

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

CALLED TO WORSHIP / COMMITTED TO SERVE / CONNECTED IN FAITH

**September 2024**

A monthly Publication of  
St. John Lutheran Church

Worship Schedule

Wednesday Worship

6:00 pm

Sunday Worship

8:00 and 9:15 am

Interim Pastor

Pastor Ted Vanderpan

Office Staff

Custodian

Amanda Schultz

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



Sunday School will be starting September 8th  
with Rally Sunday



September 4th— Connect and Confirmation Leaders  
Meeting at 7:00 pm

September 11th- Connect and Confirmation  
Orientation at 7:00 pm

September 18th— Connect and Confirmation  
Starts at 6:00 pm



October 2nd and 9th  
First Communion Instruction 6:45 pm  
**Must attend both classes**

October 13th or 30th  
First Communion Service



*Fall Worship hours*  
Starting September 8th with Worship  
Services at 8:00 and 9:15.  
Sunday School also starts on September  
8th with Rally Sunday.  
Wednesday Night Worship Service  
at 6:00 pm

Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
August 12th, 2024

President Albert Koepp called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

**Present:**

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

**Opening Devotions:**

Pastor Ted opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Members of Council reviewed the minutes from June 10th, 2024 Council Meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the meeting minutes from June. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the agenda for August 12th, 2024.

**Pastor Ted Report:**

July 2024 Pastor's Report

**Confirmation Camp**

I thought camp went great. The kids were enthused, participated really well, and had good attitudes. There were no problems at all. Camp Onomia has a tremendous amount of potential!

We should probably clarify the language used in our Confirmation communications. I suggest using language like "Confirmation students are expected to attend the week at Confirmation Camp."

I think it would be best to decide about it being a "requirement" when the new pastor arrives. If the pastor wants it to be a requirement, then they will have a longer period of time to establish that.

**Fall Confirmation Calendar**

I would like to begin communicating about the fall Confirmation program in the August newsletter. I have laid out some dates and would like the Council to affirm the proposed schedule.

September

4th Confirmation and Connect Leaders Meeting

11th Parent Student Orientation

18th First Class

April

Easter is April 20th in 2025. In 2024, the week after Sunday, April 21, is when school activities and sports began affecting attendance. It seems strange to not have class after Easter. I do not see much purpose in going past May 7th. Last year virtually all 7th and 8th graders were absent on the second Wednesday of May (May 8, 2024) because of the band concert. It will also be a challenge to not have class for 6 weeks, and then start up class again for one or two weeks. I suggest something like:

April 23 – Class Wrap up (Wrap up of class themes)

April 30 – Small Group End of Year Night (NO Lesson)

**First Communion**

October 2 & 9 Classes

October 13 – First Communion Sunday (or Wed. Oct 30)

**Confirmation Sunday**

October 26 Saturday Retreat

October 27 Confirmation during 2nd Service

**Staff Reports:**

Custodian Staff Report. Nothing to report.

Rae's staff reports were reviewed by members of the council.

Audrey's Staff Report: On leave

**Treasurer's Reports:**

The monthly financial reports were reviewed by the Council members. Jerold reported June offerings were down again this month and overall revenue is down \$10,000. Pastor Ted would like Venmo information for orientation. The Venmo QR code should be posted in the pews and gathering area for easy access. Church Mutual is canceling our insurance effective November 10th and they are working on getting quotes from the other companies. Since the Youth Fund will not be needed until 2025, they opened a 7-month Certificate of Deposit (CD) to increase earnings.

**Transfers:**

In: None

Out: None

**Ongoing Business:**

Church Roll Update has been tabled for next month.

The Transition Team has met and drafted Section 2 of the Ministry Site Profile. They also prepared to rollout the Goals survey and a postcard to communicate the timeline. Both of these will be going out in September.

Audrey has returned from her leave and is in the office during the afternoons. Welcome back, Audrey!

