

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

CALLED TO WORSHIP / COMMITTED TO SERVE / CONNECTED IN FAITH

March 2023

A monthly Publication of  
St. John Lutheran Church

## Worship Schedule

### Saturday Worship

6:00 pm

### Sunday Worship

8:00 & 9:15

9:15 Sunday School

### Pastor

Pastor Mark Johnson

### Office Staff

Rae Fimon

Audrey Zellman

### Treasurer

Robin Fink

### Custodians

Curt & Cheryl Johnson

### Choir Director

Allison Vandermark

### Organist

Eileen Hanlon

### Accompanist

Sheila Schmidt

148 S. Chestnut St.  
Belle Plaine, MN 56011

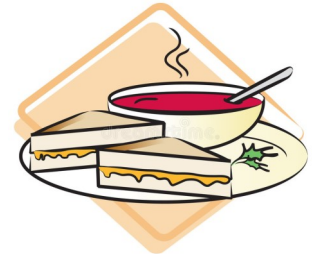
952-873-6492

[office@stjohnbelleplaine.org](mailto:office@stjohnbelleplaine.org)

[Web:stjohnbelleplaine.org](http://Web:stjohnbelleplaine.org)



Lenten Services  
Wednesday Evenings  
March 1 thru March 29, 2023  
6:30 p.m.



Join us for our  
Soup and Sandwich Meal  
During the Lenten Season  
Serving starts at 5:30 p.m.  
Menus inside



Daylight Savings starts  
March 12

Don't forget to move your  
clocks ahead one hour.

## Looking Ahead to Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday April 2 Services at 8:00 & 9:15	Maundy Thursday April 6 Service at 7:00 pm	Good Friday April 7 Service at 7:00 pm	Easter Sunday April 9 Services at 7:00 & 9:30
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## From Pastor Mark

### What Does Being a Christian Mean to Me?

Each year around the end of January and the beginning of February people begin to watch the caller I.D. on their phone in case they get a phone call from the church which may be me asking them if they want to be a speaker for our Midweek Lenten worship services. And each year I manage to slip by the caller I.D. and talk with them. And each year it's interesting to see how folks respond. Public speaking is not for everyone. And there are quite a number of folks who tell me that, even though they might like to, they just can't get up in front like that. Then there are a few others who jump right in and say "sign me up." And then there are a number of others who are a bit more reluctant but eventually, after some conversation, come around. Frankly, Moses wasn't all that enthusiastic when the Lord called him and needed some persuading. But he eventually agreed.

One thing I like about members of our church getting up and sharing their story is that they can carry a lot of weight with people that I can't. I'm the pastor. People expect me to get up there. But when someone who doesn't have to gets up and shares, it can connect with people in a way that I can't. When a person in junior or senior high school gets up to share, the kids are going to tune in to them in a different way than they would with me. When someone shares their story it may connect with another person in a way that my story wouldn't. Everyone is on their own journey. We are all shaped by different people and experiences in different ways. I like to tell our speakers that they will enrich others by sharing their story. And they do.

And here's the other thing. I also tell them that they will be enriched in sitting down and wrestling with and putting into words what being a Christian means to them. And I've been told by a number of speakers that, although they might have been reluctant to do it, they are glad that they did because they did find it an enriching experience to sit down and really think through what being a Christian is.

And here's the other thing. It shouldn't be just our Lenten speakers who take the time to wrestle with this opportunity. Even if we aren't getting up and talking, I want to invite all of us, during this Lenten season, to sit down and think about and wrestle with our theme question for the season, "What Does Being a Christian Mean to Me?"

Why are you a Christian? Who had a hand in that? Who played a role in nurturing you? And who have you played a role in nurturing? What experiences, teachers, books, or whatever else have had a hand in helping you to be a Christian?

Sure, you consider yourself to be a Christian. But what does that really mean for you? What does it mean for how you see yourself? What does it mean for how you see your life and its purpose? How does being a Christian shape your everyday thinking and activity? And if it really doesn't have that much of a practical impact on your life, why not?

What questions do you have? What perhaps unexpressed scars and struggles do you carry inside? Where is God in your everyday life and relationships? What matters to you most in life?

