

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

CALLED TO WORSHIP / COMMITTED TO SERVE / CONNECTED IN FAITH

October 2023

A monthly Publication of
St. John Lutheran Church

Worship Schedule

Wednesday Worship

6:00 pm

Sunday Worship

8:00 & 9:15

Sunday School

9:15

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



Congratulations to all of our 9th Grade Confirmation Students who will be Confirmed on Sunday, October 29, at the 10:30 worship service

Logan Anderson

Meredith Carstens

Taylor Menke

Luke Schutlz

Bennet Balk

Erik Hoff

Jackson Nagel

Will Steinhagen

Josephine Berg

Vincent Holtberg

Thomas Nagel

Lela Stier

Allison Blake

Olivia Jeurissen

Hunter Olson

Kallie Thaemert

Mya Bommelyn

Mallory Kelm

Austin Overline

Madison Theis

Mason Bungarden

Bailey Kes

Kylee Perry

Dominic Veerkamp

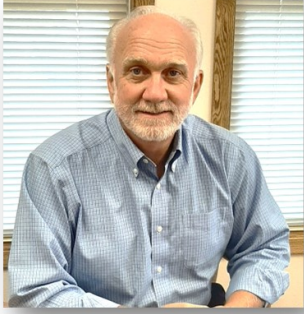
Anastasia Woods

Introducing

Pastor Ted Vanderpan will be commuting to Belle Plaine from Buffalo, MN, where he lives with his wife Sara, who is also an interim pastor. They have two adult daughters and a six-month-old granddaughter. They also have two dogs, a cockapoo and a Cesky Fousek - yes, that is correct. Pastor Ted enjoys outdoor activities including pheasant hunting, fishing and golf. He also enjoys spending time in SD where he grew up.

He graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead and Luther Seminary in St Paul. He has served a small rural congregation, started a new congregation, and served two large congregations, one as an associate and then as senior pastor. Most recently, Pastor Ted served as Senior Pastor at Zion Lutheran in Buffalo and as Interim Pastor at Prairie Lutheran in Eden Prairie and Hope Lutheran in Jordan.

His work at St. John will focus on keeping our congregation stable and running now in between regularly called pastors. And he will work with our leadership to help us clarify what we want to focus on as a congregation in the future and what we will be looking for in our next regularly called pastor.



From Pastor Ted

I am glad to be your Interim Pastor. We are entering a good, hard, challenging and rewarding time of transition. You can see more about our transition and the work involved in a monthly newsletter section called "Transition Update". I will be writing that article myself until we appoint a Transition Team and then they will write the article.

In addition to the "transition stuff" I do, I am also your pastor. So let me share some things about that part of the job.

I plan to regularly be in Belle Plaine Sunday and then Monday through Wednesday. Given that I do not live in Belle Plaine, and that to be in Belle Plaine requires have two and a half hours of driving, I will try to do all I can Monday to Wednesday, including the vast majority of my in person contact and work with you.

- Monday – an office day working on things that need follow up from Sunday, the next weeks worship prep, sermon prep confirmation prep. Church Council meets on Monday night and I will try to meet with other church groups on Monday nights.
- Tuesday – I will focus on pastoral care visits such as nursing homes, shut ins and visits with members.
- Wednesday - confirmation prep and evening Worship/Confirmation/Connect.

On Thursday I will work remote. I will be working on Sunday worship, sermons, synod meetings, confirmation, phone calls, email, reading and study as well as continuing education.

I do want you to know that I am always available by phone. You can get my cell phone number from the church office or from my office voice mail. I will either answer or get back to you quickly.

I am asking that if at all possible that we try to schedule funerals on Monday through Wednesday. I realize that is a change for you. I know it won't always be the convenient arrangement. I won't draw a hard and fast line, refusing to do a funeral another day of the week. I am just hoping that you will consider this in your planning.

I look forward to our work together – Pr Ted

Transition Updates

Are you up for a Ted Talk?

Over the next several months, I would like to hear from as many of you as possible. I want to hear what you think about our congregation. I would like to visit for 30 to 45 minutes and hear about the following:

- Who is St John, Belle Plaine? How are we perceived by the larger Belle Plaine community and what role do we play in it?
- What do we do well as a church? What are the most important things we do? What are we best at right now? What have we been really good at in the past?
- What do you think are the 3 to 5 most important things for us to focus on in the next five years? What could or should we do better?
- Are there any things we do now that we could stop doing?
- Who do you personally, want St John to be going forward?

