



# Congregational Newsletter

August 2018

## ***August Events***

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**1<sup>st</sup>** Board of Elders @ 6:00 pm

**8<sup>th</sup>** Board of Education @ 3:30 pm

**8<sup>th</sup>** Board of Outreach @ 5:00 pm

**16<sup>th</sup>** Women of Emmanuel Picnic at Pastor Vomhof's home @  
5:30 pm

**18<sup>th</sup>** Pepper Fest parade at 11:00 am

**21<sup>st</sup>** Women of Emmanuel at Hudson Bagel @ 9:00 am

**21<sup>st</sup>** Church Council @ 6:30 pm

**27<sup>th</sup>** Sunday School teacher's meeting @ 6:30 pm

## ***Pastor Vomhof's Message***

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"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:23

Our God has given us the 3rd Commandment, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." The word "Sabbath" means rest. God wants us to remember and not forget to set aside one day

every week for rest – physical rest and spiritual rest. The early Christians chose Sunday, the first day of the week as their Sabbath Day (rest day) because Christ rose on the first day of the week. We Christians have followed that practice to this day.

Martin Luther has given us the meaning of the 3rd Commandment in our Catechism, “We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.” We Christians should not become guilty of despising and neglecting to hear God’s Word proclaimed, but our faith in and love for our Savior should lead us to come regularly and faithfully to church to hear God’s Word proclaimed. We need to grow in our knowledge of God’s will for our lives and His plan of salvation for us in Christ.

The writer to the Hebrews tells us “not to give up meeting together,” in other words, not to stop coming to church as some members are doing, but to “encourage one another.” May we encourage our negligent members to come and worship our God, to hear His Word proclaimed, to grow in their knowledge of His Word, and to be strengthened in their faith. As we come to church every week, we are strengthened in our faith through hearing God’s Word of truth. Scripture says, “Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.” The main reason for doing this is “as you see the Day (the Last Day) approaching.” Our own last day in this world and the Last Day of the world are closer now than they were one year ago. Jesus has said, “Blessed are they

who hear the Word of God and obey it.” Each of us is blessed as we hear God’s Word proclaimed and as we live according to it. I encourage each of you who read this message to be regular and faithful in worshiping God and hearing His Word proclaimed every week. I look forward to seeing you in church every Sunday.

## ***Call Extended***

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The voters at the July quarterly voters meeting extended a Call to retired Pastor Curt Holub of Robbinsdale, MN to serve as our Vacancy Pastor, starting September 1. May we pray that our gracious God guide him in making a God-pleasing decision regarding this call. If he accepts this Call, he will be able to serve us only until the middle of October. May we also pray that our God will guide our congregation as we face the future.

## ***Women of Emmanuel***

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*Dates to remember:*

**August 16th, Thursday, @ 5:30 pm**

Picnic supper at Pastor and Margie Vomhof’s house. Bring a dish to pass.

**August 21st, Tuesday, @ 9 am**

WE get-together for coffee at Hudson Bagel.

## **September 18th @ 7 pm begins:**

Monthly meetings are the third Tuesday of every month.

### *News*

Eleven people got together in July for the dinner out at Postmark Grille. The food and company were wonderful!

Did you know the Women of Emmanuel group has an account on Facebook? Go on Facebook, look for our page and request to join. It's a great way to get reminders about things going on

## ***Openings at Joyful Noise Preschool***

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Joyful Noise Preschool still has openings for the 2018-19 school year. We presently have twelve children enrolled with room for eighteen. If you know of any family in need of a Christian preschool, tell them about Joyful Noise Preschool.

## ***Hudson Area Mom's Group to meet at Joyful Noise Preschool***

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Hudson Area Mom's Group will be hosted at Joyful Noise Preschool beginning in September. The Moms Group will meet Fridays from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. The staff of Joyful Noise will supervise the children in the preschool area while the moms meet in the fellowship area. A promotional video was shot on

July 17 promoting the group's new location. The Mom's Group was invited to use our space as a way to introduce our preschool and church to the community.

