

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

CALLED TO WORSHIP / COMMITTED TO SERVE / CONNECTED IN FAITH

July 2023

A monthly Publication of
St. John Lutheran Church

Worship Schedule

Wednesday Worship

6:00 pm

Sunday Worship

9:00

Pastor

Pastor Mark Johnson

Office Staff

Rae Fimon

Audrey Zellman

Custodian

Wanda Savage

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



July Children's Ministry Update

I hope you're all having a great summer so far. As previously stated, our plans for an in person/all day Bible Camp fell through which resulted in having to quickly come up with a plan B! Although these events will be in the evening, we hope that you can still make it!

Our first event will be held on July 13th from 6-7:30pm at Heritage Square Park. We will have a potluck style family picnic, some crafts, and time to play on the playground. The Ministry team plans to provide hot dogs, paper products and cutlery. We ask families to help provide buns, chips, desserts, drinks, sides, etc. Below is a link to RSVP as well as sign up for what you would like to bring so that others can plan accordingly.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4AA5AF23A6FB6-stjohns>

Our second event will be August 29th from around 6-7pm at Church. This will be our school year kickoff! We are still finalizing the details, but we plan to have crafts, music, and some other fun activities. If you have a special talent or activity you would like to share or you are interested in joining our planning team, please reach out!

Please email youthsjlc@gmail.com If you're interested in joining the team. We welcome anyone to the meetings!

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, August 2nd.

Sandy Schultz is the Chairman of the Ice Cream Social this year. 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!"



From Your Pastor

It seems a little strange to me that this will be my last Summer among you as your pastor. I have had almost 25 Summers here at St. John and now that time will be coming to an end. I have a lot of memories over the years. I remember some dear people who I have come to know who have since passed on. I know many others who are still here, grown older and changed over the years, just as I have. I have come to know many others who have joined the congregation in my time here and who have become vital members of our community of faith. Twenty five years is quite a while. Little babies that I baptized and walked up the aisle holding in my arms have grown up and, in some cases, have babies of their own. The wheel of life keeps turning.

It has been a privilege to be with so many of you over these years. I have enjoyed preaching and teaching and visiting. I have enjoyed those special pastoral occasions when I've shared in baptisms, weddings and funerals. It is a privilege to be a part of the family circle at such close and intimate and meaningful times.

My predecessor, Pastor Eugene Boschee, was here for twenty eight years. I'll fall a little short of that. We, as pastors, are all caretakers and stewards of the office that has been granted to us during our time here. Over the years, we come and go but the life and ministry of the congregation continues.

The simple truth is, St. John is not my church as the pastor or your church as a member. This is God's church. None of us earns our way in. We are all brought in by God's grace in the gift of our baptism. We are all called together by the Holy Spirit. We are all charged with the mission of being God's presence in our mission field here today.

There is always some anxiety in times of change. Trust in the Lord. God is faithful. And God will continue to watch over and care for this community of faith and lead you into a new and exciting future together. Trust in the Lord, love each other and live your way into the future that God is calling you to.

I am busy here this Summer making preparations for the Fall so that the interim pastor will have everything in place and be ready to take things up with you. Of course, I'm sure some things will be different. And that's okay. Transitions are always like that.

A lot of folks are away over the Summer so I'd like to stay until people are back and I have the chance to see them. With this in mind, I've decided on September 10th as my last Sunday and my last day here. I have mixed feelings. Part of me is happy and part of me is sad. I suppose that's pretty natural. I have appreciated your partnership over all these years in this ministry that we have shared together. And I carry you in my heart.

Due to staff vacations the office hours for the week of July 3-7 will be:

Monday & Tuesday – Office Closed
Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday- 12-5



The office hours will be as follows for the Summer

Starting Memorial Day thru August 12

Monday– 8-12,

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday- 8-12, and 1-5

Friday– 1-5

Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes
June 12, 2023

President Ben Aust called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Present:

X	Pastor Mark	X	Ben Aust		Chris Schultz	X	Albert Koepp
X	Jan Effinger		Teresa Latzke	X	Anne Herrmann	X	Steve Kelm
	Jaime Petersen		Cayla Menke	X	Jim Kerr	X	Tim Moonen
	Open Staff Position	X	Wendy Theis	X	Jerold Stauffacher	X	Sherrie Simcox

Opening Devotions:

Pastor Mark opened the meeting with a prayer on the gift of creation.

