
St. John Lutheran Church

March Newsletter

Come, join us for Worship:
Sunday mornings at 8:00am & 9:15am

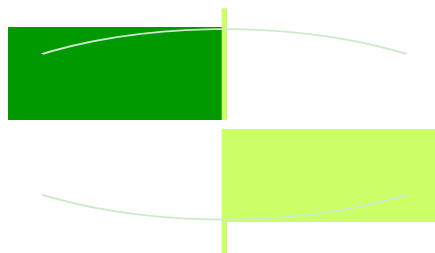
Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm for the
Holden Evening Prayer Service through
Lent

Worship

Important dates this month:

Wednesday the 5th ~ Ash Wednesday

*Soup and Sandwich supper at 5:30 every Wednesday



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

Staff:

Interim Pastor:

Ted Vanderpan

Office:

Amanda Schultz

Accounting:

Monica Braesch

Custodian:

Hanna Tharaldson

Choir Director:

Allison Vandermark

Organist:

Eileen Hanlon

Accompanist:

Eileen Hanlon

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Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes

February 10, 2025

President Jim Eggers called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Present:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------|
| | Pastor Ted | X | Albert Koepp | X | Jim Eggers | X | Anne Herrmann |
| X | Deanne Fogarty | X | Rob Schultz | X | Tim Moonen | X | Chris Zellman |
| X | Steve Kelm | X | Jaime Petersen | | Cayla Menke | X | David Bungarden |
| X | Jerold Stauffacher | | | | | | |

Approval of Minutes:

Members of Council reviewed the minutes from January 13th, 2025 Council 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 new business items E-K added for February 10th, 2025.

Pastor Ted Report:

- A. Vacation – nothing to report

Staff Reports:

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

Treasurer’s Reports:

- A. Jerold’s treasurer report was reviewed by the council. Overall, January ended favorable to budget with higher offering revenues and expenses came in below budget due to the unknown cost for confirmation. Jerold also talked with the congregation about Vanco, the online giving option, and its ease of use.

Transfers:

- A. The council approved 5 new members: Jessica Nagel, Dave and Carla Friest, and Pete and Catherine Bendzick

Ongoing Business:

- A. Call Committee Update: The call committee is getting the “pre-work” done, including interview questions. They are hoping to begin reviewing candidates in early March. The synod has recommended that we keep the parsonage to include as part of our Ministry Site Profile (MSP). Members of the council recalled the previous decision was not to include the parsonage in the MSP due to the condition of the home and the funds that would be required to prepare the home for a new pastor.
- B. Property Task Force: The council reviewed the plans for the sale of property and the parking lot with representatives from the property task force.
- C. A Congregational Meeting will be held on February 16th to discuss the sale of the parsonage and the parking lot proposal. Members of the congregation will vote via ballot.
- D. An All Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23rd at 7pm in the Youth Room. The purpose of the meeting will be to have all committees together to discuss topics that touch multiple groups.

New Business:

- A. The council accepted the resignation of Cayla Menke. Per the constitution, the council should appoint a new council member. Council members will seek other candidates to fill a 1 year term and will discuss at the March council meeting.
- B. Kallie Thaemert was nominated as the Youth Delegate for the Convention in May though she is unavailable on Friday, May 2nd. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve Kallie as the youth delegate.
- C. The council discussed a creation of a Welcome Committee. This discussion was tabled until the March meeting.
- D. The council discussed the creation of a Finance Committee. The purpose of this committee would be manage the finances of the church including financial planning and budgeting. Jerold Stauffacher will work to recruit members for this committee.
- E. After discussion of the pew pads, motion was made, seconded and carried to approve putting pew pads back in the church to have more visibility to visitors and communing members.
- F. Council discussed the use of name tags; it was decided that members with name tags may take their name tags but wearing a name tags while worshipping will not be required.
- G. The council discussed Pastor Teds retirement and the bridge or temporary pastor until a permanent replacement is found. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve to move to a single 9am service beginning on Sunday, May 11th. Wednesday evening services at 6pm will continue.
- H. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve a \$100 donation from the youth fund for Dollars for Scholars.
- I. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve a \$100 gift basket donation from the youth fund to BPHS Post Prom.
- J. The council declined a request for donation from Strengthening Individual Families and Communities, an organization in Sioux Falls, SD.
- K. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the transportation and meals during travel for the mission trip. Estimated expense will be no more than \$5,000.