I will meet you anywhere that works for a visit. It can be longer or shorter, or even include other things than what I have identified. I will offer an online sign-up with a variety of times so I can meet with as many of you as possible. If something else would work, let me know. I look forward to talking with you.

October Children's Ministry Update



We have about 90 children registered for Sunday School! Thank you for your support and trust in us for providing your child with the great news of our loving God. We're so excited to see what this year holds for our youth and their faith. Thank you to all of our volunteers for your time and dedication to help children learn the stories in the Bible and how these can help us live a happy life--we couldn't do this without you!

Sunday School Update:

In the first lesson in September, the Sunday School kids learned about the story of The Vineyard Workers from the book of Matthew. They learned that God has enough love for everyone, He is generous, and "Thy word is lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Important Dates:

- **October 1st: Noisy Offering** during the 9:15am service
- **4th graders** serve at 9:00 social hour
- **October 15th: Sunday School Children Sing** 8am Service
- **3rd graders** serve at 9:00 social hour
- **October 22nd: No Sunday School** due to MEA weekend
- **October 29th: No Music practice** during Sunday School

Parents Update:

We are always looking for volunteers to help with youth ministry. Whether you can help in a classroom, sign up as a Christmas program volunteer, or help us organize other fun family events, we appreciate you sharing your time and talents with us. It is so rewarding to help your children in their faith journey. Please see a youth ministry team member for more info on how you can help!

Please email youthsjlc@gmail.com if you need to reach out to the Children's Ministry team.



Confirmation, Connect and Wednesday Worship to Combine

During this time of transition, we will combine our Wednesday night Confirmation and Connect programs with Wednesday worship. This change is designed to help us through the time of transition and keep these important parts of our church stable. Much about Wednesday Worship, Confirmation and Connect will stay the same but one difference will be that the message during worship will be the confirmation lesson geared both to the confirmands and other worshippers as well. We may need to tweak some things as we live into the changes, but here is our schedule.

Pizza will be available for students between 5:20 & 5:50.

Confirmation, Connect and Worship will begin in the sanctuary at 6PM

At approximately 6:45, Confirmation and Connect students and leaders will be released to small groups after the sermon/lesson. (Once a month students will participate in the full worship service and not meet in their small groups.)

Small groups will meet for about 30 minutes to discuss the lesson.

Small groups will end at approximately 7:15 PM.

We have tried to keep things as normal as possible, adapt to the need for transitions, and provide an opportunity for people to worship outside of Sunday morning. Please note these upcoming opportunities to learn more about our fall programming.

Transition by its very nature creates questions, uneasiness, and inevitable change. Together, we will adapt to what comes, then adapt some more, and each step of the way figure it out together. Transition by its very nature also creates opportunity for us to think about doing things in new ways we had never thought of before, which opens all sorts of exciting possibilities! So stay tuned for the bright future ahead of us.



Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes
September 11th, 2023

President Ben Aust called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present:

X	Pastor Ted	X	Ben Aust		Chris Schultz	X	Albert Koepp
X	Jan Effinger	X	Teresa Latzke	X	Anne Herrmann	X	Steve Kelm
	Jaime Petersen		Cayla Menke	X	Jim Kerr	X	Tim Moonen
X	Jerold Stauffacher	X	Rae Fimon				

Opening Devotions:

Pastor Ted opened up with a passage from John 14 and a prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

Members of Council reviewed the minutes from the August 14, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the meeting minutes from August. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the agenda for September 11, 2023.

Pastor Ted Report:

Pastor Ted will be sending a report each month. Pastor Ted shared the process of what he will lead the congregation through and handed out The In-Between Time: Seven Checklists in the Season of Transition reading material for the council to review.

Staff Reports:

Custodial:

Tim Moonen reported to the council that the HVAC units are installed. He mentioned that they are trying to get the patio in the front completed before this fall. Tim mentioned that he was notified by a member that Shutterfly is closing their doors and office furniture is up for grabs and wants to know if we are interested in new tables and chairs for the church. Tim mentioned the entrance sign and what we would like it to say.

