers. I imagined years filled with doctor visits and wheelchairs and feeding tubes. We loved David dearly, but in those first days, I couldn’t imagine beauty as part of our story. The pain of losing the baby we expected combined with navigating David’s physical needs was almost unbearable.

I was fully aware for the first time in my life that I was not in control. I began to understand I had never been in control. I worried a lot less about finding the right lipstick and spent that energy taking care of our new baby. I wasn’t as concerned about having the perfect home. Instead I focused on rare quiet moments with my husband while our baby was sleeping.



When David was ten weeks old he smiled for the first time. His smile was like glue healing the cracks in my broken heart.

It was beautiful.

When he was three months old he laughed for the first time. It was a rolling giggle and it was the most incredible sound we had ever heard. Steve and I looked at each other with unbridled joy.

It was beautiful.

When David was eighteen months old, his brother Matthias was born. We were relieved to meet our healthy, happy baby. Matthias balanced out our family. He was exactly what we needed.

Steve and I had two boys.

They were beautiful.

We bought our first house and filled it with thrifted furniture we sanded and painted.

It was beautiful.

Money was tight those first years. We paid our bills every month but had little left over for fun.

Sometimes we would splurge and go to Dairy Queen for chili cheese dogs. I treasure those memories with the four of us sitting in the booth at DQ.

It was beautiful.

During a particularly difficult financial time, someone from our church slipped \$500 into Steve's briefcase. We were in shock. To this day we have no idea who gave us that money.

It was one of the most humbling gifts we ever received.

It was beautiful.

Last week I stood on the beach staring at the glittering ocean waves. I let the salty ocean air fill my lungs. My heart was happy.

It was beautiful.



There is beauty in a hot cup of coffee.

There is beauty in sitting with a friend and sharing our hearts.

There is beauty in sunlight coming through the window.

There is beauty in slowing down to rest.

There is beauty in an impromptu dinner with friends.

There is beauty when my arms are tired from holding my boys.

There is beauty in the emptiness of loss, because loss means I have loved.

There is beauty in the dark places—where we least expect to find it. I have found on the hardest days, beauty shows up in real and miraculous ways.

The tighter I try to hold onto beauty, the more it slips through my fingers.

When I look to my outward beauty, my home and material things to fill me I become frustrated.

Beauty cannot be owned or possessed.

Beauty comes to me when I open my eyes and open my heart.

Beauty comes to me when I stop trying to control things and let them be what they are—messy and amazing. There is nothing wrong with green shoes or four poster beds with a ruffle canopy.

There is nothing wrong with a new couch or the perfect shade of lipstick. These things are beautiful gifts—ours to enjoy for a while. But the little things; a smile, a tiny giggle, an anonymous gift, a small hand in mine, the ocean waves, the sun warming my shoulders, these are the most beautiful gifts of all. I want to hold beauty with open hands. I want to remind myself although I cannot own it, there is no shortage of beauty. It's impossible to run out of beauty because the God of the Universe has filled his creation with beautiful things. He gives us gifts to enjoy, to soak up and to share with others. There is an endless supply of beauty around me. My arms and my heart are full. Where do you find beauty?

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Aucker*

Blessing of the Keys - service August 12 for anyone who has obtained or will obtain their driver's permit/license.

Blessing of the Backpacks, Students and Teachers – August 26. Bring your backpacks to the 9:30 worship service for a special blessing as you begin the new school year.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored during the month of August by Jim and Donna Martin in memory of loved ones.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored during the month of September by Myrtle Long in memory of loved ones.

Reminder: We will return to two worship services (8:00 and 10:30 a.m.) on September 2. Sunday School will resume September 9.

Distribution of Food

The New Love Center Food Pantry will host the Food Distribution from 9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. on August 10 and 9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. on August 24. In September Food Distribution will be from 9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. on September 14 and 9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. on September 28. The New Love Center Food Pantry served 409 families in the month of May distributing food to 948 local people. Boxes are packed the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m.; August 9 and September 13.

Pastor away to take classes

Pastor Aucker will be out of state August 13-17 to take the Wilderness EMT class. For pastoral emergencies contact Pastor Josh Reinsburrow at 570-854-0945.

