

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

CALLED TO WORSHIP / COMMITTED TO SERVE / CONNECTED IN FAITH

August 2022

*A monthly Publication of
St. John Lutheran Church*

Worship Schedule

Wednesday night
worship at 6:00 p.m.
In Gathering Area

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
In Person Worship or Watch
Live on Facebook

Pastor

Pastor Mark Johnson

Office Staff

Rae Fimon
Audrey Zellman

Treasurer

Robin Fink

Custodians

Curt & Cheryl Johnson

Organist

Eileen Hanlon

Accompanist

Sheila Schmidt

148 S. Chestnut St.
Belle Plaine, MN 56011

952-873-6492
office@stjohnbelleplaine.org
Web: stjohnbelleplaine.org



Sunday School will be starting September 18.
Watch for more information to come about registration.



September 14
Connect and Confirmation
Orientation
6:00 pm



At the May Council meeting it was decided to start
sending the Newsletter to all active households.
If you would rather have an electronic copy, please
email the church office at
office@stjohnbelleplaine.org to get on
the newsletter email list.

The Newsletter will also be available on our website as usually.

From Pastor Mark

Over the course of the years, as I have grown accustomed to reading and reflecting upon the Scriptures, there are certain passages that have come to be held dear in my heart. Among these are the end of Romans 8 where St. Paul writes

“What then can separate us from the love of God? Can tribulation or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things present nor things yet to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all of creation will be able to separate us from the love that God has for us through Jesus Christ, our Lord.”

Another favorite is from Philipians 4. St. Paul writes from prison:

“Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Be anxious in nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, together with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Still another, often shared with loved ones at a graveside, is St. Paul's stirring passage from I Corinthians 15:

“Lo, I tell you a mystery! We shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised, imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable; and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?’ The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who has given us the victory, through our Lord, Jesus, Christ.”

When I was in High School I memorized the 103rd Psalm, a Psalm of blessing and thanking the Lord for all of his sustaining goodness and for the beauty of his compassion for us: “As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion upon those who fear him; for he know our frame; he remembers that we are dust.”

These kinds of words, read and reflected upon over the course of time and through a variety of circumstances, have the power, through the Holy Spirit, to inscribe themselves deeply upon the tablet our hearts and inform and inspire us in times of need.

What are some of your favorite passages and verses from the Bible? I suspect many would name the 23rd Psalm, John 3:16, John 14:1-6 and many others. How good it is to have these words as companions along life's journey.

Of course, along with passages of Scripture, many of the dear old hymns have wound their way down deeply into my heart. Some of my favorites are: When “Peace, Like a River,” “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less,” and “How Great Thou Art”. Now, with the recent marking of Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit, another one of my favorite hymns comes to mind. I've mentioned it before, in worship, that the words of this hymn sing themselves as a prayer. These words can be sung/prayed by us at any time:

“Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move; Stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart, And make me love you as I ought to love. I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, no sudden rending of the veil of clay, no angel visitant, no op'ning skies; But take the dimness of my soul away. Have you not bid me love you, God and King; All, all your own, soul, heart and strength and mind? I see you cross; there teach my heart to cling; Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find! Teach me to love you as your angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame; The baptism of the heaven descended dove; My heart an altar and your love the flame.”

I am thankful for these precious treasures that live within my soul. They speak to me from time to time. And, in words of Scripture, hymns and worship songs, you can also build up a storehouse of treasured meditations that can enrich your heart and speak to your mind. May God bless you in reading and reflecting and taking into your own personal life and heart those words of inspiration and encouragement that can be a real blessing and source of support and for you as you continue to grow in your Christian faith and life.



