



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

**September 2020**

**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-12PM

Sunday Schedule:  
Worship 9AM

James Morgan, Interim Pastor  
Ministers - All People  
Council President – Bruce Nitz  
Administrative Assistant- Amy Semenak  
Accountant - Bonnie Hodge  
Webmaster - Alan Anderson



Find us on Facebook!

Page: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

# Grapevine



**Blessings for Students and  
Teachers  
Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**



**Rally  
SUNDAY**

**Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**



**Bible Presentation for Jenna C.  
Sunday, September 20<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. Please call the church office  
 269-422-1449 for details or to schedule a ride.  
 Don't let anything stop you!  
 Come, share, and celebrate God's love!



***Our Homebound Members:***

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

Chet & Val Nitz  
 3017 Johnson Rd.  
 Lot 88  
 Stevensville, MI 49127

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


Carmen Hora  
 2700 Lake Pine Path, Apt. 104  
 St. Joseph, MI 49085

Ruth Heimbuch  
 15977 W. Clear Lake Road  
 Buchanan, MI 49107

Ken Mattner  
 8821 Cleveland Avenue  
 Baroda, MI 49101

***Memorial Funds***  
 Memorial funds may be designated to:

- Altar/Worship Enhancement Fund
- General Memorial Fund
- Sound for Sanctuary
- Kitchen Improvement Fund
- Parsonage Renovations
- Sandy Spitzke Memorial Fund
- Dorothy Spitzke Memorial Fund
- Phyllis Johnson Memorial Fund



***Our Church Leaders:***

Rev. Elizabeth Eaton  
 Presiding Bishop, ELCA

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

# September Celebrations

- |    |               |    |               |
|----|---------------|----|---------------|
| 9  | Jim Morgan    | 28 | Bobbi Betts   |
| 11 | Lori Davis    | 29 | Austin Barker |
| 13 | Tim Hicks     |    |               |
| 21 | Tyler Cramton |    |               |
| 21 | Chuck Krueger |    |               |
| 24 | Alan Anderson |    |               |
| 27 | Ruth Ehlert   |    |               |



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



- 4 Steve and Joie Nitz  
 11 Keith and Sandy McClintock  
 13 Eric and Kim Perrin  
 29 Chet and Val Nitz

- 2 Ella Barker  
 13 Donna Tober  
 17 Val Nitz  
 23 Jenna Cramton



## dates to Remember

- Sunday, October 25  
 Sunday, November 1  
 Sunday, November 29  
 Thursday, December 24  
 Friday, December 25

- Reformation Sunday  
 All Saints Sunday  
 First Sunday of Advent  
 Christmas Eve  
 Christmas Day

## PASTOR LETTER

### September 2020 - A New Month and New Beginnings

For generations September has marked a time of new beginnings. Labor Day, which was started as a day to recognize the labor union movement and the rights of workers to organize, quickly became a holiday on which people celebrate the end of summer with picnics, trips to the lake or the beach, and so on.

September meant time to go back to school (when that was normal), and to finish up the summer harvest season. Many children had the summer off to work in the fields, farms, and vineyards. By September their days of labor were coming to an end and they were free to return to school.

I don't know if you would call those "the good old days?" Many of our grandparents worked like slaves for no wages on the family farms of America. Labor Day for child laborers meant the end of their season of labor and the relief of being allowed to attend school with their friends again. New clothing was purchased and new books were opened.

September also marks a change in the liturgy of the church. We will have different prayers and readings. This is a good thing. Some of us were getting tired of the same prayer of confession every week and we are ready for a refreshing change.

As long as the virus does not spike in our area and none of our "regulars" come down with COVID-19 we will continue to meet on Sunday for corporate worship. Be aware that should the situation change, we might have to discontinue meeting together for a time. Every Sunday worship time together is a rare blessing. We don't fellowship as much as we would like, but we do get to see each other and pray and receive the sacrament together. If you are fearful of meeting together, we understand and we will support your participation through electronic means and we will continue to mail out materials to help you worship at home and stay in touch.

Soon the leaves will start to change color and fall. The days will be pleasingly warm and the nights will be cool. We will have to turn on the heat in the mornings and the air conditioners will get a rest. Autumn is many people's favorite time of the year. We hope you have enjoyed the summer and that your life is good in spite of the pandemic.

