ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

CALLED TO WORSHIP / COMMITTED TO SERVE / CONNECTED IN FAITH

May 2024

A monthly Publication of St. John Lutheran Church

Worship Schedule

Wednesday Worship 6:00 pm

> Sunday Worship 8:00 & 9:15

<u>Interim Pastor</u> Pastor Ted Vanderpan

> <u>Office Staff</u> Rae Fimon Audrey Zellman

<u>Custodian</u> Wanda Savage

<u>Choir Director</u> Allison Vandermark

> <u>Organist</u> Eileen Hanlon

<u>Accompanist</u> Sheila Schmidt

148 S. Chestnut St. Belle Plaine, MN 56011

952-873-6492 office@stjohnbelleplaine.org Web: stjohnbelleplaine.org Senior Graduation Recognition will be held May 19. Come and congratulate our Seniors at the 9:15 Service





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

The Bluebirds are back and choosing their nesting sites, which for me, means that "Spring has sprung"! My mind is full of all kinds of ways I want to participate in the earth being reborn with warm weather. Cleaning the yard, tilling a garden or flower bed, planting seeds or plants, nourishing our favorite plants – it is all participation in God's creation – which is actually very much a part of our life of faith.

Both the Bible and the Apostle's Creed begin with identifying God as creator. The Bible explains who made it all much more than "how" it was made. In the Creed, we confess our faith in the one who made it all – I believe in God… creator of heaven and earth. The clear water that flows down out of the mountains, the forests that cover the northern part of our state, the bald eagles that are nesting along the Minnesota River, the flowers, the shrubs, the newborn animals – for all of it we owe our thanks to God.

Not only did God make the creation, not only has God shared creation with us but also, the creation belongs to God. "The earth and all that is in it" is merely on loan. God has shared it with us for us to enjoy, to make a living from, to be refreshed in and to care for. Many of us find deep satisfaction and enjoyment being in "the great outdoors". I often hear people say that they feel closer to God when they are in creation. Maybe that is part of why God gave it all to us – that we might see God there, in what God has made? We all find life from the earth's produce – our food. Whether you enjoy a great steak or are vegan, we all find nourishment from what God has made and shared with us. Many of us escape from the stresses of daily life by getting away into nature. And all of us are called by God to help care for what God has made – to care for and to care about God's creation.

I suppose caring for God's creation is like the rest of living God's call on our lives. God has given each one of us special interests, passions, skills, experiences and abilities to play a role in caring for creation. What is your role in caring for God's creation? What are your special interests in God's creation? What is your special set of knowledge? What experiences shape your attitudes about caring for the earth? In our modern world that can get kind of complicated – right? I mean, one person's rights can be infringed upon by another person's convictions about what it means to care for the earth! Which means it is extremely important to continue loving our neighbor while we are loving God's creation.

So, as you make your way outdoors to whatever activities it is in which you find your pleasure, here's a prayer to guide your summer enjoying God's grand creation. "Lord, we thank you for this opportunity to reflect on your creation, your covenant with all living things, and our obligation to be good stewards of the gifts you have provided. Help us to understand that each of us has an important role in Caring for Creation, by the choices we make and by the actions we take. Give us the wisdom to choose thoughtfully, and to act with care, in accordance with your will, and your love of this good Earth, Amen."

Embracing Stewardship

The purpose of the Stewardship Committee is to help guide and encourage the congregation on how to faithfully steward the gifts God has so abundantly entrusted to us. This monthly article is one of the ways we will do this.



Q. What is Stewardship?

A. In the Bible, the steward was the one who managed or administered the property which was owned by another person. So, for us, stewardship is the way we make use of all that God has entrusted to our care. We often refer to what God has entrusted as our time, our talents, and our treasures.

St. John Transition Update



During the month of April, the Nominations Committee has been identifying people who would like to be on the Transition Team. The Church Council will officially appoint these individuals to the Transition Team at their May meeting. Then the team will begin it's work.

The TT will lead the congregation in preparing ELCA documents that will be given to pastors interested in the Call at St John. The Ministry Site Profile will give background information about the Belle Plaine and St John communities, through such things as demographic data, key historical events, current trends, current challenges, and key issues today and for the near future. For St John, it will also identify keys to the ministry here such as, 3 to 5 big ministry goals and priorities for the next 3 to 5 years, strengths, and areas we want to strengthen as a congregation. The TT will use the report Pr. Ted wrote based on his interviews. Through lots of congregational participation, the TT lead us in identifying and clarifying the key items from the report. The TT will take the Synod's process and adapt it to our situation to get this done.