Ministry Team Updates:

- A. The music and worship committee had no new updates from January's annual meeting.
- B. The Building and Grounds Committee worked to fix the compressor for the sprinkler system.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deanne Fogarty,
Secretary



From Pastor Ted:

By the time you read this, Lent will be just a few days away. Ash Wednesday is March 5th and is one of the favorite traditions at St John. We call Lent a season of preparation, which leads up to our Easter celebration. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days (Sundays are not counted). Lent ends on the Saturday before Easter. The 40 days are a reminder to us of the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the Wilderness and the 40 days that Jesus fasted and was tempted in the desert. Our preparation involves self-reflection and self-examination. The tradition of "giving something up for Lent" points back to all that Jesus resisted and the food that Jesus "gave up" during his time in the desert. Lent is sometimes called a season of repentance. It is a time to look at our lives and to identify those things that need changing. Sundays are not included in the 40 days of Lent because Sundays are always a celebration of our Lord's resurrection.

Easter comes very late this year, April 20th. Christmas is always December 25th but Easter moves each year. The date for Easter is always the first Sunday following the first full moon of the Spring Equinox (March 21). Easter can be as early as March 22 or as late as April 25.

So, now we know what Lent and Easter is all about, right! Well, not exactly. The date of Ash Wednesday is mostly inconsequential. The exact Sunday Easter falls on really doesn't matter to the meaning of Easter. What really matters about Easter is that,

"You have been saved by grace through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as result of works, that no one should boast." Ephesians 2: 8, 9

Easter is really about a savior! There is only one who can wash away our sins. There is only one who died on the cross for you and me. There is only one who can forgive us in heaven's records. There is only one. With the savior, there is no more striving on my own to find God's favor. No more attempts to make myself good enough for God. No more games making other people think I am religious. No more trying to be religious. No more running. No more hiding. No more faking it. We don't have to, we have a savior!

We have been forgiven in Christ. What Christ, the savior, has done is enough. His death is our death. His descent into hell is our ultimate alienation from God. His resurrection is our resurrection. Jesus has done for us that which we could not do for ourselves. By the grace of God we are made righteous. Because of God's love we are no longer alienated from God but friends. In baptism the promise of the savior comes to us in the water; "You are Mine". In communion the promise of the savior comes in the bread and wine; "I am yours." So, plan on attending the Wednesday Lenten services. Come and hear about "Faith In My Life" as shared by members of St John. Take time to worship Him. Take time to thank the savior who has saved you.

You may or may not know:

Last month was hoppin! We got to know the youth ministry team a little better, as well as the facilities and grounds/technology team. The quilters of the church started the beloved Senior quilts, we welcomed a new member through baptism and we started to prepare for Lent. Which means soup and sandwich suppers are starting! Join us starting at 5:30pm every Wednesday for food and fellowship, followed by the Holden Prayer service at 6:30pm. We have a great arrangement of speakers this Lent and I don't think you'll want to miss it!

And as we March into spring, let us use this season to renew our Faith, reconnect through worship and refresh our spirit of giving. Let us also pray for the Church Council, all our amazing Ministry teams, and the call committee as we look ahead and call for a new Pastor.

Sincerely,
Amanda Schultz

Youth, Children & Families:

The Sunday School kiddos kicked off February with a noisy offering during service and shared a calendar with Love bible verses to celebrate "I Love to Read" month and Valentine's Day. On the 9th, Sunday Schoolers snag in their pajamas at both services, followed by a family event: God Loves US, Even in our PJs, where kids were wrapped in God's love and created Valentines for the Lutheran Home residents. It was a lovely, fun-filled family event for all!

Mark your calendars:

This month:

March 2 ~ bring those coins to 9:15 service for a noisy offering

March 2 - Kindergarten families host coffee hour

March 16 ~ 3rd and 4th grade families host coffee hour

Upcoming:

April 13 ~ Palm Sunday, the children will sing

April 27 ~ Confirmation Sunday

May 4 ~ Last day of Sunday School, the children will sing

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. You are welcome to seek members of the ministry teams out, thank them for their efforts, ask questions and make connections.