Custodian position: Amanda Schultz, who was helping out in the interim, has officially been offered and accepted the position. Welcome aboard, Amanda!

Scholarship program: Molly Moonen is looking for volunteers to brainstorm fundraising ideas.

**New Business:**

Camp Update: See Pastor's Report.

**Ministry Team Updates:**

The Stewardship Committee continued to engage the congregation with short monthly newsletter articles.

The August article focuses on the number of volunteers needed for Worship services and Youth education.

The Small Group/Faith Formation Committee met with the Worship and Music Committee and Children's Team to collaborate on activities. They continue to look for volunteers supporting Worship services.

The Buildings & Grounds Committee has ordered new seat cushions for the pews.

The Worship and Music Committee has organized choir members to sing before service and is asking for volunteers to run the PowerPoint. Pastor Ted and Jan will look into using the remote to control the presentation slides.

The Nomination Committee had nothing to report this month.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Herrmann, substituting for Teresa Latzke,

Secretary

## \*\*\* Congregational Survey \*\*\*

The St. John Transition Team has been diligently gathering insights from our members to understand what matters most to our congregation, what we excel at, and what aspects we wish to keep. As we move forward to establish broader goals for our future activities, we invite your feedback to help shape our direction.

Below are goals that the Transition Team is evaluating, based on the feedback received during personal meetings held with Pastor Ted last October through January. Please rank the goals listed below in order of importance to you, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important by writing the corresponding number ranking next to each goal. Note that the top 4 will be used as we work to narrow the top priorities of the congregation. Top of Form

**You can also fill out this survey utilizing the QR code below. PLEASE Complete by September 29<sup>th</sup> and drop in survey box at church.**

Bottom of Form

\_\_\_\_\_ Create more opportunities for members to deepen their faith and spiritual growth.

\_\_\_\_\_ Foster stronger relationships and connections among members to enhance the sense of belonging at St. John's by developing activities and programs that actively engage and involve our community.

\_\_\_\_\_ Enhance our commitment to serving Belle Plaine and the surrounding communities by expanding our support through diverse activities and initiatives.

\_\_\_\_\_ Prioritize engaging and serving our adult and senior members by ensuring inclusivity and providing communion and a sense of community for those who are homebound.

\_\_\_\_\_ Invest in youth programs to enhance and strengthen our ministry for children and adolescents, ensuring continued engagement as they grow older.

Proactively engage with and invite the broader community to St. John's, while implementing strategies to increase our visibility and appeal to those seeking - \_\_\_\_\_ a faith community in Belle Plaine.



**Congressional Outreach Team  
August 25, 2024**

**Committee Members (and others) Present:**

Linda Schwichtenberg - Chair  
Albert Koepp  
Mindy Chevalier  
Anne Herrmann

**Name Change:**

Congressional Outreach Team - Subcommittee of Stewardship

**Worship Volunteer Recruitment & Communication - Greeting, Ushers (w/ Head Usher), Communion Assistant, Lay Readers, Power Point, Video**

**New Business**

Connect with Confirmation Leaders about getting the Confirmands involved after they are confirmed.  
Can we be invited to Parents night? - (Teresa L./Jamie P/Jim Eggers)  
We can sign students/families up for different committees - Create a QR code - follow up - Mindy

**Rotation Communication**

Linda has been communicating with the Church office 2 months in advance of the rotation for:  
Greeters, Communion Assistants and Lay Readers - Audrey puts this information in the newsletter.  
Altar Guild - Renee Muelners takes care of this duty

**Volunteers - Immediate Need for the Powerpoint:**

Starting September 8th - Rally Sunday the 9:30am Service will be recorded. We are looking for people interested in running the Power Point for the 8:00am service and substitutes for the 9:30am service. Is there the potential of one person from the usher team running the power point? - Anne will connect with Dave as lead Usher

**Next Meeting: The Month of November**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Schwichtenberg  
Albert Koepp  
Mindy Chevalier  
Anne Herrmann

