

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

CALLED TO WORSHIP / COMMITTED TO SERVE / CONNECTED IN FAITH

June 2019

A monthly Publication of  
St. John Lutheran Church  
Summer Worship Schedule  
Wednesday Worship  
6:00 PM  
Sunday Worship  
9:00 AM

**Pastors**  
Pastor Mark Johnson  
Pastor Sarah Timian

**Office Staff**  
Jillmarie Stich  
Audrey Zellman

**Custodians**  
Curt & Cheryl Johnson

**Organists**  
Eileen Hanlon  
Diane West

**Choir Director**  
Bri Bergstrom

**Accompanist**  
Sheila Schmidt

148 S. Chestnut St.  
Belle Plaine, MN 56011

952-873-6492  
office@stjohnbelleplaine.org  
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**Sunday Service time change**  
**9:00 am**  
**Starting May 26— September 1**  
**Wednesday Worship Service**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Starting May 29— August 28**



Confirmation camp will be held June 9<sup>th</sup> through June 14<sup>th</sup> this year.

Ice Cream Social on June 19  
from 3:30 pm - 7:30 pm



Ice Cream Social



Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be June 24-27!

Arkansas trip on June 23-29



MISSION TRIP

## ***From Pastor Mark***

How did you get to be a Christian? It doesn't happen in a vacuum. Someone helped you. Someone shared their faith with you. God reached out to you through another person. Who is that person for you? Perhaps it was a number of people.

A few people come to mind for me. I like to tell parents having children baptized that, along with providing their child food, clothing, home and all the necessities of raising a child, they are also the number one spiritual influence in their child's life. My parents took that seriously. They not only prayed for me but also prayed with me. They were models to me of a regular life of prayer. And, along with nightly prayers, they shared Bible stories with me. I still have my old "Eerdmann's Bible Story Book" on the shelf here at my office. The inscription on the inside cover, in my Dad's handwriting, says, "Purchased for Mark Steven Johnson on the day of his birth, January 28, 1957, by his parents." And I remember both of my parents taking turns reading through that Bible Story book with me. The pictures were great and I still remember them from being just a little child. My favorite Bible character as a little boy was Samson because he was so miraculously strong, a pretty cool feature when you are a little boy! I was impressed!

Along with my parents, another person that comes to mind for me is my fourth grade Sunday School teacher. Our class met in the sanctuary under the over-flow section in a ring of folding chairs. I remember that year we learned the apostles' creed and had to recite it. And I remember the kindness of my teacher and how she took an interest in me. I'm sure that she didn't know it at the time but she was making an impression on me that I still remember and appreciate to this day. As I think about this, I am also thankful for the many people who are involved with your young folks here at the church in a variety of ways, often times behind the scenes. Your caring and sharing with these young people is a special thing.

Sometimes we can think that to really share our faith we need to do something special like being a missionary or that we have to have some kind of special knowledge or training. However, if you think about it, most of the influential people that make the most impact in our life are close to home - parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, friends - ordinary folks in ordinary ways who love us and reach out to us and care about us and what is going on in our lives and model and share a life of faith with us that has come to mold and shape who we are today. Thank God for these dear people.

So, to return to my original question, take a minute and think of the people who helped to mold and shape your life as a Christian person. Who are they? How did they share with you? And, as you take some time to think about this, offer up a prayer of thanks to God for these people who have touched your life, through whom God has worked. They are a blessing.

And then, to turn the question a little, who's life have you touched? Chances are that you probably aren't even aware of all of the times you have said or done something or shared in some way with another person that has made a difference in their lives. We plant seeds and God is the one who causes the growth. But we are all part of the process. God chooses to work in us and with us and through us. And that is amazing.

Happy June!

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### **Summer Mission Trips**

St. John Youth and Adult Leaders will be traveling to two sites for this years mission trips.

One group will be going to Eureka Springs, AR

June 23rd-29th.

While the other group will be going to Wind River, WY

July 14th-19th.

Please keep them in your prayers as they travel to these sites.

