



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

March 2022

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Address:

9193 Cleveland Avenue

P.O. Box 67

Baroda, MI 49101

Phone: 269-422-1449

Website: stjohsbaroda.com

E-mail: stjohsbaroda@hotmail.com

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday

9AM-1PM

Sunday Schedule:

Worship 9AM

Supply Pastor – Pastor Vicky Blough

Ministers - All People

Council President – Bruce Nitz

Office Manager- Amy Semnak

Accountant - Bonnie Hodge

Webmaster - Alan Anderson



Find us on **Facebook!**

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



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Grapevine



**Ash Wednesday
March 2**



**Mission Endowment Fund
Distribution Information**



Welcome Back Pastor Vicky



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.

Unsure about coming in, you can join us on YouTube by clicking the website tab at www.stjohnsbaroda.com or subscribe to the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baroda Facebook page for the weekly worship service.

Our Homebound Members:

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

Marguerite Mohn
Woodlawn Terrace of Niles
#102
13 Longmeadow Village Drive
Niles, MI 49120

Ray Mak
1123 W. Marquette Woods Rd
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Val Nitz
Petronas Country Home
PO Box 283
Baroda, MI 49101

Carmen Hora
Pine Ridge Facility
4368 Cleveland Avenue
Room 125 – Bed 2
Stevensville, MI 49127

Jim and Jean Jasper
10370 Gast Road
Bridgman, MI 49106

Memorial Funds

Memorial funds may be designated to:

Altar/Worship Enhancement Fund
General Memorial Fund
Sound for Sanctuary
Kitchen Improvement Fund
Church Roof 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

March Celebrations

2 Eric Perrin
4 Barb Kinnison
4 Keith McClintock
8 Lilly Tollas
10 Cheryl Tollas
11 Carmen Hora
12 Roslyn Barrett
13 Kristi Wall
16 Darlene Crawford
18 Wes Barker
20 Dody Hafer
22 Carolyn Sommers



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

2 Elaine Lochner
4 Kelly Stout
10 Steve Nitz
11 Allison Semenak
15 Kim Perrin
16 Luke Tollas
17 Sandy McClintock
29 Bruce Nitz
30 Judy Nitz



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

Pastor Vicky Blough 574-612-4570

dates to Remember

Wednesday, March 2
Sunday, April 10
Thursday, April 14
Friday, April 15
Sunday, April 17
Sunday, June 5
Sunday, June 12
Sunday, October 30
Sunday, November 6
Sunday, November 20
Sunday, November 27
Saturday, December 24
Sunday, December 25

Ash Wednesday
Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter
Day of Pentecost
Holy Trinity Sunday
Reformation Sunday
All Saints Sunday
Christ the King
First Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day



Welcome Back Pastor Vicky

We warmly welcome Pastor Vicky back to St. Johns.
Her next service here will be February 27th.

We appreciate you serving our congregation!



Ash Wednesday Service
March 2nd at 7 PM



St. John's Mission Endowment Fund

"Let a man so account of us, as the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required in stewards, that a person be found faithful". I Corinthians 4:1-2

These powerful words are found in a brochure put together over twenty years ago when our Mission Endowment Fund was first established. Pastor Emeritus, Ned Elsass, provided an explanation of what these words mean; "God is the giver of all good gifts of which we partake; our church and families, food, shelter, clothing and our talents and treasures. In addition to all of this, we have been blessed with countless opportunities to experience the grandeurs of God's creation. All provided by God's grace".

Over twenty years ago, one of the members of St John's, in gratitude to God, established the St. John's Mission Endowment Fund. The concept was that the monies contributed would serve as the principal of the fund and would never be spent. Interest generated by the fund would be reinvested to help grow the fund and a portion would be gifted to local missions. These funds are not used for the operation of Saint John's Lutheran Church. Since its establishment, others have made contribution to the fund. In time, the fund has grown to over \$224,000. Over time, the fund has provided nearly \$130,000 to local charitable organizations. Most of these charities are located right here in Southwest Michigan. Some of the recipients have been Centered on Wellness, Safe Shelter, Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen, Forgotten Man Ministries, Catholic Community Food Pantry, Hospice at Home and countless others. This year, funds are being directed to the following charitable organizations.

