

“I Am Making All Things New”

And He Who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Revelation 21:5

Meeting in Philadelphia, representatives from all thirteen colonies adopted the document we know as “the Declaration of Independence” on July 4, 1776. In this revolutionary piece of parchment they stated

“That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.” Thus, the United States of America was born. A new government and a new nation emerged on the face of the earth.

Reflecting upon the significance of this great document and the Fourth of July holiday, President Abraham Lincoln said in a speech delivered on November 19, 1863 at the Gettysburg battlefield in Pennsylvania: “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

Most of us like new things! Whether it’s a new nation or a new item we have just purchased! That’s why the season of Easter—especially Easter Sunday—is so popular. It means “new”! If the winter has been harsh, it marks the end of the cold, the snow and the ice and the beginning of the spring. But the “new things” of this world will eventually end. Where will we turn?

The “new things” that we make or create are “gifts from God,” but they do end. “New governments” turn into old governments and fail. “New clothes” wear out, or we get bored with them. Spring turns to

summer, summer to fall, and fall to winter. We are faced with the reality that there is nothing new under the sun!

Everything that we think will solve our problems and give us lasting joy ultimately brings us only frustration and fear. We are faced with crying, mourning, pain, and death. Our creativity and new thinking are at best temporary, and at worst only remind us of our mortality!

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us! Jesus didn’t remove these things, but He made them His own. He makes our tears His tears, our crying His crying, our mourning His mourning, our pain His pain, and our death His death. Crushed and killed by the very things that crush us, He redeems us and restores us. Death becomes the gateway to life, and “new things” are redeemed and restored “old things”! Our death is His death, and His life, His resurrection, are given to us freely and fully!

In the midst of our reality, God tabernacles, dwells with us, in Jesus! He comes to us in His Word of forgiveness and life! He is here in the water of Baptism. He feeds and sustains us with His Body and His Blood which are gifts from God because He is in, with, and under us! His Word: “I am making all things new!” He uses the suffering and death that are so much a part of our lives in “making us new!”

Everything is made new in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus! We rejoice because He creates a new heart within us. We have joy in the salvation that He gives! We celebrate because He renews a right spirit within us through that which is “old” and “new”—His Word, the Word in the flesh, Jesus! As we continue our journey, we look forward to that time when all things

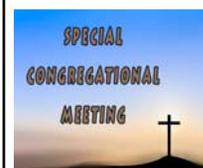
are consummated, when we will see with our eyes the “new Jerusalem” and in the resurrection see that marvelous Heaven given to us in the gracious mercy of our triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

“I am making everything new!” That Word breathes new life into us. We can rejoice as we are turned from looking inside ourselves and from thinking that we can somehow do something that will last forever. That has been done already in Jesus! He makes all things new! As you receive His Word and blessing through your ears and in your mouths, you are made over, restored, redeemed—not just for a few years, but for all eternity. Everything is being made new, and everything will be new when Jesus comes to end all suffering and sadness! Our eyes are fixed on Jesus, where true joys are found.

Made New in Jesus,
Pastor Riley



The Annual Party at the Parsonage at 125 Glenwood Drive will be Sunday afternoon, August 4 following worship. It will be a “come and go” event. You are invited to bring your favorite potluck dish to share in the fun and fellowship. There will be a sign up sheet on the round table of the foyer. If you have any questions, please see Vicki Riley.



SPECIAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Security Meeting July 7th

Please join us on Sunday, July 7th, after the morning worship service to discuss the prepared quotes received for the installation of an alarm/intrusion system in the church.

Restoration Project:

Update... We're not done yet.

We thought we were all set with the repairs, but then noticed that a few floor tiles had "lifted up" outside of the fellowship hall. ACE and the flooring contractor began to investigate and found that not only were there tiles that had lifted up outside the fellowship hall, but down the hallway as well.

Further repairs will mean an inconvenience but at NO COST to the church. Per conversations with ACE, it is clear that we both agree that the church holds NO responsibility for any further expense.

So, the inconvenience for us is remediation work will have to be done. That is removing the new tiles and the old asbestos tiles and installing a new floor.

Again, no additional expense to the church.

When we are all done, we will have new floors to add to our beautiful facility.



Radio Broadcast

If you're away on summer vacation it doesn't mean you need to miss our Worship service. you can still enjoy the service. Just log onto <http://stjohnswestfield.org>; links to the broadcasts and the weekly bulletins are on the main page.

Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN (560 AM). The cost is \$125 per weeks for the program. If you are interested in sponsoring a broadcast (or a part of a broadcast) in memory or in honor of anyone please call the church or sign up on the sheet outside the office door. Donations are welcome.

Additionally, we have posted previous weeks' broadcasts on our website along with the associated bulletin. If anyone would like to be emailed a link of any radio broadcast, please contact Bill Schneeloch 860-604-5264 Thanks to all who support this ministry !



New England Branch

Last month I said "Summer will be here before we know it." And lo and behold... summer has arrived.

