

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

CALLED TO WORSHIP / COMMITTED TO SERVE / CONNECTED IN FAITH

August 2024

A monthly Publication of
St. John Lutheran Church

Worship Schedule

Wednesday Worship
6:00 pm

Summer Sunday Worship
9:00 am

Interim Pastor
Pastor Ted Vanderpan

Office Staff
Rae Fimon
Audrey Zellman

Custodian

Choir Director
Allison Vandermark

Organist
Eileen Hanlon

Accompanist
Sheila Schmidt

148 S. Chestnut St.
Belle Plaine, MN 56011

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



Vacation Bible School will be here August 5-8.
Counselors from Green Lake Camp will be leading
VBS.

Help is needed to provide meals for the 2-3 counse-
lors Sunday night through Thursday. If you can
help please email youthsjl@gmail.com.

Ice Cream Social

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16TH.

We will be serving from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. (Note the time
change.) Everyone from our church and the community
is welcome to attend.

This event is the biggest event sponsored by the women of
St. John. Proceeds from this event will help benefit
many facets of our church community. This includes the building maintenance
fund, confirmation camp, mission trip, Belle Plaine Food Shelf, Belle Plaine
Bloodmobile, quilting supplies, school kits, Vacation Bible School, and many
more....

Please prayerfully consider saying "yes" when asked to work on a committee by
chairman. "Several hands make light work!"



**The Fall programs will be starting before
you know it.**

Check Pastor Ted's article for infor-
mation on when these programs are
scheduled to start.

Watch your email for more information
to come in the following weeks.

From Pastor Ted

Can you believe it – it is time to talk about the fall at St John!

While it was just one week ago that I was celebrating the 4th of July, I have been planning our Confirmation-Connect programming and talking with people about the logistics of making it all happen.

Confirmation and Connect

We will be studying Lutheran theology for the entire 2024-2025 Confirmation-Connect year. The Confirmation-Connect curriculum will focus on a uniquely Lutheran understanding of the Christian faith. We will use the Small Catechism to study The Apostle's Creed, the 10 Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, The Sacraments of Baptism and Communion and other topics. A couple of key dates to put on your calendar are:

September 4, 7PM – Small Group Leaders Meeting (Parents – would you please consider leading a small group?)

September 11, 7PM – Parent/Student Orientation

September 18, 6PM – First Wednesday Lesson and Small Group Meeting

I will give you more dates for the calendar at the Leaders Meeting and Orientation.

First Communion

Our First Communion Class will be a little different this year but will be held on October 2nd and 9th. First Communion Sunday will be October 14th. An alternative service will be on October 30th.

Since the Confirmation-Connect curriculum will focus on a Lutheran understanding of the Christian faith, it just so happens that on October 2nd and 9th the large group lessons will be on Communion. So, we will use that as the instruction time and then all the 5th graders and their parents will meet together (during their normal small group time), to cover some more information. So, because of this unique situation, this year First Communion instruction will take place during the normal Wednesday night schedule.

Confirmation Sunday

The Confirmation Service will be on Sunday, October 27th at the 9:15 worship service. The Confirmation Retreat/Rehearsal will be Saturday, October 26th. Come early or stay late for individual pictures. We will rehearse the service, have a Q & A session, then have brunch.

In the past, there has been a catered continental brunch for this event. We got some feedback about the cost of the catered meal from parents. We would like to try something new and have 8th grade families serve a continental brunch for the 9th grade Confirmands and their families on the 26th. The church will pay for all the food items and we will be looking for students and parents to serve. Times change, so let's try it. We can always go back to the way it was. Contact Amanda Schultz if you are willing to help with brunch at 320-282-1975.

We need a few parents to help organize gown measurements and sash night. If we have parents to help, we could have a couple of options for students to get their measurements and make their sash. Amanda Schultz is the contact person, please give her a call if you can help. We could schedule a couple of Wednesday evenings or another day of the week depending on who steps up and when they are able to help.



*If you would like to begin receiving the newsletter
via email please send us your request to
office@stjohnbelleplaine.org*



As we move into the busy summer months with all the holidays, family vacations, VBS, fairs and festivals, we also look ahead to the start of an equally busy start to our church calendar in September. New this fall will be the recording and livestreaming of our 9th service for viewing online instead of our 8 a.m. service. This service features greater attendance with families and Sunday School children. This change will prompt the need for additional volunteers who are interested in helping with the power point presentation of the worship service which will now be at both services on the overhead screen. Those interested simply need to follow along with the worship service and advance the slides by pressing a key on the keyboard. We hope to have enough volunteers so we can have a rotating schedule including substitutes. A great volunteer opportunity for our high school students. An easy skill to learn for those who have minimal computer expertise.

