

Pastor's Note

Wow, there is so much going on at St. John! We are starting a prayer group to pray for members, visitors, leaders and those in need. We are continuing relationships with West End School and St. Matthews' Area Ministries and are participating in Sara Meierding's work with Nkosi School in Uganda. In April or early May, we will begin a six-session series of Sunday School classes discussing social issues raised by the *Poor People's Campaign: A Call for National Moral Revival*. We are planning a big pile of fun with Karaoke night, 7:30-10:30, Saturday, April 14.

Plus, it is always such a pleasure to see a new visitors and old guests. St. John is good at welcoming these folks. Now, it is also important to invite them to connect with others once they're here. If you know someone new at church, invite them to Karaoke night or to Sunday School. Give their name to the prayer group or invite them to join. Go to West End School or St. Matthews' Area Ministries and mention it to a friend or find out more about Nkosi school and describe it to a family member. These are simple ways to build community both inside and outside the church.

For the sake of Jesus, God forgives and saves us, so that we are free to bless the world. That blessing comes through connection and community such as the work God is doing at St. John. Let's invite others to be a part of it.

God's Blessing,

Pastor Andy

Adult Sunday School News

Pr. Andy is currently leading a discussion on the Gospel of Mark. We are exploring Mark's focus on servanthood, humility and the cross. After we finish Mark, toward the end of April, we will examine issues raised by a movement called *The Poor People's Campaign: A Call for National Moral Revival*. Based on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Poor People's Campaign, this movement seeks to address issues of poverty that strike persons of all races and backgrounds. After presenting the campaign, we will have sessions discussing some of the concerns that arise from it.

In these conversations, we will communicate respect through manner of speech, body language and attentiveness, speak as clearly as we can, allow others to speak, listen, assume integrity and good faith on the part of those with whom we disagree and assume there is someone in the room you deeply care about who disagrees with you.

If there are other concerns of a societal nature that people wish to discuss, we can take them up later in the spring or fall, under the same guidelines.

Connection Across the Globe

Hello,

My name is Sara Meierding. My husband, Karl, and I have been members of St. John for 2 years. I am a middle school teacher at The Academy @ Shawnee in the west end, and last year I connected my students with the Johnson Nkosi Memorial Primary School in Uganda in East Africa. My students developed a connection with the school through letters and Skype and they continue to Skype with the Nkosi students every Thursday. The Nkosi School is a Christian boarding school that was founded in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Uganda, and its mission is to educate and support children who have been orphaned due to AIDS.

Last June, Karl and I traveled to Uganda to spend 10 days at the Nkosi School. It was intended to be more of a fun trip that would allow me to talk about my experiences with my students in Louisville. However, while we were there, we were amazed by the resilience, academic curiosity, and strong faith that these students have in the face of so much adversity. As an educator and as a Christian, it was especially inspiring to see. I want to share a couple of stories that encapsulate our experience there and the culture of the school.

There was one older student named Christopher at the school who was especially accommodating when we were

visiting. He was always eager to chat with us, he showed me how to make the jewelry that the Nkosi students create during their craft hour, and he showed us around the school. He was clearly a leader amongst the students and highly respected by his peers and his teachers. We later found out that Christopher was once a street child in the city of Jinja, Uganda. Someone found him pick-pocketing in Jinja, brought him to the Nkosi School and paid for his tuition. However, Christopher did not easily adjust to the structure of a school day and he ran away and returned to Jinja. The school staff searched relentlessly for him in the streets and eventually found him and brought him back to the school. Now, Christopher has graduated from the Nkosi School and is continuing his education in secondary school. He hopes to pursue a career in computer engineering. This was just one of many stories about the passion these teachers have for their students and their consistent belief in the power of education and supporting the social and emotional needs of the student as well as the academic needs.

The Christian faith is a large part of the culture at Nkosi – all of the boarding students attend church together and we had the opportunity to join them. There were about 30 students who went to church with us, and they all shared one Bible. Since we were considered special visitors, the students made sure that we were the ones who held the Bible during

service. They have all the hymns memorized and would spontaneously burst into song quite often. Before Karl and I left to return to the United States, we spent some time with the Primary Seven (or 8th grade) students, and they made a point to pray for our well-being and our safe travels home. Their impromptu prayer brought tears to my eyes -- it was extremely moving to see the strong faith that these students have, especially considering their circumstances compared to our own.

