



**26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning." ~ John 15:26-27**

Back when I first began serving as a pastor, I remember a small outreach campaign in which a number of the Milwaukee-area Christian churches were taking part. I first noticed this when I began to see banners popping up on church lawns that asked: "What if it's true?"

I have to admit that the signs did well to pique my curiosity...which is why I had to check into what they were all about. While my suspicion was that these banners and the television commercials that followed were an attempt to get unbelievers and other unchurched folks to question things from an angle different than that of society's, I wanted to make sure.

Of course, I also have to admit that there was another reason I wanted to look into this. I was a little uncomfortable with the whole thing...the angle they were taking.

Remember...I had just come out of the seminary where I was reminded on more than one occasion that we are to proclaim the truth in a manner that never leaves anyone with questions; so, I was keenly aware of two things when it came to these "What if it's true?" signs. First, they were not doing things the way I was taught; and, two, they were still managing to stir my taste to try anything and everything in order to reach the lost.

After looking into things, I discovered that the campaign was actually designed to reach those who were in the midst of questioning God or struggling in their walk of faith. The idea was to get people to stop asking "What if it's **not** true?" (as so many are apt to do these days) and, instead, take a completely different angle by asking: What if it **is** true?!

What if Jesus really is who He says He is? What if Jesus **is** God in the flesh? What if Jesus really did all the things recorded in the Bible – miracles and all? What if Jesus really did die to take away our sins? What if our sins are the obstacle that God says they are? What if He really did rise from the dead...ascend into heaven...and now reigns as the Almighty One – the King of kings and Lord of lords? And...what if I went on and on and on asking every "what if" we could think of? ☺

I admit, asking it this way still makes me a little uneasy, but I also have to admit that maybe we **should** ask these questions. Not to question God, but more-so to search out the truth given in His Word and rediscover that there are NO "**What ifs**" when it comes to who God is and what He has revealed.

You see...when we take time to dive into Scripture, we discover that everything about God and His Word is absolutely true concerning Jesus. And if all these things are true of Christ, then there are other "what ifs" which are absolutely true. Like...what if Jesus really did send His Holy Spirit to do all the things He said He would do? And...what if the Holy Spirit has every intention of using people like us here at St. John's to do His work, spread His Word, and reach out to those who have yet to have their "what ifs" answered?

As we approach the month of July (right in the middle of the Pentecost season), we're going to explore this by taking a look at the "what ifs" that exist regarding the Holy Spirit in a three-part sermon series. And, as we do, we're also going to explore what this means for you and me. Because...here's the bottom line: If church folks like us really believe what the Bible says is true about the Holy Spirit, then the question that should be asked is: *What will this mean and what will this look like for the Body of Christ who worships here on the hill in Grand Haven?*

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My prayer is that, if you aren't already in conversation with God about this, you would begin today. In fact, I pray that our July sermon series not only gets you thinking...but that the Holy Spirit moves you to search for those around us who still live with too many "what ifs" in their hearts and lives...in order to lead them to the Truth.

A blessed season of Pentecost to all of you!

Pastor Kurt

**Pastor Kurt's July sermon series:  
"What If..."**

Weekend of July 1/2 –

"What if...the Holy Spirit is Real?"

John 15:26-27

Weekend of July 8/9 –

"What if...We Get Out of the Way?"

Luke 11:13

Weekend of July 15/16 –

"What if...We Live Transformed Lives?"

Romans 12:1-2

## DivorceCare Ministry

### *Interested in being a part of a Divorce Support Team?*

Do you have a heart for people who are hurting as a result of separation or divorce? Have you experienced the day to day challenges that come with divorce? And do you have a passion to help people heal through Christ? If this describes you, please pray about becoming part of St. John's DivorceCare team.

DivorceCare is a 13-week, video-based, small group ministry. You don't need to be a counselor, teacher, or have a degree. All we ask is that you have a close relationship with Jesus, have a heart for people who have gone through or are going through separation/divorce, and are willing to let God lead you to help others heal.

If you're interested in becoming part of a DivorceCare team in order to help members of our congregation and community, please email or call Pastor Kurt at [pastorkurt@sjlcs.org](mailto:pastorkurt@sjlcs.org) or (616) 842-4510, and he will be happy to explain what DivorceCare is all about.