If you can assist in our worship services, or if you have any questions, please call the church office 952-873-6492. We thank God for our Time and Talents in our desire to honor Him in our Worship and Praise.

Asking for volunteer help and support is difficult – we know everyone is busy. But volunteers provide key service to our church, and critical support for our programs. Volunteers are the foundation of who we are – and who we strive to be.



This month's Stewardship article focuses on the volunteers needed for Worship and Youth Education.

The following volunteers are needed for each worship service:

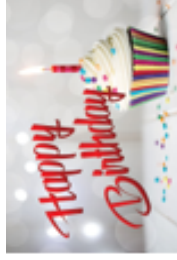
- Communion assistants - a team of 3 individuals who assist serving communion and wine with the pastor.
- Lay Reader - an individual to deliver first and second readings.
- Greeters - 1 or more individuals who welcome members and visitors to services.
- Ushers - a team of 5 individuals who distribute bulletins, light the altar candles, ring the bell, collect offering, and direct the congregation to communion.
- Altar Guild - 1 or more individuals who prepare the Altar for worship services with flowers, communion wafers, and cups of wine.
- PowerPoint presenter - an individual who advances the slide show during worship.
- Live Stream Operator - an individual who controls the audio and visual recording of the worship service.

Youth education is broken down by grade with Sunday School comprised of pre-K, 1st – 4 th grade.

Connect is for 5 th – 6 th grades, and Confirmation is for 7 th and 8 th grades.

- Sunday School - The teachers, prepare and provide a weekly Sunday School lesson. The lesson being taught is determined by a schedule/calendar that is set by the Children's Ministry team. For each lesson there is a binder that has sample lesson plans and ideas for projects. Teachers can use the binder as much as they want to, or they can create something on their own. Class time is about an hour in length with about 15 minutes devoted to a large group music.
- Confirmation and Connect are led by small group leaders who review the lesson presented by the Pastor and answer student questions.

August 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Sherrí Dandurand	Andi Otting Adam Schmidt	Emmaleah Cecka Ethan Hoffman Diane Koniarski Emmett Stoutland Travis Zellman
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Melissa Hagen Lainey Schwartz Tyler Stolee Jack Stoutland	Jim Koonst Samuel Schmidt	Julian Koepp	Brody Bessel Jack Buerkle	Michael Altringer	Lynn Johnson Irene Koepp	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Lila Bungarden Mindy Chevalier Emma Koepp Rozlyn Meierbachtol Justin Overline	Lucas Dandurand Emilia Meier Isaiah Rosario Téa Smith	Linda Jeurissen Karla Koepp Ken Theis	Eli Bergstrom Rachel Kelm Journey Whetzel	Dale Tesch	Heather Hornaman Katelynn Swenson Susan Volek	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Zechary Fogarty Addison Kappers Becky Luskey Anna Muehlenhardt Brooks Vos	Angela Faucette Trevor Hutchison Scarlette Nagorski Brennan Veerkamp	Lavonne Behnke Mason Bungarden Rae Fimon Davina Stavnes Troy Weiland			Cheryl Nagel	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Teagan Dolly Abigail Mejer Jerold Stauffacher	Josephine Berg Margaret Lawson Sarah Vycital	Talia Anderson Vayda Anderson Nathan Korbel	Kellen Hornaman Chandra Meierbachtol Rylan Williamson	Rosalie Creighton	Walter Koepp Remington Korbel Theodore Korbel Olivia Larson Leo Siekmann	Diane Skelley Leif Tharaldson

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				5:00 pm TOPS		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Transition Team meeting	VBS 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Personnel Committee meeting	VBS 11:00 Lutheran Home Service 1:30 pm Kingsway Service	VBS 6:00 pm Worship Service	VBS 5:00 pm TOPS		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00 Worship Service	10:00 4.0 Bus Company meeting 5:30 pm Worship Committee 6:30 pm Church Council 6:30 pm Boy Scouts		6:00 pm Worship Service	5:00 pm TOPS	4:00-7:00 pm Ice Cream Social	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Transition Team meeting	10:00 4.0 Bus Company meeting	4:30 pm Stewardship Committee meeting	6:00 pm Worship Service	5:00 pm TOPS		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:00 Worship Service	4:30 pm Coffee Time meeting 6:30 pm Boy Scouts		6:00 pm Worship Service	5:00 pm TOPS		