Catechism Class to begin – for all youth 7th grade or older who have not completed two years of Catechism Instruction, there will be a meeting for both parents and youth after worship in the choir room on Sunday, August 26.

Committee Meetings – August 20 and September 17

11:00 a.m. Worship and Music

6:00 p.m. Christian Education

7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry

“God’s Work Our Hands” Sunday – September 9. Throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregations will be doing service projects for others. We have invited all our local Lutheran Churches to donate pudding cups or jello cups to the Backpack Program that provides backpacks of food for 175 students every Friday of the school year. Bring your pudding cups or jello cups to the Sanctuary for a blessing that day.

Communion at Manor Care

Pastor will be offering the Sacrament of Holy Communion to the residents of Manor Care on Tuesday, September 4 at 2:00 p.m.

Fellowship Time

You are invited to join us on the third Wednesday of each month at the Restless Oaks for a time of fellowship. No reservations needed. Just show up at 11:30 a.m. in the back room and order from the menu. The next Fellowship Time is on Wednesday, September 19. No meeting in August.

Joint Council Meeting – A joint meeting of the council members of Garman, Grace, St. James, and St. John will occur on Thursday, September 20, 7:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran. All council members are asked to attend.

Upcoming Weddings:

September 22, 2:00 p.m. Ryan Sanders and Annette Morales at St. James Lutheran

September 29, 2:00 p.m. Todd Bowes and Casey Brewer at St. John Lutheran

West Branch WELCA Fall Cluster Gathering

The West Branch Conference Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be having their Fall Cluster Gathering at St. James Lutheran Church, on Sunday, September 30. The Theme is: All Things Work Together for Good. Registration starts at 2:30 p.m. Bible Study leader will be Jodi Ellis. Pastor Aucker, Donna Batschelet, and Christine Barner will be speaking about The New Love Center Food Pantry. A soup and sandwich meal will be provided at 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$3/ person and those attending are asked to bring JELLO to be given to The New Love Center. Each WELCA unit is also asked to bring a dessert. Please register by calling Ruth Doran at 570.584.5814 by September 20.

Advance Planning

Have you told your children your wishes should you die? Do you need help in the planning process? Do you need help starting the conversation? What is Palliative Care versus Hospice Care? Do you have a living will?

After 25 years of walking with people who grieve the loss of a loved one, I often say the greatest legacy you can give to your children is to plan and communicate your last wishes. I share this as one who has sat with a man at 1:00 a.m. whose wife just died and he has no idea what to do or what her wishes were.

On Thursday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran, I will walk through the steps and answer questions to the best of my ability. I cannot answer legal questions. It may even take us more than one session but starting the conversation is important.

I invite you to come, bring your questions, as we talk about funerals, death, and the promise of resurrection life that is promised to us by Jesus.

CROP Walk

We invite members of the congregation to join us in supporting the 2018 CROP Walk which will be held in Williamsport on the Riverwalk on Sunday, October 14. Register at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran. You have the choice of 3, 6, 9 miles. Riverwalk begins at 1:30 p.m. For registration forms contact Molly Mitchell in the office.

Update on the Rising Anew Campaign

We continue to pay on the loan from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Currently our loan is down to \$216,210. Thank you everyone for your support in paying down the loan and your continued commitment to the ministries of St. John Lutheran Church. For those who wish to contribute to the Rising Anew Campaign, please write your check to: St. John Lutheran, earmark on the memo line: "Rising Anew" and put it in an envelope with your name on the envelope and place it in the offering plate.

Fliege nach Deutschland

Fly to Germany with us 8-17 October 2019.

October of 2019 might seem a-long-ways-away, but when you plan a trip many details must be organized in advance. We will be traveling to visit our sister church, St. Wunibald in Heidenheim, Germany, staying with host families and learning about German history and culture. We will also enjoy the German foods and build relationships with our sisters and brothers in Christ. If possible, we will also make a trip to Eisenach, to the Wartburg Castle where Luther hid from the authorities and Wittenberg where Luther taught at the University and where he is buried at the University Church, and where he posted the 95 Thesis. We will be traveling from Dulles Airport to Munich and back. If you missed the information meeting April 29 please contact Pastor or Mrs. Aucker. We are limited to 8 people.