# September 2024



| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday   |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| 1<br>Caren Grotberg   | 2<br>Madden Carlson<br>Jamey Jeurissen<br>Kim Meierbachtol<br>Derek Scheer<br>Joseph Stoutland<br>Todd Theis | 3<br>Joshua Hanson<br>Brenda Holtberg<br>Avery Mohlin<br>Terry Siemon | 4<br>Chloe Oldenburg<br>Cole Schwartz<br>Allison Sinnamon<br>Rachel Soller           | 5<br>Tricia Bauer<br>Charlotte Koepp<br>Wayne Nagel<br>Karim Tolbert                   | 6<br>Wyatt Borresen<br>Mark Meierbachtol                    | 7<br>Sandra Wolpern  |
| 8<br>Declan Johnson<br>Austin Overline<br>Sydney Pankonin<br>Kris Schmidt   | 9<br>Landry Keim<br>Cayla Menke<br>Charli Jo Stier   | 10<br>John Busse  | 11<br>Zoey Jonason<br>Bruce Koepp<br>Joshua Sparby<br>Lydia Sparby                   | 12<br>John Koenig  | 13<br>Jason Schmidt<br>Esther Stoppelmann<br>Brooklyn Theas | 14<br>Amy Franck   |
| 15<br>Cadence Bauer<br>Cheryl Johnson<br>Calihan Malecha<br>Margaret Meierbachtol<br>Jackson Stauffacher<br>Linda Stier | 16<br>Josh Henning<br>Jill Martin<br>Tony Roff   | 17<br>Harlie Bristlin<br>Miranda Widmer                               | 18<br>Elliana Kopesky<br>Margaret Schwichtenberg<br>Holly Stier<br>James Stradcutter | 19<br>Elliana Fahey<br>Levi Schmidt<br>Kristin Stier<br>Carson Tester<br>Jeffrey Wolff | 20<br>Nora Andert<br>Susie Koepp                            | 21<br>Amanda Berg<br>Jason Stier<br>Jaydon Thaeemert<br>Emmett Wolff   |
| 22<br>Chase Hager<br>Ashley Seaver<br>Tiffany Stier   | 23<br>Maynard Schmidt<br>Justin Stauffacher  | 24<br>Mallory Keim<br>Sheila Weldon                                   | 25<br>John Franck<br>Steven Keim<br>Michael Schmidt                                  | 26<br>Jordan Johnson<br>Jean Peterson  | 27<br>Matthew Traxler                                       | 28<br>Caelin Brueske<br>Janet Effinger<br>Kase Heinz<br>Katie Klaverkamp<br>Jeffrey Scott<br>Wendy Theis<br>Colin Weldon |
| 29<br>Dan Herrmann<br>Elizabeth Herrmann<br>Corey Koepp<br>Autumn Laue  | 30   |   |  |  |   |  |

# September 2024

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday           | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|--------------------|--------|----------|
| 1<br>9:00 Worship Service<br>10:00 Transition Team meeting                                | 2<br>Labor Day<br>Office Closed                | 3<br>11:00 Lutheran Home Service<br>1:30 pm Kingsway Service | 4<br>6:00 pm Worship Service<br>7:00 pm Connect/Confirmation Leaders meeting | 5<br>5:00 pm TOPS  | 6      | 7        |
| 8<br><b>Rally Sunday</b><br>8:00 & 9:15 Worship Services                                  | 9<br>6:30 pm Church Council<br>6:30 Boy Scouts | 10   | 11<br>6:00 pm Worship Service<br>7:00 pm Connect/Confirmation Orientation    | 12<br>5:00 pm TOPS | 13     | 14       |
| 15<br><b>Bible Sunday</b><br>8:00 & 9:15 Worship Service<br>10:00 Transition Team meeting | 16<br>6:30 Boy Scouts                          | 17<br>4:30 pm Stewardship Committee meeting                  | 18<br>5:20 Pizza<br>6:00 pm Connect/Confirmation<br>6:00 pm Worship Service  | 19<br>5:00 pm TOPS | 20     | 21       |
| 22<br><b>Noisy Offering</b><br>8:00 & 9:15 Worship Service                                | 23<br>6:30 Boy Scouts                          | 24   | 25<br>5:20 Pizza<br>6:00 pm Connect/Confirmation<br>6:00 pm Worship Service  | 26<br>5:00 pm TOPS | 27     | 28       |
| 29<br>8:00 & 9:15 Worship Service   | 30<br>6:30 Boy Scouts                          |  |  |                    |        |          |



