

JULY 2011 St. John's United Church

THE JOURNAL



Dear Friends,

As you know, the Lilly Foundation awarded St. John's a grant for the 2010 National Clergy Renewal Program, for which we thank God! In partial fulfillment of this grant, from May 13-August 13, 2011, Pastor Katie Lindberg is on sabbatical.

In the fall of 2010, when Katie asked me to lead worship and provide pastoral care during her absence, I was teaching elementary school full-time, which I do during the school year. I certainly hadn't been seeking a second job. Also, with two growing daughters and now a move to our new farm, my husband Kurt and I have already had more than enough activity to occupy our time.

And yet, I knew that God was calling me to say yes to helping Katie and St. John's. I didn't know how I was going to complete the school year and assume responsibilities at church simultaneously. But all of us involved in this transition trusted that God would make the way clear. And God has indeed provided grace in abundance.

Your worship attendance, your prayerful openness, your warm reception, your gracious words, your kind notes, your generous volunteering, your gifted labor, your faithful work: All that you bring to St. John's has made this ministry a blessing to me. I knew that I loved this church. However, standing face-to-face each week now with you—you who are the reasons why I love this church—is surprisingly holy and gratifyingly real.

You may not currently be trying to relocate farm animals—you have your own obligations that fill your schedule. Our reasons vary, but we all have reasons why committing to serving Christ's church is a challenge. We all have other things to do—a lot of other things. But I can tell you something from personal experience. Saying yes to helping the ministry of St. John's—whether on a board, on a committee, with a special project, with an opportunity to give, with an opening among our children—whatever the place of need, is a greater, unexpected blessing than you might ever anticipate. I'm so excited for what the Holy Spirit has in store for you next, in this body of Christ. I never knew what joy awaited me.

In Christ,

Jessica

St. John's Events:

Note: June 19th begins the summer worship time at 9:30 am.

Rev. Jessica Young Brust

As you know Jessica is leading the congregation in worship in place of Katie during her leave. She is available for pastoral care and will hold office hours on Tuesdays, during regular office hours.

Emails: jbrust@lpcsc.k12.in.us

Youngbrusts@csinet.net

Cell: 219-851-0160

Read this!

A Miracle in Progress, by our own Ann Howard,

tells the story of *Duneland Resale: Faith in Action*.

It's "A celebration of the miraculous journey of Duneland Resale and accounts of miracles witnessed at Resale and beyond."

If you have not yet read this treasure, do yourself a favor and get a copy.

Or give it as a gift, for someone else who needs a miracle in progress!

All proceeds from the sale of this book benefit Duneland Resale.

Contact Ann Howard at 929-4458 or

ahowie29@msn.com.

—Jessica Young Brust



Hey Youth Group!

If you have any questions feel free to contact
Brandon Long (219) 983-2866
Brandon.long18@gmail.com

Thanks for making our first Mission Trip together
a great one!
-Brandon



Hey Youth Group!

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship 10:30am	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Worship 10:30am	11	12	13	14	15	16 Beach Day!
17 Worship 10:30am	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Worship 10:30am	25	26	27	28	29 Camping	30
31						

St. John's United Church
225 W. Lincoln Ave.
Chesterton, IN 46304
<http://www.sjchurch.org>
Office: (219) 926-1476
Pastor Katie Lindberg

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
2050 W. 1100 N.
Chesterton, IN 46304
<http://blchesterton.org>
(219) 926-5596
Pastor Jane Aicher

Brandon Long-Youth Leader

Phone: (219) 983-2866

Brandon.long18@gmail.com

WELCOME

Council update.....

Over the past 9 months, the council has been discussing and praying about the best ways to improve our Children and Youth ministries. Our saving grace this past year was Michele Beck's generosity -- though her term as elder had expired, she continued to serve as de facto head of the Christian education committee. Christian education is important to this congregation -- that fact is verified every time we do a study or take a poll. We value Christian education; we love supporting mission trips and summer camp experiences. We encourage children to grow in their faith and don't we love it when they stand in front of us and testify to Jesus Christ working in their lives.

In March of this year, Pastor Katie approached the personnel committee with a recommendation. Katie offered to reduce her work schedule from 5 days to 4 days and to use the money saved to create a part time position focused on children and youth ministry, as well as helping develop and implement a second weekly worship experience geared toward young adults -- what is referred to as an "emergent worship service".

At first, the council was concerned about having a "part time" pastor. Through discussion and prayer, we came to see the benefits for the congregation, for our young members, and for Katie herself. Katie does not work a 40 hour week, she works a 60-70 hour week, sometimes more. It is demanding, both physically and mentally. That is why pastors are afforded sabbaticals. The council came to realize that Katie's request would allow her to have a healthier balance of work and home life, and that the savings in salary could fund a 20 hour/week position dedicated to CYM and the emergent worship service. This is a resource that Katie could work with and provide direction for, and it would double the number of hours dedicated to CYM. There would be no impact on the budget.

The blessing for SJUC is that we knew of a young man who fit the job description -- Brandon Long. Some of you know him as that nice young man who works in the church office, and others remember him from the vocal group, Sweetwine, who have worshiped with us often. Brandon is a recent graduate of Valparaiso University, and member of our community. He is an accomplished musician and has been involved in music ministry for over 4 years. He has planned and led youth oriented worship, and as a volunteer, he has led mission activities including this year's senior high school mission trip. For the past 10 months, he has served as a volunteer adult leader for our sr high youth group. Once his wife completes her master's degree, he hopes to attend Seminary School in preparation for a life in the ministry.

Brandon has basically been interviewing for this job for the past 6 months. He is currently and will remain our Church Office Administrator. On July 1, however, Brandon will become a full-time member of the SJUC staff with the addition of responsibilities as a coordinator of Youth ministries and the emergent worship. He will not be in charge of Christian Education -- that is the responsibility of the council, but he will be a wonderful resource to both the pastor and to the chair of the Children and Youth Ministry committee. Brandon has ideas and energy and a profound sense of serving others, and the council believes that he will provide a positive and lasting influence on our children and youth.

When you get a chance, please personally welcome Brandon. If you have questions about any of these things, please connect with Alan Sommers or Tim Pell.



St. John's UNITED Church

July 2011 Journal




United Church of Christ and
Presbyterian Church (USA)

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SUNDAYS AT ST. JOHN'S
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
(child care provided)
OFFICE HOURS
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Dean Hultman	7/6	George Cairns	7/24
Eric Noe	7/7	Barbara Beck	7/25
Chuck Grant	7/7	Frank Howard	7/27
Matthew Gapinski	7/9	Hayley Marciniak	7/28
Mike Sommers	7/10	Diane Noe	7/28
Tara Teeple	7/13	Nancy Ruffing	7/29
Kelly O'Brien	7/18	Sam Kravitz	7/30
David Yoder	7/18		



Under Construction!

The new kitchen area is marked off as well as the outlines for the set up. The bathrooms are also coming along as the concrete has been poured for the floors.