One way we can share our own time and talent is by serving with a ministry team, so please get to know the various teams over the next few months and prayerfully consider joining one (or two). It is always great to have new perspective, a necessity of change.

In February we highlighted two of our ministry teams:

> **Children's, Youth & Family:** This awesome team works endlessly to provide a faithful foundation to the young members of St. John. In February the Sunday School kids:

- ~ gave back by dropping their change in the bucket for the noisy offering
- ~ sang their hearts out in their PJs
- ~ celebrated with a family fun day

> **Facilities/Grounds & Technology:** This team manages our church's physical and digital presence throughout the year. Making sure St. John's looks inviting and warm, while keeping the integrity of our old church charm. In February this team worked together to:

- ~ remove the snow in a timely manner
- ~ ensure services were live streamed for those who can't make it into church
- ~ provide a warm and welcoming space for all members and visitors



In March we look forward to highlighting the following 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:

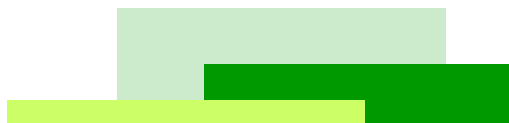
- ~ dedicated themselves to ensure each Sunday coffee hour had a host
- ~ organized brunch for the annual meeting

Looking ahead, this team is planning:

- ~ brunch for the confirmation students in April
- ~ 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 assistants to bringing creativity and passion into services, this team makes sure all worship services run smoothly.

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:

(from Kingsway)

Sue might not have realized when she was hired on as an evening shift CNA back in 1985 that it would lead to a career lasting 35 years and counting. "The Lutheran Home was a prime employer and I considered myself lucky and part of the elite when I was finally hired," Sue recalls. "In order to get my foot in the door I knew I needed to be persistent. And it paid off." Having small children at home made it a challenge for Sue to work the evening and graveyard shifts. However, she found a way to make it work and has taken on many different titles and roles over the years. Sue was quickly recognized for her advocacy and passion for the residents and the staff.

During her time as a CNA, she was asked to join the *Residents and Coworkers Recruitment and Retention Committee*. She travelled to some of the satellite locations within TLHA and met with other leaders to help build a program that helped reduce overall employee turnover. Other responsibilities along the way included becoming a *Restorative Program Aid*, a *Preceptor*, and a *Neighborhood Coordinator*. These jobs were always related to being able to work directly with residents and staff, and Sue became well known as a go-to resource.

In 2018, Sue left the CNA field and became the *Office Coordinator* Kingsway Senior Living. During this time she went back to school and in 2022 was able to bring to fruition her dream job of becoming a *Nurse Administrative Assistant*, and continues in that role at Kingsway today.

Congratulation to our very own, Sue Koenig on

35 years of service at Kingsway!



In other news:

We had a great turnout for the special meeting held last month ~ Thank you to all those who attended. The vote passed and we will move forward with plans to build a parking lot.

Jan Effinger has graciously stepped in to fulfill the one year term on the Church Council.

The property task force is accepting bid for the garage lot located at 210 S Chestnut St. Sealed bids will be accepted until March 31st 2025. There is a minimum \$65000 bid, please submit any bids to Amanda in the church office.

Save the date: we will be hosting a fun family and community event on May 4th

Happy Birthday!