Girls on the Run-Program for young girls that promotes empowerment by teaching life skills through lessons and running. (This group is headquartered at our church). \$2,000

InterFaith Action-A coalition of various faith communities seeking to advance justice especially for those on the margins of community life. \$4000

Centered on Wellness- Professional Faith based individual, couples and group counseling for mental wellness and addiction recovery. \$4000

Forgotten Man Ministries-Biblically based, chaplain led, volunteer ministry to Michigan jails providing teaching and preaching the love of Jesus Christ to inmates and those recently released. \$1000

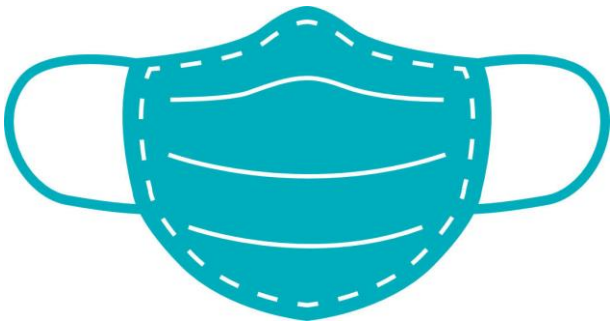
The Avenue/Safe Shelter-Emergency shelter providing housing, food and clothing for women and children that suffer domestic abuse. \$1000

Neighbor to Neighbor - Offers client-centered programs, emergency assistance, and community services to Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. \$1000

Salvation Army – An organization dedicated to doing the most good in the community. They help clients overcome poverty, combat addiction, help disaster survivors, and feed the hungry. \$1000

Neighbor by Neighbor – Neighbor by Neighbor connects the most vulnerable residents of SW Berrien County with resources and services to address immediate needs, while facilitating greater independence through targeted programs and services. \$1000

Please contact the church offices should you wish to share information on a local charitable cause in need of financial assistance or if you wish to make a contribution to this mission.



Face Masks Optional starting February 27th

Berrien County Health Department has rescinded the mandatory mask mandate due to the decreasing number of positive Covid cases.

Wearing a mask in the building is now optional. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so. If you are unwell, we ask you to stay home until you are feeling better.



We had a great turnout for the February 8th Blood Drive. 15 appointments scheduled. 12 donated – 3 deferrals. Thank you for helping to save a life by donating!

Next blood drive will be April 5th



Homebound Connections - An approach to ensuring that there's periodic contact with all our homebound individuals.

*****Through prayerful thought and consideration, our homebound ministers are temporarily suspending communion visits due to the surge in Covid cases. This is for your safety and theirs. *****



Office Hours

Monday – Thursday
9AM to 1PM



Pop Can Drive for Roof Fund
*****Please Clean Bottles and Cans Only*****

For those that do not like taking their pop bottles back or would simply like to donate them to the Capital Campaign. We are going to collect them, return them, and the refund money will go toward the Capital Campaign – Roof Fund. We will have a place in the entrance to place your returns. For those that don't want to haul their bottles/cans to church we could pick them up.

- Tina, Tyler, and Jenna Cramton



ST JOHN'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Goals include new roof, outdoor sign update, curb accesibilty, and parking lot improvements. Our goal is to raise \$70,000. \$65,651.10 has been donated. **\$4,348.90 remains to reach our goal.**



Michigan's Governor, Gretchen Whitmer, in her State of the State address on January 26th outlined her priorities for the coming year. Interfaith Action, in accord with its policy commitments, is supportive of the following initiatives:

- raising the Earned Income Tax Credit from 6% to 20% of the federal credit. Earned Income Tax Credits provide a major boost in lifting individuals and families out of poverty. It is estimated that this increase would send 730,000 low-income families an average of \$3,000 (\$2,500 from the federal tax credit and \$450 from the increased state tax credit.)
- providing a \$2,500 state tax rebate (in addition to the federal rebate) for the purchase of an electric vehicle, designed to reduce environmental pollution through the use of clean energy.
- invest in improving access to mental health services, with an emphasis on students.

Michigan Releases Draft Climate Plan

Michigan has released its draft climate plan for public comment. If you'd like to submit comments you can do so individually or you are welcome to submit your comments to Sid Mohn (sidmohn@gmail.com) and he will prepare a response.

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/egle/Draft-MI-Healthy-Climate-Plan_745872_7.pdf

Interfaith Action Policy Briefing

Over the course of 2022, Interfaith Action will hold bi-monthly policy briefings to share our current policy initiatives, areas of concern, and other developments. The format for these briefings will include covering three or four major topics over the course of one hour, including why each topic is important to Interfaith Action, our involvement with the issue, current status and future actions, followed by a few minutes for questions and discussion.

Our first policy briefing will take place on **March 3, 2022 at 6:30 pm on Zoom**. Gene Schoon (Coordinator of Policy & Justice), Vicki Schroeder (Lead Advisor for Gun Safety), and Bobbie Gaunt (Lead Advisor for Inclusion and Participation) will present on current policy priorities.

The third session in our Theologies of Transformation: Actions for Justice program will be held on **Monday, March 28 at 6 pm. We will be discussing our first faith principle on “tenderness”. More details to come in upcoming bulletins.**

Faith Leadership Training March 6

We'll be hosting a leadership training targeted toward faith leaders March 6. We'll be training people on how to hold a lobby meeting, how to understand the issue, how to speak to it from a faith perspective, and how to organize an event for the June 6 statewide day of action. *Registration coming soon!*

Statewide Day of Action June 6

June 6 is a National Day of Action on gun violence prevention. Mark your calendars.



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.