DivorceCare is a friendly, caring group of people who are willing to walk alongside others through one of life's most difficult experiences. You can also find out more information about DivorceCare by going to [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org).

## Vacation Bible School News

**Kids! Pre-school – 6th grade...**come join us in the fun for VBS July 17-21, 9:30-11:30am, at St. Matthew in Spring Lake. Free pizza lunch for families and volunteers on Friday, July 21 at 11:30am. We're all set for our combined VBS, "A Mighty Fortress", and look forward to seeing you! Helpers are still welcome... just let us know! Volunteer meeting set for Thursday, July 13 at 7:00pm. Sign-up sheets are in the Social Hall or call Carol Schmidt (616) 846-2648, Ben Bosch (616) 638-2020, or Carol Shake (616) 842-9169.

**Donations Needed:** See special flower pots in the Social Hall for a list of items needed and return them to St. John's by Sunday, July 16. (See your bulletin for more info!)



## GriefShare Ministry

### *Interested in being a part of a Grief Support Team?*

Have you experienced the deep grief of losing a loved one? Have you experienced healing from the hurt? Would you like to help others do the same? If this describes you, please pray about becoming part of our St. John's GriefShare ministry team.

GriefShare is a 13-week, video-based, small group ministry, and you don't need to be a counselor, teacher, or have a degree to serve on the team. All we ask is that you have a close relationship with Jesus, have a heart for people who are going through the grieving process, and are willing to allow God to lead you to help others.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to come alongside those within our own church family and reach out to people in our community. If you feel God is leading you to help, please email or call Pastor Kurt at [pastorkurt@sjlcs.org](mailto:pastorkurt@sjlcs.org) or (616) 842-4510, and he will be happy to explain what GriefShare is all about.

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who are willing to walk alongside others who are grieving. The GriefShare ministry materials offer those who are on the GriefShare ministry team a wealth of information and tools that will assist them, but you can also find more info about GriefShare by going to [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org).

## Music Ministry Wish List

Ever wonder how you might help our music ministry? Here are some ideas! Please join our awesome team as we celebrate Jesus through music! Please contact Tracy Wood with questions at [twood@sjlcs.org](mailto:twood@sjlcs.org) or (616) 402-5099.

**Video Team Captain:** This job entails creating the 'Easy Worship' Power Point for each contemporary worship service. Time needed: ½ hour per week.

**Video Team:** This job entails practicing with the Praise Team on one Thursday evening and one Sunday morning per month. This person advances the Power Point slides during worship. Time needed: 3 hours per month.

**Sound Board Team:** This job entails understanding how our sound board works. This person practices with the Praise Team on one Thursday evening and one Sunday morning per month. Time needed: 3 hours per month.

**Guitarist:** How great would it be if we had some guitars in contemporary worship on a regular basis? Acoustic, electric, and bass guitars will all be considered. If you are a beginner at guitar, contact Tracy Wood to see how you might fit in. If you are more comfortable with guitar, join us! Time needed: as many weekends as you would like.

**Vocalists:** Can you sing? Are you a leader? Would you like to join our Praise Team? Time needed: 3 hours per month (we practice on Thursday evenings).

**Celebration Choir members:** Join this excellent group if you can carry a tune and you love to laugh and sing praises to our great God! No previous choir experience is necessary; we'll teach you everything you need to know! Choir practice will begin in late summer and run until late spring. We meet Wednesdays 7:00-8:00pm.

**JuBELLation Ringers:** This group is an easy way to express your love for our Lord through the simple ringing of bells. There is a place for both beginners and advanced ringers. My dream would be to have a both a beginner group and an advanced group of ringers. This group meets on Wednesdays from 5:45-6:45pm. We have two sessions: Fall (October-December) and Spring (March-May).

**Drummer:** When our regular drummer is gone, we can hire a substitute drummer. Can you contribute money toward this?

**Pop-Up Choir!** Come as you are; come when you can! Two practices: Wednesday June 28 and July 5 at 7:00pm. We'll sing on July 2, 9, and 16 at the 8:15 service. Fun, easy, Spirit-filled music!

Tracy Wood



## Put Your Old Eyewear to Good Use!

Through September 2017, the Evangelism and Fellowship boards are teaming up to collect gently used eyeglasses to send to MOST (Mission Opportunities Short Term) Ministries, a Michigan based, non-profit short-term mission sending agency and a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The donated glasses are reconditioned and distributed to individuals living in undeveloped nations who cannot afford eye care.