Approval of Minutes:

Members of Council reviewed the minutes from the May 8, 2023 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 June 12, 2023 with the following amendments to Ongoing Business:

D. T.O.P.S.

E. Job Descriptions

Pastor Mark's Report:

On Sunday, April 30, we switched our Sunday worship times to one service at 9:00 a.m. With my upcoming retirement, after worship on this Sunday we also welcomed Assistant to the Bishop, Craig Pederson, to come and share during coffee time about the call process, interim period, etc. He provided good information and answered questions. Craig relates to the Southwest Conference of the Minneapolis Area Synod is the person who will be relating with St. John throughout the call process. It was good to have him out on this day.

On Sunday, May 7, we had a special celebration during coffee time for our retiring Custodian and Maintenance Person, Curt and Cheryl Johnson. Together, they have done a great job serving St. John for 29 years. It was good to recognize and celebrate with them and we wish the best for them as they sail on into new adventures. As we say goodbye to them, we also welcome our new custodian, Wanda Savage. The last couple of weeks in May she has been working with Cheryl and learning the ropes. Once a month we have an "all staff" meeting, including our custodian and maintenance, to look ahead to the coming month and coordinate everything together. Wanda sat in on our May staff meeting.

Speaking of staff comings and goings, I also want to say thank you to Robin Fink, who stepped away from being our Treasurer recently. She did a fine job for St. John. And let me also say a warm welcome to our incoming Treasurer, Jerold Stauffacher. Jerold teaches accounting at the High School and certainly comes with the knowledge and capabilities to do a great job here.

Graduation recognition Sunday was held on May 21 with a number of our seniors able to attend our service. We recognized them at the beginning of the service, heard from them as they shared their individual plans for the future, and had an acknowledgement for them in the sermon and prayers. After the service, they each selected a quilt made by our quilters to provide them with some warmth and comfort from their church home as they step out into their futures.

Confirmation Camp for our seventh graders is coming up at the end of the month from June 25 - 30. Camp is a great opportunity for our young people to have fun and to grow together in their faith in the great outdoors. It's also a good chance to meet other young folks from other churches and make new friends.

Sue and I will be back from performing a wedding for a family friend in Portland and enjoying a road trip together out west. I will be contacting and working with our Sunday School, Connect and Confirmation program over the Summer to prepare schedules, programs and leaders for the Fall.

Regular weekly and monthly duties involve plenty of behind the scenes time for study and preparation for a variety of parish activities, communication and coordination with staff, council, committees, teams, volunteers and the congregation, visitation and communion services in home and hospital, etc.

It has been a busy time for a number of pastoral acts involving baptisms, funerals and wedding preparations. I find a lot of ful-

fillment in being involved in these kinds of close and personal acts with families at such important times in their lives.

Staff Reports:

Custodial:

Council member Tim Moonen mentioned that a GFI outlet in the kitchen requires replacement.

Treasurer:

Jerold Stauffacher was introduced to the Council, filling the open position for Treasurer. He teaches accounting and is looking forward to practicing it. He reported that offerings were slow at the beginning of the month but picked up later in the month. He promotes electronic giving as a way to help maintain a continuous flow of funds. St. John's received a donation for Camp Onamia and expenses were down for the month. Welcome Jerold!

Transfers:

A. Transfers In: None

Transfers Out: Todd and Dynelle Kruggel have transferred to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in New Prague.

Ongoing Business:

A. Technology Budget

a. Committee continues to research support vendors and is evaluating software options with a goal to bring forth a recommendation for next year's budget.

b. The committee meets every two months to discuss updates and upgrades.

c. Rental Property Updates

d. The false ceiling tiles have been replaced in the Hayden house.

e. Church Roll Update

f. Meeting to be scheduled with Council and Staff members to review church membership roll.

g. T.O.P.S.

h. Representative, Sherrie Simcox, met with Council members to address concerns regarding the group meeting in the gathering room on Thursday nights. After a brief discussion a motion was made, seconded and approved to host the non-profit group.

i. Job Descriptions

Personnel Committee representative, Wendy Theis, shared an updated custodian job description with Council. The committee recommends moving outdoor activities from the custodian position to the maintenance position. A discussion took place highlighting a concern regarding snow removal from the front entrance. A motion was made, seconded and approved five for, two against.