So, we will need people that can take the process and create our own tools and way of completing it. This may mean creating surveys, assessments, conducting open forums or any number of other things. The TT will decide how they want to get the project done and then do it. The whole congregation will have several opportunities to participate in the process to give input and feedback. Pr. Ted will be on the TT but will not be the chairperson. The TT will most likely meet approximately every other week working around holidays, vacations, illness and all those other parts of life.

Provided the TT gets started and makes good progress over the summer, they may be able to complete their work around Christmas. If that happens, it is possible that we would be ready to form a Call Committee in conjunction with the 2025 Annual Meeting.

You can contact any member of the Nominations Committee if you would like to help with the TT. The Chairperson is Dave Bungarden at <u>davidbungarden01@gmail.com</u>.

Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes April 8th, 2024

President Albert Koepp called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present:

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

Opening Devotions:

Pastor Ted was not present.

Approval of Minutes:

Members of Council reviewed the minutes from March 11th, 2024 Council Meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the meeting minutes from March. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the agenda for April 8th, 2024.

Pastor Ted Report:

April 2024 Pastors Report

Lent – I thought that our Lenten season went well. There was a lot of positive feelings around all the different parts. Our Lenten Suppers were a big success. We had a tremendous number of people help make the meals happen which is a big "win" for the congregation at this time. Our speakers, Sue Volek, Heidi Vanderpan, Haven Moonen, Savannah Berg and Andrea Adelmann were well received. People expressed appreciation for having some younger people speak. One of the items I mentioned in my Transition Interview Report was that people wanted more "fellowship" opportunities. They felt this was something that has been missing since covid. It seems to me there was very good participation in the meals and worship for all of Lent. I noticed only a slight drop off as Lent went on.

First Communion – I have scheduled First Communion classes for Wednesday, April 3 & 10. Families will have the option of celebrating their child's first communion on either Sunday, April 14th or Wednesday, April 24th. All students will be recognized at each service. I have tentatively set the next First Communion classes for next October. Committees –It seems to me we have successfully accomplished a "re-launch" of our committee structure but will need to stay diligent to make sure it sticks. I meet regularly with the Worship, Personnel, and Stewardship Committees. I am anticipating to meet with the Technology Team in the near future.

Transition – We are nearing our readiness to launch the Transition Team. I met with a part of the Nominations Committee to get ready to recruit a Transition Team. There is an article about the work of the TT in the April newsletter which Dave Bungarden and I thought was adequate to get things rolling. The Nominations Committee will be making Sunday announcements about the TT and recruiting people in April. I expect the TT will get a good start over the summer and be ready to get the congregation involved in the process with the start of the school year. Confirmation/Connect – will restart on April 3rd and continue until May 8th. We studied the Old Testament in the fall and are working on the New Testament now. We will be working on Lutheran doctrine, including the Small Catechism the entire next school year.

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.

Treasurer:

Jerold presented the monthly and quarterly reports and answered questions from Council members.

Transfers:

In: None

B. Out: None

Ongoing Business:

A. Church Roll Update has been tabled for next month.

- B. Rae reported that the option to pay with a Venmo account went live on Easter.
- C. A discussion was had on the Treasurer's Role. Rae did mention to the personnel committee that she is still working on transferring all responsibilities of the Treasurer to Jerold.

New Business:

- A. Combining the mission trip with Camp Onomia/Children's Ministry Team has been tabled until a meeting will be held with the Children's Ministry team and the Confirmation and Connect teams. This will be moved to on going business.
- B. A motion was made, seconded, and approved for paid employees, including the Pastor's, will not get a vote in council meetings and annual meetings. Motion will carry until this is so written in the St. John's Constitution.
- C. The personnel committee felt that any person in the position such as Tim's, Wanda's husband who helps with maintenance, should be given a contract. Waiting on an approval for the revised Independent Contractor contract. This has been tabled until next month for approval.
- D. A discussion was had regarding structuring the Transition Team. There are currently four candidates for the team. Still searching for three more candidates. This has been tabled until next month's meeting.
- E. A Property Task force formation meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday night. This has been tabled until next month's meeting.

