

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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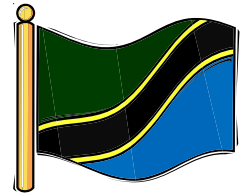


Dear Friends and Fellow Members of St. John's:

The theme for the first day of Confirmation Camp was "Connected". We are connected to God and to each other for service. We are reminded of our connections with the church in Tanzania; with All Peoples' Church at 2nd and Clarke; and with the other 10,400 congregations of our ELCA. We're also reminded of our connections with the wider community; with the economies and of other nations; and with the earth itself. Worship, study, prayer, and fellowship help us stay connected. Thanks for your willingness to BE connected! -Pastor Paul

TANZANIAN DINNER!

On Tuesday, Aug. 4 at 6:00 we will have a Tanzanian dinner and presentation for our Asante Sana Certificate Holders. If you didn't get a chance to purchase a Certificate before the Tanzania Trip, you can still come to the dinner and slide show for \$10 per family or \$5 individual. Please sign-up or call the church office so that we can plan!



SERVE AT ALL PEOPLES' CHURCH WED. AUGUST 5th

Summer is a good time to meet our friends and neighbors at All Peoples' Church. We'll be feeding their Vacation Bible School group that evening. Leave here at 4:00 or meet there at 5:00. *We're invited to All Peoples' BLOCK PARTY on Saturday the 8th at 11:00am as well. Families and individuals are encouraged to attend either of these.*

COME TO CROCODILE DOCK THIS SUMMER! (Ages 4 - 6th grade!)

Vacation Bible School will be August 9-13. We'll start Sunday evening with a potluck dinner and activities for the whole family. Then Monday-Thursday, kids will meet from 9:00-12:00 each day for stories, songs, crafts, and fun! We are in need of teachers, assistants, and coordinators for recreation, music & the nursery. Use a registration form or talk to Laura Bartelt (677-3176) We can provide rides! *Think of neighbors and friends of your children, whom you can invite!*



OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND CHURCH PICNIC, AUG. 16

We'll have 1 service at 9:45 followed by our annual church picnic. Our VBS kids & staff will present highlights from "Crocodile Rock". Meat & beverage will be provided, bring a dish to share! *If you can't make it on Sunday, join us Saturday evening at 6:00.*

ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY PRAYERS AND PREVIEW

Thank you for keeping our whole ELCA and the 1,000 voting members who gather on August 17, in your prayers. They have good and also controversial issues to decide on. Pastor and John Breest will offer a summary and Q & A time on the proposed Human Sexuality statement and Ministry Policy Recommendations (which is the most difficult piece.) Join us Sunday morning, August 9 after both services. We can also talk Monday night, August 17. You can find all the important materials at www.elca.org/faithfuljourney



SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION STARTS SEPTEMBER 13!

We offer classes for preschool through 8th grade. Our high schoolers have a Sunday Morning 'Breakfast Club' time. Our Confirmation students (7th & 8th grade) will meet on Wednesday evenings starting September 2. Now is the time to think about who you know who has a child for any of these classes. Perhaps your student has a friend you can invite? We have a wonderful, dedicated staff ready to go, but we do NEED more teachers and/or team-teachers. The rewards are out-of-this world! If you'd like to give it a try this year, talk to Laura Bartelt, 677-3176 or volcoordstjohns@nconnect.net.

UPDATES:

- +Attendance through June has averaged 243/week, vs. 200/week in 2008.
- +Year-to-Date General Fund receipts are: \$82,242; expenses are: \$87,618. June was our low month.
- +Year-to-date Building Fund receipts are \$57,536; expenses are: \$46,658. The receipts are ahead in part due to the start of our 2009-2010 "Sharing God's Blessings" Appeal which brought in some larger intial gifts.
- +Our treasurer was able to get our interest rate on our building loan reduced to 6% (it had been readjusted to 6.5% when our initial 5-year term was up), so monthly payments are \$7382.

*Thanks for your faithful attendance and giving!
 God will provide for the church and for each of us!*



THINGS TO MAKE A NOTE OF...

- +This September, watch for "Book of Faith" groups and Adult Inquirers' Class for those new to St. John's or to the Lutheran Church.
- +Young Adults will have a gathering in August...stay tuned! Talk to Heidi @ 377-7645.
- +We'd love to have your current email address. Drop us a quick line at: officestjohns@nconnect.net

NOT WHAT WE'D LIKE TO REPORT ON...

It seems that \$300 from the youth group Car Wash disappeared sometime on the 12th, and though the money wasn't properly locked up, someone apparently knew where to look. (Be assured, no money is being left on the premises in the future.) We'd welcome the cash and box back, no questions asked. And if anyone is struggling with finances to the point of facing this kind of temptation, please talk with Pastor or Laura. We have a Good Samaritan Fund for emergency needs!