

August 4, 2022

Staying in Touch August 4, 2022

Sail On

*I sail an ocean, unsettled ocean
Through restless water, and deep commotion
Often frightened, unenlightened
Sail on, sail on sailor*

*I wrest the waters, fight Neptune's waters
Sail through the sorrows, of life's marauders
Unrepenting, often empty
Sail on, sail on sailor*

So begins the classic song written by Brian Wilson and company of the Beach Boys. It seems everyone has covered this song; Los Lobos, Jimmy Buffet, Lulu, and maybe none better than Ray Charles driving it with a heavy blues beat. The chorus is infectious and the message of being on an unsettled ocean kinda gets lost in the mesmerizing repetition of that refrain. There is a classic story of Jesus calming the storming sea with his disciples while in a boat crossing the sea of Galilee. It was night, a dangerous time for sea journeys. Even though it is dark, Jesus invited them to go sailing. Sure enough, *"a great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped."* It's dark, dangerous, and they are alone in the boat with no one but Jesus.

Navigating rough seas has been an image the church has lived with since the days our Lord walked in Palestine. AquaChurch by Leonard Sweet, Liquid Church by Peter Ward and Moving Off the Map by Tom

"But then Jesus rises, rebukes the wind and the waves; those forces over which we have no control, and calls us to sail on with him."

Bandy are all recent books using this nautical metaphor to imagine and redesign a way forward in the 21st century for the church. So a

song from 1972 rings true in 2022; *"I sail an ocean, unsettled ocean, Through restless water, and deep commotion, Often frightened, unenlightened, Sail on, sail on sailor."*

The boat, the *navis*, is one of the earliest and most persistent symbols of the church. It's a fitting image. The boat in the middle of a killer storm reminds us of the very first boat story in the Bible, Noah and his ark. We still call the main gathering space of our church the nave. We gather in the boat each Sunday. We do it

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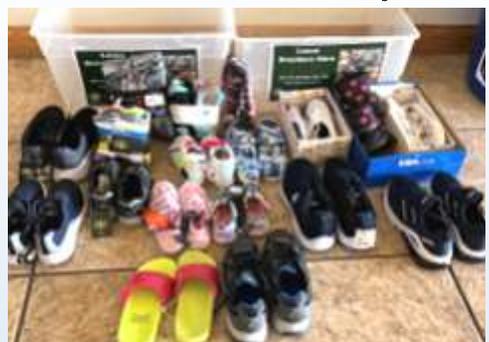
Thank you for Your Donations!

Photos below of our items donated by St. John's and Genesis Gathering for:

Food and School Supplies for Fill a Belly/Fill a Backpack for Thornton Residents



Shoes/socks donated to Wholly Kicks



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to get away from the storms of life and get our bearings. Even when it is dark and we are with other scared folks our Lord is in the boat with us. *Jesus' disciples cry out, "Teacher! Don't you care that we're sinking?" Jesus wakes up, rebukes the wind and waves, "Peace! Be still!"* And a calm settles on the sea.

Sailing in this boat together we make plans to see where God is going to lead. In the last two years we have been in a turbulent sea. Whatever plans we had were put on hold, cancelled or drastically altered. Long range planning is unimaginable. Every six months we are adapting, redesigning and changing something to accommodate the future. Our reality is the boat we are in now.

But then Jesus rises, rebukes the wind and the waves; those forces over which we have no control, and calls us to sail on with him. Will we have the courage to stay in the boat? Not everyone does. Some are called elsewhere, for others the journey is too rough and find another vessel. I continue to be amazed and inspired by the resilience we have shown in the face of the turbulent seas we sail. We have seen Jesus arise and rebuke the wind and the waves. He rebukes those forces over which we have no control and calls us to sail on with him. Take courage and delight in God's faithfulness we see in each other. *Sail on, Sail on Sailor.*

Peace,
Pastor Wes

Did you know you can get VISA gift cards through our Scrip Program? AND there's NO activation fee like when you buy them at the store!



They come in \$50, \$100 and \$250 cards. Contact the church office to place your order.



Happy belated birthday to our **July** birthday church members!