Treasurer:

Rae Fimon and Jerold Stauffacher walked the council through the monthly reports. They mentioned that the offerings are still down and it was a tough summer. The Revenue is down and the expenses are also down. We are supposed to be receiving a credit for the new HVAC.

- A. The council went over Portico Health Insurance options for Pastor Ted. The council noted that our expectations are that we will stay with figuring out Pastor Ted's compensation as a total package.
- B. Rae informed the council that our Property / Casualty Insurance company is canceling our policy. Currently searching for a new insurance policy.
- C. Rae mentioned that they are in the process of setting up a Venmo amount for offering.

Transfers:

No Transfers in or out this month.

Ongoing Business:

- A. Church Roll Update:
 - a. Anne mentioned that the next step is to draft a letter to the members that are listed active but have not met criteria.
- B. Job Descriptions:
 - A. Meeting has been scheduled.
 - B. Still looking for snow removal.

New Business:

- A. A request has been made from a church member to use the Church gathering space on Sunday evenings for a workout class. Council would like more information on this class before making a decision.

Ministry Team Updates:

- A. Stewardship Committee - nothing new to report.
- B. Buildings and Grounds Committee - See staff reports.
- C. Personnel Committee - nothing new to report.
- D. Children's Ministry Team -
 - a. Bible distribution scheduled for September 24th.
 - b. There will be children's messages during the second service and the children will go to Sunday school after the message in church.
 - c. Looking at a new curriculum for the Sunday school lessons.
 - d. Small Group/Faith Formation Committee - nothing new to report.
 - e. Worship and Music Committee - nothing new to report.
- E. Technology and Communications Committee - nothing new to report.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa Latzke



Coffee Hour will once again be starting in September and run through May. Please consider signing up to help. Pick a Sunday of your choice. Sign up sheets are located in gathering area by the kitchen. Questions, contact Sherrie Simcox at 612.598.5309 or sherriesimcox@gmail.com

2024 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP
(JULY 7-12TH, 2024)
STUDENTS IN GRADES 8-12
(DURING THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR)

Plans are underway for a 2024 Senior High Mission Trip to Benton Harbor, MI, through Youth Works. Participants will partner with local organizations to meet ongoing needs in the community. Students may serve all or part of the week at a food shelf, clothing distribution center, or by assisting with painting, cleaning or simple repair projects. During a week in Benton Harbor, our group will partner with local organizations to serve the city across age and racial divides. In the evenings, we will tour the community and learn about the city and area. We'll also will experience local BBQ, visit a Lake Michigan beach, and explore Benton Harbor's sister city, St. Joseph.



MISSION TRIP

October 1 Worship Assistants	
Coffee Hour: 4th Grade Sunday School Altar Guild: Laurie Hiles & Deb Brazil	October 4 Pizza Helpers: Katie Herrmann & Cassie Gerres October 4 Pizza Patrol: Amanda Berg & Nicole Alt
8:00	9:15
Greeters: Matt & Kristin Stier Lay Readers: Kristin Stier Communion Assistants: Matt & Kristin Stier, Albert Koepf Ushers: James & John Karl, Dan Herrmann, Tim Bristlin	Greeters: Chris & Annette Moylan Lay Reader: Chris Moylan Communion Assistants: Chris & Annette Moylan, Phoebe Einertson Ushers: Brent Koepf, Mitchell Koepf, Jackson Stauffacher, Justin Stauffacher, Tim Moonen

October 8 Worship Assistants	
Coffee Hour: Altar Guild: Laurie Hiles & Deb Brazil	October 11 Pizza Helpers: Missy Davidson & Jessica Nagel
8:00	9:15
Greeters: Brent & Margaret Schwichtenberg Lay Readers: Deana Siekmann Communion Assistants: Deana & Brian Siekmann, Sharon Adelman Ushers: Brian Schmidt, Jonathan Schmidt, Jason Schmidt, Doug Hillstrom, Dave Latzke, Jerold Stauffacher	Greeters: Marv & Rhonda Doeden Lay Reader: Cheryl Flynn Communion Assistants: Marv & Rhonda Doeden, Cheryl Flynn Ushers: Chris & Annette Moylan, Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter

October 15 Worship Assistants	
Coffee Hour: 3rd Grade Sunday School Altar Guild: Laurie Hiles & Deb Brazil	October 18– No Pizza MEA
8:00	9:15
Greeters: Brian & Jonathan Schmidt Lay Readers: Linda Schwichtenberg Communion Assistants: Dave Latzke, Jarod & Kathy Stauffacher Ushers: Brian Schmidt, Jonathan Schmidt, Jason Schmidt, Doug Hillstrom, Dave Latzke, Jerold Stauffacher	Greeters: Kenny & Wendy Theis Lay Reader: Beth Beuch Communion Assistants: Teresa Latzke, Beth Beuch, Sara Bungarden Ushers: Chris & Annette Moylan, Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter

October 22 Worship Assistants	
Coffee Hour: Altar Guild: Laurie Hiles & Deb Brazil	October 25 Pizza Helpers: Sara Hiles & Aimee Cecka
8:00	9:15
Greeters: Terry & Angie Kahle Lay Readers: Angie Kahle Communion Assistants: Rob & Sandy Schultz, Dorothy Koepf Ushers: Marc & Mindy Chevalier, Abby Kubes, Joshua Sparby, Lydia Sparby	Greeters: Jeremy & Lainey Schwartz Lay Reader: Caren Grotberg Communion Assistants: Brent Koepf, Dave Bungarden, Steve Schroeder Ushers: Dave & Sara Bungarden, Ron & Dianne Rasmussen

October 29 Worship Assistants	
Coffee Hour: Altar Guild: Laurie Hiles & Deb Brazil	November 1 Pizza Helpers: Kristy Konopacki & Ashley Olson
8:00	9:15
Greeters: Kenny & Wendy Theis Lay Readers: Mindy Chevalier Communion Assistants: Marc & Mandy Chevalier, Kirk Franck Ushers: Marc & Mindy Chevalier, Abby Kubes, Joshua Sparby, Lydia Sparby	Greeters: Anita Lambrecht Lay Reader: Annette Moylan Communion Assistants: Chris & Annette Moylan, Tim Moonen Ushers: Dave & Sara Bungarden, Ron & Dianne Rasmussen

Financial Corner

St. John Financial Results Eight Months Ending August 31, 2023 and August 31, 2022

General Operating Fund		Year Over Year Increase (Decrease)
	August 31, 2023	August 31, 2022
Income *	\$ 214,796	\$ 261,360
Expenses:		
Personnel	(154,529)	(143,605)
Office	(11,547)	(11,412)
Property & Maintenance	(37,457)	(29,928)
Ministry	(12,546)	(16,885)
Other	(3,530)	(4,963)
Benevolence:		
Minneapolis Area Synod	(8,800)	(9,800)
Camp Onomia	(2,000)	(2,250)
Belle Plaine Fire Dept	(300)	(300)
Lutheran Social Services	(1,000)	(1,000)
Net Receipts / (Expenditures)	<u>\$ (16,913)</u>	<u>\$ 41,217</u>
Cash Balance at January 1	\$ 69,619	\$ 7,829
Net Income / (Expenditures)	(16,913)	41,217
Misc. cash not affecting income	(127)	202
Cash Balance at August 31	<u>\$ 52,579</u>	<u>\$ 49,248</u>

* 2022 Includes \$40K Employee Retention Credit (ERC), 2023 is down 3% from 2022 without ERC.

Property Improvement Fund

	<u>August 31, 2023</u>
Income (Donations, Rent, Investments)	67,813
Expenses (Prop Taxes, Repairs, Ins, Mortg Interest)	<u>(15,586)</u>
Net Receipts / (Disbursements)	<u>52,227</u>
Hayden House Loan Balance at January 1	125,664
Principal Payments	<u>(2,755)</u>
Hayden House Loan Balance at August 31	<u>122,909</u>
Liquid Assets at August 31, 2023	<u>215,772</u>

CALLED TO SERVE THROUGH OUR GIVING	
Offering Received the week of	
August 24– August 30 General Fund—\$1,926 Improvement Fund—\$315	August 31–September 6 General Fund—\$8,948 Improvement Fund—\$1,566
September 7—13 General Fund— \$1,440 Improvement Fund- \$485	September 14—20 General Fund— \$13,640 Improvement Fund- \$1,970

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

**Non-Profit Organization
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Change Service Requested