



Building the family of God by spreading  
the Word of God to all people.

**August 2025**

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Address:

9193 Cleveland Avenue

P.O. Box 67

Baroda, MI 49101

Phone: 269-422-1449

Website: [stjohnsbaroda.com](http://stjohnsbaroda.com)

E-mail: [stjohnsbaroda@hotmail.com](mailto:stjohnsbaroda@hotmail.com)

**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday**

**3PM-6PM**

**Friday 9AM-1PM**

**Sunday Schedule:**

**Worship 10 AM**

Rev. Kenneth Babcock - Pastor

Jill Resendiz, Council President

Amy Semenak, Office Manager



Find us on **Facebook!**

Page: **St. John's Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in Baroda**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

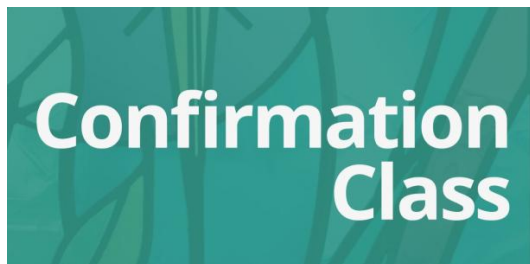
# Grapevine



**Blessing of the Backpacks  
August 24<sup>th</sup> during worship**



**Ladies Breakfast  
Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am  
at Cracker Barrel in Stevensville**



**Middle Schoolers  
Register for Confirmation Class  
Starts September 7<sup>th</sup>**



*Need a Ride?* Transportation is available for all our worship services and events throughout the week. If you would prefer not driving yourself, especially amid weather conditions and darkness, we still want you to come and join us at St. John's! Transportation is available on an individual basis. So please call the church office 269-422-1449 for details or to schedule a ride.

***Our Homebound Members:***

Elaine Lochner  
Woodland Terrace  
8850 Red Arrow Hwy  
Apt. 29  
Bridgman, MI 49106

Jean Jasper  
10370 Gast Road  
Bridgman, MI 49106

Fran Konya  
Royalton Manor  
288 Peace Blvd  
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Ginger Nitz  
207 W. Spring Road  
Baroda, MI 49101

Bob Schroeder  
9452 Cleveland Avenue  
Baroda, MI 49101

Pat Mattner  
8821 Cleveland Avenue  
Baroda, MI 49101

Barb Kinnison  
8445 Hollywood Road  
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Charles Krueger  
11032 Lange Road  
Bridgman, MI 49106

Darlene Crawford  
11415 Baldwin Road  
Bridgman, MI 49106

***Memorial Funds***

Memorial funds may be  
designated to:

Altar/Worship Enhancement Fund  
Music Equipment Fund



***Our Church Leaders:***

Rev. Elizabeth Eaton  
Presiding Bishop, ELCA

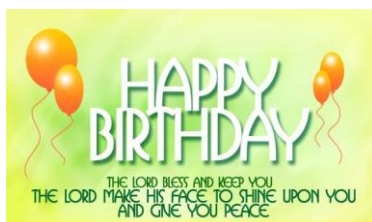
Rev. Craig Satterlee  
Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA

***Our Companion Synods:***

Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras  
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea  
Lutheran Church of Latvia

# August Celebrations

5 Matthew Tollas  
12 Emma Hansen  
15 Harper Bladecki  
15 Jenna Cramton  
19 Donna Tober  
20 Diana Dubman  
21 Abby Frantz  
21 Guy Tollas  
23 Lisa Fleisher



1 Claudia Brister  
2 Amy Semenak  
10 Mark Tollas  
13 Janis Fleisher  
18 Austin Barker

*If a birthday, anniversary and/or baptism is listed incorrectly, please call the church office so that we can correct our records.*



7	Ryan and Caitlin Bladecki	16 Years
8	Erik and Brittany Hansen	10 Years
10	Mike and Amy Semenak	29 Years
16	Bill and Linda Frantz	45 Years
27	Bruce and Judy Nitz	42 Years
28	Wes and Amanda Barker	21 Years



If you need emergency pastoral care, for situations such as hospital admissions or a death in the family, you may contact:

Pastor Ken Babcock 231-719-7741



Our service is being recorded and posted online to bring the Word of God to our church family who are unable to be here in person. View on St John's Lutheran Baroda, MI YouTube page or St John's Lutheran Church Facebook page.

# Pastor's Message

Dear Parish Family,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and in good spirits. As we enter the month of August, I am filled with gratitude for the blessings we have received and the wonderful moments we have shared as a community. The summer is moving at "WARP" speed, and we are already thinking about school preparations.

At church I am thinking about "Rally Day," the beginning of the new church year and Confirmation Class, which will begin on Sunday, September 7th and will be 45 minutes in length. If you have a child in the eighth grade or older, I will cherish spending time with them as they grow in their faith. A parent is encouraged to attend with the student so they may encourage and support their Christian education. I am planning a one year accelerated program with no homework, and Confirmation date to be determined.

As we navigate through life's challenges, let us remember the words of Isaiah 40:31: "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." May this verse inspire us to keep our faith strong, and our hearts filled with hope.

I am praying that the balance of your summer is filled with an abundance of joyful memories.