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 7/7 Char Stanford | 7/19 Lillian Rogers |
| 7/9 Jack Flanagan | 7/20 Dee Stull |
| 7/9 Becky Hagen | 7/21 Vickie Engele |
| 7/10 Casey Kayl | 7/24 Debby Lentfer |
| 7/15 Kaylina Gruenberger | 7/25 Charlie Tarnutzer |
| 7/17 Christy Blanchard | 7/30 Jessica Carlyle |
| 7/18 Jennifer Gray | |



- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 7/2 Rod & Becky Hagen | 7/8 George & Barb Pech |
| 7/14 Mike & Amy Werpy | |

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 8/6 DeeDee Flanagan
- 8/17 Irene Randall
- 8/19 Phillip Padilla
- 8/20 Jerry Murphy
- 8/23 Sherri Tomerlin
- 8/24 Shawn Helgeson
- 8/24 Kristi Stutesman
- 8/26 Joanne Peters
- 8/27 Tim Carlyle
- 8/29 Suzanne Ryan
- 8/30 Paul Yott



- 1 Jerry & Kathy Robertson
- 4 Phillip & Lisa Padilla
- 6 Carl & Lynn Nourse
- 20 Ron & Vickie Engele
- 22 Lee & Joyce Adam
- 28 Larry & Jennifer Gray
- 30 Craig & Paula Wilkening

Flash Flooding in Kentucky

Lutheran Disaster Response



“God is not unjust; [God] will not overlook your work and the love you showed for [God’s] sake in serving the saints, as you still do” (Hebrews 6:10).

Dear friend,

You may have seen the distressing news about flash flooding in eastern Kentucky. A line of severe storms dumped record amounts of rain on the area, overflowing rivers and creeks onto streets and neighborhoods. The floodwaters rose in the middle of the night from July 27 to 28, leaving people little time to evacuate. **I’m writing to you today because, to respond, we need your help.**

These severe floods are not limited to Kentucky. There has also been flooding in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, West Virginia and other states in the region.

At the time of writing this note, the death toll in Kentucky was at 16 people, and more deaths are expected as search and rescue efforts continue. Though hundreds of people have been rescued, the number of people missing is still unknown. Rising waters have damaged infrastructure, including roads, bridges and power lines, which hinders rescue efforts. The flooding has damaged hundreds of homes and other buildings and disrupted the lives of families.

The survivors of the flooding need your support. Your gifts to "U.S. Flooding" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the record-setting rainfall.

As the waters recede and the full scope of the

damage is assessed, Lutheran Disaster Response will work with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and local community partners to focus on long-term needs. There are several ELCA churches in the impacted area, and we continue to be in communication with them. We anticipate our response to include rebuilding homes, replacing lost household items and providing emotional and spiritual care to survivors. We will also continue to accompany survivors of the December 2021 tornadoes in western Kentucky.

We pray that God’s presence will be felt amid suffering and bring comfort to those who are hurting. Together, we can show our neighbors in Kentucky that they are not alone. Thank you for your partnership.

In Christ’s Service,

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Ways to Give

Checks or money orders can be sent to:

**Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**

Write "U.S. Flooding" on your check memo line.

Give by phone at **800-638-3522** (Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm CT) or [online](https://community.elca.org/usflooding2022) at <https://community.elca.org/usflooding2022>

Some Things Seen Around St. John's



Thank you to Tom Berry and Babs Kasche for packing up Pastor's office in preparation for painting!



Pastor Wes returned from vacation a new man! Well, at least in new, flashy garb! Lookin' like vacation was good!

Our sanctuary is getting walls patched and a fresh coat of paint.



Chewy helping Pastor Wes get his sermon prepared.



Meet the newest Dunbar: Willie! 12 weeks, old, Cocker Spaniel. Named after Pastor's favorite: Willie Mays—both born on May 6!

More Things Seen Around St. John's



Sunday Worship in July



Some of our Share the Joy bingo team working bingo on Fridays at Bingo Oasis in Northglenn.



Part of our media team handling sound, camera, slides and livestream for Sunday worship.



Bible Encouragement

Luke 12:22-31

He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

²⁸But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you — you of little faith! ²⁹And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.



July Budget Information

July 31, 2022 Budget Information		July, 2022 Account Balances	
YTD Income	\$230,890	Checking	\$11,618
YTD Expenses	\$233,119	Savings	\$2020
Thrivent Mortgage Principal Owed	\$116,739	Scrip Checking	\$1303
		Scrip Savings	\$315
		Building Fund	\$74,169



St. John's Lutheran Church

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www.stjohnsthornton.org

Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m.

Livestream at

www.stjohnsthornton.org