

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

CALLED TO WORSHIP / COMMITTED TO SERVE / CONNECTED IN FAITH

**October 2024**

A monthly Publication of  
St. John Lutheran Church

## Worship Schedule

### Wednesday Worship

6:00 pm

### Sunday Worship

8:00 and 9:15 am

### Wednesday worship Connect/Confirmation

6:00 pm

### Interim Pastor

Pastor Ted Vanderpan

### Office Staff

### Custodian

Amanda Schultz

### Choir Director

Allison Vandermark

### Organist

Eileen Hanlon

### Accompanist

Sheila Schmidt

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**Congratulations** to all of our  
9th Grade  
Confirmation Students who will be  
Confirmed on  
Sunday, October 27 at the  
10:30 worship service

**Wyatt Fogarty**

**Muriel Hilgers**

**Lauren Koepp**

**Emma Martin**

**Adriane Nelson**

**Austin Oldenburg**

**Jacob Petersen**

**Will Posthumus**

**Ellie Schultz**

**Sully Schultz**

**Caleb Smith**

**Kolin Stier**

**Leah Theis**

**Connor Vycital**



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

October 13th or 30th  
First Communion Service

Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
September 9th, 2024

President Albert Koepp called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**Present:**

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

**Opening Devotions:**

Pastor Ted opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Members of Council reviewed the minutes from August 12th, 2024 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 9th, 2024 with an amendment to add section B and C to New Business.

**Pastor Ted Report:**

September 2024 Pastor's Report

Confirmation Launch – The Leaders' meeting went well with lots of enthusiasm. Amanda S. is a wonderful addition to the process. She is volunteering as a communication coordinator – but does much more than just that. I think her ideas and work will be very positive for the leaders. PLEASE TAKE TIME TO SAY, "THANK YOU" TO HER.

We will have two small group fun days which is a change, and I think will be good. It will be a night just for the groups to get to know each other and have some fun together.

New Office Person and Training – We have a new office person hired. I/we (Personnel Committee) will identify some core priorities and procedures to focus on which will help set a new office culture. An example of a priority is something like the importance of volunteers. This will include being a good resource for them to get their work done, sharing work with them by giving them access to information they need, recruiting volunteers to do special projects and some regular tasks (recruit a website team?). Also included is passing on information that volunteers need – communication with volunteers. Another example is to opt to use electronic communication as much as possible with everyone for whom that works.

We will also outline some key procedures that will provide some consistency in the weekly work rhythm, timely completion of tasks and capture of information. An example of this is to always use building use, funeral, and baptism information forms. Another is to communicate clearly deadlines for publications and stick to those deadlines.

There could be other parts of training but, this is an FYI for the Council to know some of what I expect to happen with a new office person.

All Member Stewardship Response – The theme will be "It All Belongs To God". The Stewardship Committee will use the newsletter, Sunday announcements, and preaching themes to convey the message. Estimate of Giving Cards will be collected on November 10th .

Strategic Planning Dollars and Future Staffing – I suggest that the Council consider using the dollars set aside for strategic planning to hire someone to do work among our youth. The approximately \$35,000 could fund a part-time position for 2 to 3 years depending on the details of the work. I suggest this because the Transition Team is identifying top priorities for the next 3 to 5 years with their work. I think with a little extra work you could turn that into a strategic plan to accomplish the goals identified. You could come up with several goals under each of the priorities and put some timelines on them. Make sure there is some room in the goals for the next pastor to help shape them and you would be ready to "hit the ground running" when the pastor gets here—rather than try to figure out what you want to do with each of the top priorities that have been identified.

### **Staff Reports:**

A. nothing to report

### **Treasurer's Reports:**

The monthly general fund financial report was reviewed by the Council members. Jerold reported June offerings were up and overall revenue is behind compared to the Budget for the year. Our expenses are down for the year compared to last year and are under the Budgeted expenses.

### **Transfers:**

In: None

Out: None

### **Ongoing Business:**

A. Amy Franck and Amanda Schultz have updated the addresses and emails for the Church Roll. When office personnel are settled they will proceed with continuing to update the Church Roll.

B. The Transition Team sent the goals survey out and everyone in the household is to fill out the survey by 9/29/2024 at 2:00 PM. They have also discussed their next set of surveys for critical ministry tasks and gifts for the ministry.

C. Custodian position in process of searching to fill position.

D. Scholarship program still in process.

### **New Business:**

A. Amanda Schultz has accepted the offer for the Church Communications Coordinator Position.

B. The Confirmation Class of 2025 would like to move up their confirmation date so they can have Pastor Ted confirm them. The proposed date would be on Sunday, April 27th, 2025 at 11:00 am as a separate service for confirmation.