## From Pastor Sarah

### SUMMER, GREEN GRACE, AND THE CALL TO PLAY

Theologian and writer Jay B. McDaniel described grace in two distinct ways, which he labeled red grace and green grace.<sup>1</sup>

McDaniel describes red grace as “the healing that occurs when we become aware of unwanted suffering in others and ourselves; when we assume responsibility for whatever harm we have done to ourselves and others...and when we allow our sins and sufferings to be transformed into creativity and love.”<sup>2</sup> In short, this is the grace of forgiveness and salvation we need as broken and sinful humans.

On the other hand, green grace is described as occurring “when we enjoy rich ponds with people, plants and animals, and the earth. In moments when we taste green grace, we experience the Spirit, not as a reality within us or beyond us, but rather between us.”<sup>3</sup> This is the grace of joy we discover when we see glimpses of the world as it should be.

McDaniel points out that both are needed for a well-balanced world, but that our focus often drifts to the red grace to the point that we forget the elements of the green grace.<sup>4</sup> Essentially, we can become absorbed in the negative aspects of our lives—the things that remind us of the mistakes we have made and the forgiveness we need. This self-awareness is necessary, but we can take it too far—to the exclusion of the positive aspects of our lives.

I can see where McDaniel is coming from in his article. I do think we can get so caught up with our concern about forgiveness and salvation that we can forget to live our lives. In addition to that, there is an inherent busyness to our world that often ignores or drowns out the moments of joy we should be taking the time to see. We have forgotten what it is to simply live, love, and play.

That’s not a typo. I meant to say play. As children, that is our job—to wonder and imagine and have fun for the sake of having fun and enjoy the life and world we have been given. We grow out of that, and our job becomes organizing calendar conflicts, dealing with issues as they arise, working to pay the bills, and navigating how to fix things when we make mistakes. We need to do this, of course, but we have lost the point if we forget to also stop and wonder, to see a moment of joy, to imagine, and to simply stand in awe.

Summer is here. This is a significant turning point in our year—the whole world changes as the seasons shift from blankets of snow to fields of green. As the world changes, I hope we take the opportunity to let ourselves change a little, too. I hope we find ways to live a little more green grace.

Give it a try. This season, find the moments of joy and live them. Paint a picture. Write a song. Be creative. Make a mess. Jump in a mudpuddle. Run in circles with your dog. Laugh with your neighbors. Read a book with your family. Notice a new line in a song at church. Watch the sunrise. Pray. Play.

Find the moments of joy and live them.

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<sup>1</sup>McDaniel, Jay B. “The Passion of Christ: Grace Both Red and Green.” *Cross Examinations: Readings on the Meaning of the Cross Today*. Ed. Marit Trelstad. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2006. 196-207.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.* 197.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*

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### Summer Offerings

Thank you for remembering your regular support to both our general operating and our building funds this Summer, even when you are away. Your regular support is needed and appreciated, particularly with our general operating fund, over these months. Have a great Summer!

## June Children's Ministry Update

We ended the Sunday School Year with the children performing a few of the songs they learned throughout the year, during the church service on Spring Festival Sunday. After the service, the children and / or parents helped with games for the Spring Festival. If you volunteered for the Spring Festival or helped in the classrooms this year, please know how much this means to the children and the Ministry Team! We couldn't run our youth ministry without your help!

### **VBS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**



**Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be June 24-27!** VBS schedule is as follows: Pre-K children attend from 9am-11am. Children in grades Kindergarten through 6th attend from 9am-3pm. They will need one snack and a sack lunch each day. **Please register your child in the same class they were in for the 2018-19 school year.** The cost of VBS is \$15/child for Pre-K and \$50/child for Kdg.-6th grade or a \$150 family cap. Scholarships are available.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf63v6AgjKlBkpEXwxJoe0SsS-k1XZXAS-Yo1whZ1StB0KpBg/viewform?fbclid=IwAR0yER\\_Z7zgJqEzyxQ-4DlSjvURJX5dxp5IITSIRokyyv2KEhdhtTNy1pqBA](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf63v6AgjKlBkpEXwxJoe0SsS-k1XZXAS-Yo1whZ1StB0KpBg/viewform?fbclid=IwAR0yER_Z7zgJqEzyxQ-4DlSjvURJX5dxp5IITSIRokyyv2KEhdhtTNy1pqBA)