September Altar Guild: Lana Hanson

| September 1 Worship Assistants   |  |
|--|--|
| 9:00   |  |
| <b>Greeters:</b> Sue Koenig<br><b>Reader:</b> Albert Koepf<br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> Albert Koepf, Dorothy Koepf, Beth Beuch<br><b>Ushers:</b> Albert Koepf, Dorothy Koepf, Kevin Koepf, Matt Stier, Bruce Volek, Tim Carlson, Josh Koepf, <b>Brent Koepf</b> , Mitchell Koepf, Tim Moonen, Justin Stauffacher |  |

| September 8 Worship Assistants  |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Coffee Time:</b> Coffee Time Committee   |  |
| 8:00  | 9:15   |
| <b>Greeters:</b> Nick and Bryn Davis<br><b>Lay Reader:</b> Bryn Davis<br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> Nick and Bryn Davis, Patty Laabs<br><b>Ushers:</b> <b>Brent Schwichtenberg</b> , Greg Schwichtenberg, Bruce Schmidt, Richard Laabs, Jodi Savage | <b>Greeters:</b> Cindy Schoenbauer, Jenny Petty<br><b>Reader:</b> Steve Schroeder<br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> Cindy Schoenbauer, Jenny Petty, Steve Schroeder<br><b>Ushers:</b> <b>Chris and Annette Moylan</b> , Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter, Jenny Petty |

| September 15 Worship Assistants   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Coffee Time:</b>   |   |
| 8:00  | 9:15  |
| <b>Greeters:</b> Terry and Angie Kahle<br><b>Lay Reader:</b> Deana Siekmann<br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> Deana and Brian Siekmann, Terry Siemon<br><b>Ushers:</b> <b>Brent Schwichtenberg</b> , Greg Schwichtenberg, Bruce Schmidt, Richard Laabs, Jodi Savage | <b>Greeters:</b> Kenny and Wendy Theis<br><b>Reader:</b> Phoebe Einertson<br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> Phoebe Einertson, Teresa Latzke, Lynne Jeurissen<br><b>Ushers:</b> <b>Chris and Annette Moylan</b> , Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter, Jenny Petty |

| September 22 Worship Assistants   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Coffee Time:</b>   |   |
| 8:00  | 9:15  |
| <b>Greeters:</b> Sharon Adelman<br><b>Lay Reader:</b> Michelle Melheim<br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> Michelle Melheim, Sharon Adelman<br><b>Ushers:</b> <b>Chris Schultz</b> , Luke Schultz, Logan Schultz, Rob Schultz, Mark Schultz, Wayne Koepf, Aaron Leonard | <b>Greeters:</b> Gerald and Diane Bratsch<br><b>Reader:</b><br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> Greg and Linda Schwichtenberg<br><b>Ushers:</b> <b>Dave and Sara Bungarden</b> , Ron and Dianne Rasmussen |

| September 29 Worship Assistants  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Coffee Time:</b>  |   |
| 8:00   | 9:15  |
| <b>Greeters:</b> Lowell and Laurie Hiles<br><b>Lay Reader:</b> Jodi Savage<br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> Jodi Savage, Renee Meuleners, Dave Latzke<br><b>Ushers:</b> <b>Chris Schultz</b> , Luke Schultz, Logan Schultz, Rob Schultz, Mark Schultz, Wayne Koepf, Aaron Leonard | <b>Greeters:</b> Anita Lambrecht<br><b>Reader:</b> Sara Bungarden,<br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> Sara Bungarden, Brent Koepf, Mindy Chevalier<br><b>Ushers:</b> <b>Dave and Sara Bungarden</b> , Ron and Dianne Rasmussen |



