

EPISTLE

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2010

Christmas in August



Sunday, August 15th, we'll be celebrating Mary's day on the church calendar. We're going to set aside the green of ordinary time and put on the white of Christmas, treasuring the incarnation of Christ and Mary's willingness to partner with God to initiate a world of love, peace, and justice. We'll sing Christmas carols, light candles, and gather around the manger scene for Holy Communion. Don't miss this special summer/holiday Sunday!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Let the Children Come	2
Welcome Special Guests	2
From the Bishop	3
Youth Mission Team	4
Honoring Dr. Eiesland	5
Worship Assistants	6
Calendar	7

TAKE NOTE:

- Bible Study 7 PM
Wednesday
- Youth Ministry Meeting
August 16
- Town Hall
August 29
- Hymnsing
August 29

Hunger Walk Update!

Congratulations to **St. John's Lutheran Church, Atlanta** for raising the most money online and to **Pastor Bradley** as the top individual online fundraiser!

St. John's was the second highest Lutheran Church fundraiser, collecting a total of \$6,320.

Collectively, more the \$62,000 was raised by participating churches.

Plan to join the 2011 Hunger Walk again coming in March!



GET CONNECTED TO MERCY CHURCH

Volunteer Help

Consider volunteering a few hours each week.

Wednesday Night Meal Preparation

Help prepare a wonderful meal. The food is there, but cooks are needed for 60 to 80 people. Mercy opens at 4 pm and serves at 6 every Wednesday.

Soap and Hygiene Items

A constant need is soap that often runs out. Toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, socks, tee shirts, and jeans are also appreciated, but a few extra bars of soap would be helpful next time you go shopping.

Visit the Mercy website for details: www.mercyonline.net.

LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, AFTER WORSHIP

When the disciples tried to keep children from being with Jesus, he said, "The reign of God belongs to such as these." As part of our long-range plan to nurture our children, we invite the congregation to gather after church for a town hall discussion on providing hospitality to our children. We'll talk about how our congregation can genuinely welcome and receive the gifts of our youngest members, including how we, as a community, can support and assist parents in teaching our children the faith. Pastor Lesley Brogan and Pastor Bradley will help facilitate this conversation. Of course, all families with children are invited to attend, but we particularly invite those who don't have kids or who have already raised their children. We have all promised at each child's baptism to nurture them in their faith and to support their parents in the vocation. This discussion will provide an important backdrop for the beginning of educational year, starting on Rally Day, September 12th, when Sunday School begins again. Nursery care will be provided. The children are invited to participate in the discussion.

YOUR HELP NEEDED TO WELCOME SPECIAL GUESTS AT ST. JOHN'S

On Friday and Saturday, September 10-11, St. John's hosts a group of very special guests: our Synod Council for the southeastern United States. Your help is needed to welcome them in true St. John's fashion!

The 25-30 members of the Council will travel to Atlanta from all over the Southeast. To help control costs for the Synod, about a dozen of them will need places to stay. We are also providing meals during the meeting: lunch for eight people on Friday, dinner and a reception on Friday night for 30-35, and a light breakfast for 30-35 on Saturday morning. Can you host a Council member in your home for the weekend? Can you help with food, set up, or clean up at the church during the two days? If so, please contact Laura Crawley at lauracrawley@comcast.net or 404-314-2817. Sign-up sheets will also be available.

The Synod Council is the elected leadership team for the entire southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. New members were elected at this summer's Synod Assembly. We're proud that two members of St. John's are serving on the Synod Council: Andrea Green and Meredith Hendricks (returning). Let's make this meeting in September a warm and welcoming event for those who serve on the Council.

CURRENT PRAYER REQUESTS

Anderson, Lucie + Arne, Esther + Cooper, Liana-Marie + Crockett, Joe Vaulx + Hessing, Lee & Family + Howell, Charles & Betty + Howell, Chuck + Humphrey, Sally + Rath, Barbara + Ruiz, Rebecca + Smith, Herbert & Mary + Stimpson, Becky + Warden, Kirsteen

Prayer Chain

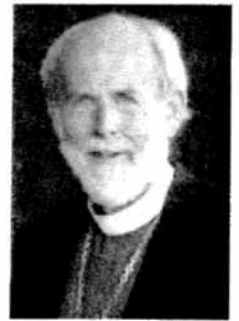
"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank God for all that has been done for you." (Philippians 4:6). St. John's is regularly in prayer for those in our community who are sick, struggling, or suffering in any way. We have an email prayer chain that alerts members to prayer concerns in the congregation. If you would like to join this prayer team, contact Myrna Lance, mlance@stjohnsatlanta.org, to have your email address added to the list. We will forward prayers to you as they become available, and you are invited to find time in your own schedule to lift up your brothers and sisters in Christ.