Please mark your calendars for the OGT Picnic/Open House on August 24. We will have our typical awesome cookout featuring hamburgers and hot dogs and all the trimmings. Additionally, we will be hosting tours of our warehouse so you can see the process of receiving donations, sorting and categorizing, boxing and warehousing, and maybe staging for our next shipment.

Our next quarterly meeting is also Saturday August 24. All are welcome to attend. If you want to carpool, Bill Schneeloch will be leaving St John's parking lot at 8:30 a.m. for our 10 a.m. meeting at Holy Trinity in Terryville, CT. This is a typical business meeting and should last about an hour or thereabouts.

Your financial support is always needed and appreciated. Checks can be made payable to: Orphan Grain Train, New England Branch. and mailed to OGT-NE c/o LCMS -NED, 400 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01109

Please keep OGT in your prayers.

The **Scholarship Committee** is pleased to announce that Makenzie Culver, Lexi Klinkowski, Jacob Recoulle, Shannon Riley, Emily Sienkiewicz, and Miranda Wozniak will be awarded on July 7th at the beginning of worship. The scholarship amounts were based on church attendance and their participation in church sponsored events and activities according to the scholarship application filled out by each student.



The following have signed up for flowers for the months of July and August:



July 7 – Caba (1)
 July 14– Sienkiewicz (1)
 July 21 & 28 – open
 August 4– Johnson (1)
 August 11- Sienkiewicz (1)
 August 18 - Caba (1)
 August 25 - open

Sign up in the 2019 FLOWER BOOK located on the round table in the church foyer or contact Jane McClure (562-0492). We can do up to three bouquets per Sunday. The cost per bouquet is \$21.00.

WINGS:

The WinGS officers elected are President: Linda Slozak, Vice-President : Erika Slozak, Secretary: Jane McClure, Treasurer :Susan Owen, and Devotional Leaders: Andrea Scully/Diane Jakobowski.



WinGS is proud and happy to be able to support so many mission projects - local, national and world-wide. We raise money to fund these projects through our dinners and tag sale. The contributions placed in the monthly "Mission" envelopes found in our offering boxes will go toward these projects as well. This year's mission Projects will include the Westfield Food Pantry, Price Rite Gift cards, LWML Mites, Hands of Grace, the Bridge, LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces. NED Mission trips: Sienkiewicz & Riley, LCC-Karre 9 Ministries, LCC Comfort Dogs, Gbanga School, Wreaths Across America, Orphan Grain Train, Shriner's Hospital and St. John's Radio Ministry.

We also contribute to Stockings for Soldiers, send Christmas cards to overseas military personnel, and create Chrismons that are used to decorate Christmas trees that are donated to groups in Westfield. Members create prayer shawls, provide Welcome Bags for visitors, and serve at the Community Table.

LET US GO CAROLING FOR A SUMMER SING!!!

**Sunday August 11, 2019
12:00 Noon**

Come and sing your favorite hymns as we visit Westfield's local nursing communities and shut-ins in their homes as we share our Lutheran faith through music! We will meet in the back parking lot of St. John's for 12:00 noon and carpool to Sally Sienkiewicz's house for pizza and lunch. We will then continue sharing rides from place to place. We invite you to join us for this ministry outreach. Your participation means a great deal to the homebound both in our congregation and to those in Westfield!

I empowered
a woman.

 DRESS FOR SUCCESS
Dress. Fit. Inspire.

On Saturday, October 5th, WINGS will be sponsoring "Dress for Success". We will be collecting clean, ironed or dry cleaned business attire for women. The dress for success organization then distributes these clothes to women who are going on job interviews after receiving development tools to thrive in work and in life. Please contact Susan Owen, 413-348-3382, with any questions.

Summer Vacations - Worship With The LCMS!

Many of us will be taking vacations this summer. When we go on vacation there is a lot to consider. Did we take enough clothes with us? Where are we going to stay? What restaurants will we visit? What sites will we see? Where will we worship? We should never take a vacation from worshipping our triune God who has afforded us and our vacation. To find a local LCMS church in your vacation area, be sure to visit locator.lcms.org!



A Hymnal In Every Home

It is amazing how quickly Lutheran hymnals came on the scene almost immediately after the start of the Reformation. And did you know they only contained words — and not the music — until around the turn of the 19th century? Lutherans have been known to carry hymnals with them everywhere. But even though the Lutheran Service Book has been widely accepted and purchased across all LCMS congregations, there's still another way we could return to more traditional Lutheran practice. And that's for everyone to have their own hymnal. It's a great confirmation gift, of course, but good for almost any other occasion as well.

