

The Tower * OCTOBER 2018

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist



Fellow Members of the
Body of Christ,

Grace and peace to
you from God our
Father and from Christ

Jesus our Lord. This September came in like a high speed train and flew by. But, our journey brought us to some wonderful places. Confirmation classes for our youth began and will continue until the Bishop visits in January. I am very excited to get to know these young people and share the faith with them. We celebrated a stewardship program focused on gratitude. Thank you to everyone who participated. I am so grateful for each and every one of you. I want to give a shout out to Margaret Davis, our Stewardship Chairperson, and everyone who helped lead our Gratitude Fellowship events.

Regular Sunday school classes begin on October 21. We will have two classes for children and teens again this year. Please consider asking neighbors and grandkids to come. Class begins at 9am. Adult Forum begins also on October 21 at 9am. It is a class on the story of Joseph in Genesis. Brian is a great teacher and will keep your interest. Come and check it out.

Fall programming begins for clergy as well. Just a reminder of things I am involved in. Fresh Start meets every other month on the third Wednesday of the month. This a day where new priests to the area gather together to discuss items relevant to ministry. It is led by Mother Terri Bays and Father Henry Randolph. Inner Soul meets every month on the second Thursday of the month. This is a day of reflection and group spiritual direction with priests and pastors from all over Michiana. It is held at Pathways Retreat Center. (If you would like to take a day retreat of quiet time and reflection this is a great place to go. Google it and see or ask me about it.) The Society of the Holy Trinity is a group of Lutheran pastors that agree to daily prayer. Or, at least we work toward this several times a day-morning, noon, afternoon, evening and bedtime. I spend time with these faithful people a few times a year in retreat. At these retreats we study a book or explore a topic. Downtown Churches Coalition is for clergy and members in Elkhart. We meet the third Thursday of the month for lunch at churches, charities, or businesses. Let me know if you have an interest and I can get you details.

All of this seems overwhelming when it is written down in one place, but all of them provide benefits for me. Staying connected as a priest helps keep me grounded and informed. Priests that avoid these types of events often find themselves isolated and burned out.

Unfortunately, some of these events are on Wednesdays which means that I cannot lead morning mass. When possible, Father Joshua fills in but sometimes he is at the same event or out of town.

Keep an eye and ear out for more great events happening this year.

In Peace, *Pastor Terri*

Gratitude and Giving

On Sunday mornings as 9:10am we have been focusing on *Gratitude and Giving* during fellowship time at 9:10am. On September 30 and October 7, we will focus on Gratitude for Our Programs and Our Community Engagement. Finally on October 14, Gratitude Sunday, we will celebrate one mass at 9am with a potluck following.

Pledge Cards 2019

Pledge cards were made available following mass on September 23rd and 30th. They will be available on October 7th and 14th as well. Let Pastor Terri know if you would like yours mailed to you. Please **RETURN** your pledge card on October 14th. Thank you.

Gratitude Sunday Miracle Gift

Consider making a one-time gift above and beyond your pledge on October 14th. We hope to gather an offering of \$80,000.00 for future capital needs, mission, and general budgetary needs. Contact Pastor Terri with questions.

*"Looking back over a lifetime, you see that
love was the answer to everything."*

—Ray Bradbury

Introducing Constantine Novotny

Financial Update...through September 23rd

Contributions: "Pledged and Non-Pledged"

Year To-Date Received	Year To-Date Budget	2018 Total Budget
\$123,400	\$130,365	\$178,385

Your pledge and commitment to St. John's is important and appreciated for all you do.



Welcome our Cantor, Constantine Novotny! An active musician, Constantine is in his final year of a Master's in Sacred Music (Vocal Performance) at Notre Dame. This is his second Master's degree, receiving a M.M in Opera Performance and the Samuel Ramey Fellowship award at Wichita State University.

His opera experience includes roles in Don Giovanni, Carmen, Le nozze di Figaro, La Traviata and Die Fledermaus. Constantine has been a concert soloist in churches and at Choral Festivals, and as part of chorus performances, including the Carnegie Hall Chamber Chorus with the Tallis Scholars!

Constantine is from Detroit, and has many relatives in Greece, where he and his family frequently visit. He particularly enjoys swimming in the ocean at Crete. And yes, he is a skilled Greek dancer! In addition, he is a composer, songwriter and improviser, plays piano and guitar, and even has a rock band!!

We are fortunate to have Constantine as part of our St. John's family!



Plumb Line

In the writings of the prophets Isaiah and Amos, a plumb line is a symbol of God's judgment of Israel: "I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line" (Isaiah 28:17, NIV); The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand.

... Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer" (Amos 7:7-8, NIV). When Jesus is portrayed as Judge of the world, he is sometimes shown holding a plumb line.

Make it count!

This is our time on the history line of God. This is it. What will we do with the one deep exhale of God on this earth? For we are but a vapor and we have to make it count. We're on. Direct us, Lord, and get us on our feet.

—Beth Moore



Lion

A lion represents watchfulness and alertness. It also symbolizes Christ, the Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:4-5). A winged lion is the symbol of St. Mark, whose gospel focuses on Jesus' royalty and resurrection.

Music concerts at St. John's for 2018

We are pleased to announce a concert series for 2018 at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church. The programs are planned for the first Sunday of the month for the fall season (October, November, and December) and again for spring (March, April, and May). The concerts are free to the public with refreshments following, and any donations will be given to the artists. The concerts are underwritten through the generosity of Ed and Ellie Tom.