Ministry Team Updates:

- A. Stewardship Committee: The members of the council reviewed the quarterly report. They have completed the following accomplishment.
 - a. Established cadence.
 - b. Defined what Stewardship means.
 - c. Gained a better understanding of Stewardship through the books Pastor Ted shared.
 - d. Developed a plan to talk about Stewardship with the congregation.
 - e. Identified topics for newsletter
- B. The members of the council reviewed the quarterly report from the Buildings and Grounds Committee. They have completed the following:
 - a. Added new LED lights to the building.
 - b. New Welcome sign installed.
 - c. Purchased new tables and chairs for the gathering area.

Ongoing things that are on the schedule:

- d. Patio will be installed May 5th.
- e. New flooring will be installed the week of May 13th.
- f. New estimate for the doors in the back of the church.
- g. Received an estimate for a new security system.
- C. Small Group/Faith Formation Committee: The members of the council reviewed the quarterly report. They have completed the following accomplishment.
 - a. Reviewed and updated the Worship Volunteer Guidelines.
 - b. Surveyed membership to try and increase the number of volunteers.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Teresa Latzke, Secretary



High School Graduates Honored May 19

Congratulations to our class of 2024 graduating high school seniors on achieving this important milestone in your life. On Sunday, May 19, during the 9:15 worship service we will take time to recognize our seniors and honor them as they graduate and prepare to move on with their plans for the future.

Graduating High School Seniors are:

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



Recognition of Sunday School Teachers, Helpers, was held on April 21 during Worship Services Recognition of Connect and Confirmation Leaders was held on April 24 during Wednesday's Service.

Thank you! Thank you! We want to extend many thanks to everyone who helped make our youth program successful this year! Thank you for being GENEROUR with your time and talents! We know everyone leads a busy life and we appreciate your dedication and commitment to our youth.

As we end this Sunday School year, we would like to take the opportunity to say THANK YOU to the many people who have shared their faith with the children at St. John.

Sunday School Teachers and Helpers:

Pre-K3's: Dominica Wolf, Elizabeth Kopesky

Pro-K4's: Missy Davidson, Cassidy Burkman, Elise Davidson

Kindergarten : Katy Potter, Chris Potter, Laura Mellgren, Kayla Buszmann, Sadie Beckius, Téa Smith,

Lucy Leonard

Ist Grade: Allie Theas, Katie Klaverkamp, Faith Adelmann

2nd Grade: Andrea Andert, Sarah Leonard

3rd Grade: Bryn Davis

4th Grade: Emily Aust, Traci Scheer, Lilia Adelmann

Music: Rachel Kelm

Children's Ministry Team: Allie Theas, Chelsea Hutchison, Katy Pooter, Tara Henke

Connect Leaders : Andrea Adelmann, Ben Aust, Bryn Davis, Jim Eggers, Melanie Eggers, James Fogarty, Molly Holm, Katie Klaverkamp, Michael Nagel, Jenn Nagorski, Chris Swanson, Kerri Swanson, Kathie Wermerskirchen

Confirmation Leaders: Trisha Anderson, Brooke Borresen, Deanne Fogarty, Andrea Gerres, Katie Herrmann, Shara Hiles, Angela Hoff, Heather Hornaman, Heather Kes, Kristy Konopacki, Elizabeth Koonst, Jill Martin, Stephanie Paulson, Jamie Petersen, Amanda Schultz, Cody Schultz, Tonya Smith, Holly Stier, Kristin Stier

Pizza Coordinator : Amanda Schultz

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 Koepp at 952-873-4445 Or The church office at 952-873-6492





St. John's High School Mission Trip youth will be hosting a fund raising garage sale Thursday thru Saturday, May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. Times to be announced. The sale will be held in the youth room. Please bring donations up to two weeks prior and leave them downstairs in the youth room. All left over merchandise (with the exception of books) will be donated to VINE thrift store in Mankato. VINE provides a wide range of services for aging adults. Books will be donated to Hennepin County Medical Center's sharing library.

We Aren't Able to Accept:

Mattresses, box springs, computers and related electronic equipment, tube televisions, gas appliances, paint, chemicals, hutches, rugs, bed frames, headboards, footboards, curtain rods and blinds, car seats, entertainment centers, or exercise equipment.