August Children's Ministry Update

As the month of August begins, the Children's Ministry team is looking ahead to the upcoming year. We will be meeting on August 4th @ 7:00 at the church to discuss the following important details and dates:

- Sunday School registration
- Rally Sunday
- Connect Orientation Night/Rally Night
- First Communion Instruction

****IMPORTANT**** We are in need of Sunday School teachers!

- Each Sunday school classroom needs a minimum of two teachers. Teachers can rotate weeks and work with each other's schedule to allow flexibility and convenience in this commitment
- One parent helper and one student helper in each room (or more depending on class size), each week. Commit to every other week, one Sunday a month, or every week if you can!

PLEASE consider how you can give your time and talents this year to our youth. Email youthsjlc@gmail.com and let us know where you can help!

If you're interested in attending the next Children's Ministry meeting, please join us on Thursday, August 4th @ 7:00pm in the conference room. Email youthsjlc@gmail.com if you'd like more information.



*Is looking for a new chairperson. If you are interested,
please contact the church office at 952-873-6492.
Thank You*



The office hours will be as follows for the Summer

- Monday– 8-12, afternoon closed
- Tuesday– Thursday- 8-12, and 1-5
- Friday– morning closed, 1-5 in the afternoon

Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes July 21, 2022

President Ben Aust called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present:

X	Pastor Mark	X	Ben Aust	X	Chris Schultz	X	Albert Koepp
	Matt Stier	X	Wendy Theis	X	Jen Nagorski		Steve Kelm
X	Robin Fink	X	Jan Effinger	X	Teresa Latzke	X	Tim Moonen
X	Curt Johnson	X	Anne Herrmann				

Opening Devotions:

Pastor Mark and Council Members opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

Members of Council reviewed the minutes from May 19, 2022 Council Meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the meeting minutes from May. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the agenda for July 21, 2022 with amendment for the new business items.

Pastor Mark's Report:

I spent a good week at Confirmation Camp with last year's 7th grade Confirmation Students. St. John has a long standing and valuable relationship with Camp Onomia that goes back for many years and provides a unique in-depth experience for young people to learn about their faith in a group setting with other churches in the beautiful outdoors during the Summertime. We had a great group this year and they represented our church very well.

Vacation Bible School (Day Camp) followed up on Confirmation week this year and was facilitated by four counselors coming down from Camp Onomia for the week. We have had this arrangement with Camp Onomia for many years and they provide a little of the camp experience to our younger kids during our week of Vacation Bible School.

Additionally this year, some of our VBS aged children will be attending "VBS on the Farm," a new venture this year, sponsored by the Synod's local Spanish Ministry, "Cristo Obrero," and supported by a number of area churches during the week of August 1 - 5 at the Prairie Oaks Institute, a retreat center located on the old Devine farm on the outskirts of Belle Plaine. In the event of inclement weather, St. John will provide back-up space for the students and helpers to meet.

The Personnel committee has met with and approved a candidate for the position of Worship Choir Director that they have forwarded to the church council for consideration at their July meeting. More on this will be reported in the council's July meeting minutes. In addition, the Personnel committee is in the process of setting up our paid staff's annual reviews. A member of the team, along with the pastor, will be meeting with each staff member for this process.

We are preparing to ramp up our programming year for a busy Fall season once again this year. Sunday School, Connect and Confirmation programs will be starting in September and we are planning on recruiting teachers and helpers, setting up our schedules, approving the year's curriculum, communicating with teachers, kids, families and our staff, etc. Thank you, once again, to the many volunteers who help to make these vital programs happen that touch and shape the lives of so many of our young people and their families.

Thank you to the number of folks who helped us update your contact information and to let us know your interest in helping to serve in our worship service teams. We will be working to set up schedules and integrate helpers into them. After being off for two years during the pandemic this is quite a challenge. Please let us know if you can help in any way.

Regular and ongoing parish and pastoral duties continue apace.

Sue and I enjoyed some time off for a vacation out to the Pacific Northwest. I have always heard that this is a beautiful part of the country and, I must say, it did not disappoint! We had a great time!