C. A brief discussion was held regarding delegating decision making authority to the Personnel Committee and Executive team concerning personnel matters. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the proposal of the delegation.

### **Ministry Team Updates:**

The Children's Ministry Committee's report was reviewed by the council members and they mentioned a few things they have accomplished from the past quarter: VBS was a big success, Sunday School registration process was smooth and Sara Bungarden and Missy Davidson will be joining The Children's Ministry team. They will be working on creating a survey for Sunday School families on what is working well and what areas they can improve in.

The Personnel Committee report was reviewed by the council members. The committee reported that in the past quarter they have merged the Office Staff Position and Accountant/Office Staff Position into one full time position, Church Communications and Office Support. The position was posted and selected applicants went through an interview process. They appreciated all who applied and interviewed for the position and are excited to announce that Amanda Schultz was offered and has accepted the position! Amanda is currently the Church Custodian and part time Church Office support (shared position with Amy Franck). Amanda will remain in that position until the custodial position can be filled. At that time she will take over her full time duties as Church Communications & Office Support.

The personnel Committee is currently posting the Custodial position on Indeed and in the Church bulletin. Anyone interested in this position can find the posting on Indeed, connect with Pastor Ted or a member of the Personnel Committee. They are also in the process of hiring someone or an outside organization process of hiring someone or an outside organization to fill the duties of the Church accountant position.

On the agenda for the Personnel Committee is setting up reviews of our staff employed by the church and will continue to work on a Church Personnel Committee Handbook.

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,

Secretary

# October 2024

# Happy Birthday

	1	2	3	4	5
	Jim Eggers Brenda Schultz	David Latzke	Jeffrey Hanson Wanda Overline Kelsey Schroeder	Genise Aretz Ron Gerres Jay Schmit Marie Stier Hanna Tharaldson	Jeremy Nagorski
6	8	9	10	11	12
Austin Eyrich Brenda Nyblom	Jaelyn Borresen Charles Davidson			Mike Herrmann Greg Schwichtenberg	
13	15	16	17	18	19
Brandon Legg Lois Schmidt	Jason Braesch Jonathan Schmidt	Marc Chevalier Derrick Graff Mikkel Schmidt Lori Wolff	Melissa Davidson McKenzie Koopp Richard Rickaby Scott Ruud	Andrew Winterfeldt	Laura Schaefer
20	22	23	24	25	26
Sara Fahey Michael Nagel Carol Rodriguez Emma Stringer		Mark Swenson	Jeff Eppen	Scott Koopp Trena William- son Audrey Zellman	Tori Schroeder
27	29	30	31		
	Mandy Posthumus Shane Theas	Wayne Koopp Jeremy Schwartz	Michelle Melheim		
	Bruce Aerola Ashley Olson				

# October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2	3	4
	6:30 pm boy scouts		5:20 pizza 6:00 pm Worship service Connect/Confirmation 6:45 pm First Communion instruction	5:00 pm TOPS	
6	7	8	9	10	11
8:00 & 9:15 Worship Services 9:15 Transition Team meeting	5:30 pm worship/music committee 6:00 pm personnel committee 6:30 pm Boy Scouts		5:20 pizza 6:00 pm Worship Service Connect/Confirmation 6:45 pm First Communion instruction	5:00 pm TOPS	
13	14	15	16	17	18
8:00 & 9:15 Worship Service	6:30 pm Church Council 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	4:30 Stewardship Committee	6:00 pm Worship Service *NO Connect/Confirmation*	5:00 pm TOPS	
20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>Noisy offering</b> 8:00 & 9:15 Worship Service 9:15 Transition Team meeting	6:30 pm Boy Scouts		5:20 Pizza 6:00 pm Worship Service Connect/Confirmation	5:00 pm TOPS	
27	28	29	30	31	
8:00 Worship Service 10:30 Confirmation Service	6:30 pm Boy Scouts		5:20 Pizza 6:00 pm Worship Service Connect/Confirmation		

October Altar Guild: Renee Meuleners

October 6 Worship Assistants	
<b>Coffee Time:</b> 3rd grade families	
<b>8:00</b>	<b>9:15</b>
<b>Greeters:</b> Angela Faucette <b>Lay Reader:</b> Mindy Chevalier <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Mindy Chevalier, Angela Faucette, Jodi Savage <b>Ushers:</b> Myron Bratsch, Brian Siekmann Kirk Frank, Matt Kes, Jeff Eppen	<b>Greeters:</b> Chris & Annette Moylan <b>Reader:</b> Annette Moylan <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Chris & Annette Moylan, Dave Bungarden <b>Ushers:</b> Scott & Tricia Ruud, Monica & Jason Braesch,

