

The Richland Word

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 6

JUNE
2021

Sunday School News



We are winding down our school year. May 23rd is our last Sunday meeting until September 12th. We will be spending our last Sunday enjoying a breakfast time together and then playing kick ball.

We are now in Summer planning stage. We are planning another virtual VBS. Please be on the lookout for our dates. We are hoping to have it together by the end of June.

We have 8 kids going to Camp Lonestar, July 11th thru the 16th. Then on July 25th thru 31st we are sending 7 youth and 2 chaperones on our Mission Trip to Stillwater, OK. Please keep all our campers and our youth mission trip attendees in your prayers.

Since the Covid stage is dropping, please keep your eyes on the "In Touch" for some one day youth gatherings during the summer.

We pray that God blesses us all with a safe and happy summer vacation.

Shannon and John Patrone



New Protocols

Beginning June 1

At St. John's May Church Council meeting members voted to begin transitioning life at St. John largely back to pre-Covid standards beginning on June 1st.

Referring to visiting St. John's campus in general:

"Those with health concerns or are otherwise uncomfortable without a mask in public are encouraged to wear a mask. Otherwise, face coverings are optional. The same applies to the social distancing guidelines: provide for yourself as much distance as you comfortably require; otherwise, the past standard is optional."

"We ask that those with greater comfort and freedom in the use of these guidelines be sensitive to and affirming of those with less freedom in this area. (See Paul's advice in matters of adiaphora in his first letter to the Corinthians, chapters 8 through 10.)"

The Council also voted to return to using the regular elements of grape juice and wine, along with both regular and gluten-free wafers, and no longer use the pre-packaged kits. We will be doing so, however, using a slightly different method of distribution.

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Registrations for Annual Texas LCMC Gathering Strong

As of May 27th, there are 44 people registered for the 2021 Annual Texas District Gathering at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 4102 North Ben Jordan St, Victoria, Texas.

If you have not yet registered, please do so. Go to <http://www.lcmctexas.org/annual-gathering/> to register.

All are welcome to these Gatherings so pass along the invitation to others who may be interested.

For comparison, when the TX District gathered in Seguin in 2019, there were 24 registered by this date. In 2018 when the District gathered in New Braunfels, the District

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From the Pastor

It's been a long haul---over a year! But we haven't lost a single member of our church due to the virus! Quite a few got the virus, before the vaccines were available, and a few are still fighting weaknesses caused by the virus. But no fatalities. And this is especially impressive given the fact that a large majority of our active congregation is 55 years of age and older. So, just from the fact that we lost no members from the pandemic I am very grateful.

I want to thank all members of St. John who, beginning on June 14th of 2020, consistently

and, without undue complaint, complied with the standards and protocols established by St. John's Church Council, in response to the threat of a deadly virus unprecedented in our generation. The whole country struggled to navigate through the challenges produced by Covid-19, but by God's grace, and many prayers, effective vaccines were developed, and as more and more people (that are eligible) are vaccinated, the threat of the spread of this dangerous and unpredictable virus continues to lessen.

As we enter a long-awaited summer with the relaxation of

many of the restrictions that have been in place for many months, may we take advantage of this time to, with humility and gratitude, re-submit and re-commit our lives to the agenda and purposes and plan of God, for all those who would live as His children, through His Son, Jesus Christ. For as the apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 6:2,

“Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

Looking forward to “seeing more of you” in worship beginning June 6th!

- Pastor Todd

“New Protocols...”

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Beginning on June 6th, those who wish to partake of the sacrament of the Altar will be invited to come forward, and ushered into the center aisle, to come forward to the chancel and there be served the elements by the pastor and an assistant, both wearing a face covering and gloves. After receiving the elements, communicants will return to their pews using the side aisles. After these have communed, the pastor and his assistant will commune those unable to come forward. Infants and children that parents would like to receive a blessing may be brought forward as well, and the pastor will say a brief prayer asking God's blessing upon each one.

Besides these changes in the worship service, beginning in July we will return to reading responsively the Psalm, when a psalm is our Second Reading, and beginning in August, we will return to singing more worship songs and more verses of the songs/hymns that we sing. Also, beginning June 6th, individuals will no longer be required to exit the sanctuary at the conclusion of the worship service, but instead will be free to remain after the service for as long as they wish, for prayer, conversation, counsel, or simply continued reflection.