Staff Reports:**Custodial:**

Curt reported the front door locks are now on a timer. The donated televisions have been placed in the center rooms in the basement. He also reported that he worked on the air conditioning in the nursery.

A discussion was had regarding what announcements will be displayed on the monitor in the gathering area and if it would be different from the announcements displayed on the monitor over the elevator in order to determine if a splitter was needed.

Treasurer:

Robin walked through the monthly and quarterly reports highlighting \$10,000 has been spent on maintenance items so far this year such as tree service, gutters, and plumbing repairs.

She reported that the funds (\$43,911.92) from the Employer Retention Credit have been received and answered questions from Council members.

Transfers:

Transfer In - none

Out - none

Ongoing Business:

Strategic Planning was tabled at this time.

A brief discussion was had and a motion was made, seconded, and approved to use the Employer Retention Credit to pay off the Foundation Loan. Remaining funds to be applied to the Building Maintenance Fund.

Pastor Mark reported on Fall Restart activities:

The newsletter is once again being sent to Member's mailboxes.

54 Contact Information Sheets have been returned with 25 filling out interest in volunteer positions.

Pastor Mark will reach out to the Small Group/Faith Formation Committee to begin organizing volunteers.

The Building and Grounds Committee presented a list of repairs needed with a cost estimate for the rooftop furnaces.

They will continue to gather estimates for the other repairs.

The Mortgage Burning Committee provided an update and a motion was made, seconded, and approved to set the budget at \$5,000. The details of the event will be added to the website, newsletter, monitors, and communicated at services.

New Business:

A request was received from a neighborhood daycare to use the facilities during business hours as an emergency shelter in the case of severe weather. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to permit the use of the building during severe weather.

A request was received from the Belle Plaine Fire Department seeking a donation to support Fire Safety Education.

The budget contains a line item supporting the Belle Plaine Fire Department.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation of Allison Vandermark for the position of Worship Choir Director. Allison will be starting in September.

A discussion was had on a service project to outreach to the members who haven't been getting out.

A question was raised and answered on the process to make revisions to policies and procedures that were written in 2017.

Ministry Team Updates:

Stewardship Committee - nothing new to report.

Buildings and Grounds Committee - gathering estimates for needed repairs.

Personnel Committee - met with the candidate for Worship Choir Director. Preparing staff reviews.

Children's Ministry Team - Sarah Leonard is stepping down as leader. The Council extends their many thanks for her work with the team. The team is meeting August 4th at 7 p.m. at the church. The team will be looking for a new team leader as they begin planning for Fall.

Small Group/Faith Formation Committee - nothing new to report.

Worship and Music Committee - nothing new to report.

Technology and Communications Committee - nothing new to report.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Herrmann, Secretary

Camp Onomia's 24th Annual

Quilt Auction

Saturday, September 17, 2022

It will be another awesome day at Camp Onomia for our annual live quilt auction, bake sale, and silent auction! Be sure to invite your friends & family for this fun event. All proceeds support the year-round ministries of Camp Onomia.



- ◆ Live Quilt Auction
- ◆ Silent Auction
- ◆ Bake Sale
- ◆ Raffle Quilt

SCHEDULE:

11:00 AM: Welcome and worship in Chapel

11:00 AM: Quilt preview, silent auction, and bake sale begin in Friendship Hall

Noon: Lunch with free-will offering

1:00 PM: Live Quilt Auction begins

2:30 PM: Silent Auction ends

Raffle drawing will be held near the end of the quilt auction.

Raffle Quilt: 104" x 104" Raffle tickets for this beautiful quilt in a hexagon pattern are available online, at the Camp Office, and during the auction. You do not need to be present to win. Back is multicolored batik.

New this year: We welcome guests overnight on both Friday and Saturday, September 16 and 17. Come early, stay late, make some new friends, and experience this amazing setting in God's creation! \$40 Friday night includes breakfast and lunch Saturday; \$40 Saturday night includes Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast.