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | Phoebe Einertson Carter Kes Sarah Leonard Jaxson Overline |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Katie Herrmann Chase Jaworski Kacie Reinsma Kyle Sammons | Noah Hornaman John Karl Amy Rosario | Harrison Bungarden Michael Meierbachtol | Joey Franck Clarrissa Luttermann Luke Schultz | Ollie Beckius Walker Herrmann Douglas Nasby | Lauren Tesch | Courtney Bristlin Mya Holzemer |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Lee Bessel Tim Carlson Jacqueline Johnson Curtis Koepf Alyana Lindahl Griffin Ruud | James Karl Wendy Koepf | Audrey Havemeyer Jean Jackels Sarah Theis Hope Lawler | Luke Andert | | Alaina Buesgens Ann Carstens Alexander Rosario | Vivian Holtberg Henry Husfeldt Lucy Leonard Jack Scott Callie Stoutland Shaye Buddenhagen |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| Ally Fink Michael Olson Keith Siemon Douglas Steen Landon Trost | Abigail Johnson Mack Theas | Kace Hutchison Brian Overline Sully Schultz | Meghan Worshek Will Posthumus Sheila Schmidt Emilyn Siemon Arianna Anderson Ava Bommelyn | Connie Bergs Treyden Hiles Ivy Pankonin Bennet Balk | Mary Kay Nasby Mya Bommelyn | Nora Hansen Blair Henke Alexandra Stauffacher Emily Vinkemeier |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| Dorothy Koepf | Shane Henke Roland Perkins | Miranda Koenig Joan Olson Joseph Petersen Aria Roff | Diane Bratsch | Brittney Dandurand Cory Hansen Mitchel Stier | Eli Braun Megan Doebbeling Aiden Johnson | Svea Olson Rick Schroeder |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |
| Landon Graff Alexzander Stier | Misty Johnson Nora Meuleners | | | | | |

Church Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|--------------|--------|----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Noisy Offering 8:00 & 9:15 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 2:00 Girl Scout event | 5:30 pm Worship & Music 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm Personnel Committee meeting | 11:00 Lutheran Home Service 1:30 pm Kingsway Service | 5:30 Soup & Sandwich 6:30 Holden Lent Service | 5:00 pm TOPS | | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 8:00 & 9:15 Worship 9:15 Baptism 9:15 Sunday School | 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Church Council | | 5:30 Soup & Sandwich 6:30 Holden Lent Service | 5:00 pm TOPS | | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 8:00 & 9:15 Worship 9:15 Sunday School | 6:30 pm Boy Scouts | 4:30 pm Stewardship | 5:30 Soup & Sandwich 6:30 Holden Lent Service | 5:00 pm TOPS | | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 8:00 & 9:15 Worship 9:15 Sunday School | 6:30 pm Boy Scouts | | 5:30 Soup & Sandwich 6:30 Holden Lent Service | 5:00 pm TOPS | | |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |
| 8:00 & 9:15 Worship *Choir sings 9:15 Sunday School | 6:30 pm Boy Scouts | | | | | |

~ MARCH SUNDAY SERVICE ASSISTANTS~

Alter guild: Sharon Adelman, Dorothy Koepf

March 2

Greeters: Sharon Adelman
Lay Readers: Albert Koepf
Communion Assistants: Albert Koepf, Dave Latzke, Patty Laabs
Ushers: Marc & Mindy Chevalier, Abby Wolpern, Andy Steinhagen, Josh Sparby, Lydia Sparby

Greeters: Chris & Annette Moylan
Lay Reader: Chris Moylan
Communion Assistants: Beth Beuch, Chris Moylan, Phoebe Einertson
Ushers: Chris & Annette Moylan, Lee Sauter, Steve Schroeder

March 9

Greeters: Terry & Angie Kahle
Lay Readers: Angie Kahle
Communion Assistants: Renee Meuleners, Greg & Linda Schwichtenberg
Ushers: Albert Koepf, Dorothy Koepf, Kevin Koepf, Matt Stier, Bruce Volek, Tim Carlson, Josh Koepf

Greeters: Ron & Diane Rasmussen
Lay Reader: Dave Bungarden
Communion Assistants: Linda Reuben, Dave Bungarden, Annette Moylan
Ushers: Dave & Sara Bungarden, Mason Bungarden, Ron & Diane Rasmussen

March 16

Greeters: Matt & Kristin Stier
Lay Readers: Michelle Melheim
Communion Assistants: Michelle Melheim, Matt & Kristin Stier
Ushers: Albert Koepf, Dorothy Koepf, Kevin Koepf, Matt Stier, Bruce Volek, Tim Carlson, Josh Koepf

Greeters: Sue Koenig
Lay Reader: Sara Bungarden
Communion Assistants: Teresa Latzke, Sara Bungarden, Brent Koepf
Ushers: Dave & Sara Bungarden, Mason Bungarden, Ron & Diane Rasmussen