The upshot of all this is that Karl and I care a lot about this school and these students, and we are returning to Uganda this June. This time, we are spending four weeks at the school, and we are bringing two more teachers from JCPS. We are currently trying to raise money for dorm improvements (such as mosquito nets, new windows, fresh paint) which are badly needed.

If you feel moved to learn more or help, you can make a donation toward the dorm improvements through our GoFundMe page here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/nkosischool> and share it with your friends and family through Facebook, email, and social media.

If you head to this website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/kyteachersinuganda/home>, you can learn more about our trip to Uganda and how this impacts my classroom in Louisville. I also ask that you keep the Nkosi School teachers and students in your prayers. Thank you!

Please feel free to email me with any questions at sara.m.torkelson@gmail.com.

~~ Sara Meierding

Notes from Fellowship

Fellowship sponsors a coffee & pastry hour on Sunday's, 9:45am – 10:45am in Diehl Hall. We would like to thank ALL the volunteers, who help make this event possible! The sign-up sheet is on the refrigerator in Diehl Hall.

Events coming up.....

April 1 – Easter breakfast in-between services, Free Will offering, youth fundraiser.

April 8, 15, 22, 29 – Coffee & pastry hour in-between services, Diehl Hall – sign-up to help!

April 11 – Fellowship Committee meeting, 7:30pm, Room 35.

April 14 – Karaoke night in Diehl Hall, 7:30pm, bring an appetizer to share & BYOB.

April 15 – West End School coin collection at both services

April 22/23 – Meal prep for West End School.

April 26 – South Central Conference Committee meeting, 7:00pm, Diehl Hall.

Fellowship looks forward to hearing your ideas...We meet next on April 11, 2018 @ 7:30pm.

Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.



Book Club

We continue to meet the *second Tuesday* of each month at 6:30pm at Homemade Pie and Ice Cream Kitchen on Lexington Road.

We welcome all readers, even those who just want to hear about the books.

Our 2018 books:

Apr. 10th – *Victoria and Abdul* by Shrbani Basu

May 8th – *Brain on Fire* by Susannah Calahan

June 12th – *Boone* by Robert Morgan

July 10th – *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande

Aug. 14th – *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan

Sept. 11th – *Seven Lessons from Heaven: How Dying Taught Me to Live a Joy-Filled Life* by Mary C. Neal

Oct. 9th – *Endurance* by Scott Kelly

Nov. 13th – *Martin Luther* by Eric Metazis

A fun filled year of reading!

Pause from Wednesday Worship

We will not have worship Wednesday night, April 4. We will resume Wednesday worship at 7:30 Wednesday, April 11.

Pr. Andy will be conducting worship at

Miralea Independent Living Community at Masonic Home in St. Matthews on Thursday April 26.

Women of St. John

Spring cleaning!! The June Yard Sale is still a few months away but Spring has sprung and with it “Spring Cleaning.” As you’re clearing out those treasures you just don’t have room for anymore, find a place to keep them for just a little longer. We’ll let you know when to bring them to church to sell to our neighbors.



What Are the Youth Up To?

March:

On March 11th, St. John hosted a conference-wide youth meeting in preparation for the National Youth Gathering in Houston. The youth continued the Gathering curriculum with Pastor Andy while the adults finalized hotel arrangements.

On Saturday March 31st, the youth hosted our annual Easter Egg hunt for the young kids, including a telling of the Easter story with Pastor Andy and a bounce house!

April:

On Easter Sunday (April 1st), the youth will be helping with the Easter Sunday Breakfast, which will be held in the Activity Center between services.

On Sunday April 15th at 2:00pm, St. John will be hosting another conference-wide youth meeting for the National Youth Gathering. Unlike previous meetings, the youth and adult leaders will all meet together to discuss the daily schedule for the trip and packing preparations.