I invite you this Lenten Season to take some intentional time and reflect on these things. You may want to write in a journal (no one has to see it). Pray. Sit in Silence. Listen and look. Be aware of God's Presence. What Does Being a Christian Mean to You?



### March Children's Ministry Update

The Sunday School children focused on the story of Ruth in February and will start learning about Daniel and the lions in March.

#### Upcoming Events

- Sunday, March 5th: Noisy offering and children's sermon at **9:15 service**
- Sunday, March 12th: **Daylight Savings**-normal Sunday School schedule
- Sunday, March 26th: **Spring Break** - No Sunday School
- Sunday, April 2nd: **Palm Sunday**: Sunday School children will sing at the beginning of both 8:00 and 9:15 services.
- Sunday, April 9th: **Easter Sunday**--NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- Sunday, April 23rd: **Last Day of Sunday School**

\*The Children's Ministry Team will be discussing Vacation Bible School. Please stay tuned for information to be shared in the April newsletter!

**We're Hiring!**

**Congratulations Curt and Cheryl Johnson on your retirement. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, they will be hanging up their brooms and tools.**

The personnel committee of St. John Lutheran Church is seeking interested individuals to fill these positions:

**Custodian:** The Custodian shall provide the satisfactory appearance of the church building, equipment, and grounds. Giving special attention to general neatness and cleanliness. The custodian position works about 20 hours a week.

**Maintenance:** The Maintenance person shall provide for the satisfactory maintenance of the church building, equipment, and grounds. The maintenance position works about 15 hours a week.

Potential applicants can apply for Custodian/Maintenance (Joint).

We will provide job descriptions and applications in the office. If interested, please fill out an application and bring it to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact any of the personnel committee members. Brent Koepf (612) 860-0386, Kim Thaemert (612) 508-2239, Mindy Chevalier (612) 598-9569 and Wendy Theis (952) 873-9822.

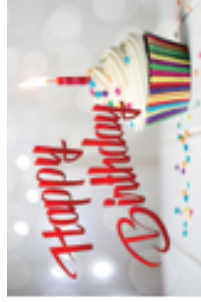
Thank you for all your considerations.



We are looking for Ushers to help during a Funeral.

If you can help call the church office at 952-873-6492.

# March 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Phoebe Einertson Carter Kes Sarah Leonard Jaxson Overline	Katie Herrmann Chase Jaworski Kacie Reinsma Kyle Sammons	Noah Hornaman John Karl Amy Rosario	Harrison Bungarden Michael Meierbachtol
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Joey Franck Clarrissa Lutterman Luke Schultz	Walker Herrmann Douglas Nasby	Lauren Tesch	Courtney Bristlin Mya Holzemer	Lee Bessel Tim Carlson Jacqueline Johnson Curtis Koepp Alyana Lindahl Griffin Ruud	James Karl Wendy Koepp	Audrey Havemeier Jean Jackels Sarah Theis
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Luke Andert	Alaina Buesgens Ann Carstens Alexander Rosario Roger Stier	Vivian Holtberg Henry Husfeldt Lucy Leonard Callie Stoutland	Ally Fink Michael Olson Keith Siemon Douglas Steen Landon Trost	Abigail Johnson	Kace Hutchison Brian Overline Sully Schultz	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Meghan Malz Will Posthumus Sheila Schmidt Emlyn Siemon	Connie Bergs Treyden Hiles Ivy Pankomin	Mary Kay Nasby	Nora Hansen Blair Henke Alexandra Stauffacher Emily Vinkemeier	Dorothy Koepp	Shane Henke Roland Perkins	Savannah Filipek Miranda Koenig Joan Olson Bob Palmer Joseph Petersen
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Diane Bratsch	Brittney Danchurand Corey Hansen Mitchel Stier	Eli Braun Megan Doebbeling Aiden Johnson Allen Koepp	Svea Olson Rick Schroeder	Landon Graff Alexzander Stier	Misty Johnson Nora Meuleners Carol Peterson	

# March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 6:00 pm Worship Service
5 8:00 & 9:15 Worship Service 9:15 Sunday School	6 6:30 pm Boy Scouts meeting	7 11:00 Lutheran Home Service 1:00 pm Quilters 1:30 pm Kingsway Service	8 4:00 pm Book Club 5:30 pm Soup and Sandwich 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Adult Choir	9	10	11 6:00 pm Worship Service
12 8:00 & 9:15 Worship Service 9:15 Sunday School Council Executive meeting 9:30 Personnel Committee meeting	13 6:30 pm Boy Scouts meeting 6:30 pm Church Council	14	15 5:30 pm Soup and Sandwich 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Adult Choir	16	17	18 6:00 pm Worship Service
19 8:00 & 9:15 Worship Service 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 New Member Orientation 1:00 pm Girl Scout meeting	20 6:30 pm Boy Scouts meeting	21	22 5:30 pm Soup and Sandwich 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Adult Choir	23	24	25 6:00 pm Worship Service
26 New Member Sunday 8:00 & 9:15 Worship Service	27 6:30 pm Boy Scouts meeting	28 6:30 pm Cub Scouts meeting	29 5:30 pm Soup and Sandwich 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Adult Choir	30	31 6:30 pm Private gathering in Gathering area	

March 5 Worship Assistants	
<b>Coffee Hour:</b> <b>Altar Guild:</b> Sandra Schultz, Brenda Schultz, Amanda Schultz	<b>March 8 Soup and Sandwich Small Group Servers</b> Andrea Gerres & Kim Thaumert
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8:00</b></p> <b>Acolytes:</b> Madi Theis & Taylor Menke <b>Greeters:</b> Loren Kruschke <b>Lay Reader:</b> Mindy Chevalier <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Marc & Mindy Chevalier, Kirk Franck <b>Ushers:</b> Myron Bratsch, Kirk Franck, Matt Kes, Jeff Eppen	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9:15</b></p> <b>Acolytes:</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Jeremy & Lainey Schwartz <b>Lay Reader:</b> Dave Bungarden <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Dave & Sara Bungarden <b>Ushers:</b> Chris & Annette Moylan, Mike & Zach Olson, Steve Schroeder, Jacob Petersen, Wyatt Fogarty

March 12 Worship Assistants	
<b>Coffee Hour:</b> <b>Altar Guild:</b> Sandra Schultz, Brenda Schultz, Amanda Schultz	<b>March 15 Soup and Sandwich Small Group Servers</b> Ann Carstens
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8:00</b></p> <b>Acolytes:</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Greg & Linda Schwichtenberg <b>Lay Reader:</b> Austin Oldenburg <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Rob & Sandy Schultz, Terry Siemon <b>Ushers:</b> James & John Karl, Dan & Wyatt Herrmann, Tim Bristlin	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9:15</b></p> <b>Acolytes:</b> Jacob Petersen & Wyatt Fogarty <b>Greeters:</b> Anita Lambrecht <b>Lay Reader:</b> Phoebe Einertson <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Phoebe Einertson, Peg Longhenry, Cindy Schoenbauer <b>Ushers:</b> Dave & Sara Bungarden, Ron & Dianne Rasmussen

March 19 Worship Assistants	
<b>Coffee Hour:</b> <b>Altar Guild:</b> Sandra Schultz, Brenda Schultz, Amanda Schultz	<b>March 22 Soup and Sandwich Small Group Servers</b> Deanne Fogarty, Jamie Petersen, Kristin Stier
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8:00</b></p> <b>Acolytes:</b> Muriel Hilgers <b>Greeters:</b> Angela Faucette <b>Lay Reader:</b> Kamryn Stier <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Kristin & Kamryn Stier, Dave Latzke <b>Ushers:</b> James & John Karl, Dan & Wyatt Herrmann, Tim Bristlin	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9:15</b></p> <b>Acolytes:</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Marv & Rhonda Doeden <b>Lay Reader:</b> Zoe Otting <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Marv & Rhonda Doeden <b>Ushers:</b> Dave & Sara Bungarden, Ron & Dianne Rasmussen

March 26 Worship Assistants	
<b>Coffee Hour:</b> <b>Altar Guild:</b> Sandra Schultz, Brenda Schultz, Amanda Schultz	<b>March 29 Soup and Sandwich Small Group Servers</b> Dave Bungarden, Wayne Nagel
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8:00</b></p> <b>Acolytes:</b> Leah Theis & Taylor Menke <b>Greeters:</b> Brian & Jonathan Schmidt <b>Lay Readers:</b> Jan Effinger <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Jan Effinger, Randy & Deb Kruger <b>Ushers:</b> Brian Schmidt, Jonathan Schmidt, Jason Schmidt, Doug Hillstrom, Dave Latzke, Jerold Stauffacher	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9:15</b></p> <b>Acolytes:</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Sue Koenig <b>Lay Reader:</b> Steve Schroeder <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Stee Schroeder, Cheryl Flynn <b>Ushers:</b> Scott & Tricia Ruud, Alex Ruud, Griffin Ruud, Jerry Meger

Acolytes for Lenten Services		
March 1– Sully Schultz & Austin Oldenburg	March 8– Caleb Smith & Connor Vycital	March 15–
March 22– Ellie Schultz & Lauren Koepf	March 29–	

# Financial Corner

## St. John General Fund Financial Results One Month Ending January 31, 2023 and January 31, 2022

<b>General Fund</b>			Year Over Year
	<u>January 31, 2023</u>	<u>January 31, 2022</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
Income	\$ 22,266	\$ 19,575	14%
Expenses:			
Personnel	(18,680)	(17,661)	
Office	(1,371)	(2,197)	
Property & Maintenance	(3,502)	(2,495)	
Ministry Teams	(469)	(327)	
Other	(259)	(270)	
Benevolence:			
Minneapolis Area Synod	(1,100)	(2,100)	
Camp Onomia	(250)	(500)	
Net Receipts / (Expenditures)	<u>\$ (3,365)</u>	<u>\$ (5,975)</u>	
Cash Balance at January 1 (Excl. Loans)	\$ 69,619	\$ 7,829	
Net Income / (Expenditures)	(3,365)	(5,975)	
Misc. cash not affecting income	710	(489)	
Loan from St. John Foundation (2014-2016)	-	39,782	
Cash Balance at January 31	<u>\$ 66,964</u>	<u>\$ 41,147</u>	

<b>Property Improvement Fund</b>	
	<u>January 31, 2022</u>
Income (Donations, Rent, Investments)	\$ 14,559
Expenses	(557)
Net Receipts / (Disbursements)	<u>\$ 14,002</u>
Hayden House Loan Balance at January 1	\$ 125,664
Principal Payments	(302)
Hayden House Loan Balance at January 31	<u>\$ 125,362</u>
Liquid Assets at January 31	\$ 180,000

### CALLED TO SERVE THROUGH OUR GIVING

#### Offering Received the week of

<b>January 26- February 1</b>	<b>February 2-8</b>
General Fund—\$6,515	General Fund—\$5,483
Improvement Fund—\$1,251	Improvement Fund—\$960
<b>February 9-15</b>	<b>February 16-22</b>
General Fund—\$4,398	General Fund— \$6,527
Improvement Fund—\$2,936	Improvement Fund- \$890

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

**Soup and Sandwich Supper Menu**  
**2023 Lenten Season**  
(menu subject to change)

**March 1**

**Soups:** Chicken Wild Rice and Bacon Cheeseburger  
**Sandwiches:** Roast beef, Ham, and Turkey  
**Confirmation Group Serving:** Jill Martin, Tonya Smith, and Cody Schultz

**March 8**

**Soups:** Chicken Wild Rice and Cheesy Chicken Tortilla  
**Sandwiches:** Egg salad, Turkey, Ham, and Walking Tacos  
**Confirmation Group Serving:** Andrea Gerres and Kim Thaemert

**March 15**

**Soups:** Chicken Wild Rice and Creamy Cheesy Broccoli  
**Sandwiches:** Turkey, Ham, Egg Salad, and Potato Bar  
**Confirmation Group Serving:** Ann Carstens

**March 22**

**Soups:** Chicken Noodle and Chili  
**Sandwiches:** Turkey, Ham, Sloppy Joes, and Egg Salad  
**Confirmation Group Serving:** Deanne Fogarty, Jamie Petersen, and  
Kristin Stier

**March 29**

**Soups:** Chicken Wild Rice and Tomato Basil  
**Sandwiches:** Ham, Turkey, Grilled Cheese  
**Confirmation Group Serving:** Dave Bungarden and Wayne Nagel