


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<h1>February 2012</h1>							
<b>5</b> 10 am Worship 'Radical Hospitality' 11:15 am Coffee Hour 12:00 Confirmation	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Quilting 6:00 pm Dance 8:00 pm Volleyball	<b>7</b> 9:30 am Library	<b>8</b> 9:30 am Property Mtg 4:00 pm Bell Choir	<b>9</b> 7 am Men's Group 1:30 pm Worship Mtg 7:30 pm Choir OOTC	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	
<b>12</b> 10 am Worship 'Passionate Worship' 11:45 am Pot Luck Lunch 12:00 Confirmation	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Quilting 6:00 pm Dance 7 pm Council Exec. 8:00 pm Volleyball	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day 9:30 am Library 9:30 am Property Mtg	<b>15</b> 10 am ELW Exec Mtg 12:30 60 + Dinner 4:00 pm Bell Choir	<b>16</b> 7:00 am Men's Group 7:30 pm Choir OOTC	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <u>Council Members' Retreat</u> 11—2:30 pm Estonian Church (Chapel & Parlour)	
<b>19</b> 10 am Worship 'Intentional Faith-Development' 11:15 am Coffee Hour 12:00 Confirmation 3 pm - 175th Anniversary Hymns through History	<b>20</b> Family Day Office Closed 6:00 pm Dance 7 pm Council Mtg 8:00 pm Volleyball	<b>21</b> 9 am Quilting 9:00 am WLS Women's Auxiliary Mtg (Bd Rm) 9:30 am Library 4:00 pm Bell Choir	<b>22</b> Ash Wednesday 5:00 pm Lent Supper 6:30 pm Worship	<b>23</b> 7:00 am Men's Group 7:30 pm Choir OOTC	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	
<b>26</b> Annual Meeting 9:00 am Meeting 11 am Worship 'A Ministry of Music' with Cedric Abday 12:00 Congregation Dinner 12:00 Confirmation	<b>27</b> 9:00 am Quilting 6:00 pm Dance 8:00 pm Volleyball	<b>28</b> 9:30 am Library 10:00 am Luther Village Communion 4:00 pm Bell Choir	<b>29</b> (Leap Year) 5:00 pm Lent Supper 6:30 pm Worship	<b>St. John's Lutheran Church Waterloo 519-886-1880</b>			



# The Messenger

St. John's Lutheran Church  
22 Willow Street  
Waterloo, Ontario N2J 1V5

February 2012

## Don't Miss Our New Series, 'Six Sundays of Seeking'

We want to take Jesus at his word in our next worship series. He urges his followers always to be looking, seeking, asking, knocking ---- and our plan is to do just that. Thus, 'Six Sundays of Seeking'.

For the rest of Epiphany and for the first part of Lent we will be devoting ourselves to looking for ways to be faithful and fruitful as a congregation. This fits the Epiphany wise men seeking to find and worship the Christ child. And Lent is traditionally a time of thoughtfulness and soul searching.

Churches are expressions of the Body of Christ. We are one of the means through which God reaches people with the gift and responsibility of God's grace. God changes lives through congregations. As people are welcomed and included in the fellowship of a Christian community they become an energetic, expectant part of those whose lives are touched by God in inspired worship. This leads people to seek to enjoy learning together and growing in faith, becoming more Christ-like in the process. This in turn produces a desire to find ways to reach out in adventuresome love and understanding to serve others in works of mission and service. Beneath this is a huge sense of gratitude that overflows in generosity of offering our full selves to Christ's work

through our church.

Because God changes lives through congregations, this places upon pastors, congregational leaders and church members an awesome and joyful responsibility.

"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

John 15:8

It is our place to be cultivating strength, health, clarity of purpose and faithfulness in practice so that

the mission of Christ thrives.

We have recently been inspired by Bishop Robert Schnase, from the United Methodist Church, Missouri. Several of us met and heard his inspiring words on congregational fruitfulness. We will be making use of his wise, practical churchmanship called, '*Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations.*'

The "Six Sundays of Seeking" will focus on practices. These are the basic things churches do that need to be done with excellence, beyond the normal or ordinary, offering God our best and utmost. Hockey is a good example. Kids barely able to skate practice. They practice passing the puck, shooting and skating forwards and backwards. They do this all the time. When a few get to be professionals and are paid millions of dollars to play hockey, what do they do? They practice; passing, shooting, skating.

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## Church Staff

- Barry Boeckner  
*Intentional Interim Pastor*
- Becky Klages  
*Interim Pastor*
- Don Nevile  
*Visitation Pastor*
- Cedric Abday  
*Music Director*
- Don Heimpel  
*Office Administrator*
- Karen Oprel  
*Office Secretary*
- Konrad Ciesielski  
*Custodian*

## Ask Seek Knock (Luke 11: 9—10)

*Continued ...*

There are practices that we must return to doing in the best way possible, to the highest degree we can.

When God completed creation, he did not look at it and say, "Good enough!" He pronounced it **very good!**

The exemplary and repeated practices of: *Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith-Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity* are the time-tested, theologically sound, and effective ways congregations use to fulfill their mission with excellence and fruitfulness to the glory of God. As Schnase notes, "These practices stir the church to unexpected renewal and expanded vision, just as they have for centuries. Congregations are called to change the world, not just keep their doors open."

We believe God works through congregations to transform lives. We will be inspired by this in worship over six special Sundays. And we will be putting this into practice as we invite all members to become part of the mission teams that we intend to develop.

The following are the presentation dates.  
See you on Sunday!

- February 5th *Radical Hospitality*
- February 12th *Passionate Worship*
- February 19th *Intentional Faith-Development*
- February 26th *A Ministry of Music, Cedric Abday*
- March 4th *Risk-Taking Mission and Service*
- March 11th *Extravagant Generosity*
- March 18th *Fruitfulness*

## Celebrating 175 Years of Ministry at St. John's



### 1st Quarter 2012 Anniversary Activities

**"Hymns Through History"** will kick off **St. John's 175th Anniversary Celebrations**

Circle **Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.** on your calendars! That's the date of the first event in our anniversary year here at St. John's. The event is entitled "**Hymns Through History**" and will represent a journey through Christian hymnody from its earliest beginnings to the present time. An enlarged choir will lead the singing accompanied by organ and brass quintet. Throughout our journey Rev. Dr. Don Nevile will add historical context as narrator. The congregation will have ample opportunity to join in the singing! This promises to be an exciting event. Plan to be there.

**The Choirs' CD Release** - In 2010 many of your favourite anthems performed by our choirs, and organ pieces performed by Cedric were professionally recorded. These recordings have been produced in a CD to be released for purchase on Sunday February 19th, just in time for the Hymns through History event. Proceeds will go to our Guyana Mission Project. Cost \$20.



## News & Coming Events

**Annual Meeting**  
Sunday February 26th beginning at 9:00 a.m.  
in the Fellowship Hall

**Hymns Through History**  
Sunday, February 19th, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.  
With Cedric Abday and an expanded sanctuary choir, brass quintet, organ, narrator, AND YOU!  
Don't Miss It!

**MUSIC DIRECTOR RESIGNS**  
Early in January, Music Director Cedric Abday announced his resignation from St. John's as of May 1st, 2012.  
  
This season marks Cedric's tenth year as Music Director at St. John's, and he feels it is time to move on. Cedric has plans to continue studies in organ performance in Montreal and in Edmonton.  
  
Cedric will be giving a **farewell organ recital** at St. John's on **Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.** The recital will feature works by J. S. Bach (of course!), Carl Phillip Emmanuel Bach (one of Bach's sons), Mozart, Reger, and Franck. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall after the event. Do plan to attend what promises to be a memorable event.

 **Congratulations!**  
**Bill & Olena Lautenschlager**  
on the 60th anniversary  
of your marriage  
February 23rd, 1952

**FIVE PRACTICES OF FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS**

- February 5th *Radical Hospitality*
- February 12th *Passionate Worship*
- February 19th *Intentional Faith-Development*
- February 26th *A Ministry of Music, Cedric Abday*
- March 4th *Risk-Taking Mission and Service*
- March 11th *Extravagant Generosity*
- March 18th *Fruitfulness*

**February Pot Luck Meal!**  
Join your fellow St. John's members for a **FEBRUARY JUST FOR THE FUN & FELLOWSHIP pot luck meal on February 12, 2012**  
  
Bring food to share  
Bring your own dishes & cutlery  
Wear something red  
Bring 'red' juice or food for OOTC  
  
Plan now for the February 12th pot luck immediately following morning worship



**"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."**  
John 15:8

## A Call to Spiritual Renewal

In the months of November and December we began looking at Bishop Susan's "Call to Spiritual Renewal" for the church. This study takes seven different verbs (*Pray, Read, Worship, Study, Serve, Give, Tell*) and uses them to help us grow spiritually. We started with *Pray* and *Read* and now we're on the third one *Worship*. Remember to check off the ideas you already do in your spiritual practices and then go through the list again and choose ones you would like to try. Try them out and then add the one or two you enjoyed to what you already do. And remember to keep this sheet with the other ones so that you can revisit them when the Spirit calls you to grow again. May the Spirit continue to guide you!