In the Parish Hall, essentially we are returning to pre-Covid expectations and practices. The Parish Hall will be available for use as it was formerly: for education and learning, for fellow-

ship and refreshment, for special times of prayer and worship, for member family gatherings and celebrations, and for larger meetings, gatherings, and events.

For a complete description of St. John's new protocols beginning June 1st, please visit our website:

www.stjohnrichland.org

On your pc, click the red “Covid-19 update” at the top, or, if on a mobile device, go down towards the middle of the page and press “HERE” above the gold, red, blue, brown, and white “Sunday School” graphic.



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Women's Guild News Crafting w/ Friends

The Women's Guild met on May 16 and discussed many things including the 2021 budget, approved by those present, plus the distribution of various funds. Funeral luncheon ministry was also discussed.

The Pfolk Pfest was discussed at length, including ideas from a group of volunteers who had met together earlier to discuss some possible new directions for the Pfest. This group will meet again and present their suggestions to the Guild at the Guild's next meeting on Sunday, June 13. It was decided to wait to do planning for the auction related to Pfolk Pfest until after this meeting.

The agenda for the meeting on June 13th is as follows:

- 1) Welcome and call meeting to order. Need volunteer to oversee time of 1 hour.
- 2) Prayer
- 3) Offering
- 4) Minutes from May 16, 2021 meeting
- 5) Treasure Report
- 6) OLD BUSINESS:
 - Pfolk Pfest 2021 – receive update from the committee meeting
 - Funeral Ministry Group
 - Spring/Summer Event – Church-wide July event proposed at April Mtg.
- 7) Meeting Adjourned

Watch for more information about Pfolk Pfest available later this summer.

Crafting with Friends and "The Charms" (our girls group ages 6-16) are back in action! We met in May and planned our projects for now.

We will be making Christmas stockings, many of them, and if any of you want to cut out or even sew together these stockings, let Sandy Brunton know.

We are also making Christmas ornaments, lovely ones which some will be sold at the Pfolk Pfest in October.

Other projects will be considered such as Prayer Shawls, additional blankets for Hospice Patients at Seton Hospital plus baby blankets as well.

The group has a quilt ready to raffle off during the Pfolk Pfest auction thanks to Shirley Minzenmayer for donating the quilt top. Raffle tickets will go on sale in July.

The group is accepting donations of fabric, ribbon, buttons and new thread. "Crafting with Friends" will meet next on Saturday, June 19th at 10am. Feel free to contact any crafter and consider attending our next gathering.

Sandy Brunton & Miriam Hees



Thank You

How to you say thank you for so many kindnesses shown during our recent illness and recovery?

A sincere "Thank You" for all the prayers, calls, food, cards and flowers sent..

We thank God for our recovery and for your love and care.

In Christian Love,
Milton & Joyce Koch



"Registrations for..."

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had 31 registered by this date. Both years there were approximately 300 in total attendance at the event. District leaders are excited to have a good early registration response and are anticipating an excellent turn-out for this year's Gathering!



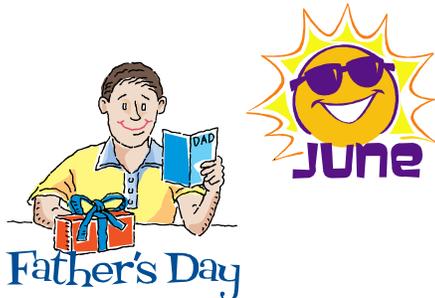


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Welcome
to
Worship

LCMC

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church is associated with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). For more information about LCMC, visit their website at www.lcmc.net

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<https://www.prepare-enrich.com/blog/>

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Memorial Service for Ruth Hennig

A memorial service for Ruth Hennig will be held at St. John on Saturday, June 26th, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Ruth's ashes will be interred in St. John Cemetery immediately following the service.

Please remember Darrell and Don Hennig and the rest of the family and friends of Ruth Hennig in your prayers.



LCMC Texas District Gathering July 30-31

This year's Texas District LCMC Annual Gathering is set for July 30-31 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 4102 North Ben Jordan St, Victoria, TX. There is a separate youth event held simultaneously, and a special pre-gathering for women Friday afternoon!

Cost is only \$30 for youth, and \$60 for adults (Early Bird rates).

To register visit: <https://app.sharefaith.com/App/Form/b03ce5bc-1f15-40b5-a4cf-574a165488ed>, or go to: www.lcmctexas.org/annual-gathering/ for more information.

LCMC
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