## ***Church Board Directory Update***

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Every church member please see Linda Carlson to get an updated picture. Linda will be available after church on Sundays during July - August for pictures to update our board.

## ***K.I.C.K. (Kids In Christ's Knowledge)***

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It is a youth group at Emmanuel for kids in 2nd through 8th grade. Who will volunteer to lead this group? Our children need someone to help and guide them.

## ***Ignite Youth Group***

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Did you know the teens also take care of the sign in front of church? They do a great job keeping the message current for upcoming activities or services.

IGNItE, youth group for high school teens. Sunday meetings will start in September.

Kevin & Scott Rust and Sarah & Lucas Dahlke attended the WELS International Youth Rally in Bowling Green, OH, June 26-29.

The theme of the rally was "Never Alone," based on Matthew 28:20 "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." It was an awesome experience to worship and sing praises to God with 2000 other people, hear keynote speakers with inspiring messages, listen to the musical group Koine', attend small group workshops, and just enjoy fun time together with friends. The next Youth Rally: 2020 in Knoxville, TN

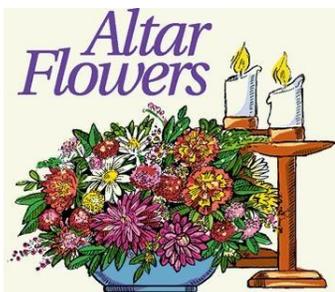
IGNItE Pool Party!!! summer fun and pizza too!

When: August 9th, Thursday from 5 pm - ?

Where: The Rust residence

## ***2018 Flower Donation Calendar***

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Members may sign-up to donate a floral arrangement for the chancel area. This is a wonderful way to help beautify our church. It is located on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

One might want to commemorate

- Wedding
- Anniversaries

- Birthdays
- Memorials
- Personal milestones
- Gratitude for blessings received.

## ***Other Items of Interest***

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**Deadline for church information** to be entered into the newsletter or calendar will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. Please email any information you would like to be submitted in the newsletter or calendar to: [emmanuelhudsonwi@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelhudsonwi@gmail.com)

**Ushers:** Please find the Usher sign-up sheet on the table below the mail slots and fill-in your name when available. Any questions about ushering should be directed to Don Benisch. Thank you!

**Church Clean-up:** Check with your group leader. Any questions please contact Chris Hinz

**Church Database:** To keep our church office information and database up-to-date, please e-mail the church office your current address, phone, and e-mail information. Thank you.

**Recycle Aluminum Cans:** Please continue to bring your aluminum cans and place them in the trailer. And, when emptying the cans into the trailer, please make sure that

whatever container you used to transport the cans isn't placed in the trailer as well. Thank you.

**Special Prayer Request:** We pray that God will lead each of us to reach out to unbelievers in the community.

**Altar Guild:** Michelle Rust and Julie Michaels

## ***St. Croix Lutheran Academy***

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- (WELS) Christian Middle School & High School
- Serves young men and women in grades 6-12.
- Founded in 1958.
- Located on 30-acres of land in a West St. Paul residential area.
- Has a diverse student body consisting of 500 students from the Twin Cities metro area, across the United States, to 17 countries.

SCL has served more than 3 generations of students in a caring, supportive, Christian community.

St. Croix Academy of West St. Paul welcomes boys and girls entering grades four through nine to join us for summer camps in theatre, band, basketball, art, bowling, football, soccer,

volleyball, wrestling and science. Most camps are held Monday through Friday on single weeks throughout the summer.

For registration visit [www.StCroixLutheran.org/Camps](http://www.StCroixLutheran.org/Camps).

Job Openings - St. Croix Lutheran Academy

[StCroixLutheran.org/jobs](http://StCroixLutheran.org/jobs) or call the office at 651-455-1521

## ***Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus Tour***

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April 1-10, 2019: A Ten-Day Biblical Tour of Israel

When Jesus said, "Come follow me," he invited the disciples to physically walk with him. Since Jesus has ascended to heaven we cannot walk with him in the same way as did the twelve. However, we can walk where he walked. Pastor Janich, retired WELS pastor, invites you to join him on his third trip to the Holy Land. The ten-day tour runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

This tour will take us to Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and many other well-known sites of the Savior. The tour is open to anyone who would like to walk where Jesus walked.