### **WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS!!**

1. **Pre-K Teachers (Currently, we have no volunteers to teach Pre-K. Please consider volunteering to ensure this age group's class runs.)**
2. **Housing for counselors (Sunday night- Wednesday night)**

We are looking for one or two families that will host our camp counselors this year. They are a wonderful group of kids and would love a home-away-from home while they teach our children during VBS week. If you have questions about hosting duties, please contact Dave [davidbungarden01@gmail.com](mailto:davidbungarden01@gmail.com) or Sara Bungarden [sabungarden@gmail.com](mailto:sabungarden@gmail.com), who have graciously hosted for many years. If you would like volunteer, please contact [youthsjlc@gmail.com](mailto:youthsjlc@gmail.com)

The Children's Ministry team will continue to meet over the summer. If you're interested in joining the team, we welcome anyone to the meetings. We will post our next meeting date on the St. John website and facebook page. We will need more volunteers in the fall to ensure another successful year!

Have a fun and safe summer!

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## **Confirmation Camp**

Summer is here, which means it's time for camp! Our Confirmation Students will be traveling to Camp Onomia June 9th through June 14th for a week of learning about God's Word and World. The bus will leave from St. John Lutheran Church at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, and return around 3:00 p.m. on Friday.

The following youth will be attend Confirmation Camp this Summer:

Savannah Berg	Megan Holzemeer	Leo Siekmann
Ethan Bessel	Alexander Johnson	Charli Jo Stier
Lila Bungarden	Austin Mohlin	Caleb Tracy
Tyler Gruhn	Perry Parker	Brennan Veerkamp
	Josie Schmidt	Kiya Williamson

Please pray for our students and their counselors during their week at camp.



### St. John Golf outing, June 9th.

The summer has taken it's sweet time getting here. But, now that it's here why not play some golf on a Sunday afternoon. Each month there will be an organized outing at a local golf course within a reasonable distance from Belle Plaine. Tee times are usually setup for an early afternoon. The first 16 to sign up by calling Trevor Carstens will have a spot. If enough golfers sign up some games will be organized to make it a little more fun. If you are by yourself or have a foursome feel free to sign up.

June's outing will be at Creekbend Golf Course in New Prague on the 9th. If you are a fan of Groupon, check the site to see if there are any discounts for that course. The first tee time is set for around 1p.m. and we'll be doing 18 holes. There is a restaurant on site for anyone who wants to grab lunch or dinner.

If you are interested email Trevor at [tccarstens@yahoo.com](mailto:tccarstens@yahoo.com) or call 507-317-8673.



**June 26**  
 Cross of Peace  
 Lutheran Church  
 1506 Wood Duck Trail  
 Shakopee  
 7 - 8:30 p.m.

## Congregation Forum on Supportive Housing

Did you know that our Scott County neighbors are experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity? Learn more about homelessness in Scott County from community leaders and local experts, and hear how your congregation can make a lasting impact.

Register today at: [www.beaconinterfaith.org/events/CongForum](http://www.beaconinterfaith.org/events/CongForum)  
 Questions? Contact Kristin at: [kgilbert@beaconinterfaith.org](mailto:kgilbert@beaconinterfaith.org)

Members of the St. John's Homelessness Exploratory Committee will be attending.

If interested in joining them, please contact the church office at: 952-873-6492 or [office@stjohonbelleplaine.org](mailto:office@stjohonbelleplaine.org).

Worship Service Coordinators meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 2nd after the 9:00 service in the Conference Room.



### Ice Cream Social

Summer is HERE!! We all could use the opportunity to enjoy summer - St. John Style! Mark your calendars to come out to the Ice Cream Social on June 19 from 3:30 pm - 7:30 pm to enjoy some great sandwiches, delicious pies and cakes and of course - ICE CREAM! All in the comfortable Gathering Area with friends. If you are available to help during the event and haven't been contacted yet, let Deana Siekmann know....she will find a place for you! [deanasiekmann@yahoo.com](mailto:deanasiekmann@yahoo.com) or 952-239-9968