Camp Onomia
14202 Shakopee Lake Road, Onamia, MN 56359

Phone: 320-532-3767
Email: camponomia@gmail.com



View an online preview
of the quilts!
www.camponomia.org/quilt.htm

**Help us to update our Contact information -
Please fill out and place in the Offering Basket or Send to the Church
Office
Thank You!**

Name(s) _____

Preferred E-Mail _____

(Please Print e-mail)

Preferred Phone # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____



**Please help us Reboot the following groups this Fall -
Check the group(s) you would like to Volunteer
Place in the Offering Basket or Send to the Church Office
Thanks for your Help!**

- ___ Altar Guild
- ___ Communion Assistant
- ___ Greeters
- ___ Readers
- ___ Ushers
- ___ Coffee Hour
- ___ Livestream / Record Service
- ___ Do ~~Powerpoint~~ at Service

August 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Sherr Dandurand	2 Audi Otting Adam Schmidt	3 Emmaleah Cecka Ethan Hoffman Diane Koniarski Emmett Stoutland Travis Zellman	4 Melissa Hagen Lainey Schwartz Tyler Stolee Jack Stoutland	5	6 Jim Koonst Samuel Schmidt
7 Julian Koepp	8 Brody Bessel Jack Buerkle	9 Michael Altringer	10 Lynn Johnson Irene Koepp	11 Lila Bungarden Mindy Chevalier Emma Koepp Justin Overline	12 Lucas Dandurand Isaiah Rosario Téa Smith	13 Linda Jeurissen Karla Koepp Ken Theis
14 Eli Bergstrom Rachel Kelm Journey Whetzel	15 Dale Tesch	16 Heather Hornaman Katelynn Swenson Susan Volek	17 Hailey Oestreich	18 Zachary Fogarty Becky Luskey Anna Muehlenhardt Dan Sybrant Brooks Vos	19	20 Angela Faucette Trevor Hutchison Scarlette Nagorski Brennan Veerkamp
21 Lavonne Behnke Mason Bungarden Rae Fimon Troy Weiland	22 Patty Laabs Michael Schoenbauer Jean Soller	23	24 Cheryl Nagel	25 Abigail Meger Jerold Stauffacher	26	27 Nathan Korb
28 Kellen Hornaman Chandra Meierbachtol Rylan Williamson	29 Rosalie Creighton	30 Walter Koepp Remington Korb Theodore Korb Olivia Larson Leo Siekmann Colton Traxler	31 Diane Skelley Leif Tharaldson			

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 pm Boy Scout meeting	2 11:00 Lutheran Home Service 1:30 pm Kingsway Service 2:00 pm Mortgage Burning committee meeting	3 6:00 pm Worship Service	4 7:00 pm Children's Ministry team meeting	5	6
7 9:00 Worship Service	8 6:30 pm Boy Scout meeting	9	10 6:00 pm Worship Service	11	12	13
14 9:00 Worship Service 9:50 Council Executive meeting	15 6:30 pm Boy Scout meeting	16	17 6:00 pm Worship Service	18 6:30 pm Church Council	19	20
21 9:00 Worship Service	22 6:30 pm Boy Scout meeting 7:00 pm Coffee in the Kitchen	23	24 6:00 pm Worship Service	25	26	27
28 9:00 Worship Service	29 6:30 pm Boy Scout meeting	30	31 6:00 pm Worship Service			