For more information please call Pastor Janich at 763-232-6826 or email him at [revbjanisch@gmail.com](mailto:revbjanisch@gmail.com)

## ***A Biblical Worldview by John Beck***

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The following article appeared in the Lutheran Science Institutes newsletter dated 7/2/18.

An analysis of the “Fermi Paradox” suggests we are all alone in the universe.

We humans are alone in the universe, and thus we will never meet or even detect another intelligent being in space. So say Anders Sandberg, Eric Drexler and Toby Ord, scientists at Oxford University, after they examined what has been called the “Fermi Paradox.” This paradox, named after physicist Enrico Fermi, suggests that researchers who believe there are other intelligent civilizations in the universe do so without even the least bit of evidence.

According to Wikipedia, the Fermi paradox is “the apparent contradiction between the lack of evidence and high probability estimates for the existence of extraterrestrial civilizations.” The main points of this paradox include: 1. There are billions of stars in our galaxy similar to our Sun; 2. Statistically, some of these stars should be hosting Earth-like planets; 3. Many of these stars are billions of years older (supposedly) than the Solar System, giving their planets much more time to evolve intelligent life; 4. Interstellar travel should have been perfected long ago by some of these civilizations; 5. In only a few million

years, alien space travelers should have begun routinely traveling through our Milky Way galaxy.

But Fermi looked around and asked, "Where is everybody?" Attempts to explain Fermi's paradox include answers such as: extraterrestrial life really is nonexistent or rare; intelligent alien civilizations lack advanced technology; it is the nature of intelligent life to destroy itself; aliens are hiding from us; we are not listening carefully enough, etc.

Agreeing with Fermi, the Oxford scientists write, "We find a substantial probability of there being no other intelligent life in our observable universe, and thus that there should be little surprise when we fail to detect any signs of it." As a result, there is no reason to waste time and resources theorizing about our relationship with aliens, if they don't exist.

An opposing argument to the Fermi Paradox is known as the Drake equation. Written by Dr. Frank Drake, this complicated equation suggests intelligent civilizations are quite common in our galaxy. It uses factors such as the number of stars in the Milky Way, the likely number of planets, the fraction of these planets which develop intelligent life; the number which have developed communications, etc. Yet, the Drake equation has been criticized because many of the values are highly conjectural.

The Oxford researchers say the simplest solution to the problem of missing aliens is likely the correct one: there's really nobody else out there. "There should be little surprise when we fail to detect any signs of [aliens]," the report concludes. The good news: we don't have to fear an alien invasion.

Comment: All of the arguments for the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence completely ignore one crucial factor—life cannot naturally occur. Scientists have been trying for decades to create life in the laboratory, without success. Abiogenesis or spontaneous generation (life from non-life) has never been demonstrated. As a result, scientifically we can conclude that the chance of life evolving naturally on any planet is effectively zero. Therefore, given a trillion Earth-like planets, one trillion times zero still equals zero. That's why we have no evidence that aliens exist, and we should thank the Oxford scientists for making this self-evident truth public.

How grateful we Christians should be that we have the facts recorded for us in the pages of the Holy Bible. Our planet was created days before the universe was created and should therefore be considered a special place. Only after life was created on the third day were the stars and planets created and put into their proper places. God doesn't offer even the slightest hint that He placed life on any of the other planets which exist.

Let's then concentrate on the life which does exist. As Christians, we will want to help those among us who are in need of aid and comfort, when possible. Especially, we will want everyone to know the truth about their sins and the salvation which awaits them through Jesus Christ. Yes, we should be lifting our heads, but not to spend so much time looking at the stars, but to look in faith at our Savior and our future home in heaven.

"Therefore, because you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1).

Reference: Natalie O'Neill, "Scientists say humans are alone in the universe," New York Post [June 26, 2018].

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9:00 a.m. – Sunday Service  
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship



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