April's Contemporary Service will take place on Saturday the 21st at 5:30pm.

May:

May's Contemporary Service will take place on Saturday the 19th at 5:30pm.

St. John will be hosting the next conference-wide meeting for the National Youth Gathering on May 20th at 2:00pm. This will be the last curriculum-based meeting before the Gathering.

April Birthdays

Janet Heitmiller	4/1
Nancy Johnson	4/2
Jerry Wiebusch	4/4
Donald Fugate	4/7
Ian Holt	4/7
Lorrie Meserole	4/7
John Uldrich	4/7
Cheri Hines	4/8
James Oost	4/8
Emily Holt	4/9
Michael Jarrett	4/10
Dorothy Lotz	4/11
Carl Neumayer	4/11
Patricia Coffey-Ward	4/12
Annie Worman	4/12
Alex Berglund	4/13
Emilia Jean McCollum	4/13
Ann Hovell	4/16
Debbie Utz	4/16
Gretchen Hoskins	4/18
Derrick Brown Jr.	4/20
Thatcher Cook	4/20
Marty Dick	4/23
Wendy Rube	4/23
Chet Gentry	4/24
Jodi Hugues	4/25
Shelby Mattingly	4/25
Joanne Nordstrom	4/26
Dorothy Pollei	4/28
April Caswell	4/29
Karen Choate	4/29
Barbara Beck	4/30
Taylor Hines	4/30

April Anniversaries

Laura & Derik Novak	4/9
William & Scarlett Mattingly	4/29

APRIL 2018 WORSHIP TEAM

4/1	4/8	4/15	4/22	4/29
<u>Assisting Minister</u>				
8:45 Mrs. Shawn H	Rebecca D	Jen S	Diane K	Mrs. Shawn
11:00 Patti M	Mark L	Terri M	Mr. Shawn H	Patti M
<u>Crucifer/Communion Asst</u>				
11:00 Holly P	Nicholas S	Jake M	David J	Ally L
<u>Lector</u>				
8:45 Shawn H	Renaë B	Margi H	Lisa Y	Lola H
11:00 Marco H	Alice F	Don F	Connie S	Rosie W
<u>Ushers</u>				
8:45 Dinah & Paul H	Dinah & Paul H	Lisa Y Jennifer S	Nancy & Barry F	Christi & Larry E
11:00 Ann H, Lisa and Mitchell Terri and Jake M	Margi H, Maryjo S Terri & Brian P	Mark and Tyler L Haley T, Sherley S	Chet L, Lisa D Bill & Gail W	Ann H, Edie M Whitney & Matt A
<u>Acolytes at 11:00am</u>				
Holly and Madelyn	Kai and Amber	Ben S	Lauren J	Haley T
<u>Altar Guild</u>				
<i>Month of April – Brenda P</i>				
<u>Communion Prep</u>				
8:45	<i>Month of April – Jane B</i>			
11:00	<i>Month of April – Ann H</i>			

**Send a cheerful note to
our members who are
“under the weather”
and/or can’t make it to
church services or church
events**

**If you would like a copy of the
addresses, please let Rebecca
know and she can email or
mail the list to you.**

Joy LaRue
Barbara Huber
Vivian Lenberger
Sylvia Grass

J. Herman Mahaffey
Lorraine Beyer
Ott & Dot Pollei
Nancy Robinson

St. John Lutheran Church

901 Breckenridge Lane
Louisville, KY 40207

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St. John Journal

St. John Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered, grace-based
community proclaiming the gospel through word and deed.

Staff

Pastor Andy Rutrough

Pastor

Rebecca Dimon

Administrative Assistant

Whitney Adkins

Youth Project Coordinator

Maggie Owens

Choir Director

Dr. Denine LeBlanc

Organist

Mr. David Alcorn

Custodian

Worship at St. John

Sunday

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Worship on Wednesday

at 7:30 p.m.

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lunch 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Church Telephone

& Fax Number

Voice: 502-895-9320

Fax: 502-895-3979

E-mail

stjohn@stjohnlutheranky.org

Office