FROM THE BISHOP

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

The time has come for immigration reform in the United States. Yes, the issues are complex and not easily resolved. It is understandable that people are wary of engaging this politically and emotionally charged issue.

Yet it would be tragic if we withdrew as people of faith and our voices fell silent. We have an opportunity for evangelical witness to our faith in God who is present in the stranger and calls us to extend hospitality. "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" (Romans 15:7 NRSV).



The biblical witness is clear. The distinctions that so often divide humankind are overcome in Christ. By grace through faith on account of Christ we are joined together in a radically inclusive community. "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26-28).

Because God mercifully extends gracious hospitality in restoring us to community, we have a clear calling. That call is heard in God's command to the people of Israel, "You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. ... Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house" (Deuteronomy 10:19; 26:11).

Most, but not all, Lutherans in the United States are the descendants of immigrants or are recent immigrants. Others are descendants of slaves brought to this country or people who lived here before the arrival of the first Europeans and Africans. Our personal histories and faith stories are of an immigrant people moving in search of freedom, opportunity and safety.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is being renewed by the faith and witness of new and recent immigrants. This year 23 of 41 new ELCA ministry starts will be in immigrant communities, and more than 100 African national ministries have begun in the past three years.

We cannot welcome people into the ELCA, however, without caring about their lives, their concerns and their experiences as newcomers in this country. For that reason the ELCA repeatedly has affirmed the biblical witness and our shared experience, culminating in an affirmation by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly "that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) are committed to work toward comprehensive [immigration] reform that balances respect for the law with the recognition of due process and respect for humanitarian principles." Stating that "the nation's immigration system is broken, and Congress and the administration must work together to find a just and humane solution while assuring orderly migration," LIRS identifies four foundational values for immigration reform:

- keeping families together
- maintaining basic human and worker rights
- helping our new neighbors come out of the shadows
- seeking a path to permanence for our new neighbors

As you serve in your communities, I commend to you resources for study and action (*Toward Compassionate, Just, and Wise Immigration Reform* [2009] and other resources), the voices of immigrant families and believers, and the witness of the Scriptures.

The concluding words of the *Message on Immigration* (1998) remind us "that all of us in the Church of Jesus Christ are sojourners, 'For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come' (Hebrews 13:14). As we journey together through the time God has given us, may God give us the grace of a welcoming heart and an overflowing love for the new neighbors among us."

In God's grace,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark S. Hanson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



August Birthdays

15	Maggie McFarland
15	Laura Crawley
16	Bert Blood
17	Daniel Johnston
17	Addison Lange
19	Kayla Sstreisguth
19	Steve Gallo
21	Greg Williams
22	David Brock
22	Colt Streisguth
28	Willa Lengyel
28	Katie Fox
30	Berk Sauls
30	Meredith Hendricks
31	Brooke Latterel

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Rally Day is Coming!

RALLY DAY (the beginning of the Sunday School year) will be September 12! If members or parents have any questions or concerns regarding next year's Sunday School, please contact Ann Lillya at lilly-amc@rocketmail.com.

MINDFUL EATING

Eating may be something we take for granted. We may consume three meals a day with little thought of where the food came from or what went into growing it or bringing it to our tables. Or, in a culture so focused on body image, we may focus exclusively on its health attributes, counting calories and fat grams on product labels. But in the words of Wendell Berry, "how we eat determines to a considerable extent, how the world is used." There are profound implications of what we put into our bodies, not only for physical health, but also for our spiritual well-being, our environment and the people with which we share this Earth. There are also amazing gifts and pleasures to be received from food and the ways in which eating connects us to our own bodies, to one another, to the Earth and to the Creator of us all. Eating is therefore an issue worthy of careful reflection, intentional decision-making, and grateful enjoyment.

