

St. John Lutheran Church

April Newsletter

Worship times:

Sunday at 8:00 & 9:15 am

Wednesday April 2nd and 9th at 6:30

Maudy Thursday April 17th at 7:00pm

Good Friday April 18th at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday April 20th at 7:00 & 9:30 am

Wednesday April 23rd and 30th at 6:00 pm

Staff:

Interim Pastor:

Ted Vanderpan

Office:

Amanda Schultz

Accounting:

Monica Braesch

Custodian:

Hanna Tharaldson

Choir Director:

Allison Vandermark

Organist:

Eileen Hanlon

Accompanist:

Eileen Hanlon

Important dates this month:

Lent Soup and Sandwich suppers at 5:30pm on April 2nd & 9th

Cemetery board meeting at 7:00pm on April 7th

Easter breakfast at 8:00 am on April 20th

Confirmation rehearsal and brunch on April 26th

8th grade confirmation at 11:00 am on April 27th

Pastor Ted's last day on April 30th

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148 S Chestnut St. Belle Plaine MN 56011

Church office: 952-873-6492

email: office@stjohnbelleplaine.org

Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes

March 10, 2025

President Jim Eggers called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Pastor Ted began the meeting with a prayer.

Present:

X	Pastor Ted	X	Jim Eggers	X	Albert Koepp		Jaime Petersen
	Jan Effinger	X	Chris Zellman	X	Dave Bungarden	X	Anne Herrmann
X	Deanne Fogarty	X	Tim Moonen		Steve Kelm	X	Rob Schultz
X	Jerold Stauffacher						

Approval of Minutes:

Council reviewed the minutes from February 10th, 2025 Council Meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the meeting minutes.

Council reviewed the minutes from February 16th, 2025 Special Property Meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the meeting minutes.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the current agenda with revisions to ongoing business items B, C and G and added New business items G for March 10th, 2025.

Pastor Ted Report:

Pastor Ted shared his thoughts on a Pastor's Role in the Congregation and his experiences within our church. Discussion was had and it was decided that we, as a council, need to communicate clearly with members of the congregation that a new Pastor should be welcomed and included in all aspects of the church. We'd like to work with a new Pastor as a team. Jim will be talking with the call committee during their next meeting to make sure this is conveyed during the interview process as well.

Staff Reports:

A. Amanda's office report was reviewed by members of the council.

Treasurer's Reports:

Jerold's treasurer report was reviewed by the council. Overall, February revenue and expenses came in below budget; expenses exceeded Revenue by \$5,000 for February. Year-to-date Net Revenue is still up.

Transfers:

No Transfers this month

Ongoing Business:

A. Council reviewed Article V of the bylaws. Notes and suggestions have been made as we work on revisions in the future.

B. Call Committee Update: The Call Committee continues to make progress. The Synod plans to join the Call Committee on March 12th to review the current slate of candidates for consideration. From there the Call Committee will select candidates to interview and commence the interview process.

C. Property Task Force: The property task force has a signed purchase agreement for the parsonage with a tentative closing of April 7th. They are currently accepting sealed bids until March 31st. With a potential sale of the garage lot, the task force is seeking approval to spend \$5,000 for an 18x10 shed on school/garden lot to store lawn and snow removal equipment and scaffolding. This expense was included in the financial plan for the sale of properties/parking lot. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the expense for a shed.

D. The February 16th property meeting concluded with 85 'yes' votes to proceed with the sale of the property and the building of the parking lot. 10 'no' votes were also received. Tricia Ruud is our realtor to handle the sale of the properties.

E. An All Committee meeting has been moved to Monday, March 24th. The intent is to get all committees together to generate energy, conversation, and discuss topics of the church that can span multiple committees.

F. With Cayla Menke's resignation, Jan Effinger has agreed to finish out her term. The council voted electronically prior to the March meeting and a unanimous 'yes' vote was received.

G. Council discussed the Welcome Committee with some tasks overlapping across other committees that already exist. This will be a topic to discuss during the all committee meeting and a motion was made, seconded and carried to table until next month.

H. The Finance Committee is still looking for volunteers to join. If any members of the congregation are interested, please contact Jerold or a member of the council.

New Business:

A. The council approved parent chaperones to attend Camp Onomia with the confirmation students and will cover additional expenses if we exceed the number of "free" chaperones allowed.

B. There will be a congregational party on May 4th. Prairie Park, near the bowling alley, has been reserved for food and games. There will be additional discussion and planning at the all committee meeting.

C. A motion was made, seconded, and carried for the Property Task Force to get paperwork and speak with Julie regarding the A Right of First Refusal for her home.

D. The Council reviewed the Lead Pastor job description from the personnel committee. We confirmed that the description aligns with the Ministry Site Profile and the qualities being sought for our new pastor. There were 3 revisions proposed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to table the review of remaining job descriptions until next month.

F. A Motion was made, seconded and carried to table the usage rates for facilities until next month.

G. A discussion around the need for a Wednesday service organist/pianist and a choir accompanist was had. While Eileen Hanlon has been helping us in the interim, the personnel committee will begin searching for additional help.

H. In the interest of time, a motion was made, seconded and carried to table the discussion of the church office maintenance and updates.

Ministry Team Updates:

A. Children, Youth and Families Committee update is still needed.

B. The personnel committee continued to work on the Personnel Handbook and is updating the active job descriptions.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deanne Fogarty,
Secretary



From Pastor Ted:

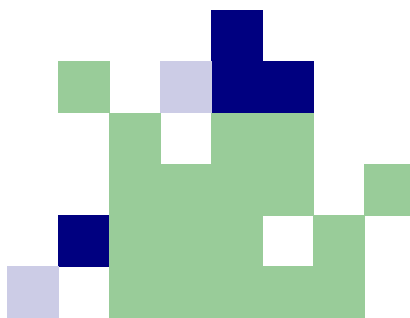
What does Easter Sunday mean to you? To some it means the Easter bunny and chocolate eggs. To others Easter is an obligation to go to church when they visit their families. For others it is a day of food and celebration. For Peter, the disciple of Jesus, Easter meant a second chance.

Before that first Easter morning, in the Upper Room while celebrating a last supper with the other disciples and Jesus, Peter had insisted that he would never deny Jesus. In the events that followed, from what we call Good Friday to Easter, Peter not only denied the Lord, but he denied Him three times. In the courtyard of the high priest, as Peter watched from a short distance, Jesus looked at Peter. It was then Peter realized what he had done and then he went out and wept bitterly. What do you suppose Peter saw in Jesus eyes? Was it scorn and rejection? Was it a "I-told-you-so" look?

I imagine that it was a look of compassionate love, that said, "I still love you, Peter." I think that is why Peter went out and wept bitterly. He realized he had failed the Lord. Jesus was crucified and laid in a tomb.

On Easter morning the tomb was empty. Jesus had risen. The scripture describes it like this, "Go, tell His disciples and Peter. . . ." It was not, "Go tell the disciples, including Peter, James, and John. . . ." It was just Peter, because Peter needed a special word of encouragement. In those words, I believe Peter knew he had been given a second chance.

God gave Peter a second chance. Like Peter, we too have fallen short. We have let God down, failed and made mistakes. And God will give you one as well because Like Peter, Easter means we have a second chance.

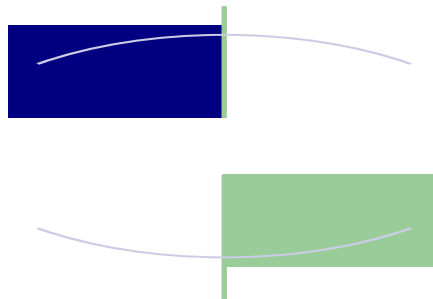


You may or may not know!

Every year as I listen to the Lenten speakers, I can't help but think to myself "what would I say" if I stood in front of the congregation trying to convey exactly what Faith means to me?? And every Lent season the speech in my head changes, but a couple things remain the same; Faith is my foundation and life changes constantly and with that, so does faith. With just a couple weeks left of Lent, I hope we are all finding a couple minutes each day to reflect on our own Faith and how impactful this season truly is. We have heard some pretty powerful messages this season and I can't wait to hear the final few!!

● What would your faith statement look like? How do you prioritize your faith?

Sincerely,
Amanda Schultz



Youth, Children & Families:

The youth have been busy here at St. John's, hosting coffee hours and the Lenten Wednesday meals! Isn't it wonderful to see them fill the church? In April, the Sunday School kiddos look forward to singing on Palm Sunday, the 8th graders will be confirmed and we will be preparing for another school year to come to a close.

Mark your calendars:

This month:

April 13 ~ Palm Sunday, the children will sing
April 23 ~ treats for Pastor Ted's last day during pizza hour & sash night after service
April 26 ~ Confirmation brunch served by 7th grade families
April 27 ~ Confirmation Sunday
April 30 ~ Last day of class for Connect and Confirmation students (party!)

Upcoming:

May 4 ~ Last day of Sunday School, the children will sing
May 4 ~ "Kick off to summer" event at Prairie park (by the bowling alley)

Faithful Stewardship in Action

At St. John's Lutheran Church, we are blessed with a vibrant community of dedicated members who devote their time and talents to various ministry teams, ensuring that our church thrives. Each month we will be highlighting one or two of our teams.

One way we can share our own time and talent is by serving with a ministry team. It is always great to have new perspectives and ideas to move forward!

In March we highlighted following ministry teams:

> **Coffee hour:** Fostering fellowship and connection, this team organizes volunteers to serve goodies and refreshments between our Sunday morning services, creating a welcoming environment to gather and share in community. This year they have:

- ~ dedicated themselves to ensure each Sunday coffee hour had a host
- ~ organized brunch for the annual meeting

Looking ahead, this team is planning:

- ~ brunch for the confirmation students in April
- ~ special treats for Pastor Ted's last day
- ~ brunch for the 2025 graduates in May

> **Worship & Music:** Working 'behind the scenes', this team is dedicated to providing a warm and comforting worship experience. From organizing worship assistants to bringing creativity and passion into services, this team makes sure all worship services run smoothly.

Ministry teams at St. Johns:

- ~ Altar Guild
- ~Children's, Youth and Families
- ~Coffee time
- ~Facilities/Grounds & Technology
- ~Finance
- ~Funeral
- ~Outreach
- ~Stewardship
- ~Women of the ELCA
- ~Worship & Music

We are infinitely lucky to have the various ministry teams and all the wonderful people who give their time and talents so graciously. In 2025, we would love to build these teams as they work together to make St. John's the best that it can be. We are heading into the next few months with some uncertainties regarding the call for a new pastor, but one thing is for certain: we are only as strong as our members, and if we work together we will see a bright future with St. John.



Check this out:

A summary of the Holden Evening Prayer service, (taken from an article written by Karen Ives and submitted to the office by a congregation member):

The *Holden Evening Prayer*, which has been our traditional Lenten liturgy here at St. John, was written in the Winter of 1985 by Marty Haugen. Marty was the musician in residence at Holden Village, located in the North Cascade Mountains, when he became snowed in with other members of the staff as well as visitors to the Valley lands. He states that they were snowed in, and they were “all over the place” because they were not satisfied with the vespers service liturgy in the Lutheran Book of Worship, which was still fairly new and not universally welcomed at the time. Haugen’s Evening Prayer Service began with the title “Vespers of ‘86” because he felt it would “last” through the winter until the summer of 1986. He also claimed “with nine feet of snow, you had nothing to do after vespers but to sit around and critique vespers.” Some were probably not thrilled with the key of E-flat minor, but Haugen said it worked with the voices on hand at Holden that winter. Marty also speaks of the influence of the Taize movement in France—one where silence, quiet meditation, the lighting of candles and sung repetitive refrains are the backdrop.

Marty Haugen, a Minnesota native, has composed more than 400 liturgical and worship songs to date. I invite you to take a close look at the red (ELW) book next time you are in church. I think you might recognize his work, some of which includes, “Gather us In”, “Eye has not Seen”, “Shepherd Me, O God”, and “Healer of our Every ill”.

In other news:

The Oakwood cemetery board will meet on Monday, April 7th at 7:00pm at St. John

Thirty-one 8th grade students will be confirmed this month, on April 27th at 11:00am.

Pastor Ted’s last day will be April 30th, we will celebrate with cake during the connect and confirmation pizza hour on April 23rd and with a dedicated coffee hour between services on Confirmation Sunday.

We are planning a fun family ‘kick off to summer’ event for May 4th at Prairie Park in Belle Plaine.

We invite all ages to join us for a fun day of kickball and yard games from 11-3!!

Lunch will be provided ~ hot dogs, chips, cookies, lemonade and water!!



CELEBRATE!

April Birthdays

- 1: Dominick Rosario, Henrik Shutes
- 2: Derek Gruhn, Travis Latour, Katy Potter, Deana Siekman
- 3: Angela Koepp, Melissa Seaver, Bonnie Vinkemeier, Andy Weldon
- 4: Piper Potter, Katelyn Schmidt, Eli Tanguma
- 5: Lariana Ruud, Riley Stier, Graham Theas
- 6: Lillie Adelman, Jesse Lutterman, Milton Meierbachtol, Ann Pederson, April Stier
- 7:
- 8: Lana Hanson, Nate Muehlenhardt, Alec Ruud, Danika Schroeder
- 9:
- 10: Beth Beuch, Cassie Fink, Jake Mercado, Colin Sammons, Alicia Shutes
- 11: Vivian Herrmann, Alex Hoff
- 12: Klint Bristlin, Nikki Schultz
- 13: Teresa Bratsch, LeAnn Dahn, Peyton Schwichtenberg, Kiya Williamson
- 14: Grayson Klaverkamp, Tyler Moylan, Clint Widmer
- 15: Joesph Adelman, Cooper Hanek, Allison Skluzacek
- 16: Emma Martin, Cody Schultz, Will Steinhagen
- 17: Matt Kes
- 18: Ryder Brabec, Elizabeth Hilgers
- 19: Sophia Petersen, Sabrina Sammons
- 20: Joey Brown, Sally Simcox
- 21: Amanda Jo Rosario, Bruce Volek
- 22: Jackson Lillemoen, Anastasia Woods
- 23: Armin Dahn, Sandy Schultz, Bonnie Tronnes
- 24: Hunter Hornaman, Larry Ruehling, Jase Sanoye
- 25: Bennett Grant, Jackson Korbel, Nolan Lutterman, Abby Schoenbauer
- 26: Chris Hiles, Diane Latour, Jamie Lindahl, Chris Stier, Samantha Tharaldson
- 27: Andrea Andert, Nathan Jackels
- 28: Kade Skelley
- 29: Isabella Koepp, Dominica Wolf
- 30: Jennifer Fairbanks, Colt Henke, Bailey Kes, Wesley Hilgers, Deb Koepp

Wishing you a year filled with exciting adventures, new opportunities and endless possibilities!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Church schedule

Wednesday April 2nd:

5:30pm Lenten Soup and Sandwich supper
6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer service
7:15pm Worship Choir

Thursday April 3rd:

5:00pm TOPS

Sunday April 6th:

8:00am and 9:15am Worship Services
9:15am Sunday School

Monday April 7th:

5:30pm Worship & Music committee meeting
6:00pm Personnel committee meeting
6:30pm Boy Scouts gather in the basement
7:00pm Cemetery board meeting

Tuesday April 8th:

11:00am Lutheran Home service
1:00pm quilting
1:30pm Kingsway service

Wednesday April 9th:

5:30pm Lenten Soup and Sandwich supper
6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer service
7:15pm Worship Choir

Thursday April 10th:

5:00pm TOPS

Sunday April 13th: **Palm Sunday**

8:00am and 9:15am Worship Services
9:15am Sunday School

Monday April 14th:

6:30pm Church Council meeting
6:30pm Boy Scouts gather in the basement

Tuesday April 15th:

1:00pm quilting

Thursday April 17th: **Maundy Thursday**

7:00pm Worship service

Friday April 18th: **Good Friday**

7:00pm Worship service

Sunday April 20th: **Easter**

7:00 am Worship service
8:00am breakfast
9:30am Worship service

Monday April 21st:

6:30pm Boy Scouts gather in the basement

Tuesday April 22nd:

1:00 quilting

Wednesday April 23rd:

5:20pm connect & confirmation pizza/farewell
6:00pm Worship service

Thursday April 24th:

5:00pm TOPS

Sunday April 27th:

8:00am and 9:15am Worship service
*coffee hour farewell for Pastor Ted
9:15am Sunday School
11:00am Confirmation service

Monday April 28th:

6:30pm Boy Scouts gather in the basement

Tuesday April 29th:

1:00pm quilting

Wednesday April 30th:

6:00pm Worship Service
*Pastor Ted's last day
*Connect and confirmation end of the year party

~ APRIL SUNDAY SERVICE ASSISTANTS~

Alter guild: Renee Meuleners, Molly Holm

April 6

Greeters: Angela Faucette
Lay Readers: Renee Meuleners
Communion Assistants: Angela Faucette, Dorothy Koepp, Amanda Schultz
Ushers: Chris Schultz, Rob Schultz, Luke Schultz, Logan Schultz, Mark Schultz, Wayne Koepp

Greeters: Brent & Wendy Koepp
Lay Reader: Phoebe Einertson
Communion Assistants: Jan Effinger, Teresa Latzke, Phoebe Einertson
Ushers: Brent Koepp, Mitchell Koepp, Justin Stauffacher, Tim Moonen, Aaron Leonard

April 13

Greeters: Jamey, Linda & Olivia Jeurissen
Lay Readers: Amy Franck
Communion Assistants: Kirk Franck, Jerold & Kathi Stauffacher
Ushers: Chris Schultz, Rob Schultz, Luke Schultz, Logan Schultz, Mark Schultz, Wayne Koepp

Greeters: Cindy Schoenbauer
Lay Reader: Brent Koepp
Communion Assistants: Brent Koepp, Dave Bungarden, Beth Beuch
Ushers: Brent Koepp, Mitchell Koepp, Justin Stauffacher, Tim Moonen, Aaron Leonard

Easter Sunday 7:00am service:

Easter Sunday 9:30am service:

April 20

Greeters: Susie Steinhagen
Lay Readers: Bonnie Vinkemeier
Communion Assistants: Albert Koepp, Bonnie Vinkemeier, Susie Steinhagen
Ushers: Myron Bratsch, Kirk Franck, Matt Kes, Jeff Eppen

Greeters: Chris & Annette Moylan
Lay Reader: Caren Grotberg
Communion Assistants: Sara Bungarden, Chris & Annette Moylan
Ushers: Chris & Annette Moylan, Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter, James Fogarty

April 27

Greeters: Bruce & Susie Volek
Lay Readers: Mindy Chevalier
Communion Assistants: Mindy Chevalier, Rob & Sandy Schultz
Ushers: Myron Bratsch, Kirk Franck, Matt Kes, Jeff Eppen

Greeters: Sue Koenig
Lay Reader: Linda Rueben
Communion assistants: Steve Schroeder, Dave Bungarden, Lynne Jeurissen
Ushers: Chris & Annette Moylan, Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter, James Fogarty



4/6 ~ Schultz family
 4/13 ~ 6th grade families
 4/20 ~ Mission trip (Easter brunch)
 4/27 ~ Confirmation

St. John Lutheran Church		
All Funds: Statement of Activities		
February 1, 2025 to February 28,		
	2/1/2025 - 2/28/2025	2/1/2024-2/28/2024
Revenues		
Total Offering Revenues	24,902.37	24,421.15
Total Other Fund Raising Projects	0.00	2,653.75
Total Sale of Books & Other Religious	0.00	2,725.00
Total Major Revenues	0.00	5,378.75
Product Revenues		
Total Product Revenues	0.00	0.00
Total Other Revenue	2,477.00	3,375.00
Total Miscellaneous Revenues	2,477.00	3,375.00
Total Revenues	27,379.37	33,262.21
Total Cost of Product Sales	543.25	500.00
Total Benevolence Expense	1,350.00	1,350.00
Total Church/Grounds Maintenance	1,797.45	2,533.91
Total Education Expense - Youth	2,399.73	155.92
Total Insurance	0.00	1,323.81
Total Office Expenses	1,937.56	2,044.51
Other Expenses	111	901
Total Other Expenses	1,237.23	341.95
Total Professional Fees	0.00	0.00
Total Staff Benefits	87.52	2,601.89
Total Staff Salaries	17,786.31	16,284.05
Total Utilities	1,055.34	1,908.09
Total Worship Music & Arts Expenses	158.82	707.00
Total Expenditures	26,683.91	29,882.70
Net Revenue	4,694.43	5,588.19
Property Improvement / Building Fund	2/1/2025-2/28/2025	2/1/2024 - 2/28/2024
Income (Donations, Rent, Invest-	\$6,056.09	\$6,286.28
Total Expenditures	\$1,590.00	\$2,456.38
Interest Expense	0	\$429.14
Net Receipts / Disbursements	\$4,466.09	\$3,400.76
Offerings	General Fund	Property Improvement
February 1 - February 8, 2025	\$7,793.62	\$1,480.68
February 9 - February 15, 2025	\$2,662.65	\$205.00
February 16 - February 22, 2025	\$6,340.17	\$1,196.28
February 23 - February 28, 2025	\$4,699.75	\$447.75

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

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Change Service Requested