## Worship Assistants Schedule

<b>June 2 Worship Assistants</b>
<b>Audio Visual:</b> Lou Longhenry <b>Coffee Hour:</b> <b>Altar Guild:</b> Sandra Wolpern, Greg & Linda Schwichtenberg
<b>9:00</b>
<b>Greeters:</b> William & Cheryl Dreyer <b>Lay Readers:</b> Molly Moonen <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Rob & Sandy Schultz <b>Ushers:</b> Brent Schwichtenberg, Greg Schwichtenberg, Steve Schmidt, Mikkel Schmidt, Annalee Tupy, <b>Earl Gransee,</b> Louis Longhenry, Allen LaTour, David & Sara Bungarden,

<b>June 9 Worship Assistants</b>
<b>Audio Visual:</b> Chris Zellman <b>Coffee Hour:</b> <b>Altar Guild:</b> Sandra Wolpern, Greg & Linda Schwichtenberg
<b>9:00</b>
<b>Greeters:</b> John & Marge Grannis <b>Lay Readers:</b> Pat Laabs <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Phoebe Einertson & Cindy Schoenbauer <b>Ushers:</b> Chris Schultz, Rob Schultz, Mark Schultz, Wayne Koepp, Aaron Leonard, Matt & Dominick Fogarty <b>Tim Moonen,</b> Dale Schmidt, John Winterfeldt, Samuel Schmidt, Andrew Bauleke, Dick Bristow

<b>June 16 Worship Assistants</b>
<b>Audio Visual:</b> Chris Zellman <b>Coffee Hour:</b> <b>Altar Guild:</b> Sandra Wolpern, Greg & Linda Schwichtenberg
<b>9:00</b>
<b>Greeters:</b> Nick & Bryn Davis Family <b>Lay Readers:</b> Savannah Berg <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Sue & Andy Steinhagen <b>Ushers:</b> Chris Schultz, Rob Schultz, Mark Schultz, Wayne Koepp, Aaron Leonard, Matt & Dominick Fogarty <b>Tim Moonen,</b> Dale Schmidt, John Winterfeldt, Samuel Schmidt, Andrew Bauleke, Dick Bristow

<b>June 23 Worship Assistants</b>
<b>Audio Visual:</b> Earl Gransee <b>Coffee Hour:</b> <b>Altar Guild:</b> Sandra Wolpern, Greg & Linda Schwichtenberg
<b>9:00</b>
<b>Greeters:</b> Stacy & Derek Hoffman <b>Lay Readers:</b> Susie Stier <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Terry Siemon & Dave Otto <b>Ushers:</b> Curt & Cheryl Johnson, Bryn Davis, Corey Johnson, Craig Johnson, Dale & Susan Stier <b>Scott Ruud,</b> Alex Ruud, Griffin Ruud, Dale Mercado, Jake Mercado, Jerry Meger, Alex Meger, Brody Curtiss

<b>June 30 Worship Assistants</b>
<b>Audio Visual:</b> Earl Gransee <b>Coffee Hour:</b> <b>Altar Guild:</b> Sandra Wolpern, Greg & Linda Schwichtenberg
<b>9:00</b>
<b>Greeters:</b> Kevin & Marcy Boblitt <b>Lay Readers:</b> Lois Gustafson <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Lynne Jeurissen & Angela Faucette <b>Ushers:</b> Curt & Cheryl Johnson, Bryn Davis, Corey Johnson, Craig Johnson, Dale & Susan Stier <b>Scott Ruud,</b> Alex Ruud, Griffin Ruud, Dale Mercado, Jake Mercado, Jerry Meger, Alex Meger, Brody Curtiss

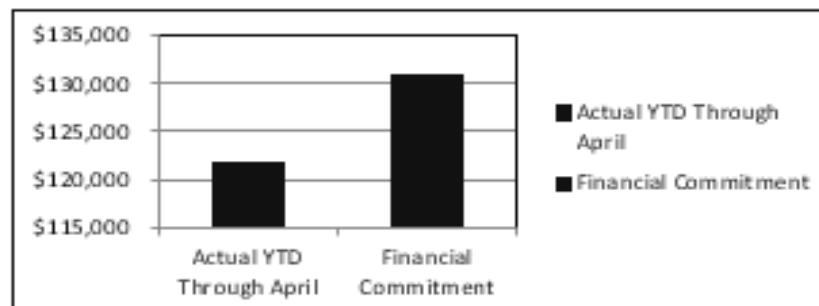
St. John Financial Results  
Four Months Ending April 30, 2019 and April 30, 2018