Mindful Eating is an eight-session course co-facilitated by Kimberly Broerman (a local spiritual director) and Tamie Cook (culinary director for the Food Network show *Good Eats*) which aims to provide conversation space, resources, and community support for transforming the way we think about, acquire, prepare and eat our food. Groups meet every other week for four months for learning, dialogue and a shared meal focused around the night's theme (Eating Mindfully, Sensually, Locally & Seasonally, Contemplatively, Meat?, Slowly, Justly and Communally). The next *Mindful Eating* group will meet every other Tuesday, 7-9 pm, starting August 17 and ending November 23 in Atlanta, GA, near Oakhurst. The investment is \$400 (\$50 per session) which includes dinner with beverages along with the course materials and facilitation. There are discounts if you sign up by August 1 or bring a friend! Contact Kimberly Broerman at kgbroerman@yahoo.com or 404-275-3328 or Tamie Cook at tamiecook@hotmail.com or 404.642.3232 for more information or to reserve your place at the table.

Youth Mission Team



Our Youth Mission Team served for five days in the Franklin, WV area with Habitat for Humanity (www.almostheavenhabitat.org). The group worked in the Habitat warehouse, helped install sheetrock and prepped a concrete slab for pre-fab walls. We joined a group of Lutheran churches that have been going for 5-6 years: Living Grace, St. James, Nativity, Martin Luther, and Amazing Grace. Adults and youth, if you are interested in participating in this type of trip in 2011, please contact Robby Johnson, Youth Director, (rjohnson@stjohnsatlanta.org) or at ext. 205 in the church office. **Pictured:** Juan Sanchez (from St. James), Sam Robison, Andrew Robison, Miranda Williams, Robby Johnson, Hailey Williams.

FINANCIAL REPORT

June 2010

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4000 - INCOME*	\$ 46,301.29
Total Income	\$ 46,301.29
Expense	
5000 - SHARED MINISTRY	\$ 16,845.97
5100 - BENEVOLENCE	\$ 2,048.67
5200 - COMMUNICATION MINISTRY	0.00
5300 - WORSHIP MINISTRY	\$ 1,281.24
5400 - LEARNING MINISTRY	0.00
5500 - PROPERTY MINISTRY	\$ 12,997.13
5600 - CONGREGATION MINISTRY	\$ 1,274.43
5700 - FINANCE MINISTRY	\$ 684.68
5800 - STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY	0.00
5900 - EVANGELISM MINISTRY	0.00
Total Expense	\$ 35,132.12
Net Income	<u>\$ 11,169.17</u>

INCOME* - during the month of June, \$20,000 was transferred from savings

HONORING DR. NANCY EIESLAND

Two panels at the upcoming Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting (Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Friday August 13 - Sunday August 15) will pay tribute to the work of and be in honor of Nancy Eiesland. (www.sociologyofreligion.com)

Saturday, August 14, 2:30 - 4:45 p.m.

Session H1: Congregations and Communities: A Session in Honor of Nancy Eiesland

Organizer and convener: Nancy Ammerman, Boston University

A Little Picture of Heaven: The Fraught Emergence of Multi-ethnic Congregations in the Midst of Anti-immigrant Hostility - Marie F. Marquardt, Emory University

He's Just a Pastor of Levels: The Prosperity Gospel in an Atlanta African-American Megachurch as a Response to Persistent Economic Crisis - Chris Scharen, Luther Seminary (former St. John's member)

Living the Revolution in Nashville: Evangelical Witness in the Postmodern World - Graham Reside, Vanderbilt University

Discussant: R. Stephen Warner, University of Illinois Chicago

Sunday, August 15, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Session K1: Reflecting and Building Upon the Work of Nancy Eiesland in Religion and Disability Studies

Convener: Laurel Kearns, Drew University

Mothers with Disabilities and Issues of Agency - Elizabeth Bounds, Emory University

The Sociology of Religion and the Disabled God - Albert Herzog, Westerville, Ohio

Charitable Access: An Exploratory Study of Disability Rights in the United Methodist Church - Eric Pridmore, Drew University

August 2010

5

SEPTEMBER: YOUTH PANCAKE BREAKFAST

It is a worthy tradition that the youth in grades 6-12 prepare breakfast to help kick off the new year in children and adult learning. Breakfast is served at 9:30am in the fellowship hall. All donations help replenish the youth fund that supports youth activities throughout the year.

