



## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

"Ever Loving, Caring Always"

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In the Gospel of Matthew, as Jesus is preparing to ascend fully to the Father, he leaves his disciples with these words, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28: 19-20)." As disciples of Jesus we profess that God breaks into our world through the Holy Spirit and brings Jesus into our lives. We believe that Jesus is with us always in all parts of our lives—the good and the bad, the joyful and the challenging—just as he promises us in his words found in Matthew.

Our congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church of Pearl City, Illinois has begun a project to see just how Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, continues to be alive and active in our world and lives today.

Many congregations around the United States have tried the idea of Flat Jesus based on a children's book written by Jeff Brown. Flat Stanley is about a little boy who is squished by a bulletin board and realizes the advantages of being small allows him to travel and help others. This book was adapted in 1995 by a teacher who used the story as a writing project for his students to send a Flat Stanley to relatives who would respond by sending letters back telling of Flat Stanley's adventures. This idea has developed into a worldwide phenomenon as teachers have taken this idea and used it to not only teach writing but geography. Some classrooms will see just how far Flat Stanley can travel in a year in their classrooms. Over the years, people around the world have enjoyed great fun in traveling with Flat Stanley and figuring out how to share their adventures with children around the country.

You are receiving this letter because someone has seen Jesus alive and active in your life. Our congregation is asking that you now take your Flat Jesus and share with us where you have experienced Jesus.

**Here is what we would like you to do:**

- 1) Take a picture of you with Flat Jesus in locations or places you have experienced Jesus
- 2) Write a letter, postcard, or email explaining your pictures and sharing with us how you have experienced the love, grace, and life of Jesus.
- 3) Mail us your pictures and responses, drop it off at our church, or email it to us using the information below. We will display these pictures in our sanctuary in September unless you request us not to do this.
- 4) After you have sent us your pictures and responses, please consider making a copy of this letter and passing it along with your Flat Jesus to someone that you see Jesus alive and active in his/her life.

We would like to see how far and wide reaching the Spirit can be in these summer months.

We will celebrate our project during the months of September and October and it will culminate on our Commitment Sunday celebration on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. We invite you to join us for worship this Sunday to see all the places that Flat Jesus has been. We look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you at our 9AM worship service on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.

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Sincerely

DJ Scott

Stewardship/Outreach committee member

St. John's Lutheran Church of Pearl City parish administrator