Since the arrival of Lutheran Service Book in August of 2006, over 1,000,000 copies have been sold. Celebrate the overwhelming reception of Lutheran Service Book in our churches by placing a hymnal in your home. Far more than a book for use only on Sunday mornings, the hymnal is full of rites, prayers, hymns, and other resources for use in our daily lives. Read what A Guide for Introducing Lutheran Service Book has to say about the hymnal as prayer book: *"Here one finds words of Holy Scripture and even the Small Catechism, to be sure. But it is in the familiar words of the services and in the rich poetry of the hymns that the hymnal demonstrates its unique contribution to the formation of the faithful. If the Bible is the source of our knowledge about God and his works, and the catechism is the roadmap that guides us to the essentials in God's Word, then the hymnal supplies us with the poetry of the faith. Here the Word of God and its teachings appear as verse wedded to melody, penetrating the heart and delighting the soul. Long before children have learned to read, they have sung. And as the elderly approach their twilight years, the melodies and texts of the church's song are still recalled,*

even if their eyesight has faded and their fingers are no longer nimble enough to turn a page. From cradle to grave, the church's song gives voice to the heartfelt cries and joyful strains of God's children." (page 55)

It is just wonderful that over one million hymnals have been purchased by Lutherans around the country! If you are interested in owning your own copy for your home, talk with Director of Music Jeff Windoloski after Sunday Divine service or email him at jeffrey.windoloski@gmail.com.



Receiving and Giving

There is a phrase that states, "The mind grows by what it takes in—the heart grows by what it gives out." Interestingly, stewardship involves both taking in and giving out. What God gives us, we are to receive graciously and thankfully. Recognizing that the many God-given gifts we receive can be used to further God's kingdom, we give generously (2 Corinthians 9:11). God gives so we can give. Thus, the cycle continues: God gives, we receive, we give, and God replenishes.



Change of
Address

FRIENDLY REMINDER: If you have a change of address, email or phone number (home or cell), please contact the church.



Don't forget to make a stop at the church library before you head off on vacation. There are lots of great books to take along to enjoy while you are laying at the beach or flying in an airplane. You can't go wrong with a good book and some time to relax.

5 Hymns Of Martin Luther For Every Lutheran To Know Dear Christians One and All

Rejoice (LSB 556) – Luther wrote this hymn in 1523, and it was the first hymn he ever wrote for congregational singing. While “A Mighty Fortress” might be the most popular of Luther’s hymns in our day, “Dear Christians One and All Rejoice” might be Luther’s most

important hymn in addition to being his first. It tells the powerful story of man’s wretched state, the Father’s plan to send his Son to die for the sins of the world, and Jesus’ faithful execution of his Father’s will. Salvation was not easy. Indeed, it was the most bitter of all struggles, but because of our Lord Jesus’ work, we are blest forever. The hymn concludes with Jesus promise to send the Holy Spirit and the blessed encouragement that we follow in our Lord’s teaching.

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (LSB 655) – This hymn came along later in Luther’s life, in 1543. It was first entitled “a children’s hymn, to be sung against the two arch-enemies of Christ and His holy Church, the Pope, and the Turk.” In our day, English translations have made this hymn more generic as we sing “curb those who by deceit or sword, when Luther’s original German hymn singled out the threats of the Pope and the Turk. Luther wrote this hymn as a

sober reminder, even to children, that our Lord Jesus and his church have real enemies, enemies from whom we pray our Heavenly Father would protect us. Some of Luther’s hymns may have more complicated melodies, but because this is a children’s hymn, it is simple and easy. It is also a simple three verses, one verse addressed to each member of the Holy Trinity.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (LSB 656) – Undoubtedly “A Mighty Fortress” has been the most popular of Luther’s hymns for a long time, and Christians across all denominational lines have sung it. It is known as the Battle Hymn of the Reformation, although it was first published in 1529, about twelve years after Luther first posted the 95 Theses. Its theme comes from Psalm 46, which Christians have long prayed in the face of disaster. It is a confession of supreme confidence in our God who has won the victory.

From Heaven Above To Earth I Come (LSB 358) – Luther wrote several fantastic Christmas hymns, but it is probably the most familiar to our congregations in the LCMS already. A beautiful story goes along with this hymn. Luther wanted to give his children memorable Christmas celebrations, so he would arrange to have a man show up at his house dressed up as an angel, who sang the first seven verses of the

hymn. Luther’s children in lively fashion would respond by singing the remaining verses. The story of this hymn gives us a peek into Luther’s fatherly heart. More importantly, it teaches us the Christmas story in ways which are doctrinal, devotional, and touching all at the same time. On this sacred and happy festival, Luther’s hymn deserves to be sung in Lutheran congregations and homes.

Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands (LSB 458) – This is Luther’s Easter hymn. On the greatest of all Christian celebrations, unsurprisingly Luther made one of his most outstanding contributions. It may be this hymn has fallen out of use because the melody may not strike us as joyful at first. However, once one has taken the time to learn it, one could describe it as majestic and conquering. Luther pulls no punches when describing the utter enemies of mankind which are sin and death, whose grip touches all. And yet, Jesus did the impossible in rising from the dead. He actually lay in the bands of death, but broke their power forever. His resurrection is so sure and so comforting, that these bitter enemies have lost their sting forever. Therefore we rejoice, basking in the “eternal sunshine” which lights our hearts. A Lutheran celebration of Easter calls for full-throated singing of Luther’s Easter hymn. There is no doubt about it.