WORK WITH OUR YOUTH!

We need adults that are authentic, available and affirming. Come help us plan events and talk through big picture issues. Maybe you can be on call for the occasional service project or fun event. If you want to talk more about participating, contact Robby (rjohnson@stjohnsatlanta.org) or join us for our next meeting on Monday, August 16 at 7pm.



We give thanks for the life of Eleanor Kelley, who was raised up to the church triumphant on July 10, 2010. Graveside service was on July 16, 2010.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – AUGUST 2010

August 1

Assisting Minister: Susanne Cooper
Acolyte: Stacy Gerondelis
Lector/Communion Assistant: Gwyn Driskill
Communion Assistants: David Brock, Andrea Green, Paul Arne
Altar Care: Barbara Arne
Announcer: Bill Levisay
Head Usher: Dave Kummer
Ushers: Meredith Hendricks, Addison Lange, Terry Copeland
Nursery: Carol Daniel Klein
Sound: Greg Williams
Food Delivery: Steve Kinchen

August 8

Assisting Minister: Barbara Arne
Acolyte: Sam Robison
Lector/Communion Assistant: James Hilden-Minton
Communion Ass't: Sue Streisguth, Gene Lewis, Kathi Houman
Altar Care: Myrna Lance
Announcer: Paul Arne
Head Usher: Steve Gallo
Ushers: Diane Makadok, Rich McNeal, Jonathon Huber
Nursery: Matthew Bersagel-Braley
Sound: Aimee Schmidt
Food Delivery: Linda Smith

August 15

Assisting Minister: Paul Henry
Acolyte: Jake Fox
Lector/Communion Assistant: Kim Diehl
Communion Ass't: J. Huber, Jennie Saliors, Don Streisguth
Altar Care: Andrea Green
Announcer: Bert Blood
Head Usher: Doug Robinson
Ushers: Donna Scott, Diane Robinson, John Yates
Nursery: Ann Lillya
Sound: Charles Fox
Food Delivery: Karen Bacheller

August 22

Assisting Minister: Linda Smith
Acolyte: Allison Arne
Lector/Communion Assistant: Laura Hollengreen
Communion Ass't: Carol Klein, Jason Schedtler, Joanie Slotter
Altar Care: Kathy Williams
Announcer: Susanne Cooper
Head Usher: Armin Siedlecki
Ushers: Myrna Lance, Sarah Mauldin, Kurt Knapp
Nursery: Steve Lewis
Sound: Dan White
Food Delivery: Jamieson Allen/Ken Lewis

August 29

Assisting Minister: Connie Monson
Acolyte: Katie Fox
Lector/Communion Assistant: Linda Smith
Communion Ass't: M. Hendricks, Dick Henneman, Steve Gallo
Altar Care: Sarah Mauldin
Announcer: Jonathon Huber
Head Usher: Kathi Houman
Ushers: David Brock, Aimee Schmidt, Steve Kinchen
Nursery: Donna Scott
Sound: Ian McFarland
Food Delivery: Aimee Schmidt

Offering Counters for August: Pat Artis, Ian McFarland

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SEPTEMBER 2010

September 5

Assisting Minister: Dave Kummer
Acolyte: Allison Arne
Lector/Communion Assistant: Charles Fox
Communion Ass't: J. Belcher, Martin Jessiman, Susanne Cooper
Altar Care: Myrna Lance
Announcer: Laura Crawley
Head Usher: Joanie Slotter
Ushers: Linda Smith, Darin Easler, Jonathon Huber
Nursery: Aimee Gannon-Hoffer
Sound: Paul Arne
Food Delivery: Robert Cappellanti

September 12

Assisting Minister: Malisha Brown
Acolyte: Hailey Williams
Lector/Communion Assistant: Adrienne Mather
Communion Assistants: Berk Sauls, Doug Robinson, John Yates
Altar Care: Diane Robinson
Announcer: Terry Copeland
Head Usher: Carol Daniel Klein
Ushers: Laura Hollengreen, Sarah Mauldin, Steve Lewis
Nursery: Emily Henning
Sound: Greg Williams
Food Delivery: Armin Siedlecki