October 13 Worship Assistants	
<b>Coffee Time:</b> Matt and Kristen Stier	
<b>8:00</b>	<b>9:15</b>
<b>Greeters:</b> Jamey, Linda & Olivia Jeurissen <b>Lay Reader:</b> Amy Frank <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Kirk Frank, Matt & Kristen Stier <b>Ushers:</b> Myron Bratsch, Brian Siekmann Kirk Frank, Matt Kes, Jeff Eppen	<b>Greeters:</b> Kevin & Sandi Wolpern <b>Reader:</b> Sandi Wolpern <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Sandi Wolpern, Abby Kubes, Linda Schwichtenberg <b>Ushers:</b> Scott & Tricia Ruud, Monica & Jason Braesch,

October 20 Worship Assistants	
<b>Coffee Time:</b> Susie Volek and Diane Gerres	
<b>8:00</b>	<b>9:15</b>
<b>Greeters:</b> Bruce and Susie Volek <b>Lay Reader:</b> Bonnie Vinkemeier <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Greg & Linda Schwichtenberg, Bonnie Vinkemeier <b>Ushers:</b> James & John Karl, Dan & Wyatt Herrmann, Tim Bristlin	<b>Greeters:</b> Ron & Diane Rasmussen <b>Reader:</b> Brent Koepf <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Peg Longhenry, Lynne Jeurissen, Teresa Latzke <b>Ushers:</b> Brent Koepf, Mitchell Koepf, Tim Moonen, Justin Stauffacher

October 27 Worship Assistants	
<b>Coffee Time:</b> open	
<b>8:00</b>	<b>9:15</b>
<b>Greeters:</b> Susie Steinhagen <b>Lay Reader:</b> Susie Steinhagen <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Susie Steinhagen, Rob & Sandy Schultz <b>Ushers:</b> James & John Karl, Dan & Wyatt Herrmann, Tim Bristlin	<b>Greeters:</b> Jeremy & Lainey Schwartz <b>Reader:</b> Dave Bungarden <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Renee Meuleners, Beth Beuch, Brent Koepf <b>Ushers:</b> Brent Koepf, Mitchell Koepf, Tim Moonen, Justin Stauffacher

<b>Coffee Time:</b>	
6th 3rd grade families 13th Matt and Kristin Stier 20th Susie Volek and Diane Gerres	Coffee hour is a great way to connect with other members of St. John. It's always nice to see the gathering area full of smiles, chatter and full bellies!  Please also consider signing up to host your very own coffee hour!

**St. John Financial Results**  
**Eight Months Ending August 31, 2024 and August 31, 2023**

<b>General Operating Fund</b>			<b>Year Over Year</b>
	<b><u>August 31, 2024</u></b>	<b><u>August 31, 2023</u></b>	<b><u>Increase (Decrease)</u></b>
Income *	206,543	\$ 214,796	-4%
Expenses:			
Personnel	(147,512)	(154,529)	
Office	(12,604)	(11,547)	
Property & Maintenance	(33,883)	(37,457)	
Ministry	(16,534)	(12,546)	
Other	(5,424)	(3,530)	
Benevolence:			
Belle Plaine Fire Dept	(300)	(300)	
Camp Onomia	(2,000)	(2,000)	
Lutheran Social Services	(1,000)	(1,000)	
Minneapolis Area Synod	(8,800)	(8,800)	
Net Receipts / (Expenditures)	<u>\$ (21,514)</u>	<u>\$ (16,913)</u>	
Cash Balance at January 1	48,424	\$ 69,619	
Net Income / (Expenditures)	(21,514)	(16,913)	
Misc. cash not affecting income	(133)	(133)	
Cash set aside for strategic planning	(20,000)	(35,000)	
Cash Balance at August 31	<u>\$ 6,777</u>	<u>\$ 17,573</u>	

**Property Improvement Fund**

	<b><u>August 31, 2024</u></b>	<b><u>August 31, 2023</u></b>	
Income (Donations, Rent, Investments)	41,919	67,813	-38%
Expenses (1)	(92,073)	(15,586)	
Net Receipts / (Disbursements)	<u>(50,154)</u>	<u>52,227</u>	
Hayden House Loan Balance at January 1	121,503	125,664	
Principal Payments	(2,515)	(2,755)	
Hayden House Loan Balance at August 31	<u>118,632</u>	<u>122,909</u>	
Liquid Assets at August 31, 2023	<u>146,866</u>	<u>215,772</u>	

(1) New tables, chairs, door lock system, patio furniture, flooring and electrical \$77,000.00

**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**