# Financial Corner

## St. John Financial Results Seven Months Ending July 31, 2024 and July 31, 2023

| <b>General Operating Fund</b>         |                      |                      | <b>Year Over Year</b>      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
|                                       | <u>July 31, 2024</u> | <u>July 31, 2023</u> | <u>Increase (Decrease)</u> |
| Income                                | \$ 177,052           | \$ 193,493           | -8%                        |
| Expenses:                             |                      |                      |                            |
| Personnel                             | (130,935)            | (137,293)            |                            |
| Office                                | (11,124)             | (10,141)             |                            |
| Property & Maintenance                | (31,006)             | (34,005)             |                            |
| Ministry                              | (12,535)             | (11,341)             |                            |
| Other                                 | (5,283)              | (3,424)              |                            |
| Benevolence:                          |                      |                      |                            |
| Minneapolis Area Synod                | (7,700)              | (7,700)              |                            |
| Camp Onomia                           | (1,750)              | (1,750)              |                            |
| Belle Plaine Fire Dept                | (300)                | (300)                |                            |
| Lutheran Social Services              | (1,000)              | (1,000)              |                            |
| Net Receipts / (Expenditures)         | <u>\$ (24,581)</u>   | <u>\$ (13,461)</u>   |                            |
| Cash Balance at January 1             | \$ 48,424            | \$ 69,619            |                            |
| Net Income / (Expenditures)           | (24,581)             | (13,461)             |                            |
| Misc. cash not affecting income       | (133)                | (127)                |                            |
| Cash set aside for strategic planning | (20,000)             | (35,000)             |                            |
| Cash Balance at July 31               | <u>\$ 3,710</u>      | <u>\$ 21,031</u>     |                            |

### Property Improvement Fund

|  | <u>July 31, 2024</u> | <u>July 31, 2023</u> |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Income (Donations, Rent, Investments)  | 63,062               | 63,551               |
| Expenses (1)                           | (94,497)             | (14,994)             |
| Net Receipts / (Disbursements)         | <u>(31,435)</u>      | <u>48,557</u>        |
| Hayden House Loan Balance at January 1 | 121,503              | 125,664              |
| Principal Payments                     | (2,515)              | (2,385)              |
| Hayden House Loan Balance at July 31   | <u>118,988</u>       | <u>123,279</u>       |
| Liquid Assets at July 31               | <u>158,651</u>       | <u>205,799</u>       |

(1) New tables, chairs, door lock system, patio & furniture, flooring, electrical = \$77,000

| <b>CALLED TO SERVE THROUGH OUR GIVING</b>                              |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Offering Received the week of</b>                                   |   |
| <b>July 25-31</b><br>General Fund—\$3,755<br>Improvement Fund—\$876    | <b>August 1-7</b><br>General Fund—\$13,997<br>Improvement Fund—\$1,700  |
| <b>August 8-14</b><br>General Fund— \$3,233<br>Improvement Fund- \$475 | <b>August 15-21</b><br>General Fund— \$3,937<br>Improvement Fund- \$470 |

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




The Minneapolis Area Synod invites you  
to a Festive Service of Holy Communion  
and the Installation of

*The Reverend Jen Nagel*

as Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Saturday, September 21, 10:30 a.m.

Central Lutheran Church  
333 South 12th Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



A light reception will follow the service.

All are welcome to join us for a festival choir.  
Rehearsal will be at 9:00 a.m. on September 21.

Clergy are invited to vest and process.  
The color of the day is red.

Spanish and ASL interpretation will be provided  
and the service will be livestreamed.

Find service details, livestream link, and choir  
sign-up at the synod website ([mpls-synod.org](https://mpls-synod.org))  
or by scanning this QR code.