The wisdom of Charles Schulz, Peanuts cartoonist:

"The smile on my face doesn't mean my life is perfect. It means I appreciate what I have and what I have been blessed with. I choose to be happy."

"I love the kind of hugs where you can physically feel the sadness leave your body."

"Worrying can't stop the bad stuff from happening. It just stops you from enjoying the good."

"The less you respond to rude, critical, argumentative people, the more peaceful your life will become."

"Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip."

-Will Rogers

Remember our Home bound members with your prayers, cards, and visits

Richard Hurd (Jun 29)
Hillside Assisted Living Room 101
2725 Four Mile Drive
Montoursville PA 17754
570.322.4436

Mary Pepperman (July 23)
1101 Michael Street
Jersey Shore PA 17740
570.398.2780.

Madeline Hurd (May 16)
Hillside Assisted Living Room 202
2725 Four Mile Drive
Montoursville PA 17754
570.322.4436

Mary Jane Keller (Jan 25)
Epworth Manor Room 303
951 Washington Ave
Tyrone PA 16686

Bill Bierly (April 6)
Williamsport Home, Room 402
1900 Ravine Road
Williamsport PA 17701
570.323.8782

Grace Marks (Oct. 26)
759 Rt. 287 Hwy
Jersey Shore PA 17740
570.398.7792

Leila Hiller
2331 Marydale Ave
Williamsport PA 17701
570.322.1091

Virginia Moffitt (May20)
174 Valley Heights Drive
Williamsport PA 17701
570.505.1236

Virginia Osborne
Manor Care, JS, Room A8
1008 Thompson Street.
Jersey Shore PA 17740

Wanda Fox
Susque-View
22 Cree Drive
Lock Haven, PA 17745

Jane Hunter Shaffer, Room 132. Muncy Skilled Nursing, 215 E Water Street, Muncy PA 17756

Barbara & Charles Long, 140 Valley View Drive, JS. 570.398.2252

Remember those serving in the military with your cards and prayers:

Sgt. Myers, Maddison
Currently moving

Blake Brewer, U.S. Marines
Serving in the Marine Reserves



Automate your regular offering

Do you know that over \$2,600 per month is given electronically by members of St. John? St. John Lutheran Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular offering. Electronic giving provides convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation. Getting started is easy. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office, 570-398-1676.

Giving Plus+

St. John Lutheran is offering a new way to support the ministries of St. John. Now you can download the “Giving Plus+” app from your app store for your cell phone. This feature is also on our web site and Facebook site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. About once a month we receive a request asking if someone can give electronically by debit/credit card. Now this feature is available. If you have any questions, contact Pastor or Scott Mitchell.