Blessings, Pastor Ken and Sue

Baroda Fireworks Show was a great success! **A BIG THANK YOU** to our July 3<sup>rd</sup> Fireworks volunteers: Tina Cramton for organizing and running the stand, Dave, Tyler, and Jenna Cramton, Donna Tober, Caroline Widdis, Tyler, Lexy, and Theo Villwock, Paul and Nancy Kasten, Jill Resendiz, Elaine Starbuck, Anne Kaufman and Skip, the firefighters who patrolled our lot and helped exit everyone safely, and all who donated pop, water, and food for the concession stand. Thank you to Are We There Yet? band for providing wonderful music. **\$1,886 was raised through parking lot donations!! \$1,825 was raised through the concession stand!!!**





***Ladies Breakfast***  
Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am at  
Cracker Barrel, 2525 W. Marquette Woods Road,  
Stevensville



## Confirmation Class

**Confirmation Class**  
***Begins September 7<sup>th</sup> at 9am – 9:45am***

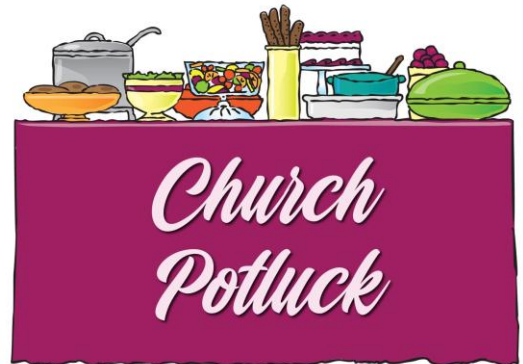
- One Year
- No Homework
- A Parent Must Attend with Student
- 9AM on Sunday Mornings

Please contact Pastor Ken at 231-719-7741 with any questions or to sign up.

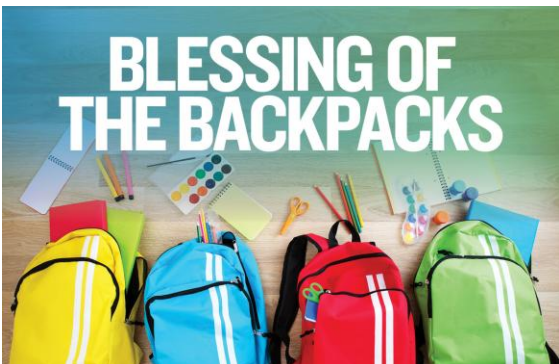
## **Church Potluck (after worship)** **September 7**

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a time of great food and fellowship. Please bring a guest or guests. If you aren't able to cook that day come anyway, there will be lots of food to share. Drinks, dishes, and silverware will be provided.

**Seeking a volunteer for the "day of" to put the food out.** Please call the church office if you are interested.



## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



**Blessing of the Backpacks**  
**August 24<sup>th</sup> during Children's Sermon**

***Kids please bring your backpacks and supplies***



### St. John's Mission Endowment Fund Speaker Series

- September 7<sup>th</sup> Samaritan Counseling Center Kim Forsey, Executive Director
- September 14 Redbud Area Ministries Jan Nowak-Walter, Executive Director
- September 28 Reach the Forgotten Chaplain Dan and Shay Bennett

**Celebration of the Harvest and Harvesters**  
**Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 3PM**  
**Tabor Hill Winery Estate in Baroda**

*All are welcome to attend*

In the lead-up to this event, we have been asked to start a collection drive for the items most needed by the migrant workers.

### CELEBRATION OF THE HARVEST AND HARVESTERS



### ITEMS NEEDED

DRIED PINTO BEANS  
DRIED BLACK BEANS  
WHITE RICE  
TOOTHPASTE  
TOOTHBRUSHES  
SHAMPOO  
BAR SOAP  
ALEVE  
ASPIRIN  
ALKA SELTZER  
MEN'S BASEBALL HATS  
S & M T-SHIRTS  
LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS  
HOODED SWEAT SHIRTS

Interfaith Action

## Volunteers Needed!



**Celebration of the Harvest and Harvesters**  
**Sorting Event @ St. John's**

**Volunteers Needed – Lunch provided.**  
*Many hands make light work*

**Monday, October 6 at 9AM**



**Youth and Adult Event**  
 Save the Date:  
**Adopt A Road**  
**Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9AM**

We will be picking up trash along Cleveland Avenue from Lemon Creek Road to Hinchman.



We are looking for members to organize and oversee some of the yearly activities held here at St. John's. Please contact the church office if something interests you. This is not an all-inclusive list. If you would like to see other events and chair them, please coordinate with Paul Kasten or Tina Cramton.

**Remaining 2025 Activities**

- Church Picnic/Rally Day (Sept 7)
- Adopt A Road (St. John's 1 mile section)
- Chili and Pie Bake off(October)
- Baroda Trail or Treat (public)
- Thanksgiving Meal
- Angel Tree

**Chairperson(s)**

*Need a Volunteer*  
 Amy Semenak (September 13 @9am)  
 Amanda Barker  
 Elaine Starbuck/Judy Nitz  
*Need a Volunteer*  
 Paul and Nancy Kasten



Sunday, October 26  
 Sunday, November 2  
 Sunday, November 23  
 Sunday, November 30  
 Wednesday, December 24  
 Thursday, December 25

Reformation Sunday  
 All Saints Sunday  
 Christ the King  
 First Sunday of Advent  
 Christmas Eve  
 Christmas Day



**VancoPayments.com/eGiving**  
**Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving!**

St. John's wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

**Direct Debit Giving** is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

**Online Giving** lets you go to **stjohnsbaroda.com** at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

Vanco is trusted by more than 22,000 churches to provide eGiving solutions that allow members and visitors to give how and when they want. Our suite of eGiving tools include online, mobile, text, card reader and kiosk options. Vanco also maintains the highest level of PCI-compliance to ensure the security of donations and payments processed through any of our eGiving tools.



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God's work. Our hands.