The refrain we say and sing goes: "God is good – All the time. -- And all the time – God is good." May God's goodness enrich your life. We are praying for you and praying for the day when the doors to fellowship are flung open wide and the fresh air of freedom to meet and greet are ours again. Until then, we will keep you in our hearts and minds and memories. Have a wonderful September and may God be with us all.

-Pastor Jim



***Back to traditional office hours—Monday through Thursday 9AM – Noon.  
Starting August 31<sup>st</sup>.***



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

Pastor Jim Morgan – 269-365-0571 or cell 269-779-5358



**Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**



## **Council Chairperson Letter**

When my sister and brothers and I were small children our Mother read bedtime stories to us each evening. One of our favorites was a Golden Book from the “Little Red Hen” series written by Diane Moore titled “Who will help me make the bread”.

In case you are not familiar with the story I will give you the Cliff Notes version. The Little Red Hen story begins by the Hen trying to get some help to work the ground to plant the wheat she intends to make bread with. She goes from friend to friend (barnyard animals) asking each, over and over again to help with the planting, harvesting, grinding, mixing ingredients, kneading and finally the baking of the bread. All the characters in the book seem to have very good explanations and reasons why they are just unable to help because every minute of their day is overfilling with thing’s they must get done...they just simply did not have time to help. In the end, all have said no to Little Red Hen...at least until the bread had cooled and it was time to eat it. Then, all of Little Red Hen’s friends showed up to help. Hidden amongst the colorful pictures of barnyard characters was an important life story about teamwork and helping others and sharing...yes, she shared the bread with everyone.



We are a small congregation, never the less, there are many things to do that require the time and efforts of all. Recently, as St. John's members, Judy and I received a little hand written card from Margie Nitz. A message of hope letting us know that Jesus is always with us and loves us. Margie found a way that she personally could "help make the bread" at St. John's. A small act that was absolutely wonderful and uplifting. Reach out to each other...search your heart...everyone needs your love, and everyone can serve in some way.

Bruce Nitz

Council Chairperson



We had a great turnout for the August 11<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive. 14 donors were able to give blood. Thank you for helping to save a life by donating! Next blood drive will be December 1<sup>st</sup>.



### Meals on Wheels – Toiletry Drive

Thank you to all who donated to the August toiletry drive for United Way/Meals on Wheels of Southwest Michigan!!



**Bible Presentation for Jenna C.  
Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**



Council would like to ask YOU - Would you watch/stream the live worship services on your computer Sunday mornings if we had it? Talk to a council member and let them know your thoughts.



**CARDIO DRUMMING**  
**Monday & Wednesday Evenings at 5:30PM**  
**St. John's Parking Lot**



**COVID-19 Relief Assistance** is a joint effort between the Synod, St. John's Lutheran, Saron Lutheran, and Interfaith Action. Interfaith Action identified the faith based Latino service organizations and served as the liaison between them and the ELCA community. Thank you Interfaith Action!!



### **Climate Reality Leadership Corp- REGISTRATION**

Fresh off their first-ever virtual training, the Climate Reality Project team is hosting their second-ever virtual Climate Reality Leadership Corps training from August 28–September 3 and are inviting you to join!

**The free event will take place virtually and feature one-to-four hours of live, on-demand, and interactive programming each day between August 28–September 3.**

The training will offer climate activists like you the know-how and network to face this critical moment, mobilize your communities for action, and accelerate a just transition to clean energy that helps halt rising temperatures and create a fair and healthy future for all.

Although not everyone will be accepted into the program, attendees who complete the training requirements will join our powerful network of over 21,000 Climate Reality Leaders in more than 150 countries around the world.

To get more information and to register, check out the [Climate Reality Leadership Corps website](#).

### **Voter Registration- Tips and Webinar**

Interfaith Action invites communities of faith to *celebrate freedom* and be intentional about advancing voter registration. Encourage everyone to register to vote and then let's all VOTE! (By mail or in person)

Consider sharing this with your faith community:  
HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

1. Check to see if you're registered to vote in the State of Michigan: <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us>
2. You can then register online, see when/where your next election takes place, and even request an absentee ballot.
3. If you'd like additional information or do not have a computer, please contact your local county clerk or reach out to Interfaith Action.
4. More information and FAQs on the SOS website: [https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633\\_8716\\_8728-21037--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8716_8728-21037--,00.html)

### **Migrants and Migration:**

#### **Save the Date - Get the Book**

On September 15th at 6pm Interfaith Action of SW Michigan will host a community discussion via Zoom on Valeria Luiselli's book "Tell Me How It Ends". The book discussion is part of the organization's six month series on migration.