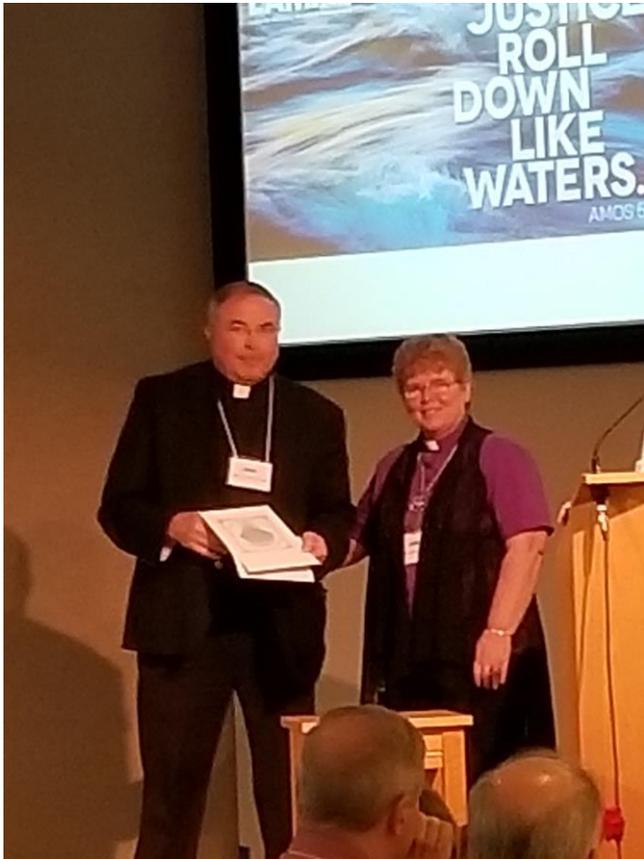


Weis Certificates

As a special fundraiser for church projects we are selling Weis Markets gift certificates each Sunday after worship or during office hours during the weekdays. You can buy \$10, 20, 50, 100 certificates. You pay \$10, take them to the store and use them like cash to buy \$10 worth of groceries. The church earns 5% from Weis Markets. While that may not seem like much, if 100 families in the congregation spend \$100 per week on groceries that 5% would add up to \$26,000 per year with very little effort other than buying and reselling them. It is a great way to support the youth ministries of St. John. They are also available Tuesday-Thursday from Molly in the office.

Our on-going Needs

Sponsors sheets are available by the Office for the Sanctuary Candle, Weekly Bulletins, Flowers, and Bread Donors. You can sponsor any of the above by placing your name on the sponsor sheets and they will be listed in the bulletin. Enclose money in your offering envelope: Sanctuary candle \$6; Weekly bulletin \$17; Flowers are provided by Russell Florists (\$30) or you can provide your own. If you wish to provide your own, please contact Molly. Payment should be made to “St. John Lutheran Church.” Donate bread for Holy Communion: one pack of fresh pita bread will serve both services or two loafs of fresh bread.



St. John Lutheran Church was recognized by Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (Lampa) for its work for the hungry and homeless of the area. We are one of six congregations across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to receive this recognition. Shown in the photo is Pastor Aucker who is receiving the award from Bishop Collins. Pastor Aucker submitted the following article about our ministries and The New Love Center.

The New Love Center is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that has its own Board of Directors that oversees the Food Pantry and Café. The Food Pantry, located in the basement of St. John Lutheran Church, serves nearly 450 families a month in Western Lycoming County and Eastern Clinton County. In addition, we package and deliver 175 backpacks to the schools in the Jersey Shore School District every Friday. The Food Pantry is operated by nearly 170 volunteers from the community.

Since October 1, 2014, when I volunteered our church to host the food pantry after the previous organization closed, we have been actively engaged in feeding the hungry in our large rural area of northcentral Pennsylvania. While statewide the number of children 0-18 years of age is 36%, in our area the percentage is 26% because young people leave the area due to a lack of employment opportunities. Unemployment, underemployment, health issues, and a lack of work skills are a reality in this area. On the other side of the curve, the number of seniors seeking food assistance continues to grow. The New Love Center also provides senior boxes and that number has grown to 100 boxes per month. Statewide one in six children are food insecure. In Clinton County one in four children are food insecure and in Lycoming County one in five children. We initiated the backpack program in the schools and that program has exploded. We started off last January with 32 children enrolled in the program and now we are delivering 175 backpacks to the schools every Friday. In addition, we stock tubs in every school, including the High School, with granola bars and other snacks, to provide something for students to eat who may come to school hungry or will go home with nothing available to eat.

As a Pastor, I have the privilege to hear the stories of people who worked hard all their lives but never made big money and never had pensions. These are “salt of the earth people” who live from social security check to social security check. They are very appreciative of the box of food, milk, eggs, produce and vegetables we can obtain from the Central Pennsylvania Food

Bank and other sources each month. In addition, I have written and received grants for the homeless in our area. People who live in their cars, at the local campground, in the forest above town, and under our bridges, who lost their homes due to unemployment, drugs, medical issues, etc. I have climbed under the bridges to reach out to these people and delivered our “grace bags” assembled by the youth of St. John Lutheran for “the least of these.” I have advocated for the poor and hungry by advocacy for hunger relief efforts here in Pennsylvania. When the gas industry boomed six years ago, a local trailer park was sold so that the space could be used for a water pumping station. Some outside people protested the gas company’s efforts. The trailer park owner had the property up for sale for some time and this was his opportunity to sell it and retire. I rallied the members of St. John Lutheran who helped the residents move their belongings to new residences. While advocacy may involve writing letters and making phone calls, sometimes it also means getting physically involved and reaching out to those in need by feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and sharing hope with those in crisis. The members of St. John Lutheran have been wonderful in their efforts and I am proud to serve as their pastor.

