

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

CALLED TO WORSHIP / COMMITTED TO SERVE / CONNECTED IN FAITH

June 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

Custodians
Curt & Cheryl Johnson
Wanda Savage

Choir Director
Allison Vandermark

Organist
Eileen Hanlon

Accompanist
Sheila Schmidt

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Belle Plaine, MN 56011

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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



Confirmation camp will be held
June 25th through June 30th
this year.



Save the Date

The Ice Cream Social will be returning
August 2

Watch for more information to come on Facebook,
our website and the bulletins.

If you would like to help contact the church office
or Sandi Schultz at 952-215-8304

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!



June Children's Ministry Update

Since VBS was cancelled this year due to unknown reasons, the Children's Ministry Team wanted to find a way to stay connected with our Sunday School families this summer. There will be two events taking place, one in July and one in August so stay tuned for more details to follow and **SAVE THE DATES!**

Thursday, July 13th—Potluck Picnic at the park

Tuesday, August 29th—Family Kick-Off to the School Year event

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!



Confirmation Camp

Summer is here, which means it's time for camp! Our Confirmation Students will be traveling to Camp Onomia June 25th through June 30th 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:

Wyatt Fogarty	Adriane Nelson	Ellie Schultz
Muriel Hilgers	Austin Oldenburg	Sully Schultz
Lauren Koepf	Jacob Petersen	Caleb Smith
Emma Martin	Will Posthumus	Connor Vycital

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



We would like to Welcome two new members of our staff at St. John.

Please welcome:

Wanda Savage who is our new custodian.
Jerold Stauffacher who is our new treasurer.

Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes
May 8, 2023

President Ben Aust called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present:

	Pastor Mark	X	Ben Aust		Chris Schultz	X	Albert Koepp
X	Jan Effinger	X	Teresa Latzke	X	Anne Herrmann		Steve Kelm
X	Jaime Petersen	X	Cayla Menke	X	Jim Kerr	X	Tim Moonen
X	Curt Johnson						

Opening Devotions:

Jan Effinger opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

Members of Council reviewed the minutes from the April 10, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the meeting minutes from April. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the agenda for May 8, 2023 with the following amendments to New Business:

- D. Personnel Committee Recommendations
- E. Red Cross Shelter Agreement
- F. Job Descriptions

Pastor Mark's Report:

As the Calendar rolls around into May, we have been in the process of wrapping up a number of our seasonal programs. Sunday School ended the year with a special Sunday on April 23, featuring at our 9:15 a.m. service a recognition and thanks for all of our teachers, leaders and helpers for our education programs (including cards with a gift card), a noisy offering and children's sermon, and a celebration party with treats in the Gathering Area. I can't say enough thanks to all of our leaders, children and families for another great year together! I appreciate all of you so very much!

As per my last council report in April, I mentioned that our plans for a VBS on the Farm this Summer unexpectedly fell through because of some unresolved issues between Cristo Obrero and the host site of Prairie Oaks Institute. I expect that those issues will be worked through but not in time for this Summer. In any case, our Children's Ministry team is meeting early in May to discuss an alternative consisting of a couple of family nights that they will be planning and promoting. Thanks to them for their flexibility and also for their great care and leadership this past year with our younger children and their families!

Following Holy Week and Easter, we held a semi-annual leaders meeting on April 12 with our Connect and Confirmation leaders to review the past year and to look ahead to next Fall. Once again, our Confirmation small groups, leaders and families treated the whole congregation to a wonderful Soup & Sandwich time during Lent. Thank you, again, for hosting such a big and special time together for the whole congregation!

Our 5-6 grade Connect program had their last class session on April 19 and our 7-8 grade Confirmation program had a last session on April 26, featuring a "Jeopardy" style year end review. Our confirmands get pretty loud and competitive and it's fun and a good way to review and wrap up the year together.

Over the Summer, I will be communicating and working with the leaders of the programs mentioned above so that we have programs, schedules and leaders all lined up for when these programs will begin again in the Fall.

Our worship choir had their last Sunday of the season on April 30, featuring two lovely songs, one during the service and the other to close the service on a special note of blessing. They had a great year and a

big thank you to our Director, Allison Vandermark, our Accompanist, Sheila Schmidt, and to all our choir members. You add a lot to our worship time together!

My regular weekly and monthly duties continue apace. This involves some considerable and necessary behind the scenes time involving study and preparation, communication and coordination with various entities within the church - i.e. staff, council, leaders, volunteer groups and the congregation, visitation of people at home, special residence or hospital with prayer and communion, Lutheran home and Kingsway communion services, communicating and planning for pastoral acts like baptisms, funerals and weddings, involvement with Synod and conference gatherings, local clergy, and city and county officials (see last month's report item on "tiny houses"), etc.

I attended our Annual Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly on the weekend of April 29-30 with our St. John delegates, Tim Moonen, Havyn Moonen, Beth Beuch and Amy Franck. An opening worship was held Friday evening at St. Andrew Lutheran in Eden Prairie, followed by a daylong session at Lord of Life Lutheran in Ramsey. One highlight was the excellent speaker we had this year, the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, pastor at Holy Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago. Very inspiring!