To participate in the discussion, individuals can join by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84674400285?pwd=U0VNZ1VRVUc5R05UWFRaYzBkN2VpUT09>

Meeting ID: 846 7440 0285

Passcode: 745070

The book “Tell Me How It Ends” is available through local county libraries and is the winner of a 2018 American Book Award and was a Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism. The book is structured around the forty questions Luiselli asks undocumented Latin American children facing deportation. *Tell Me How It Ends* humanizes these young migrants and highlights the contradiction between the idea of America as a fiction for immigrants and the reality of racism and fear—both here and back home.

National Public Radio (NPR) reviews the book this way: “These days, the whole world, including our politics, is being shaped by migration. Few people explore the nuances of this reality more skillfully than Valeria Luiselli, a strikingly gifted 33-year-old Mexican writer who knows the migratory experience first-hand. . . . Luiselli takes us inside the grand dream of migration, offering the valuable reminder that exceedingly few immigrants abandon their past and brave death to come to America for dark or nasty reasons. They come as an expression of hope.”

The book discussion will be led by Tatiana Reinoza, a resident of Stevensville. She is an assistant professor of Latinx art in the Department of Art, Art History & Design at the University of Notre Dame. She specializes in the history of printmaking in Latinx communities in the United States with an emphasis on the themes of immigration, race, and histories of colonialism. Her own journey as an immigrant from El Salvador and interdisciplinary training in the fields of ethnic studies and art history have shaped her intellectual formation.

Reinoza earned her PhD at the University of Texas at Austin, and subsequently joined the Society of Fellows at Dartmouth College for a postdoctoral fellowship prior to joining the faculty at Notre Dame. Professor Reinoza is a member of the Board of Directors of Interfaith Action and is active in the No Longer a Stranger Working Group of Interfaith Action.

September - Program 3: Has the US Worn Out Its Welcome? - What do we need to know going into the November election

October - Program 4: Migrants - Our Neighbors

Session a. Book Discussion: *Tell Me How It Ends* by Valeria Luiselli. Led by Tatiana Reinoza, Associate Professor, Notre Dame University

Session b. Harvest Home Interfaith Service

November - Program 5: Syria - A Global Case Study

Session a. Book Discussion: *We Crossed a Bridge and It Trembled: Voices from Syria* by Wendy Pearlman.

Session b. Discussion with Shadi Martini, Executive Director, Multifaith Alliance for Syria

January 2021 - Program 6: Refugee Festivals of Faith: Epiphany, Passover, Hijra

March 2021 - Program 7: Climate Migrants

### **General Meeting- September 8th at 6pm**

Our next General Meeting will take place via Zoom on Tuesday, September 8th at 6pm. The general meetings are open to all members of Interfaith Action and anyone interested in learning more about Interfaith. Login information is below:

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89252705461?pwd=eElSbjhmdlVVCzdaK0R2YU1McUdqQT09>

**Meeting ID (if needed):** 892 5270 5461

**Passcode (if needed):** 507666

**Dial by your location:**

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

**Find your local number:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89252705461?pwd=eElSbjhmdlVVCzdaK0R2YU1McUdqQT09>

**Upcoming Working Group "Virtual" Meetings**

Throughout this season, we're continuing to meet with our working groups virtually through Zoom:

**Green Faith:** Tuesday, September 1st at 4:30pm

**Keep the Peace:** Tuesday, August 18th at 6pm

**Dignity of All:** Tuesday, October 13th at 6:30pm

**No Longer a Stranger:** Wednesday, August 19th at 6pm

**Green Faith Resource List- "What We're Reading"**

The Green Faith working group is keeping an updated list of books, articles, and videos that they have been exploring-- communally and individually-- around the various topics concerning Green Faith. This week:

- **Animal Gospel- [Book](#)**- Our treatment of animals is a gospel issue, author Andrew Linzey contends, because those individuals and institutions that could have become the voice of God's most vulnerable creatures have instead justified cruelty and oppression.
- **For the Beauty of the Earth- [Book](#)**- This award winning book provides the most thorough evangelical treatment available on a theology of creation care. "Authentic Christian faith requires ecological obedience," writes author Steven Bouma Prediger. He urges Christians to acknowledge their responsibility and privilege as stewards of the earth.



**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](http://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.