New Business:

A. Call Process - Interim Pastor Candidate

Craig Pederson forwarded the first candidate's resume to President Ben Aust. Ben will continue to work with Craig to expand the candidate pool.

Ministry Team Updates:

A. Stewardship Committee - nothing new to report.

B. Buildings and Grounds Committee - see update under Ongoing Business.

C. Personnel Committee - see update under Ongoing Business.

D. Children's Ministry Team - nothing new to report.

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

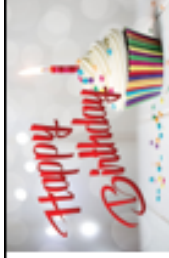
F. Worship and Music Committee - nothing new to report.

Technology and Communications Committee - see update under Ongoing Business.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Herrmann

July 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Vayda Borresen Josiah Brueske Rhonda Doeden Nova Howk
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Samuel VanZummeren	Ardith Bristlin Wesley Pankonin Tricia Ruud	Curtis Latzke	Abby Wolpern Marlys Koepp Luke Siemon	Jim Bergs Allison Bristlin Corey Johnson Paul Nasby Lori Thaves	Erin Carlson Renee Eyrich Hannah Heckers Emma Luskey	Bev Delgehausen Suzanne Hillstrom Jayden Koonst Geraldine Tesch
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Sloane Schaffler Niklas Tharaldson		Emily Wermerskirchen Susana Rosario	Patrick Lawler Linea Olson Senjah Peterson	Emily Fogarty Braylon Graff Jackson Graff Brynlee Koch Brianna Swenson	Emma Davis	Meredith Carstens Carter Doebbeling Jacob Meger Julie Oldenburg
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Cullen Davidson Anne Herrmann Barbara Koepp Sydney Weiland	Sara Bungarden Jodi Fahey Megan Fahey Jennifer Nagorski	Judy Wolf Mary Koepp Caleb Smith Tonya Smith	Stephanie Paulson Jackson Schroeder Olivia Smith Jaxon Wassing	Olivia Paulson	Melissa Armstrong Jacob Fogarty Grayson Gynild Madeline Gynild Remi Meyer Sydney Meyer Tim Stier	Melanie Eggers Aubrey Mellgren
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Kevin Boblitt Roger Delgehausen Janessa Meuleners Ashley Pankonin	Kayla Buszmann Ryan Cecka	Matt Fogarty Nicolas Johnson Ashton Pankonin Terry Stier	Thomas Carstens Addison Chard Nicole Koepp Daniel Rosario Steve Schmidt Merlin Stier	Holly Potter	Bennet Aust Scott Hornaman Jacob Koenig Benjamin Koepp Betty Kosse Emma Liebhard	Gerald Bratsch Jessy Dols Noah Hanson Lisa Holbrook
30	31					
Greg Meyer Hunter Meyer	Marlene Anderley Cade Eggers Isaac Hanson Gene Stier					

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00 Worship Service	Office Closed	Office Closed	6:00 pm Worship Service	4:00 pm Church Rolls Update meeting 5:00 pm TOPS		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 Worship Service Council Executive meeting	6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Church Council meeting	11:00 Lutheran Home Service 1:30 pm Kingsway Service	6:00 pm Worship Service	8:30 FISH meeting 5:00 pm Sunday School Family Event 5:00 pm TOPS		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 Worship Service 12:00 pm party in Gathering Area	6:30 pm Boy Scouts		6:00 pm Worship Service	5:00 pm TOPS		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00 Worship Service	6:30 pm Boy Scouts		6:00 pm Worship Service	5:00 pm TOPS		
30	31					
9:00 Worship Service	6:30 pm Boy Scouts					