AmazonSmile

Thanks to some members, St. John Lutheran is now a recipient through AmazonSmile.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop at AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization (in this case, St. John Lutheran) selected by customers. Amazon charges no fees.

How does my charity receive the donations?

Each quarter, the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations by electronic fund transfer. Donations are transferred approximately 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter. In the last quarter, , we received \$32.31. Please try it and help support the ministries of St. John Lutheran. Every small gift can make a big difference.

“Infuse your life with action. Don’t wait for it to happen. Make it happen. Make your own future. Make your own hope. Make your own love. And whatever your beliefs, honor your Creator, not by passively waiting for grace to come down from upon high, but by doing what you can to make grace happen ... yourself, right now, right down here on Earth.”

-Bradley Whitford



Attention Married Couples:

What could be better than a fall weekend in the Poconos which is designed to enrich and revitalize your marriage? Don't pass up your chance to attend the number-one-rated marriage enrichment program presented by Lutheran Marriage Encounter at the beautiful, hotel-style Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis, PA.

The dates are September 14-16, 2018.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT, so to avoid being on a waiting list, register NOW!

If the September Weekend doesn't work for you, please consider road-tripping to Ludlow, PA, 2 hours north of Pittsburgh, PA, for the October 19-21, 2018 Weekend; or register for the November 9-11, 2018 Weekend at Hampton Inn Berkshires in Lenox, Massachusetts.

Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your \$100 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish to help cover expenses and towards the continuation of the program. Simply go to: GodLovesMarriage.org and pay the \$100/couple registration fee with your credit card, or mark the option to mail a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or fjschamber@comcast.net.

CROP Walk 2018

(Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty)

Our community's annual walk to fight hunger, the CROP Walk, is scheduled for Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 1:30 pm at the River Walk in Williamsport. Registration begins at 1 pm at St. Mark's Lutheran (142 Market St). Walkers can walk 3, 6 or 9 miles.

This year is our 40th walk and to date we have raised over 1 million dollars to help stop hunger! Last year we raised \$11,323.09. We hope we can count on your congregation's participation.

Thank you for doing your part to fight hunger both locally and globally. 25% of the money we raise goes to our community and is distributed equally between the New Love Center in Jersey Shore, the Sonlight House of Muncy, United Churches Food Pantry and Sojourner's Truth. The other 75% is distributed by Church World Service nationally and internationally to help people who are hungry. For registration/sponsor forms see Molly Mitchell.

Youth Ministry

“Grab-a-Tab”

The youth of St. John would like to ask for donations of little tabs from beverage, soup and dessert cans. It doesn't matter what color the tab, just grab them and deliver them to the church office. This project will benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Danville. “Grab-a-Tab” program allows people of all ages to join in the effort of providing a “Home-away-from-Home” to children with cancer or other serious illnesses and their families.



Hiawatha Paddleboat – Tuesday, August 14 at 6:00 p.m.

Perfect for A Family Night Out Join us for a good old-fashioned ice cream social while you cruise down the Susquehanna River. Make your own sundae bar includes: vanilla ice cream, sprinkles, mini M&Ms, crushed oreo's, peanuts, cherries, chocolate/caramel/strawberry sauce, and whipped cream! Sundae included in the ticket price. On the upper deck, be entertained by interactive close up magic with Brent Kessler. You'll be speechless as cards, coins, and other objects seem to come to life in Brent's hands! Please let Molly know ASAP for tickets.

Bicycling at Waterville.