General Operating Fund			Year Over Year Increase
	April 30, 2019	April 30, 2018	
Income	\$ 121,714	\$ 117,660	3%
Expenses:			
Personnel	(101,597)	(99,025)	
Office	(6,988)	(8,174)	
Property & Maintenance	(13,881)	(14,226)	
Ministry Teams	(9,082)	(11,661)	
Other	(2,053)	(1,745)	
Benevolence:			
Minneapolis Area Synod	(4,000)	(4,000)	
Camp Onomia	(1,000)	(1,000)	
Lutheran Social Services	(500)	(500)	
Net Receipts / (Expenditures)	<u>\$ (17,387)</u>	<u>\$ (22,671)</u>	
Cash Balance at January 1 (excl. all loans)	\$ (64,346)	\$ (35,163)	
Net Income / (Expenditures)	(17,387)	(22,671)	
Misc. cash not affecting income	(650)	(405)	
Loan from Building Fund (from 2018 & 2019)	36,500	13,000	
Loan from St. John Foundation (from 2014-2016)	53,352	52,822	
Cash Balance at April 30	<u>\$ 7,469</u>	<u>\$ 7,583</u>	

Building Fund			
Receipts	\$ 46,504	\$ 41,236	13%
Capital Appeal Expenses	-	(1,143)	
Miscellaneous Expenses	-	(10)	
Principal	(36,224)	(34,611)	
Interest	(6,016)	(7,629)	
Net Receipts / (Disbursements)	<u>\$ 4,264</u>	<u>\$ (2,157)</u>	
Loan Balance at January 1	\$ 435,544	\$ 551,424	
Principal Payments	(36,224)	(34,611)	
Loan Balance at April 30	<u>\$ 399,320</u>	<u>\$ 516,813</u>	

Actual Income Compared to 2019 Financial Commitment:

Actual YTD Through April	\$ 121,714
Financial Commitment	\$ 130,861



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

## STEPPING FORWARD FOR DEMENTIA

### Saturday, August 3

The Lutheran Home Belle Plaine Campus is sponsoring a walk to raise awareness about dementia and those it effects. Walk in memory or honor of a loved on with memory loss. All proceeds will support memory care funding on our campus.

## Register at [tlha.org](http://tlha.org)

Registration forms are also available at The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine, Kingsway Retirement Living and KingsPath Senior Living in Belle Plaine.

**Location:** Walk starts and ends at The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine (611 West Main Street)  
**Length:** 2 miles

Please contact Emily Bullert at [ejbullert@tlha.org](mailto:ejbullert@tlha.org) for more information!

**Registration costs are \$20 for adults and \$7 for children, age 12 and younger.** Includes T-shirt and pinwheel. Register by July 12.

#### Event details:

8 a.m.—Registration  
9 a.m.—Ceremony  
9:10 a.m.—Walk begins  
10—11 a.m. Post-walk activities include face painting, balloon twisting & live music by the Mankato Vine Garage Band

#### Packet Pickup—Friday, August 2

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Location: KingsPath Senior Living, 125 Commerce Drive.

Onsite same day packet pick up is available.

Onsite same-day registration is available for \$25 for adults and \$12 for children. T-shirt size not guaranteed for same day registration.

BELLE PLAINE CAMPUS  
A MINISTRY OF THE LUTHERAN HOME ASSOCIATION



### Weekly Events

Every Monday— Men's Bible Study 8:00 am at Kingsway  
Every Wednesday— Worship 6:00 pm  
Gathering Area  
Every Sunday-  
Worship 9:00 am

### Monthly Events

First Monday— Quilting at 1:00 pm  
First Tuesday-  
10:00 Cardinal Ridge Service  
11:00 Lutheran Home Service  
1:00 Kingsway Service

Second Tuesday— Women's Bible Study 9:30 am  
Kitchen Area