September 19

Assisting Minister: Ian McFarland
Acolyte: Stacy Gerondelis
Lector/Communion Assistant: Barbara Arne
Communion Ass't: Laura Robison, Paul Henry, Rich McNeal
Altar Care: Armin Siedlecki/Linda Smith
Announcer: Sarah Mauldin
Head Usher: Dave Kummer
Ushers: Rogers Barry, Sherry Boston, Terry Copeland
Nursery: Pam Lange
Sound: Aimee Schmidt
Food Delivery: Aimee Gannon-Hoffer

September 26

Assisting Minister: Armin Siedlecki
Acolyte: Sam Robison
Lector/Communion Assistant: Miranda Williams
Communion Assistants: Youth
Altar Care: Berk Sauls
Announcer: Steve Kinchen
Head Usher: Doug Robinson
Ushers: Kim Hodgson, Judy Hodgson, Myrna Lance
Nursery: Janet Fath
Sound: Charles Fox
Food Delivery: Linda Olsen

Offering Counters for September:

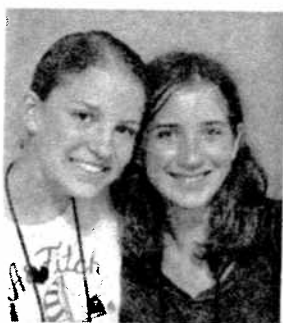
Lisa Kuosmanen, Laura Robison

AUGUST 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10:30 Worship 7:30 PM Learning Ministry	2	3	4	5 7 PM Worship Committee 7 PM Atl Bead	6	7
8 10:30 Worship	9	10 7 PM Finance	11	12	13	14
15 10:30 Worship	16 7 PM Youth Ministry	17 7 PM Outreach	18 7 PM DH Civic	19	20	21
22 10:30 Worship Sandwich Sunday 11:45 Handbells	23 7PM Prayer Shawl Circle	24 7PM Congregational Care	25	26 7 PM Church Council	27	28 Lutheran Campus Ministries Fund Raiser
29 10:30 Worship 12:00 Town Hall	30	31	<u>Mon - Fri</u> , 12 to 1pm Augustine Fellowship <u>Sunday</u> , 4pm - 6pm Master's Place <u>Sunday</u> , 7pm - 8pm Augustine Fellowship			

AFFIRM 2010

Back in June, over 300 youth and 70+ adults from across our synod participated in AFFIRM on the campus of Berry College. Eight youth from St. John's attended. Our confirmation students are required to attend as a part of the education. This event builds life-long relationships and future leaders in the Church.





1410 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30307
Phone: 404.378.4243
Fax: 404.378.4484

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN
AMERICA (ELCA) THAT INVITES FREELY, LOVES
UNCONDITIONALLY, AND SERVES WITH JOY.

Non-Profit
Organization
PAID
Decatur, GA
Permit # 28

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WWW.STJOHNSATLANTA.ORG

Rev. Bradley E. Schmeling, Pastor
PastorBrad@stjohnsatlanta.org

Myma Lance, Church Secretary
MLance@stjohnsatlanta.org

Jeanette Burgess, Music Director
JBurgess@stjohnsatlanta.org

Terry L. Copeland, Office Assistant
TCopeland@stjohnsatlanta.org

Robby Johnson, Youth Director
RJohnson@stjohnsatlanta.org

Clyde Payton, Sexton

LAST CHANCE!
HYMN SING
AUGUST 29,
TO PRECEDE
WORSHIP

CONGRATULATIONS **Miranda and Solveig**

Miranda Williams, daughter of Greg and Kathy Williams, and Solveig Olsen-Strom, daughter of Siri Olsen and Jonathan Strom, affirmed their Baptism in the rite of confirmation on May 30. Miranda and Solveig completed two years of confirmation instruction.

People of Faith: **Bible Study for August** Wednesday Nights, 7:00 p.m.

In August, we'll take a different approach to our summer Bible study. We'll look at a few people who are key figures in the Hebrew Scriptures. We'll read their stories, talk about the historical background, and make connections between their stories and our lives. These studies are great for those new to Bible study, or those looking for a fresh new introduction to the Bible. If you haven't joined us yet this summer, it's not too late!

- August 11 - Ruth: Great-Grandmother to a King
- August 18 - Samuel: A King-Maker
- August 25 - David: A King
- September 1 - Elijah: A Royal Pain