Financial Corner

St. John Financial Results
Five Months Ending May 31, 2023 and May 31, 2022

General Operating Fund			Year Over Year
	May 31, 2023	May 31, 2022	Increase (Decrease)
			1%
Income	\$ 148,493	\$ 146,325	
Expenses:			
Personnel	(100,299)	(92,569)	
Office	(7,759)	(8,107)	
Property & Maintenance	(23,599)	(21,832)	
Ministry	(10,717)	(11,336)	
Other	(2,987)	(3,448)	
Benevolence:			
Minneapolis Area Synod	(5,500)	(6,500)	
Belle Plaine Fire Dept	(300)	-	
Camp Onomia	(1,250)	(1,500)	
Lutheran Social Services	(500)	(500)	
Net Receipts / (Expenditures)	\$ (4,418)	\$ 533	
Cash Balance at January 1 (excl. all loans)	\$ 69,619	\$ 7,829	
Net Income / (Expenditures)	(4,418)	533	
Misc. cash not affecting income	769	201	
Loan from St. John Foundation (from 2014-2016)	-	39,782	
Cash Balance at May 31	\$ 65,970	\$ 48,345	

Property Improvement Fund

	May 31, 2023
Income (Donations, Rent, Investments)	44,938
Expenses	(12,512)
Net Receipts / (Disbursements)	32,426
Hayden House Loan Balance at January 1	125,664
Principal Payments	(1,722)
Hayden House Loan Balance at May 31	123,942
Liquid Assets at May 31, 2023	197,004

CALLED TO SERVE THROUGH OUR GIVING

Offering Received the week of

<p>May 25– May 31 General Fund—\$4,951 Improvement Fund—\$450</p>	<p>June 1-7 General Fund—\$5,746 Improvement Fund—\$1,280</p>
<p>June 8-14 General Fund— \$3,308 Improvement Fund- \$650</p>	<p>June 15-21 General Fund— \$4,973 Improvement Fund- \$1,475</p>
<p>June 22-28 General Fund—\$2,814 Improvement Fund—\$170</p>	

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

Non-Profit Organization
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 Permit No. 16
 Belle Plaine, MN 56011

Change Service Requested



July 2 Worship Assistants
Altar Guild: Bonnie Vinkemeier
9:00
Greeters: Loren Kruschke Lay Reader: Michelle Melheim Communion Assistants: Michelle Melheim, Jan Effinger, Lynn Jeurissen Ushers: Brian Schmidt, Jonathan Schmidt, Jason Schmidt, Doug Hillstrom, Dave Latzke, Jerold Stauffacher Dave & Sara Bungarden, Ron & Diane Rasmussen

July 9 Worship Assistants
Altar Guild: Bonnie Vinkemeier
9:00
Greeters: Mark & Sherrie Simcox Lay Reader: Sherrie Simcox Communion Assistants: Sherrie Simcox, Patty Laabs, Dave Bungarden Ushers: Brian Schmidt, Jonathan Schmidt, Jason Schmidt, Doug Hillstrom, Dave Latzke, Jerold Stauffacher Dave & Sara Bungarden, Ron & Diane Rasmussen

July 16 Worship Assistants
Altar Guild: Bonnie Vinkemeier
9:00
Greeters: Carol Schultz Lay Reader: Beth Beuch Communion Assistants: Dorothy Koepf, Albert Koepf, Beth Beuch Ushers: Marc & Mindy Chevalier, Michael Gustafson, Joshua Sparby, Lydia Sparby Scott & Tricia Ruud, Alex Ruud, Griffin Ruud, Jerry, Meger

July 23 Worship Assistants
Altar Guild: Bonnie Vinkemeier
9:00
Greeters: Gerald & Diane Bratsch Lay Readers: Sue Steinhagen Communion Assistants: Andy & Sue Steinhagen, Phoebe Einertson Ushers: Marc & Mindy Chevalier, Michael Gustafson, Joshua Sparby, Lydia Sparby Scott & Tricia Ruud, Alex Ruud, Griffin Ruud, Jerry, Meger

July 30 Worship Assistants
Altar Guild: Bonnie Vinkemeier
9:00
Greeters: Sharon Adelman Lay Reader: Caren Grotberg Communion Assistants: Rob & Sandy Schultz, Sharon Adelman Ushers: Albert Koepf, Dorothy Koepf, Kevin Koepf, Matt Stier, Bruce Volek, Tim Carlson, Josh Koepf Brent Koepf, Mitchell Koepf, Jackson Stauffacher, Justin Stauffacher, Tim Moonen