Invites are being sent out to all of St. John's graduating high school seniors for a special recognition Sunday that will be held at our 9 a.m. service on Sunday, May 21. We will have an opportunity to hear our graduates' plans, pray for them, and bless them on their way with a special gift, a quilt made by our quilters. I love that! A bit of warmth from their home church to wrap themselves up in from time to time as they live their way into their future. Congratulations graduates! And thank you, quilters!

Sunday, April 30, we began one worship service on Sundays at 9 a.m. that will continue to Fall. After our 9 a.m. service on April 30th, we had coffee and conversation with Craig Pederson, the Assistant to the Bishop that will be working with St. John through the upcoming Call process. I will be retiring as pastor at St. John on September 10. Craig shared information and answered questions. It was good to have him here

I want to say a special thank you to our long time Custodian and Maintenance person, Curt and Cheryl Johnson, as they retire on June 1 from 29 years of outstanding service here at St. John. They have been a pleasure to work with! And thank you to the group that will be hosting the retirement celebration party for them on Sunday, May 7, at 10 a.m. Richly deserved!

Sue and I will be taking a road trip at the end of this month and into June. An old friend of Sue's is getting married on May 26th in Portland and I'll be officiating at the wedding. We're driving out, spending some time, and then continuing on down the west coast and then back across the country, seeing the sights and enjoying some time together. I'm looking forward to it! I have also made arrangements during this time for retired ELCA pastor Diana Hunstad to be on-call for me and to fill in for worship services. With just one pastor here at the time, Diana has been doing this for me for awhile now and she does a great job!

Staff Reports:

Custodial:

Curt reported that Bruce Volek will be mowing grass this summer. No other issues to report.

Treasurer:

Council reviewed the Treasurer reports that were emailed.

Transfers:

None

Ongoing Business:

A. Technology Budget

A meeting was held to discuss automation options and technology support for the office staff. Committee members are researching local and national support vendors and evaluating software options.

B. Rental Property Updates

Working on replacing the false ceilings and correcting a water issue in the Hayden rental.

C. Church Role Update

Working on a date that works for Council members and Staff to meet.

New Business:

A. Call Process

Council members feel the meeting on April 30th with Craig Pederson, the Assistant to the Bishop, to discuss how the Synod will work with us in the calling of a new pastor went well. It was informative and gave the Congregation an opportunity to have their questions answered.

B. Office Staff Summer Hours

A discussion was had regarding summer hours for office staff. A motion was made, seconded and approved to set summer hours for office staff from Memorial Day through August 12th. During this time, the office will not be staffed on Monday afternoons and Friday mornings. Notice of Summer Hours will be posted on the website, the bulletins, the Messenger, and Facebook as well as displayed on the monitors by Friday, May 19th.

C. T.O.P.S.

Tabled until additional information can be gathered.

D. Personnel Committee Recommendations

The Personnel Committee recommends hiring Wanda Savage as custodian and Jerold Stauffacher as Treasurer. Standard probationary period applies. Motion was made, seconded and approved to hire the candidates.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to provide on-the-job training for two weeks for the custodian.

E. Red Cross Shelter Agreement

A discussion was held on a request to provide shelter for animals as part of the agreement with the Red Cross. A motion was made, seconded and approved not to accept pets as part of the agreement.

F. Job Descriptions

A discussion was held regarding updating job descriptions. A meeting with the Personnel Committee has been tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Ministry Team Updates:

A. Stewardship Committee - nothing new to report.

B. Buildings and Grounds Committee - Rooftop furnaces have arrived. Researching thermostats and door locking systems.

C. Personnel Committee - see update under New 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.

G. Technology and Communications Committee - see update under Ongoing Business.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Herrmann

Financial Corner

St. John Financial Results
Four Months Ending April 30, 2023 and April 30, 2022

General Operating Fund			Year Over Year
	<u>April 30, 2023</u>	<u>April 30, 2022</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
Income	\$ 117,183	\$ 120,986	-3%
Expenses:			
Personnel	(80,795)	(73,676)	
Office	(6,481)	(7,067)	
Property & Maintenance	(19,466)	(18,386)	
Ministry	(9,029)	(11,143)	
Other	(1,926)	(3,190)	
Benevolence:			
Minneapolis Area Synod	(4,400)	(5,400)	
Camp Onomia	(1,000)	(1,250)	
Lutheran Social Services	(500)	(500)	
Net Receipts / (Expenditures)	<u>\$ (6,414)</u>	<u>\$ 374</u>	
Cash Balance at January 1 (excl. all loans)	\$ 69,619	\$ 7,829	
Net Income / (Expenditures)	(6,414)	374	
Misc. cash not affecting income	(127)	201	
Loan from St. John Foundation (from 2014-2016)	-	54,429	
Cash Balance at April 30	<u>\$ 63,078</u>	<u>\$ 62,833</u>	

Property Improvement Fund

	<u>April 30, 2023</u>
Income (Donations, Rent, Investments)	39,071
Expenses	<u>(7,520)</u>
Net Receipts / (Disbursements)	<u>31,551</u>
Hayden House Loan Balance at January 1	125,664
Principal Payments	<u>(1,341)</u>
Hayden House Loan Balance at March 31	<u>124,323</u>
Liquid Assets at April 30, 2023	<u>196,509</u>