March 23

Greeters: Joyce Nyblom
Lay Readers: Linda Schwichtenberg
Communion Assistants: Terry Siemon, Greg & Linda Schwichtenberg
Ushers: Brent Schwichtenberg, Greg Schwichtenberg, Bruce Schmidt, Richard Laabs, Jodi Savage

Greeters: Anita Lambrecht
Lay Reader: Steve Schroeder
Communion assistants: Steve Schroeder, Sarah Leonard, Lynne Jeurissen
Ushers: Scott & Tricia Rudd, Jason & Monica Braesch, Michael Nagel

March 30

Greeters: Gerry & Diane Bratsch
Lay Readers: Bryn Davis
Communion Assistants: Chris Schultz, Nick & Bryn Davis
Ushers: Brent Schwichtenberg, Greg Schwichtenberg, Bruce Schmidt, Richard Laabs, Jodi Savage

Greeters: Ken & Wendy Theis
Lay Reader: Cheryl Flynn
Communion assistants: Cheryl Flynn, Peg Longhenry, Cindy Schoenbauer
Ushers: Scott & Tricia Rudd, Jason & Monica Braesch, Michael Nagel



- 3/2 ~ Kindergarten families
- 3/9 ~ Kes/Hoff 8th grade Confirmation small group
- 3/16 ~ 3rd/4th grade families
- 3/23 ~ Worship & Music committee
- 3/30 ~ Choir

| St. John Lutheran Church | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| All Funds: Statement of Activities | | |
| January 01, 2025 to January 31, | | |
| | 01/01/25-01/31/25 | 01/01/24-01/31/24 |
| Revenues | | |
| Total Offering Revenues | 53,654.79 | 36,662.59 |
| Total Other Fund Raising Projects | 0.00 | 2,508.00 |
| Total Sale of Books & Other Reli- | 0.00 | 400.00 |
| Total Major Revenues | 0.00 | 2,908.00 |
| Product Revenues | | |
| Total Product Revenues | 0.00 | 72.41 |
| Total Other Revenue | 2,650.00 | 2,700.00 |
| Total Miscellaneous Revenues | 2,650.00 | 2,700.00 |
| Total Revenues | 56,304.79 | 42,343.00 |
| Total Cost of Product Sales | 1,834.70 | 2,615.25 |
| Total Benevolence Expense | 5,589.69 | 1,350.00 |
| Total Church/Grounds Maintenance | 642.20 | 77.05 |
| Total Education Expense - Youth | 1,655.55 | 850.86 |
| Total Insurance | 0.00 | 1,323.81 |
| Total Office Expenses | 1,761.80 | 1,967.17 |
| Other Expenses | 0 | 0 |
| Total Other Expenses | 1,237.23 | 341.95 |
| Total Professional Fees | 0.00 | 378.60 |
| Total Staff Benefits | 115.47 | 2,518.06 |
| Total Staff Salaries | 15,178.24 | 17,054.98 |
| Total Utilities | 2,238.32 | 2,225.33 |
| Total Worship Music & Arts Expenses | 741.00 | 248.11 |
| Total Expenditures | 29,159.50 | 28,335.92 |
| Net Revenue | 36,788.10 | 10,289.37 |
| Property Improvement / Building | 1/1/25-1/31/25 | 1/1/24-1/31/24 |
| Income (Donations, Rent, Invest- | \$2,650.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| Total Expenditures | \$1,146.00 | \$459.00 |
| Interest Expense | 0 | \$0.00 |
| Net Receipts / Disbursements | \$1,504.00 | \$2,041.00 |
| Offerings | General Fund | Property Improvement |
| January 1 - January 4, 2025 | \$1,748.44 | \$624.90 |
| January 5 - January 11, 2025 | \$6,855.26 | \$580.00 |
| January 12 - January 18, 2025 | \$12,616.19 | \$2,663.38 |
| January 19 - January 25, 2025 | \$2,811.46 | \$365.00 |
| January 26 - January 31, 2025 | \$3,787.45 | \$681.38 |

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