

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

CALLED TO WORSHIP / COMMITTED TO SERVE / CONNECTED IN FAITH

June 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
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

The office hours will be as follows for the Summer
Starting Memorial Day thru September 2

Monday– 8 to 12:30,
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday- 8-to 5
Friday– 12:30 to-5



Sunday Service time change
9:00 am

Starting May 26— September 1

Wednesday Worship Service
6:00 pm

*If you would like to begin receiving
the newsletter via email please read
on.*



We are encouraging people to opt-in to begin receiving the newsletter via email. We will be extending this invitation for several months before ceasing to send the paper copy. There will be people in our congregation who do not access this kind of information online or electronically at all. We will continue to mail the newsletter to anyone who wants it.

At a point several months from now we will evaluate the costs of sending the paper copies and make some final decisions. As you probably know, we use a bulk mail permit to send the paper copies. There is a minimum number of copies needed to get the reduced bulk rate. If we fall below that number, the cost to mail a copy will go up. So then, we want to be able to evaluate those numbers as we take the next steps.

It is best if you opt-in the email address of each individual in the household that would like to receive the e-newsletter. To start receiving e-newsletters, please send your request with emails to office@stjohnbelleplaine.org.

Watch for more information as this process unfolds.

From Pastor Ted

Would you like to help me with my sermons? Well... sort of help me!

I am planning to do a series of sermons for the summer based on different characters of the Bible. Based on their life, an episode in their life, or something they did or said, the sermons will point us toward lessons for daily discipleship. This will begin on Memorial Day weekend and go through Labor Day weekend. The series will include less known characters such as Ruth, Esther, Daniel, and Lydia, but also well-known ones like Peter, Paul, the Prodigal Son, The Father, and more. Do you have any suggestions? If you do, let me know which character you think would make a good sermon and I will see what I can do.

Everyday Faith from Everyday Disciples

June 2 – Esther; God Works in Mysterious Ways

June 9 – David; Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde?

June 16 – Father's Day and The Extravagant Father

June 23 – Mary and Martha; Not Either/Or

June 30 – Daniel; Faith, Patriotism and the 4th of July

I will see you in church!



St. John Transition Update

The Transition team kicked off in May doing some very important work searching out the criteria that our congregation wants in our new pastor. This team will be conducting surveys and having conversations with you over the next several months to gather that information. The team will also fill out a Ministry Site Profile report which we get from the synod that will outline our congregation's information, strengths and goals for our near future.

Our team consists of these following members, Diane Skelley, Mike Nagel, Dave Latzke, Caren Grotberg, Melanie Eggers, Cassidy Burkman, Shane Theas, & Bruce Koepp. Anne Herrmann and David Bungarden will be the council representatives. Please thank them for their hard work and dedication to this very important process.

It all belongs to God

It is easy to immediately think of our possessions when reading that statement.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Viewed through this perspective it's easy to see that it really does all belong to God. We are managers of all His gifts both large and small. The Bible challenges us to give a tithe (10%). God has set the example by being the ultimate giver, let us follow His lead.





2024 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly- May 2-4

With Glad and Generous Hearts

New Bishop- Pastor Jen Nagel

The Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly began with an inspiring Worship service on Thursday evening with over 450 pastors, deacons, youth, and adult delegates present at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ramsey, Minnesota. The primary focus of the Assembly was the election of a new Bishop as well as reflection and recognition of Bishop Ann Svennungsen's 12 years of service. The final Nominating ballot of candidates was completed. Biographies of each were available to review.

Friday was a full day including Bible Study, music, displays of resources, networking, and voting 3 different times to narrow down the slate of candidates to 3 for Bishop. Before each vote, there was a question-and-answer period for each candidate. We voted on other Synod positions. There was a Vice President & Treasurer's report, Peacemaking Resolution, Budget Resolutions, and a Celebration for Bishop Ann's service Resolution. A churchwide report and video were provided showcasing accomplishments. Pastors from Nigeria missionary church we support were present and recognized. There was a dinner and farewell celebration for Pastor Ann.

On Saturday morning, Pastor Jen Nagel was voted to become our new Bishop for the next 6 years and will be installed this coming September. The bishop-elect has served as lead pastor of University Lutheran Church of Hope in Minneapolis since 2015. Previously she served as pastor of Salem English Lutheran Church in Minneapolis (2003 to 2015) and as a teaching staff coordinator at Holden Village, Chelan, Wash. (2011). Pastor Nagel earned her Bachelor of Arts in religion and classics from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., in 1994; a certificate of studies from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 1999; and a Master of Divinity from the University of Chicago Divinity School in 1998.

Katie Wermerskirchen & Linda Schwichtenberg would like to thank the congregation for giving us the opportunity to attend as delegates from our congregation. If you have any additional questions or would like to hear more about our experience, feel free to reach out to us.



Congratulations to the
2024 Graduating Seniors
from St. John.

Remember us when you
use your quilts.

Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes
May 13th, 2024

President Albert Koepp called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

X	Pastor Ted	X	Albert Koepp	X	Jim Eggers	X	Anne Herrmann
	Teresa Latzke	X	Jan Effinger	X	Tim Moonen	X	Chris Zellman
X	Jerold Stauffacher	X	Jaime Petersen		Cayla Menke	X	David Bungarden
	Steve Kelm						

Opening Devotions:

Pastor Ted opened the meeting with a prayer,

Approval of Minutes:

Members of Council reviewed the minutes from April 8th, 2024 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 13th, 2024.

Pastor Ted Report

May 2024 Pastors Report

Confirmation/Connect - Overall we had a successful year. Many people appreciated the new schedule and the combined worship service. As is always the case when something changes, some people did not like the change. I heard back from many of the parents that they liked the new approach. Many of the normal worshippers also said they liked hearing the confirmation lesson and learned or re-learned a lot.

Start dates for next fall are set. We will be studying parts of the Lutheran Catechism (Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Sacraments) next year.

September 4 – Leaders Meeting

September 11 Parent Student Orientation

September 18 – First lesson

April 23 – End of Year Celebration

The end of next year is a bit complicated because Easter is very late, April 20. This year attendance dropped dramatically after April 17th because of spring activities. I have some concern about not starting C/C up again after Easter because I am concerned there will be a bigger drop off during Lent. But, based on this year and what other churches are doing, it does make some sense to not start C/C up after Easter. Again, based on this year's schedule, Sunday School would not start again after Easter. April 21 was the last day of Sunday School this year and Easter is April 20th next year.

Sermon Series for Summer

I am planning to do a series of sermons for the summer based on different characters of the Bible. Based on their life, or an episode in their life, the sermons will point us toward lessons for daily discipleship. This will begin on Memorial Day weekend and go through Labor Day weekend. Characters will include less known characters such as Ruth, Esther, Daniel, Lydia, but also well known ones like Peter, Paul, the Prodigal Son, The Father, and more.

Members of Council reviewed Pastor Ted's report and a discussion was had regarding the schedule and ministry plan for next fall. Jim Eggers will connect with the Ministry teams. The secretary will add a new business item to review the Ministry Plan at the August Council meeting.

Staff Reports:

- A. Wanda's Custodian Staff Report. Members of Council reviewed Wanda's custodian report.
- B. Rae's staff report was reviewed by members of the council.
- C. Audrey's Staff Report was reviewed by the members of the council. The secretary will add a new business item to review the electronic newsletter provisioning at the July Council meeting.

Treasurer's Reports:

Jerold presented the monthly reports and answered questions from Council members. He noted that offerings and expenses are down compared to last year at this time. He suggested adding the Venmo QR code and website link to the Powerpoint Offering slide and electronic offering card that is available in the pews.

Transfers:

- A. In: None
- B. Out: None

Ongoing Business:

- A. Church Roll Update has been tabled for next month.
- B. Tim Savage is unavailable this summer to help our custodian but Bob Fimon is willing to assist when needed. Thank you, Tim and Bob!
- C. The Transition Team has been established. The members agreed to meet twice a month and report to Council monthly; providing an oral update to the congregation twice a month. Will work on updating the Site Ministry Plan with demographic and budget information.
- D. The Property Task Force has met and is preparing information for the City.
- E. The Personnel Committee and office staff are discussing summer hours. The summer schedule will be published in the newsletter, the website, the bulletins, and displayed on church monitors.

New Business:

- A. None

Ministry Team Updates:

- A. Worship and Music Committee: Recruited members. Aligned on purpose and responsibilities. Will work on establishing a church calendar to coordinate with other committees for all special events, adding contemporary music to our worship, having words on the screen for both services in the fall, song leaders for hymns, and Live steam the 9:15 service.
- B. Technology and Communications Committee: Set the church up with RE2Tech to provide ongoing support for the church's technology needs. Purchased new computer(s). Anti-virus/network security upgrade through RE2Tech. Spent approximately \$2,500 of allocated \$4,000 tech improvement authorization. Will work on updating website and social media. Upgrade church's wireless infrastructure. Manage existing software licenses.
- C. Nomination Committee: Recruited members for Transition team.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Herrmann substituting for Teresa Latzke,
Secretary

Confirmation Camp

Summer is here, which means it's time for camp! Our Confirmation students will be traveling to Camp Onomia June 23th through June 28th 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:

Faith Adelmann	Weston Hardel	Emma Koepp	Payton Schwichtenberg
Ava Bommelyn	Arianna Hiles	Breanne Konopacki	Rylan Williamson
Emmaleah Cecka	Elijah Hoff	Jackson Lillemoen	
Bennett Grant	Noelle Hoff	Colin Sammons	

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

June 2024



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

June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00 Worship Service	5:30 pm Worship Committee meeting 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Personnel Committee meeting	11:00 Lutheran Home Service 1:30 pm Kingsway Service	6:00 pm Worship Service	5:00 pm TOPS		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 Worship Service	6:30 pm Church Council 6:30 pm Boy Scouts		6:00 pm Worship Service	5:00 pm TOPS		Newsletter Deadline 8:00 Private Party in Gathering Area
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 Worship Service		4:30 pm Stewardship Committee meeting	6:00 pm Worship Service	5:00 pm TOPS		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00 Worship Service 1:00 pm Bus leaves for Confirmation Camp	6:30 pm Boy Scouts		6:00 pm Worship Service	5:00 pm TOPS	3:00 pm Bus returns from Confirmation Camp	
30						
9:00 Worship Service						



June Altar Guild: Lynne Jeurissen

June 2 Worship Assistants

9:00

Greeters: Brian & Jonathan Schmidt

Lay Reader: Bryn Davis

Communion Assistants: Bryn & Nick Davis, Lynne Jeurissen

Ushers: **Brent Schwichtenberg**, Greg Schwichtenberg, Bruce Schmidt, Richard Laabs, Jodi Savage, **Dave & Sara Bungarden**, Ron and Dianne Rasmussen

June 9 Worship Assistants

9:00

Greeters: Jamey, Linda & Olivia Jeurissen

Lay Reader: Bonnie Vinkemeier

Communion Assistants: Greg & Linda Schwichtenberg, Bonnie Vinkemeier

Ushers: **Brent Schwichtenberg**, Greg Schwichtenberg, Bruce Schmidt, Richard Laabs, Jodi Savage, **Dave & Sara Bungarden**, Ron and Dianne Rasmussen

June 16 Worship Assistants

9:00

Greeters: Angela Faucette

Lay Reader: Phoebe Einertson

Communion Assistants: Angela Faucette, Dorothy Koepp, Phoebe Einertson

Ushers: **Chris Schultz**, Luke Schultz, Logan Schultz, Rob Schultz, Mark Schultz, Wayne Koepp, Aaron Leonard, **Scott & Tricia Ruud**, Monica & Jason Braesch

June 23 Worship Assistants

9:00

Greeters: Sue Steinhagen

Lay Reader: Susie Steinhagen

Communion Assistants: Susie Steinhagen, Deana & Brian Siekmann

Ushers: **Chris Schultz**, Luke Schultz, Logan Schultz, Rob Schultz, Mark Schultz, Wayne Koepp, Aaron Leonard, **Scott & Tricia Ruud**, Monica & Jason Braesch

June 30 Worship Assistants

9:00

Greeters: Nick & Bryn Davis

Lay Reader: Caren Grotberg

Communion Assistants: Matt & Kristin Stier, Sara Bungarden

Ushers: **Myron Bratsch**, Kirk Franck, Matt Kes, Jeff Eppen, Brian Siekmann, **Brent Koepp**, Mitchell Koepp, Tim Moonen, Justin Stauffacher

Financial Corner

St. John Financial Results
Four Months Ending April 30, 2024 and April 30, 2023

General Operating Fund		Year Over Year	
	April 30, 2024	April 30, 2023	Increase (Decrease)
Income	\$ 110,303	\$ 117,183	-6%
Expenses:			
Personnel	(76,558)	(80,795)	
Office	(6,289)	(6,481)	
Property & Maintenance	(18,034)	(19,466)	
Ministry	(10,831)	(9,029)	
Other	(3,178)	(1,926)	
Benevolence:			
Minneapolis Area Synod	(4,400)	(4,400)	
Camp Onomia	(1,000)	(1,000)	
Lutheran Social Services	(500)	(500)	
Net Receipts / (Expenditures)	<u>\$ (10,487)</u>	<u>\$ (6,414)</u>	
Cash Balance at January 1	\$ 48,424	\$ 69,619	
Net Income / (Expenditures)	(10,487)	(6,414)	
Misc. cash not affecting income	1,802	201	
Cash set aside for strategic planning	(35,000)	(35,000)	
Cash Balance at April 30	<u>\$ 4,739</u>	<u>\$ 28,406</u>	

Property Improvement Fund

	April 30, 2024	April 30, 2023
Income (Donations, Rent, Investments)	33,975	39,071
Expenses (1)	(54,860)	(7,520)
Net Receipts / (Disbursements)	<u>(20,885)</u>	<u>31,551</u>
Hayden House Loan Balance at January 1	121,503	125,664
Principal Payments	(1,425)	(1,341)
Hayden House Loan Balance at April 30	<u>120,078</u>	<u>124,323</u>
Liquid Assets at April 30, 2023	<u>168,355</u>	<u>196,509</u>

(1) New tables, chairs, door lock system, patio, 50% of new flooring = \$47,000

CALLED TO SERVE THROUGH OUR GIVING	
Offering Received the week of	
April 25-May 1	May 2-8
General Fund—\$4,813	General Fund—\$8,603
Improvement Fund—\$1,374	Improvement Fund—\$1,021
May 9-15	May 16-22
General Fund— \$2,768	General Fund— \$3,143
Improvement Fund- \$440	Improvement Fund- \$750

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 is one of 4 area churches that help deliver meals within the city limits of Belle Plaine. Each church takes 1 week a month to deliver meals Monday through Friday. We need 5 volunteers to help 1 day for 1 hour per month.

If you can help, please call:
Marlys Koepf at 952-873-4445

Or

The church office at 952-873-6492

The flyer is for a Day Camp. At the top left, there is a logo for 'GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN ministries' with a fish icon. Below the logo, the text 'Day Camp' is written in a large, purple, cursive font. Underneath, it says 'AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH BELLE PLAINE, MN' in orange. The dates 'AUGUST 5 - 8, 2024' are in a large purple font. Below the dates, it lists 'GRADES: K-6 (CURRENT GRADE)' and 'COST: \$50/STUDENT (\$150/FAMILY MAX)' in orange. At the bottom, it says 'HOW TO REGISTER: [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/K6E8S8BJMP8E8Q59](https://forms.gle/K6E8S8BJMP8E8Q59)'. On the left side, there are three photos of children and adults at a camp. At the bottom left, there is a purple and yellow graphic that says 'CREATED TO BE Summer 2024'. At the bottom right, it says 'QUESTIONS? EMAIL - YOUTHSJLC@GMAIL.COM'.