



Pastor – Jon Bielfeldt  
409 South Main  
P.O. Box 265  
Thrall, TX 76578  
512-898-2136

## **Happy Birthday July**

7/01 – DOUG MOEHNKE	7/20 – SETH CAGE
7/01 – JOSEPH BYRD	7/22 – ARCHIE ABRAMEIT
7/02 – CINDY BECKERMANN	7/23 – KELLI MEYER
7/04 – MARCELLA JOHNSON	7/25 – KEEGAN GROSS
7/04 – LAUREN MIKULENCAK	7/25 – DANA DRUMMOND
7/04 – DONALD PICK	7/26 – ELAINE BROWN
7/06 – HEATHER RICHTER	7/27 – DESIREE DRUMMOND
7/08 – KRISTEN WEIGELT	7/30 – WENDIE BREES
7/11 – RUSSELL PUTNAM	7/31 – BRANDON BECKERMANN
7/16 – ELIZABETH ALDERETE	

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY- JULY**

**7/12 – BOBBY & SUSAN PICK**  
**7/18 – NORMAN & MARCELLA JOHNSON**  
**7/19 – SCOTT & BRIANNA MARTINDALE**  
**7/29 – JOHN & KERRI HILLMAN**  
**7/30 – RUSSEL & TAMMI RICHTER**



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## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

June 10, 2013

### Old Business:

1. **Approved cost to repair sewer system.**
2. **Fix or replace old compressor behind the church.**

### New Business:

1. **James Preece was present to discuss the church investments with the council**
2. **Discuss confirmation requirements for future classes**
3. **The council designated Barbara Putnam and Pastor Jon as voting rep. to the LCMC gathering in New Braunfels on August 1 & 2**

### FINANCIAL REPORT FOR May, 2013

Balance/Forward	\$ 5,144.70	Disbursements:	\$ 6,505.44
Income	7,519.69	Bldg. Exp	1117.13
Total Income	<b>\$12,664.39</b>	Total Disb.	<b>\$ 7,622.57</b>

<b>Balance in City National Checking Acct.:</b>	<b>\$ 5,041.82</b>
<b>Thrivent Investments</b>	<b><u>24,494.79</u></b>
<b>Total in all Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 29,536.61</b>

**SAVE THE FOLLOWING FOR OUR CHURCH:** Sirloin Stockade receipts (must submit the cash register receipts, they can not accept photo copies or credit card receipts); canceled postage stamps; box tops for Education from General Mills; Campbell soup labels; and ink cartridges. Also Aluminum cans!

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## THANK YOU

Thanks to **Janet Herzer** for taking the food items to Shepherd's Heart in Taylor. Canned goods may be brought on Communion Sundays (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)

Thanks to **Lucille Rosenthal, and Alice Finn**, for helping in the office.

Thanks to **Doug & Joy Moehnke** for providing the treats for the children sermons and to **Doug** for mowing and keeping the lawn neat.

Thanks to **Chad Richter and Dalton** for watering the outdoor plants, keeping the flower beds clean and clipping the rose bushes.

Thanks to all who provided food and money for VBS.

**Thanks to the ones** who help set up tables & chairs for special events.

Thanks to **Josephine & Antonio Castro** who put out the garbage each week.

Thanks to all who provide food for Shepherd's Heart!!!

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## June Memorials

### In Memory of David Krueger Harris

Gay Trahan  
Carlene Schultz  
Oscar & LaRue Raesz  
Richter  
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Braun

### In Memory of Marjorie

Doug & Joy Moehnke  
Nancy Hall  
Russel, Tammi, Trent & Riley  
  
Frances Jirasek  
Mildred Zamorsky  
Vernell Dvorak

### In Memory of Wilbert (Butch) Unnasch    In Memory of Winona Faith

Jimmy & Geraldine Richter

Marjorie Springer

### In Memory of Ernest Stolle

Diana Stolle

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## THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you to everyone at St. John Lutheran for all of your prayers, visits and food. Also thank you to Pastor Jon for participating in the service and allowing us to have the service at St. John. Our family appreciates everything that was done for us in our time of sorrow.

God bless,

The Krueger Family

Marjorie, Mark, Wade,

Allison, Aaron and Austin

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## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

**Project of the women of St. John for 2013 is the Hope Center in Taylor. They are making and donating these blankets for infants and children. Needed are flannel material 1 ¼ yd to 1 ½ yds. Also needed are diapers for infants and small children. Any donations will be appreciated.**

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## THANK YOU NOTE

**Dear St. John Lutheran Church,**

**Thank you for the plaque and cross you gave me for my confirmation. I am excited to begin a new chapter in my Christian life. May God bless you all.**

**Thanks,  
Riley Richter**

**Vacation Bible School** was held from Monday, June 3 through Friday, June 7. Each night we had approximately 40 youngsters ranging from Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. A huge thank you to Linda Richter and her husband Mike for decorating the educational wing for the vacation bible school. Thank you to Cindy Beckermann, Liberty Beckermann, Jim Richter, Mo Hamann, Millie Hamann, and Kim Luton for giving their time to teach the children in our church and community. We would also like to express our thanks to the parents who volunteered their time also. A grateful thank you goes out to all who helped provide the food served to the children and VBS staff.



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## Camp Eagle Report

The youth who attended River's Edge at Camp Eagle from June 10 – 15 will be giving their reports during the youth-led service on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

**2013 Camp Eagle – Headwaters** is almost upon us! The younger youth will be leaving Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup> for Rocksprings. Please keep Sean Kruse, Kirsty Putnam, Kayla Klotz, Kaleb Hamann, Mac Hamann, Dalton Richter, and Katie Richter in your prayers as they travel to and from camp. *Parents of these youth, a letter regarding what to pack and other information will be given to you within the first few weeks of July.*

Please remember that the St. John Youth are on facebook. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for St. John Lutheran Youth, Thrall, Texas. Check out the site for 400+ pictures!

## Capsule Sermons

- ❖ No one can help another without helping himself.
- ❖ Respect yourself, and others will respect you.
- ❖ If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude.
- ❖ Actions speak louder than words, but not nearly as often.

## *Russel & Tammi*

(512) 461 – 7277 Russel  
(512) 352 – 8848 home

(512) 461 – 1776 Tammi  
[stjohnyouth@hotmail.com](mailto:stjohnyouth@hotmail.com)



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## *Pastor Jon*

Some times in my readings and studies I come across writings by other persons who have undertaken to answer a question we may all ask from time to time which may be stated, why does this world seem to be in a state of confusion and disorder? Where is God?

Martin Luther, in one of his many writings, offers his ideas on the matter in an excerpt taken from his commentary on the book of Galatians.

“I am content to allow this too-lengthy commentary to be published in order to stir up all the brothers in Christ revealed and risen. Hitherto, people have seemed to be possessed with devils, but now the devils themselves seem to be possessed with far worse devils—which is a great argument that the enemy of truth and life perceives the day of judgment to be at hand—the horrible day of his destruction, but the day of our redemption; that will be the end of all his tyranny and cruelty. He has reason to be disquieted when his members and powers are so assailed, like a thief or adulterer who, when the morning comes and uncovers his wickedness, is apprehended.

Satan does not rage against the lives and opinions of whoremongers, thieves, murderers, perjurers, rebels against God, and unbelievers. Rather, he gives them peace and quietness; he maintains them in his court, with all sorts of pleasures and delights, and gives them everything they want. In the same way, in the early days of the church, he permitted all the idolatries and false religions of the whole world to be quiet and untouched, and he maintained, defended, and nourished them. It was only the church and religion of Christ that he attacked on every side.

My meditations are published for my brothers, who will either show their thanks to the Lord for my work or else will pardon my weakness and temerity. I would not wish my reflections to be liked or accepted by the wicked, but rather that both they and their god might be more vexed, for I produced these writings (with much labor) only for such as St. Paul wrote this letter to—the troubled, afflicted, vexed, tempted (for only they understand these things)—wretched Galatians in the faith.”

The next article comes from notes that Dietrich Bonhoeffer had written and was latter published in a book entitled “ETHICS” by a friend of his after his execution by the Nazis in 1945 by hanging. He was linked to the group of conspirators whose attempted assassination of Hitler failed.

“The news that God has become man strikes at the very heart of an age in which both the good and the wicked regard either scorn for man or the idolization of man as the highest attainable wisdom. The weaknesses of human nature are displayed more clearly in a time of storm than in the smooth course of more peaceful periods. In the face of totally unexpected threats and opportunities it is fear, desire, irresolution and brutality which reveal themselves as the motives



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for the actions of the overwhelming majority. At such a time as this it is easy for the tyrannical despiser of men to exploit, the baseness of the human heart, nurturing it and calling it by other names. Fear he calls responsibility. Desire he calls keenness. Irresolution becomes solidarity. Brutality becomes masterfulness. Human weaknesses are played upon with unchaste seductiveness, so that meanness and baseness are reproduced and multiplied ever anew. The vilest contempt for mankind goes about its sinister business with the holiest of protestations of devotion to the human cause. And, as the base man grows baser, he becomes an ever more willing and adaptable tool in the hand of the tyrant. The small band of the upright are reviled. Their bravery is called insubordination; their self-control is called pharisaism; their independence arbitrariness and their masterfulness arrogance. For the tyrannical despiser of men popularity is the token of the highest love of mankind. His secret profound mistrust for all human beings he conceals behind words stolen from a true community. *Continued on next page,*

In the presence of the crowd he professes to be one of their number, and at the same time he sings his own praises with the most revolting vanity and scorns the rights of every individual. He thinks people stupid, and they become stupid. He thinks them weak, and they become weak. He thinks them criminal, and they become criminal. His most sacred earnestness is a frivolous game. His hearty and worthy solicitude is the most impudent cynicism. In his profound contempt for his fellow-men he seeks the favour of those whom he despises, and the more he does so the more certainly he promotes the deification of his own person by the mob. Contempt for man and idolization of man are close neighbours. But the good man too, no less than the wicked, succumbs to the same temptation to be a despiser of mankind if he sees through all this and withdraws in disgust, leaving his fellow-men to their own devices, and if he prefers to mind his own business rather than to debase himself in public life. Of course, his contempt for mankind is more respectable and upright, but it is also more barren and ineffectual. In the face of God's becoming man the good man's contemptuous attitude cannot be maintained, any more than can the tyrant's. The despiser of men despises what God has loved. Indeed he despises even the figure of the God who has become man."

Both men lived many centuries apart, but each in his own way captured in their comments elements of what we sometimes call, sin, evil, the work of the Devil, denial of the existence of GOD and other things that create unrest and turmoil in the world we live in.

Each of these men were well versed in history, theology, philosophy, and natural sciences to use this knowledge to express their ideas on the human condition for the time they lived which they applied to all aspects of life as the home, in business, in education, and politics. For each, and myself included, believe that the starting point to make sense out of anything is with God from beginning to end as is stated, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Rev. 22:13."

I invite you to consider the thoughts contained in this document and if you find them intriguing perhaps we can consider them together.



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Use this section for notes  
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