		4		11		18		25			
	Saturday		Aiden Cooper David Einertson Miranda Weckman Amy Muehlenhardt		Abigail Lawler Chris Moylan Jan Palmer		Aimee Cecka Rex Ernst Kevin Koepp Loren Kruschke Andrew Siemon		Katelyn Bauer Addison Kahle Weston Koepp Tyler Swanson		
	Friday	3	Lowell Hiles Craig Johnson Samuel Karl Christopher Zellman Mark Koepp Diane Rasmussen Scott Stier	10	Rachel Fahey Jack Fogarty Taylor Jaworski Tom Peterson Allison Theas	17	Sadie Beckius Amy Eppen Kimberly Jaster Kimberly Thaemert	24	Jayce Henke Preston Kes Beau Vincent	31	Luamn Buerkle Melanie Fogarty Havyn Moonen Greg Rosario MCKenzie Schwichtenberg
	Thursday	2		6	Hannah Skluzacek	16	Lee Bessel Adella Gruetzmacher Brian Vycital	23	Daniel Cooper Aubrey Davis Andrea Gerres Ewald Gruetzmacher	30	Bruce Baker Cody Buszmann Manley Stier Katelyn Theis
Atapy -	Wednesday	1	Brody Curtiss Richard Laabs Tyler Shackle	80	Kelsey Gymild Lily Klaverkamp Truett Kluver Mitchell Koepp Alek Pederson Matt Stier	15	Lila Aufderhar Adalean Berg McKay Karl Mary Pesta Kyle Siemon	22	Matt Fink Vincent Holtberg Breanne Konopacki	29	Cassandra Koch Jerry Meger Maren Posthumus Lavonne Rickaby
	Tuesday			7		14	Abby Bristlin Ciara Fahey Ryan Stier	21	Jaxon Witt Ryan Maier Raquel Peterson Kiersten Skelley	28	
024	Monday			9	Savannah Bamer Nolan Jackels Caleb Tracy	13	Nolan Schroeder	20	Kendall Hutchison Molly Moonen Tim Moonen Nicholas Rosario	27	Mfike Campbell Gavin Fogarty John Grannis Hazel Koepp Alexis Meyer
May 2024	Sunday			5	Trisha Anderson Ryan Creighton Stephen Wolff	12	Domingo Rosario	19	Matt Hanson Wyatt Herman Lou Longhenry	26	Trevor Carstens Ron Nagel

Aay 20	24	
3	-	
	7	

Saturday	4	е	bly	12:00 pm Private Party in Gathering Area	11		18		25			
Friday	3	Mission Trip Garage Sale	Minneapolis Synod Assembly		10		17		24		31	
Thursday	2	Miss	Minne	5:00 pm TOPS	6	5:00 pm TOPS	16	5:00 pm TOPS	23	5:00 pm TOPS	30	5:00 pm TOPS
Wednesday	1	5:20 pm Pizza 6:00 pm	Connect/Confirmation 6:00 pm Worship Service		8	4:00 pm Book Club 6:00 pm Connect/Confirmation Small Groups 6:00 pm Worship Service	15	6:00 pm Worship Service	22	6:00 pm Worship Service	29	6:00 pm Worship Service
Tuesday					2	11:00 Lutheran Home Service 1:30 pm Kingsway Service	14		21	4:30 pm Stewardship Committee meeting	28	
Monday					9	5:50 pm Worship Committee meeting 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Personnel Committee meeting	13	6:30 pm Church Council 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	20	6:30 pm Boy Scouts	27	Memorial Day Office Closed
Sunday					5	8:00 & 9:15 Worship Services 4:30 pm Girl Scouts	12	8:00 & 9:15 Worship Services	19	Senior Grad Recognition 8:00 & 9:15 Worship Services 4:30 pm Girl Scout meeting 6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack meeting	26	9:00 Worship Service



May 5 Worship Assistants						
Coffee Time: Dorothy Koepp & Angie Faucette						
8:00 9:15						
Greeters: Connie Bergs	Greeters: Brent & Wendy Koepp					
Lay Reader: Michelle Melheim	Reader: Brent Koepp					
Communion Assistants: Michelle Melheim, Dave Latzke,	Communion Assistants: Brent Koepp, Cindy Schoenbauer, Peg					
Dorothy Koepp	Longhenry					
Ushers: Marc & Mindy Chevalier, Abby Kubes,	Ushers: Brent Koepp, Mitchell Koepp, Tim Moonen, Justin					
Andy Steinhagen, Joshua Sparby, Lydia Sparby	Stauffacher					