We'll accept gently used adult-sized glasses, child-sized glasses, over-the counter reading glasses, and non-prescription sunglasses. A drop-off container will be located in the Social Hall at St. John's Lutheran Church. For information about our drive, please contact Roxana Taylor at (616) 834-2398 or [taylorr@gvsu.edu](mailto:taylorr@gvsu.edu).

Since 1989, MOST Ministries has been distributing eyeglasses across the globe through its short-term eyeglass ministry teams and clinics. Using a very simple testing system created specifically for MOST Ministries, team members test patients' eyes and provide them with the appropriate corrective lenses. Depending on the number of team members, an eyeglass mission team can serve 100-300 people daily. Additionally, and most importantly, each eyeglass clinic includes a witnessing station where the Gospel message is shared – unless it is prohibited by the host country. Monetary donations can be sent directly to: MOST Ministries, 655 Phoenix Dr., Ann Arbor, MI, 48108. Contributions are tax deductible. For more info, visit [www.mostministries.org](http://www.mostministries.org).

## St. John's Summer Office Hours

During the entire month of July and the first week of August, our church and school offices will have special office hours. The church office will be open Monday – Thursday, 9:00am-3:00pm and the school office will be open Tuesday – Friday, 9:00am-3:00pm. (Someone should always be here between 9:00am and 3:00pm ☺.)

If you have a pastoral need at a time when the office is closed, feel free to contact Pastor Kurt at (414) 736-1772 or Craig Kaschube at (616) 405-5514.



## KINDLE Update

Thank you to those who have attended my Kindle gatherings. At our last gathering I introduced "5 Environmental Keys" for congregations to foster and multiply Christ-like servant leaders. Here is a quick summary from one of my coaches.

Environmental Keys: Lisa Hellyer, Kindle coach  
Think for just a minute about the environments in which you function. There are many and, for the most part, we don't pay much attention to them. Sometimes, though, we walk into an environment that makes us sit up and take notice -- places like Disney World or an Apple Store. Disney values imagination and creativity. From the minute we walk onto their campus, we are immersed in an experience that captures our imaginations and transports us to a place that is like nowhere else on earth. Apple values people (Okay, maybe it's money. But the way to money is through the people who spend it). When I walk into an Apple Store, I am greeted almost immediately and made to feel as if I am their most important client of the day. The person who helps me is with me throughout the entire process. They answer all my questions. They show me how to manipulate the product I'm interested in. They take my money. I don't have to go to the counter or stand in a line. And just like that, I'm out the door, product in hand, wallet empty, and as happy as can be. How do places like Apple and Disney do that? They work hard on creating an environment that influences us toward the value they believe in. Environments are powerful. They have the potential to influence and affect our growth, health, and progress.

KINDLE has worked hard to come alongside Kindle associates, as church professionals, to help them create environments in their congregations that value developing and multiplying Christ-like servant leaders. The way we've done this is through a document known as the Environmental Keys.

### 5 Environmental Keys

- Key #1 Leaders being valued
- Key #2 Leaders given opportunities
- Key #3 Leaders being developed
- Key #4 Leaders gathering together
- Key #5 Leaders being deployed

At the last gathering I also shared the results from a survey that fulltime staff and lay leadership participated in. On the survey they were asked to rate St. John's on current "Practices" for Christ-

like servant leaders. Please check out the results at [www.st-johns-lutheran.com/sites/default/files/KINDLE%20SJLC%20Environmental%20Report.pdf](http://www.st-johns-lutheran.com/sites/default/files/KINDLE%20SJLC%20Environmental%20Report.pdf) There are also copies of the results in the Narthex. Starting this summer I will begin to put a plan together to be intentional on how we become a congregation that fosters and multiplies Christ-like servant leaders.