CALLED TO SERVE THROUGH OUR GIVING

Offering Received the week of

April 27– May 3	May 4-10
General Fund—\$7,812	General Fund—\$7,066
Improvement Fund—\$1,452	Improvement Fund—\$2,195
May 11-17	May 18-24
General Fund— \$4,993	General Fund— \$3,256
Improvement Fund- \$500	Improvement Fund- \$600

June 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Robert Holtberg Adam Jeurissen Curtis Johnson Adrik Pederson	Lauren Koepp Nathaniel Rosario Quinn Streich	Colton Adelmann Sally Hilgers Joanne McConnell Parker Trost
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Greysen Hiles Corinne Mercado	Janet Hanson Colin Thaves	Evelyn Boeckman Harrison Chard Daxon Herrmann	Michael Cope Annie Leonard Katie Roff Kaylee Shackle	Brooke Borresen Jacob Petersen Taylor Tesch	Andrea Adelmann Wilma Bartels Mary Sue Meger Evan Nasby Lacy Schuitz Carson Unze	Georgia Carlson Katie Maier Sharon Sirek
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Heather Kes Kensi Petty	Molly Holm Larry Koniariski Elsie Leonard Isabella Lindahl Aria Tindall	Jase Schroeder	Aiden Fogarty	Julie Tesch	Leann Fahey James Fogarty Cassie Gerres Aiden Winterfeldt John Winterfeldt	Kamryn Stier
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Courtney Fogarty Larry Kiewel Addison Reinsma	Matthew Nicholas	Alexandre Adelmann Ervin Koepp Don Meierbachtol	Austin Heinz Alec Koepp Catherine Oto Anessa Smith	Jim Steffen	Jennifer Meyer Diane West	Allison Koepp Jamie Petersen Marc Schroeder Leah Theis
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Riaya Buddenhagen Collins Crosby Reese Potter	Wesley Koepp Peggy Longhenry Kallie Thaemert Annalee Tupy	Heather Creighton Brian Paulson	Isabelle Stier	Chris Moore Matthew Olson	Sarita Altringer Kyrah Bauer Taylor Johnson Mike Smith	

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				5:00 pm TOPS meeting		
4	5:30 pm Personnel Committee meeting 6:30 pm Boy Scouts meeting	6	6:00 pm Worship Service	5:00 pm TOPS meeting	9	10
11	6:30 pm Boy Scouts meeting 6:30 pm Church Council	12	11:00 Lutheran Home Service 1:00 pm Kingsway Service	4:00 pm Book Club 6:00 pm Worship Service	15	16
18	6:30 pm Boy Scouts meeting	19	6:30 pm Ice Cream Social Committee meeting	5:00 pm TOPS meeting	22	23
25	9:00 Worship Service 1:00 pm Bus leaves for Confirmation Camp	26	6:00 pm Boy Scouts meeting	6:00 pm Worship Service	29	30
Confirmation Camp Week						
9:00 Worship Service 1:00 pm Bus leaves for Confirmation Camp	6:30 pm Boy Scouts meeting		6:00 pm Worship Service	5:00 pm TOPS meeting	3:00 pm Bus returns from Camp	

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

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Change Service Requested



June 4 Worship Assistants
Altar Guild: Sharon Adelmann & Dorothy Koepf
9:00 Greeters: Jeremy & Lainy Schwartz Lay Reader: Deana Siekmann Communion Assistants: Brian & Deana Siekmann, Steve Schroeder Ushers: Myron Bratsch, Kirk Franck, Matt Kes, Jeff Eppen Brent Koepf, Mitchell Koepf, Jackson Stauffacher, Justin Stauffacher, Tim Moonen

June 11 Worship Assistants
Altar Guild: Sharon Adelmann & Dorothy Koepf
9:00 Greeters: Lowell & Laurie Hiles Lay Reader: Angela Kahle Communion Assistants: Greg & Linda Schwichtenberg, Dave Latzke Ushers: Myron Bratsch, Kirk Franck, Matt Kes, Jeff Eppen Brent Koepf, Mitchell Koepf, Jackson Stauffacher, Justin Stauffacher, Tim Moonen

June 18 Worship Assistants
Altar Guild: Sharon Adelmann & Dorothy Koepf
9:00 Greeters: Brian & Jonathan Schmidt Lay Reader: Zoe Otting Communion Assistants: Peg Longhenry, Cindy Schoenbauer, Terry Siemon Ushers: James & John Karl, Dan & Wyatt Herrmann, Tim Bristlin Chris & Annette Moylan, Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter

June 25 Worship Assistants
Altar Guild: Sharon Adelmann & Dorothy Koepf
9:00 Greeters: Jamey, Linda & Olivia Jeurissen Lay Readers: Caren Grothberg Communion Assistants: Randy & Deb Kruger, Kristen Stier Ushers: James & John Karl, Dan & Wyatt Herrmann, Tim Bristlin Chris & Annette Moylan, Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter