



St. John Lutheran Church

Worship Times:
Sundays at 9:00am
Wednesdays at 6:00pm

Important dates this month:

Installation Sunday: June 22nd

7th grade travels to Camp: 22nd - 27th

Mission Trip travels to Niagara Falls, NY: 21st - 28th

148 S Chestnut St. Belle Plaine MN 56011
Church office: 952-873-6492
email: office@stjohnbelleplaine.org

Staff:

Pastor:

Sherri Otto

Bridge Pastor:

Diane Goulson

Office:

Amanda Schultz

Accounting:

Monica Braesch

Custodian:

Hanna Tharaldson

Choir Director:

Allison Vandermark

Organist:

Eileen Hanlon

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Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes

May 12, 2025

President Jim Eggers called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.

Present:

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

Approval of Minutes & Agenda:

- Council reviewed the minutes from April 16th, 2025 Council Meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the meeting minutes.
- Council reviewed the minutes from May 4th, 2025 Special Meeting regarding the call for our new pastor. 131 Voting members were in attendance and 131 'yes' votes were received to call Pastor Sherri Otto. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the meeting minutes.
- The council reviewed the meeting agenda and item 'D' was added to new business. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the amended agenda for May 12th, 2025.

Staff Report:

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

Treasurer's Report:

- Jerold's treasurer report was reviewed by the council. Overall, April year-to-date revenue is right inline with budget; with April expenses slightly under budget due to health insurance savings.

Transfers:

- The council approved the transfer in of 31 confirmands: Jennifer Scott, Rylan Williamson, Colin Weldon, Cooper Stier, Peyton Schwichtenberg, Logan Schultz, Colin Sammons, Sydney Paulson, Jaxson Overline, Mikayla Olson, Hoyt Nagorski, Anna Muehlenhardt, Jackson Lillemoen, Lucy Leonard, Jayden Koonst, Breanne Konopacki, Emma Koepp, Carter Kes, Noah Hornaman, Noelle Hoff, Elijah Hoff, Arianna Hiles, Carson Herrmann, Weston Hardel, Bennett Grant, Mason Gerres, Emmaleah Cecka, Maverick Borresen, Ava Bommelyn, Bryce Balk, Baylen Anderson, Faith Adelman

Ongoing Business:

- A Motion was made, seconded and carried to table the review of job descriptions.
- A Motion was made, seconded and carried to table the review of church facility rates.
- A Motion was made, seconded and carried to table further discussion on a church directory while we gather more information.
- A Motion was made, seconded and carried to support a Twins game outing; this would be a nice way to enjoy Christian fellowship outside of church. More details will be available next month as the planning is underway.

New Business:

- Phoebe spoke to the council on the results of the Lent survey that took place. Many love the music, food and fellowship of Wednesday evenings during Lent. More results were posted in the May newsletter and we hope to use these results to make enhancements to services in the future.
- The May 4th party was a success. We had 50-75 people in attendance with a special appearance by Pastor Sherri. We'll discuss doing a fall gather at **the next All Committee Meeting on July 28th @ 7pm.**
- The paperwork to call Pastor Sherri Otto is with the synod. Her tentative start date is June 16th with her first Sunday and Installation being on Sunday, June 22nd.
- Chris Zellman let us know we'll need to replace the wireless microphones soon. We have a bit of time, and will wait to see what style Pastor Sherri prefers.

Ministry Team Updates:

- A. Stewardship and Nomination Committees do not have any updates at this time.
- B. The Worship and Music report was reviewed and they have organized many items including Palm Sunday crosses, Mothers Day coffee hour, and Senior Sunday. Worship and Music is looking forward to collaborating with Pastor Sherri after her arrival.

A Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deanne Fogarty, Secretary



We can't wait to officially welcome Pastor Sherri this month!

Greetings!

My husband Troy and I live in Shakopee, Minnesota, with our two dogs, Bella and Brutus and we will be getting a new puppy in August! We have three children, Emily, Grace, and Trevor. I grew up in the small town of Goodhue, Minnesota, where much of my family still resides.

My first career was at the Hennepin County jail, where I worked for 22 years before retiring. Following that, I graduated from Luther Seminary in 2019 and began my first call on March 1, 2020, as an Associate Pastor. After four and a half years, I discerned that it was time for a change and to seek where God was leading me next.

And God led me to you!

I am excited to be your new pastor and look forward to getting to know each of you as we share stories, dream about St. John's future and connect with the community of Belle Plaine.

In my free time, I enjoy bowling, golf, darts, pool and music. I also love spending time outdoors and around a good campfire.

I will officially begin my work on Monday, June 16th, so I will see you soon!

With God's blessings,
Pastor Sherri

~QUILTERS CORNER~

Quilting is a sport!

It involves

batting~ running ~ stitches ~ pumping iron

Rowing, hooping &

hunting for fabric.

YAY! I'm an athlete!

Meet the team:

Susie Volek, Amy Franck, Sandy Schultz, Laurie Hiles, Pam Koepp, Liz Herrmann, Caren Grotberg, Esther Stoppelman, and LaVonne Behnke

Stats:

The team started on February 4th and finished 24 quilts for our graduates by April 30th -- that's an average of almost 2 quilts a week!! The ladies of the team were on top of the game in their individual positions:

sewing the quilt tops, pinning them together, knotting them and doing the final sewing.

They shared many laughs and giggles, solved some world problems and decided on a team name: The SJL Quilters - *Slightly Joyful Looney Quilters*



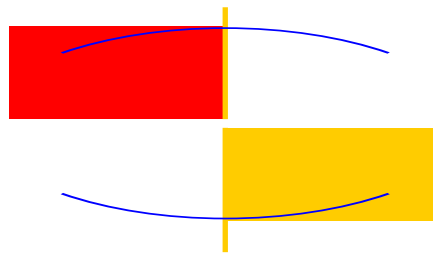
“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” ~ Romans 8:28

Busy bees were hard at work in May!

Not only did the quilters finish up the beloved senior quilts, but junior families hosted our seniors for the coffee hour and quilt grab on May 18th. It was a beautiful service as we send 27 faithful adults into the next chapter of their lives.

New carpet was laid throughout the offices, new screens were installed in the sanctuary, the gardens were tilled and the landscaping around the church was updated.

Last, but not least, our congregation voted to call on Pastor Sherri Otto as our new pastor.



Grateful and blessed:

As the school year comes to a close, I am so grateful for the Sunday school teachers, the connect and confirmation leaders and all the parent volunteers in the kitchen on both Wednesday nights and Sunday morning coffee hours! Teamwork really is the dreamwork! I can't wait to see what the next year brings for our youth!

Thank you to Eileen for all her hard work to make sure the church was filled with music each Wednesday and Sunday!

Thank you also to the choir for sharing their musical talents with us throughout the year! Some of those songs really gave me the chills -- great work choir!!

And thank you to Pastor Diane for filling in as our bridge pastor until Pastor Sherri can start her call here at St. John. We are a blessed congregation for sure!!

Camp Onomia

It's a long standing tradition to send our 7th grade confirmation students off to Camp Onomia and this year we will be sending 20 campers to enjoy a week of study, fellowship and fun in the sun with their peers.

They leave on Sunday, June 22nd return on June 27th.

~Please keep the counselors, the campers and the chaperones in your prayers~


2025 Mission Trip

Please keep our mission trip team in your prayers, as 12 members of our church Prepare to travel to Niagara Falls, NY from June 21st to the 28th for a week of service and ministry.

While there, the team will be working alongside local organizations to support families and communities through outreach projects, light construction work, and children's programs. This is a wonderful opportunity for our group to share Christ's love in a tangible way and grow together in faith.

We ask for your continued prayers for safe travel, good health, and meaningful connections with those we will be serving. Thank you for your support!





Thank you to Brian Schmidt, Dan Schmidt and Sandy Schultz for attending this year's Synod assembly as our representatives!!

Assembly recap from the Synod:

Nearly 400 voting members from Minneapolis Area Synod ministries gathered on May 2 and 3 for the 2025 Synod Assembly. The theme for this year's Assembly was Church Together, drawing on Paul's letter to the Corinthians:

*"Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many...
If one member suffers, all suffer together with it;
if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." (1 Cor 12:26)*

Attendees reflected on our call to accompany our neighbors, the power and witness of prayer, and what it means to embody our identity as Church Together in Jesus.

The Synod Assembly began with worship on Friday night at Bethlehem Lutheran Twin Cities, Minneapolis Campus. Participants enjoyed a variety of beautiful music and a powerful sermon by Bishop Jen Nagel on John 12:1-19, inviting the church to follow Jesus' gentle instruction to his disciples, to cast their nets on the other side of the boat, to courageously and faithfully try a new thing. The evening ended with a social time and ice cream sundaes.

Saturday's business took place at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Ramsey. Rev. Prof. Dr. Dirk Lange (Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Relations at the Lutheran World Federation and Fredrik A. Schiotz Chair of Christian Mission and Professor of Worship at Luther Seminary) gave two keynote presentations throughout the day, lifting up the powerful witness of ecumenical reconciliation between

Lutherans and Catholics, exploring the theological roots of prayer and baptismal community, and recalling the story of underground prayer meetings that formed the base of a resistance movement in communist East Germany in the 1980s. "It was this peaceful procession, streaming forth from the churches, walking out into the street, gathering people; it was this liturgical procession – a Kairos moment or, as Luther would have called it, a Gospel shower– that brought down an oppressive political, economic, social system," said Professor Lange.

Deacon Jess Liles (Director of Youth Gathering and Youth Ministry and ELCA Churchwide) brought an update from the ELCA Churchwide Office and shared information about the 2027 Youth Gathering that will take place in Minneapolis. There were also reports from Bishop Jen Nagel, Synod Vice President Felecia Boone, and Synod Treasurer Ross Eichelberger.

June Birthdays

1 Robert Holtberg Adam Jeurissen Curt Johnson Adrik Pederson	2 Lauren Koepp Nathaniel Rosario Maliyah Savoye Quinn Streich	3 Colton Adelman Sally Hilgers Joanne McConnell Parker Trost	4 Greysen Hiles Corinne Mercado	5 Janet Hanson Colin Thaves	6 Evelyn Boeckman Harrison Chard Daxon Herrmann Kennedy Larson Kaitlyn Meuleners	7 Annie Leonard Katie Roff Kaylee Shackle Brooke Carter
8 Brooke Borresen Jacob Petersen Taylor Tesch Allison Blake	9 Andrea Adelman Wilma Bartels Mary Sue Meger Evan Nasby Lacy Schultz Carson Unze Ashley Olson	10 Georgia Carlson Katie Maier Sharon Sirek	11 Heather Kes Kensi Petty	12 Molly Holm Larry Koniarski Elsie Leonard Isabella Lindahl Aria Tindall	13 Jase Schroeder	14 Aiden Fogarty
15 Julie Tesch	16 Leann Fahey James Fogarty Cassie Gerres Aiden Winterfeldt John Winterfeldt MJ Kurvers	17 Kamryn Stier Nate Schultz	18 Courtney Fogarty Addison Reinsma	19 Matthew Nicholas	20 Alexander Adelman Ervin Koepp Don Meierbachtol Zander Fahey	21 Austin Heinz Alec Koepp Catherine Otto Damarcus Adelman
22 Jim Steffen Austin Kerber	23 Jennifer Meyer Clara Schroeder	24 Allison Koepp Jamie Petersen Marci Schroeder Leah Theis	25 Riava Buddenhagen Collins Crosby Reese Potter	26 Wesley Koepp Peggy Longhenry Kallie Thiemert Annalee Tupy	27 Heather Creighton Brian Paulson Julia Stene	28 Isabelle Stier
29 Chris Moore Matthew Olson Andrew Peltz	30 Sarita Altringer Kyah Bauer Taylor Johnson Mike Smith					

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Church schedule

Sunday June 1st:

9:00 am worship service

Monday June 2nd:

5:30pm Worship & Music committee meeting

6:00pm Personnel committee meeting

6:30pm Boy Scouts gather in the basement

Tuesday June 3rd:

11:00am Lutheran Home service

1:30pm Kingsway service

Wednesday June 4th:

6:00pm Worship service

Thursday June 5th:

5:00pm TOPS

Saturday June 7th:

Private event

Sunday June 8th:

9:00am worship service

Monday June 9th:

6:30pm Boy Scouts gather in the basement

Tuesday June 10th:

6:30pm Church Council meeting

Wednesday June 11th:

6:00pm worship service

Thursday June 12th:

5:00pm TOPS

Sunday June 15th:

9:00am Worship service

Monday June 16th:

6:30pm Boy Scouts gather in the basement

Tuesday June 17th:

4:30pm Stewardship

Wednesday June 18th:

6:00pm worship service

Thursday June 19th:

5:00pm TOPS

Saturday June 21st - June 28th

Mission Trip

Sunday June 22nd:

9:00am worship service with Pastor Sherri

Sunday June 22nd - June 27th:

7th graders are at Camp Onomia

Monday June 23rd:

6:30pm Boy Scouts gather in the basement

Wednesday June 25th:

6:00pm worship Service

Thursday June 26th:

5:00pm TOPS

Sunday June 29th:

9:00am worship service

Monday June 30th:

Boy Scouts gather in the basement

~ JUNE SUNDAY SERVICE ASSISTANTS~

Alter guild: Sandi Wolpern, Linda Schwichtenberg

June 1st ~ 9:00am

Greeters: Mindy Chevalier

Lay Readers: Mindy Chevalier

Communion Assistants: Kirk Franck, Mindy Chevalier, Renee Meuleners

Ushers: Marc & Mindy Chevalier, Abby Wolpern, Andy Steinhagen,
Josh Sparby, Lydia Sparby, Brent Koepp, Mitchell Koepp, Aaron Leonard

June 8th ~ 9:00am

Greeters: Sharon Adelman

Lay Readers: Michelle Melheim

Communion Assistants: Michelle Melheim, Brent Koepp, Amanda Schultz

Ushers: Marc & Mindy Chevalier, Abby Wolpern, Andy Steinhagen,
Josh Sparby, Lydia Sparby, Brent Koepp, Mitchell Koepp, Aaron Leonard

June 15th ~ 9:00am

Greeters: Chris & Annette Moylan

Lay Readers: Chris Moylan

Communion Assistants: Chris & Annette Moylan, Peg Longhenry

Ushers: Albert Koepp, Dorothy Koepp, Kevin Koepp, Matt Stier, Bruce Volek,
Tim Carlson, Josh Koepp, Chris & Annette Moylan, Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter

June 22nd ~ 9:00am

Greeters: Call Committee

Lay Readers: Lacy Schultz

Communion Assistants: Matt & Kristin Stier, Linda Reuben

Ushers: Albert Koepp, Dorothy Koepp, Kevin Koepp, Matt Stier, Bruce Volek,
Tim Carlson, Josh Koepp, Chris & Annette Moylan, Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter

June 29th ~ 9:00am

Greeters: Greg & Linda Schwichtenberg

Lay Readers: Bryn Davis

Communion Assistants: Nick & Bryn Davis, Patty Laabs

Ushers: Brent Schwichtenberg, Greg Schwichtenberg, Richard Laabs,
Dave & Sara Bungarden, Mason Bungarden, Ron & Diane Rasmussen



St. John Lutheran Church

All Funds: Statement of Activities Previous Year Comparison

4/1/2025 - 4/30/2025

4/1/2024 - 4/30/2024

Revenues

Total Offering Revenues	35,691.28	26,435.73
Total Other Fund Raising Projects	0.00	1,973.00
Total Sale of Books & Other Religious Items	0.00	5,400.00
Total Major Revenues	0.00	7,373.00
Product Revenues		
Total Product Revenues	0.00	0.00
Total Other Revenue	259,640.00	600.00
Total Miscellaneous Revenues	-116,460.37	355.00
Total Revenues	144,604.63	3,892.50

Total Cost of Product Sales	81.50	5,870.00
Total Benevolence Expense	1,350.00	1,350.00
Total Church/Grounds Maintenance Expense	5,211.75	12,704.31
Total Education Expense - Youth	2,493.42	1,008.32
Total Insurance	1,531.56	1,323.81
Total Office Expenses	8,932.19	2,800.63
Other Expenses	475.43	960.81
Total Other Expenses	0.00	0.00
Total Professional Fees	0.00	310.00
Total Staff Benefits	1,943.10	2,549.79
Total Staff Salaries	17,066.76	16,434.48
Total Utilities	2,472.09	1,948.01
Total Worship Music & Arts Expenses	0.00	208.00
Total Expenditures	41,476.30	46,636.16
Net Revenue	138,943.11	-23,527.01

Property Improvement / Building Fund

4/1/2025 - 4/30/2025

4/1/2024 - 4/30/2024

Income (Donations, Rent, Investments)	\$148,005.54	\$2,650.00
Total Expenditures	\$10,728.00	\$12,598.56
Interest Expense	0	\$440.87
Net Receipts / Disbursements	\$137,277.54	(\$10,389.43)

Offerings	General Fund	Property Improvement
4/1/25 - 4/5/25	\$3,854.04	\$450.50
4/6/25 - 4/12/25	\$7,184.02	\$897.75
4/13/25 - 4/19/25	\$6,500.74	\$741.38
4/20/25 - 4/26/25	\$8,848.77	\$1,131.28
4/27/25 - 4/30/25	\$4,269.99	\$375.00

There are many ways to give back, one way is giving back financially.

To schedule a *recurring electronic contribution* via Vanco:

Visit our website: www.stjohnbelleplaine.org

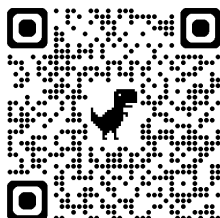
Select the green 'online giving'

Scroll to the bottom and select 'get started today'

Select where you would like the funds allocated

Follow the prompts to set up your account

Or scan the code:



scan to give using venmo:



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

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