All youth are invited to join us for a short bicycle ride from the Waterville Parking lot and for ice cream on Sunday, August 26. Bring your bicycles to the Waterville parking lot at 11:30 a.m.

Committee Meetings

The Youth Ministry Committee meets monthly on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. This is an open meeting to anyone who would like to come. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, August 20th

Crosscutters

Join us on Saturday, September 1st at 7:05 p.m. to watch the Williamsport Crosscutters play the State College Spikes. Fireworks display following the game. Please contact Molly for tickets.

Bowling

Join us at Harvest Moon Bowling Lanes on Sunday, September 23 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. This is a family fun event everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. Please let Molly know if you are planning to attend.

Humor for the hard times

Dotty Kennedy of Livonia, MI, reported that her parents once attended a nondenominational People's Church in Michigan where the minister always went 15 minutes over his allotted time for his sermon.

One Sunday, the custodian got up from his pew in the middle of the sermon and started to leave. When the minister asked him where he was going, the custodian replied that he was going to get a haircut.

The minister asked him why he didn't get one before coming to church. "Didn't need one then," the custodian replied.

A company hired a very energetic and ambitious man as the new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers.

Touring the facility, the CEO noticed an idle young man leaning against a wall. The room was full of busy workers, and the CEO wanted to let them know that he meant business.

"You're fired," the CEO told the young man. "Pick up your pay and get out here and don't come back."

Pleased with himself, the CEO then looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-ball did here?"

From across the room a voice said, "He was the pizza-delivery man from Domino's."

-via Risa Samra

Saginaw, MI

Food Pantry Report

In the month of June, The New Love Center Food Pantry served 394 families distributing food to 937 people. Senior boxes were distributed to 99 clients and 120 backpacks were distributed to youth in the Jersey Shore Summer Recreation Program. 240 volunteers donated 792 hours. 1,176 pounds of food was donated. Donations needed in August: pudding cups; and in September: instant potatoes.

Preaching Joy on death row

Can joy be found on death row? It can, says the North Carolina pastor who won a preaching-on-joy competition organized by the Yale Center for Faith and Culture.

"Rev. Dewey Williams, a minister at Mt. Level missionary Baptist Church in Durham, NC, preached five sermons on joy for death-row inmates at Central Prison in Raleigh, beginning with a Christmas sermon in December of 2016.

"Williams says, 'Joy is about making something worthwhile out of a bad situation.' We all have things that discourage and hurt us. How does joy come into being when we have those circumstances? Men on death row are a real example of how joy can be lived out."

Yale associate research scholar Angela Gorrell said the competition was aimed at encouraging pastors to preach more in joy, which she called a neglected topic in churches.

*Joy comes by invitation or when
Its least expected.
Lightheartedness bubbling over
Spilling on those in our vicinity
Brightening our day and
The day of those near us.*

*Joy cannot be contained.
Its buoyancy requires the
freedom to expand.
Spreading throughout our being,
it brings a twinkle to the eyes,
a smile to the face,
a spring to the step.*

*Joy is a hug sharing the warmth
of companionship
the love of friendship,
the understanding of family.
It is passed on easily.
We are enchanted by a joyful spirit.
We cannot help ourselves.*

*We yearn for joy in this stressful
life, often unknowingly.
When it comes close
we embrace its essence
the gaiety, the happiness,
the bliss feeling its warmth
and lightness and hope flow through us.
Joy is a dance, a sunny day,
a giggle that turns to lilting,
laughter, a song,
an encompassing warmth.
It is contagious, spirit lifting,
accepted, embraced, welcomed.
It is a light that
Brightens the day,
Lightens the heart, and
Lifts the spirit.*

*Joy is a blessing running over,
Bringing pleasure and delight,
Spreading its glow
To all in its way.*

-Donna Johnson

Remember the deadline for the October/November newsletter is September 15.
Please submit your articles to Molly early.

Rev. Barbara Bartholomew of Grace Lutheran Church, Wadsworth, OH, was visiting a 92-year-old parishioner. As she was taking leave, the pastor said, "It was so good to see you." "Better to be seen than viewed," the elderly parishioner replied.