Craig Kaschube [ckaschube@sjlcs.net](mailto:ckaschube@sjlcs.net)

## Summer Mission Trip



In recognition of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, St. John's along with Trinity Lutheran Church in Muskegon will be volunteering their services to help out Camp Restore in Detroit. On July 24-27, a team from both congregations will head to Detroit to "Restore Faith, Home and Community". We need your help! Camp Restore is in need of backpacks for their toddler program. Anticipated enrollment for the 2017-18 school year is around 90 students. Our goal is to provide these little ones with backpacks and items to start their school year off! Please consider donating to this wonderful ministry the following items:

**Back pack (toddler size) Girl or Boy themed**

**Wide pencils for easy toddler grip**

**Sidewalk chalk**

**Washable Markers**

**Play dough**

**Crayons and coloring books**

**Flash cards for toddlers**

**Construction paper**

**Bubbles**

**We are also collecting cases of bottled water as well as financial contributions.** Donations can be dropped off at the church or school office. Donations will be accepted up until July 21. Please consider partnering with Camp Restore and St. John's in restoring faith, home, and community through prayer, volunteering, and/or financial support as we bring the hope of Jesus Christ for those in need. (VBS offering is going towards Camp Restore Mission Trip.)

<http://camprestore.org/2016/11/10/camp-restore-detroit-coming-in-2017/>

## CLASSIFIED AD SECTION OF YOUR LOCAL ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Ladies Aid meeting** on July 6 will be an indoor picnic in the Social Hall. Please invite a friend or two, bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Hope to see you there.

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**There is an opening for Sunday School Superintendent** for this fall and we'd also like a staffed nursery. For more info, please contact Ben Bosch at [benjamin.bosch1983@gmail.com](mailto:benjamin.bosch1983@gmail.com) or (616) 638-2020 or Craig Kaschube at (616) 842-4510 or [ckaschube@sjlcs.org](mailto:ckaschube@sjlcs.org).

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**Ladies Aid Semiannual Rummage Sale** is Friday, July 14 & Saturday, July 15. Set up begins on Thursday, July 13 at 9:00am. Clean out your closets, basement, attic, etc. and bring your items to church on Thursday, July 13. We take everything that's clean and in good condition. Please contact Lenore Kieft at (616) 842-0752 or Joyce Carlson at (616) 844-4128 if you are not a member of Ladies Aid but are available to help with setup, sales or cleanup. All money raised is used to help meet the needs of our church and school.

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**Prayer Shawl Ministry** will be taking the summer off. The next time we will meet is Monday, September 11 in the Social Hall.

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**Congratulations to Richard & Sharon Rothe!** They won a \$50 gift card of their choosing in our drawing of folks who signed up for online giving by June 1!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Arnie Redeker Memorial Golf Outing** is set for Sunday, September 17, 2017. 2:00pm Shotgun start, Pig Roast Dinner at 6:00pm at Pigeon Creek. \$60 per person or \$220 per Foursome, includes Pig Roast; (Pig Roast only \$25. Contact David Turner to secure a spot [turner@johnnyadvertising.com](mailto:turner@johnnyadvertising.com)

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**St. John's Saves The Catwalk!** Grand Haven's iconic catwalk is badly damaged and faces the dastardly fate of a permanent demolition. It desperately needs rescuing—we can be its hero! The St. John's Saves the Catwalk! (SJSC) movement hopes to raise \$2,500 by September 3 to support the GHACF Save the Catwalk Fund. For more details on becoming a SJSC hero—and helping St. John's earn an AWESOME bronze plaque for display on the rescued catwalk—check out the signs at St. John's and contact the SJSC Leadership Team: Alex Montgomery [alex.montgomery88@gmail.com](mailto:alex.montgomery88@gmail.com), Craig Kaschube [ckaschube@sjlcs.org](mailto:ckaschube@sjlcs.org), or Roxana Taylor [taylorr@gsu.edu](mailto:taylorr@gsu.edu)! **Great News!** Michael & Denise Klaus have offered to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$2,500 this project! Thank you to the Klaus' for this wonderful gift opportunity!

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**Imagine 10,000 Fellow Lutherans Singing "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"** on Sunday, October 15. Doors open at 2:00pm at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. To order free tickets, email Debbie Luytjes at [Kluytjes@charter.net](mailto:Kluytjes@charter.net).

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Tri-Cities CROP Hunger Walk** is Sunday, October 1 at Spring Lake Christian Reformed, 364 S. Lake St., Spring Lake. Please consider walking with us to help combat hunger and poverty. I have set a personal goal of adding 10 more walkers to our St. John's CROP Hunger Walk team. Are you one of them? It's an awesome way to share the love of Christ and the many blessings He has given us. Contact Tracy Wood at [twood@sjlcs.org](mailto:twood@sjlcs.org) or (616) 402-5099.