August Altar Guild: Jan Effinger, Zoe and Andi Otting

August 4 Worship Assistants

9:00

Greeters: Ron and Diane Rasmussen

Lay Reader: Jody Savage

Communion Assistants: Rob and Sandy Schultz, Jodi Savage

Ushers: **Brian Schmidt**, Jonathan Schmidt, Jason Schmidt, Doug Hillstrom, Dave Latzke, Jerold Stauffacher, **Dave & Sara Bungarden**, Ron & Dianne Rasmussen

August 11 Worship Assistants

9:00

Greeters: Wesley Koepf

Lay Reader: Jan Effinger

Communion Assistants: Peg Longhenry, Cindy Schoenbauer, Jan Effinger

Ushers: **Marc and Mindy Chevalier**, Abby Kubes, Andy Steinhagen, Joshua Sparby, Lydia Sparby, **Scott and Tricia Ruud**, Monica and Jason Braesch

August 18 Worship Assistants

9:00

Greeters: Jeremy and Lainey Schwartz

Lay Reader: Angie Kahle

Communion Assistants: Mindy Chevalier, Sandi Wolpern, Abby Kubes

Ushers: **Marc and Mindy Chevalier**, Abby Kubes, Andy Steinhagen, Joshua Sparby, Lydia Sparby, **Scott and Tricia Ruud**, Monica and Jason Braesch

August 25 Worship Assistants

9:00

Greeters: Connie Bergs

Lay Reader: Amy Franck

Communion Assistants: Jerold and Kathy Stauffacher, Kirk Franck

Ushers: **Albert Koepf**, Dorothy Koepf, Kevin Koepf, Matt Stier, Bruce Volek, Tim Carlson, Josh Koepf, **Brent Koepf**, Mitchell Koepf, Tim Moonen, Justin Stauffacher

Financial Corner

St. John Financial Results Six Months Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023

General Operating Fund			Year Over Year Increase (Decrease)
	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023	
Income	\$ 152,772	\$ 168,376	-9%
Expenses:			
Personnel	(114,353)	(120,625)	
Office	(9,802)	(8,842)	
Property & Maintenance	(28,120)	(30,313)	
Ministry	(11,739)	(10,717)	
Other	(5,091)	(3,202)	
Benevolence:			
Minneapolis Area Synod	(6,600)	(6,600)	
Belle Plaine Fire Dept	-	(300)	
Camp Onomia	(1,500)	(1,500)	
Lutheran Social Services	(1,000)	(1,000)	
Net Receipts / (Expenditures)	<u>\$ (25,433)</u>	<u>\$ (14,723)</u>	
Cash Balance at January 1 (excl. all loans)	\$ 48,424	\$ 69,619	
Net Income / (Expenditures)	(25,433)	(14,723)	
Misc. cash not affecting income	(133)	(127)	
Cash set aside for strategic planning	(20,000)	(35,000)	
Cash Balance at June 30	<u>\$ 2,858</u>	<u>\$ 19,769</u>	

Property Improvement Fund

	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
Income (Donations, Rent, Investments)	53,622	55,172
Expenses (1)	(93,207)	(13,613)
Net Receipts / (Disbursements)	<u>(39,585)</u>	<u>41,559</u>
Hayden House Loan Balance at January 1	121,503	125,664
Principal Payments	(2,117)	(2,060)
Hayden House Loan Balance at June 30	<u>119,386</u>	<u>123,604</u>
Liquid Assets at June 30	<u>150,899</u>	<u>205,799</u>

(1) New tables, chairs, door lock system, patio & furniture, flooring, electrical = \$77,000

CALLED TO SERVE THROUGH OUR GIVING	
Offering Received the week of	
June 20-26	June 27- July 3
General Fund—\$3,248 Improvement Fund—\$415	General Fund—\$5,618 Improvement Fund—\$816
July 4-10	July 11-17
General Fund— \$4,247 Improvement Fund- \$650	General Fund— \$5,445 Improvement Fund- \$650
July 18-24	
General Fund— \$2,485 Improvement Fund- \$80	

**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