### Worship

We are called to regular attendance at public and communal worship. Consider ways that you can increase your participation in a regular worship; the following are a few ideas to get you started.

- Commit to attending worship at least once a month. More often if possible!
- Deepen your participation—sing in the choir, pre-read the lessons, assist as a reader or with communion, greeting, or the offering. You can also get involved by participating on your congregation's worship committee.
- Add a mid-week service to your regular pattern of worship.
- Attend another church to experience the breadth of Christian worship.
- Attend a global music workshop to experience new ways to praise God.
- Attend a local Taizé service.
- Attend a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service. ([councilofchurches.ca/en/Our\\_Faith/week-ofprayer.cfm](http://councilofchurches.ca/en/Our_Faith/week-ofprayer.cfm))

- Attend a World Day of Prayer Service. ([wicc.org/programsevents/index.html](http://wicc.org/programsevents/index.html))
- Attend a Remembrance Day service.
- Attend a vigil service for justice or peace (i.e. Dec. 6 memorial, peacewalk).
- Attend Lenten services.
- Ask yourself what it is that you enjoy most about worship.
- Ask your family, friends, community what they enjoyed most about a worship service you all attended together.
- Talk with family or friends over coffee or lunch following worship about what you felt, learned, sensed, missed, shared in worship.



- Read the descriptions in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* about why we worship as we do, what it means, including the introduction, pages 6–9, The Church Year and Calendar, pages 13–15.
- Ponder why people go to church. ([elcic.ca/Witness/Why-People-Go-To-Church/default.cfm](http://elcic.ca/Witness/Why-People-Go-To-Church/default.cfm))
- Work with others to enhance some aspect of worship in your congregation: visual art and expression, movement, children's experiences, other sensory expressions.
- Find an opportunity for interfaith worship.
- Check out the worship suggestions on the Eastern Synod's website. ([easternsynod.org/ministries/worship/](http://easternsynod.org/ministries/worship/))

Peace.

*Pastor Becky*

## From Pastor Barry

Dear Members and Friends of St. John's:

It was a hard thing for me to do. The setting was a lovely day in the summer, on a river canoe trip with the Youth Group. We had made early camp and were enjoying the sun, the bush, the tent site all to ourselves. All was perfect, for a while.

I had gone for a brief walk in the woods, for the peace and quiet. No more than 50 yards, and I was lost. Turned around in dense bush just enough to realize I didn't know how to get back to camp. To keep walking in hopes of finding my way back would only get me more lost. So I had to do it.

I knew the youth were within earshot. So I said, "Hey, guys, do you have supper under control." A brief pause before the reply, "So, you're lost, Pastor Barry." I could tell where to go now, but they had me. And it had taken an internal wrestling match of several minutes for me to admit the truth, and to ask for help.

You have probably had similar experiences, in various circumstances. "Lost" can take on many human forms. Losing a job, a loved one, a favorite activity, a favorite place, a favorite ritual, an image of yourself. Human life can probably be summed up, as one author Edith Viorst has, in the title "*Necessary Losses*".

Thank God for Jesus. Who did not hesitate to ask for help, to seek and to knock. Mark's gospel (1:35) tells us, "*In the morning, while it was still very dark, he (Jesus) got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.*"

Lent is one of my favorite seasons of the Church Year as it brings us to the place of asking for help in times of difficulty and distress. I look forward to our evening worship on Wednesday during the weeks of Lent. We can pause and do what it is often very hard for us fortu-

nate, independent human beings. To admit that we

need help, and that need to ask for and accept it. It is far easier and more usual when faced with a barrier or difficulty to do the human thing: keep trying the same way; try harder; try different; try another way. But always the constant is "us", "me", "myself", "I". We are always trying to help ourselves. Jesus always turned to God for solace and direction.

Why do we take so long to find safety and direction in the greatest truth of human life? **We are not alone!** God will provide!

Jesus reminds his followers, including us, of how to live life fully, deeply, abundantly: "*So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.*"

I remind you of this on a personal, pastoral level. Whatever our trials in life, we always have God to call upon and to speak with. He is our constant source of strength and hope.

I am also aware of speaking as an Intentional Interim Pastor to a community of faith. Despite my reluctance, it needs to be said: things at St. John's are not as they appear to be. Some of you already know that; the rest of you will likely know that sooner or later.

Let us always turn to the source of our help and our salvation. Knock, and doors will open. Ask the questions and you will find direction. Seek and you will find God was already there, always looking for you to find him. We may end up making choices and taking steps that are not easy for us. But we will always be doing them in the company of Jesus' followers and in the presence of God, our rock and our salvation.