October 7, 2-3pm: Bluegrass music with Audie Blaylock and Redline

November 4, 2-3pm: Oblates of Blues

December 2, 2-3pm: Anna Hagen, Harpist

Spring 2019 concerts to be announced. Dates are March 3, April 7, and May 5.

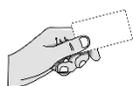
Vestry Meeting Summary For September 2018

Pastor Terri led an opening prayer. The meeting was abbreviated due to time constraints for the Child Safety Training held immediately after.

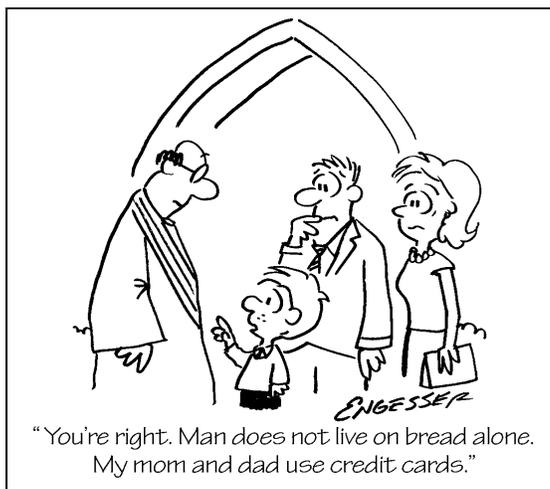
The main topics were:

- Adult study lead by Dr. Brian Peterson - beginning Oct 21 - The Story of Joseph
- Gratitude/Miracle Sunday - October 14, joint 9am mass with potluck following. Members will turn in pledge cards and bring their "Miracle Offering" on that Sunday.
- Junior Warden Dennis Beardall presented a quote for the new boilers. The Vestry approved the quote from Crystal Valley. Work will begin soon to remove and replace the old boilers. We have an appointment to switch to Comcast on October 26. Dennis will work to move this up.

Next Meeting- October 8, 2018, 7:00pm



Have you ever wanted to invite someone to worship but weren't sure how? Pick up some business cards to hand someone as you invite them. Cards will be available beginning October 14th.



Preparing to be a Deacon Melissa Renner

For five years, I have been preparing to become a deacon in The Episcopal Church. I have been learning not just what a deacon does, but what a deacon IS.

Deacons in The Episcopal Church are called to be a symbol of servanthood for the church, while working in a secular vocation. By having one foot in the church and one foot out in the world, deacons are able to bring the concerns of the world to the church, and also to take the church into the world. A deacon's call is to lead all people to serve God by serving others. According to the Book of Common Prayer, the bishop, at the ordination of a deacon declares: "In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely."

For the past four years, my ministry has been to complete the diocesan diaconal formation program. Once I have finished, I hope to lead others by offering a variety of opportunities for service, prayer, and fellowship.

Next month, I'll share what deacons do in the church.

Peace of Christ, *Melissa*

"The more we pray, the more we come to the heartbeat of God."
— Richard J. Foster

Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays For October 2018

Wedding Anniversaries			
Carl & Emilie Tiedemann	10/01	Ed & Abby Battjes	10/18
Howard & Denise Thain	10/12		

Birthdays			
Dennis Weaver	10/03	Dina Borneman	10/17
Thomas Coyne	10/04	Joan Combs	10/21
Mike O'Bryant	10/11	Rob Wilson	10/24
Pamela Weaver	10/13	Trudy Myers	10/25
Robert Battjes	10/14	July Ulery	10/29



From the heart

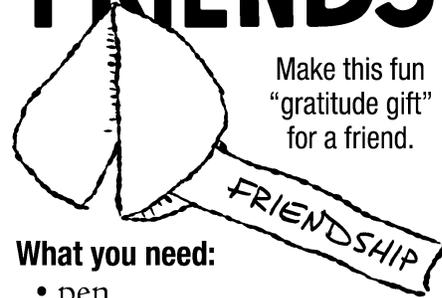
We all need people who share godly wisdom with us.

Directions: First, unscramble the bold letters to spell another word for "pal." Write that word in the first empty row. Then move the words under each bold letter to that letter's new column. The result will be Proverbs 27:9, NIV.

D	E	F	I	R	N
F					
to	bring	Perfume	incense	and	joy
Perfume					
of	the	the	and	heart,	pleasantness
the					
advice.	their	a friend	from	springs	heartfelt
A friend					

Answer: FRIEND; Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice. Proverbs 27:9, NIV

Fortunate FRIENDS



What you need:

- pen
- round object to trace (about 4 inches across)
- lightweight colored paper
- scissors
- ruled notebook paper
- Chinese food takeout box (or small paper gift bag)
- hot glue gun

What you do:

1. Trace circles onto the colored paper and cut them out.
2. Cut strips of notebook paper and write messages to a friend (or Bible verses about friendship).
3. Fold each circle in half without making a crease. Secure the top center edge with glue.
4. Pull the outside edges together by creating a bend in the center of the paper. Undo the bend and insert the fortune.
5. Re-bend the "cookie" into shape and add glue inside to hold it in place.
6. Put all the "cookies" in a takeout box and give to your friend.