Financial Corner

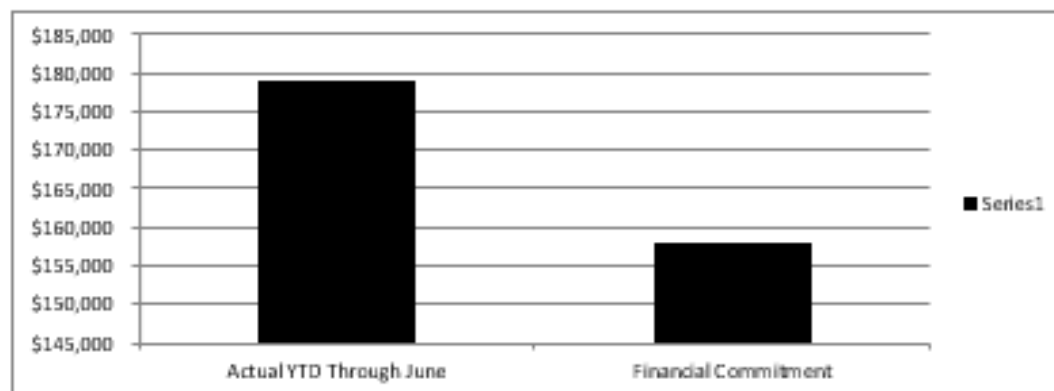
St. John Financial Results Six Months Ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2021

General Operating Fund		Year Over Year	
	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021	Increase
Income*	\$ 178,962	\$ 157,354	14%
Expenses:			
Personnel	(110,340)	(103,656)	
Office	(9,540)	(8,460)	
Property & Maintenance	(24,662)	(20,026)	
Ministry	(12,162)	(7,373)	
Other	(3,733)	(2,177)	
Benevolence:			
Minneapolis Area Synod	(7,600)	(6,000)	
Belle Plaine Fire Dept	-	(300)	
Camp Onomia	(1,750)	(1,500)	
Lutheran Social Services	(1,000)	(1,000)	
Net Receipts / (Expenditures)	\$ 8,175	\$ 6,862	
Cash Balance at January 1 (excl. all loans)	\$ 7,829	\$ (82,735)	
Net Income / (Expenditures)	8,175	6,862	
Misc. cash not affecting income	202	377	
Loan from Building Fund (from 2018 - 2019)	-	44,500	
Loan from St. John Foundation (from 2014-2016)	39,782	54,519	
Cash Balance at June 30	\$ 55,988	\$ 23,523	

* 40% of Contributions were received electronically in 2022 - thank you!

Actual Income Compared to 2022 Financial Commitment:

Actual YTD Through June	\$ 178,962
Financial Commitment	\$ 157,852





August 7, 2022 Ushers	
9:00 Service	
Myron Bratsch Kirk Franck Matt Kes Jeff Eppen Brian Siekmann	Lee Sauter Bob Fairbanks Greg Rosario Daron Anderson

August 14 & 21, 2022 Ushers	
9:00 Service	
James & John Karl Dan & Wyatt Herrmann Tim Bristlin	David & Sara Bungarden Louis Longhenry Ron & Dianne Rasmussen

August 28 & September 4, 2022 Ushers	
9:00 Service	
Brian Schmidt Jonathan Schmidt Jason Schmidt Doug Hillstrom Dave Latzke Jerold Stauffacher	Tim Moonen Dale Schmidt Samuel Schmidt Dick Bristow

CALLED TO SERVE THROUGH OUR GIVING	
Offering Received the week of	
June 23– June 29 General Fund—\$1,846 Building Fund—\$480	June 30– July 6 General Fund—\$7,908 Building Fund—\$1,887
July 7– July 13 General Fund—\$3,637 Building Fund—\$1,850	July 14– July 20 General Fund— \$3,504 Building Fund- \$1,035
July 21– July 27 General Fund— \$1,389 Building Fund- \$260	

St. John Lutheran Church
148 S. Chestnut St.
Belle Plaine 56011

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 16
Belle Plaine, MN 56011

Change Service Requested



St. John Lutheran Church

MORTGAGE BURNING CELEBRATION!

**Come Celebrate on
Sunday, September 11th
*after 9:30 church service***

**Polka Service by Bob Pexa
Bonfire (burning the Mortgage!)
Hayrides
Pork Sandwich lunch
Dessert Food trucks**