My prayers are for you personally and for you as a community of faith. May your Lent be faithful and your future hopeful!

*Pastor Barry*

## From Council's Table

### To All Members and Adherents of St. John's



At their recent meeting, Church Council dealt with a number of items they especially want to bring to your attention.

**The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall** to facilitate the Council's presentation. There will need to be 5 or 6 new members added to Church Council to fill its membership and carry out its work. We have one nomination already, but more are needed.

We also have a good news item to bring to your attention. We are getting a head start on this year's ministry. Pastor Barry reported the generosity of an anonymous member who is willing to put forward a gift of \$1000 if 6 other members will also put forward a special gift of \$500 for the work of St. John's. This is like the matching arrangement we often have with the Canadian government when we make offerings to Canadian Lutheran World Relief for a specific relief effort, and the government matches our generosity. Council is looking for 6 more anonymous individuals, to each give a special offering of \$500. So far, we already have 3 of these people so we are looking for at least 3 more. That will mean a total worthy head start of \$4000. People who wish to take part, please contact Pastor Becky or Pastor Barry or Anne Marie Michaels and, as usual, confidentiality will be respected. †

## Church Library

**Steadfast in Your Word**  
*Reflections from Martin Luther*  
(242.2 OWE)

*These 130 selections address contemporary spiritual concerns: knowing God, finding faith, praying, hearing God, living the Christian faith. They are both a consolation and inspiration to a new generation of readers.*

As you know, our Director of Music, Cedric Abday has resigned and will serve till April 30. Arrangements have been made for supply beyond that point. Arrangements are already made with Mr. Chris Bramble, whom you know and have worked with in previous supply situations. Also, Mr. David Knarr will supply those days when Chris cannot. Pastor Barry has previously worked with David, a very capable and willing musician. We are glad to have worship well provided for in the near future. Council will be using this breathing space to examine what our musical needs are and how best to fill these needs, with what kind of employee(s).

Council has arranged for a proper celebration with Cedric. As well as the customary exit interview, we are pleased to announce that after worship on April 29 there will be an opportunity to say personal goodbyes over coffee. As well, later that afternoon Cedric will give a farewell recital, followed by refreshments. We believe both these times will give people a chance to say "fare well" to a much appreciated member of St. John's ministry team. There will also be an opportunity for all members to participate in an appreciation gift for Cedric.

Plans are being made for the Annual Congregational Meeting, complete with all reports. There will also be a special Power Point report from Council's February 18 Retreat. There are no motions or recommendations as such but there will be important information bearing on the future of the congregation.

## From Pastor Becky

### Love

February is the month of "Luv" in the secular world as evidenced by all the red and pink stuff in the stores these days. But for us, our lives are, or at least should be built around love: the love of God, the love of Jesus, the love of the Holy Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a St. Paul writes about God's love:

*"Love is patient; love is kind;  
love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.  
It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;  
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.  
It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,  
endures all things.  
Love never ends."*

Those are the ideal characteristics of love. But it's difficult, actually impossible, for us to fully live them out

every day and in every way. It's good to strive for them but when we fail we need the humility to say I'm sorry and ask for forgiveness especially when we hurt someone else. No fully human being is perfect, we are merely made in God's image and an image is just a facsimile of the original. Have you ever looked at a faxed document? It's never as clear as the original. We are like that too, a smudged carbon copy, but (most of the time) we still get the same message across, it's just messier. Sin makes our lives and our love messier, but thankfully Jesus ultimately erases our mistakes and messes, and forgives us because of his love for us. Thanks be to God in Christ Jesus for his endless forgiving love! Amen.

May the love and peace of Christ fill you now and every day of your life.

**Pastor Becky**

## Foyer Cabinet Display

The suggestion was made quite some time ago to put on display in the foyer cabinets crafts made by members of the congregation, to highlight the various gifts of our members. Late last year I was asked if I would be willing to put such a display together. I drew on work done by members of my family and friends and tried to show a variety of needlework, including crewel work, embroidery, needlepoint, cross-stitch on material and on plastic canvas, and crocheting. Much of the work on

display is by people who are no longer with us, and the oldest pieces, by my grandmother and another extended family member, are over 6 years old. However, they live on in our memories and also in this work which they left behind for us to enjoy. If you are interested in putting together a similar display, please speak to Marion Tannassee.



**Anne Marie Michels**

## Lent Suppers & Food for the Soul

Starting with Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012, St. John's will again be offering a soup dinner at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays during Lent. Mid-week Lenten Worship will take place at 6:30 p.m. following the dinner. **Cedric Abday**