May 12 Worship Assistants						
Coffee Time: No Coffee						
8:00 9:15						
Greeters: Matt & Kristin Stier	Greeters: Sue Koenig					
Lay Reader: Mindy Chevalier	Lay Reader: Amy Franck					
Communion Assistants: Mindy Chevalier, Sue Steinhagen,	Communion Assistants: Beth Beuch, Dave Bungarden, Teresa					
Patty Laabs	Latzke					
Ushers: Marc & Mindy Chevalier, Abby Kubes,	Ushers: Brent Koepp, Mitchell Koepp, Tim Moonen, Justin					
Andy Steinhagen, Joshua Sparby, Lydia Sparby	Stauffacher					

May 19 Worship Assistants							
Coffee Time: Senior Grad Recognition							
8:00 9:15							
Greeters: Jodi Savage	Greeters: Chris & Annette Moylan						
Lay Reader: Linda Schwichtenberg	Lay Reader: Annette Moylan						
Communion Assistants: Greg & Linda Schwichtenberg, Terry Communion Assistances: Steve Schroeder, Renee Meuleners,							
Siemon							
Ushers: Albert Koepp, Dorothy Koepp, Matt Stier, Bruce Volek, Ushers: Chris & Annette Moylan, Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter,							
Tim Carlson, Josh Koepp	Jenny Petty						

May 26 Worship Assistants						
Coffee Time: No Coffee						
9:00						
Greeters: Loren Kruschke						
Lay Reader: Jan Effinger						
Communion Assistants: Jan Effinger, Albert Koepp, Kirk						
Franck						
Ushers: Albert Koepp, Dorothy Koepp, Matt Stier, Bruce Volek,						
Tim Carlson, Josh Koepp, Chris & Annette Moylan, Steve						
Schroeder, Lee Sauter, Jenny Petty						

Financial Corner

St. John Financial Results Three Months Ending March 31, 2024 and March 31, 2023

General Operatin	g Fund				Year Over Year
	March	h 31, 2024	March	n 31, 2023	Increase (Decrease)
Income	\$	89,849		69,507	29%
Expenses:					
Personnel		(57,574)		(59,363)	
Office		(4,878)		(4,772)	
Property & Maintenance		(12,270)		(14,482)	
Ministry		(9,615)		(7,423)	
Other		(1,908)		(1,693)	
Benevolence:					
Minneapolis Area Synod		(3,300)		(3,300)	
Camp Onomia		(750)		(750)	
Lutheran Social Services		(500)	_	(500)	
Net Receipts / (Expenditures)	\$	(946)	\$	(22,776)	
Cash Balance at January 1	\$	48,424	\$	69,619	
Net Income / (Expenditures)		(946)		(22,776)	
Misc. cash not affecting income		(133)		(128)	
Cash Balance at March 31	\$	47,345	\$	46,715	
Droporty Improvement Fund					
Property Improvement Fund	March	n 31, 2024	March	n 31, 2023	
Income (Donations, Rent, Investments)		27,800		28,117	
Expenses (1)		(44,208)		(6,199)	
Net Receipts / (Disbursements)		(16,408)		21,918	
Hayden House Loan Balance at January 1		121,503		125,664	
Principal Payments		(1,074)		(1,034)	
Hayden House Loan Balance at March 31		120,429		124,630	

(1) Tables, Chairs and 50% of New Flooring = \$40,212

CALLED TO SERVE THROUGH OUR GIVING							
Offering Received the week of							
March 21-27 General Fund—\$4,864 Improvement Fund—\$701	March 28-April 3 General Fund—\$12,951 Improvement Fund—\$1,660	April 4-10 General Fund— \$4,813 Improvement Fund- \$2,566					
April 11-17 General Fund— \$4,477 Improvement Fund- \$1,026	April 18-24 General Fund— \$2,137 Improvement Fund- \$245						

St. John Lutheran Church 148 S<u>.</u> Chestnut<u>St.</u> Belle Plaine 56011 Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Permit No. 16 Belle Plaine, MN 56011

Change Service Requested