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**West Michigan LCMS Youth Beach Day** is Wednesday, August 9, 10:00am-4:00pm at Grand Haven State Park. Junior and Senior Youth – you and your friends are invited to this 4<sup>th</sup> annual event! Lunch is provided. Bring your favorite beach games. We will offer volleyball, soccer and other beach game tournaments. We will pack up from the beach and travel to the Unity Music Festival in Muskegon to enjoy the free concerts at 4:00pm. Bring some \$\$ for dinner. Contact Sue LaLonde for more info at (616) 847-7876 or [suelalonde@charter.net](mailto:suelalonde@charter.net).



**Upcoming events to celebrate together:**

- VBS with St. Matthew, Spring Lake
- Mission Trip with Trinity, Muskegon
- Michigan District Worship Service



For the last 17 years it has been my privilege to encourage our children at St. John's Lutheran School to have a love for reading. I want to thank all who were involved in my retirement gift, especially my dearest friend, Laura Harvey. Also to the children for the lovely book, pictures, and best wishes for me. Don't forget to read everyday, live a better life in Him.

Mrs. Rosie Anderson  
P.S. See you in Chapel.

**FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS**

**Deaths**  
 05/29/2017 **Joyce\* Miller**  
 06/01/2017 **Kirk Riessen**, brother of **Ronda\* (Les) Chapman**

**Received via Transfer**  
**Les & Cathie Van Allsburg** from Lakeshore Lutheran Fellowship Church, Spring Lake, MI

**\* Members of SJLC**  
 Our current membership stands at 576 baptized, 476 of whom have confirmed their faith.



You are invited to attend an  
**All-American Brunch**  
 on Sunday, July 2, 2017  
 11:00am to 1:00pm  
 at Trinity Lutheran Church  
 3225 Roosevelt Rd, Muskegon, MI

Come enjoy breakfast fare as well as grilled hot dogs, baked beans, watermelon, s'mores and more! Free-will offering to benefit Camp Restore Detroit Mission Trip – a joint effort between St. John's Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran. Enjoy family fun with a bounce house and other outdoor games. Bring your lawn chairs and ball gloves!



**2017 Coast Guard Festival**  
**July 28th - August 6th**

**Coast Guard Children's Parade Opportunity July 29, 2017**

Do you have an interest in leading a group to provide an entry in the Coast Guard Children's Parade? We are not yet sure what this might look like – a float? Decorated truck and trailer? We might be passing out water bottles with church information and a Bible verse on them? Or some form of candy with a message attached? Some music/speakers playing? OR ???

2017 is the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, so there will likely be something on the entry related to that, and advertising for our church. There are already people willing to help you, they just aren't in a position to take the lead.

Could This Person Be YOU?  
 Please contact Pastor Kurt by July 7, 2017 if you can help.



St. John's Lutheran Church  
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(616) 842-4510  
[office@sjlcs.org](mailto:office@sjlcs.org)  
[www.st-johns-lutheran.com](http://www.st-johns-lutheran.com)

Kurt Wenzelburger, Senior Pastor [pastorkurt@sjlcs.org](mailto:pastorkurt@sjlcs.org)  
Craig Kaschube, Youth & Family Life Director [ckaschube@sjlcs.org](mailto:ckaschube@sjlcs.org)  
Laura Harvey, School Administrator/Business Manager [lharvey@sjlcs.org](mailto:lharvey@sjlcs.org)

**Worship Services:**

Saturdays: 5:00pm - Traditional/Relaxed

Sundays: 8:15am - Traditional

10:30am - Contemporary

**Please check calendar for all worship times!**

*God's Blessings To:*

You and your  
family!

## Don't Miss Vacation Bible School

**Two churches...working together...to serve the children at VBS!**

St. John's and St. Matthew are teaming up to host *A Mighty Fortress*, a Vacation Bible School planned in recognition of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It all takes place Monday, July 17—Friday, July 21, 9:30am—11:30am at St. Matthew (15395 Rannes Street, Spring Lake).

His kingdom endures forever! At *Mighty Fortress*, kids will learn that God is their refuge and strength. Friends may fail them. They may not ace their next test or make the team, but God promises to be their rock and their salvation—their fortress and sure defense. So raise your banner! Hold it high. The battle is done. In Jesus, the victory is won!



**Registration forms are available in the Social Hall at St. John's**