

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

CALLED TO WORSHIP / COMMITTED TO SERVE / CONNECTED IN FAITH

February 2024

A monthly Publication of
St. John Lutheran Church

Worship Schedule

Wednesday Worship

6:00 pm

Sunday Worship

8:00 & 9:15

Sunday School

9:15

Interim Pastor

Pastor Ted Vanderpan

Office Staff

Rae Fimon

Audrey Zellman

Custodian

Wanda Savage

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



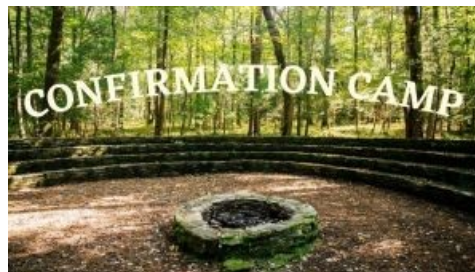
Ash Wednesday Service
February 14, 2024
6:30 p.m.



Lenten Services
Wednesday Evenings
February 21 thru March 20,
2024
6:30 p.m.



Join us for our
Soup and Sandwich Meal
During the Lenten Season
Serving starts at 5:30 p.m.
Menu inside



7th Grade Confirmation Camp
June 23-28

7th Grade Families watch for registration information
about camp coming soon in the mail.

Deadline to register is
Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14.

From Pastor Ted

Lent is fast approaching. Ash Wednesday is February 14th, 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 early this year, March 31st. 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 a 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, during Lent, take time to thank Jesus. Take time to worship Him. Take time to tell someone else about how the savior has saved you.



If you have an announcement for the bulletin, please let the office know by noon Thursday so it can be added.

Is your group planning a meeting in the church? Please let the office know so it can be put on the calendar to make sure the doors will be unlocked for you.

The deadline for newsletter articles is the 15th of each month. This is to make sure it get into the newsletter and that the newsletter gets out on time.

February Children's Ministry Update



Thank you to all the Sunday School teachers who volunteered to keep our children entertained in the youth room during the annual meeting on January 28th, so that parents and other teachers were able to attend. In place of regular Sunday School classes, the children enjoyed crafts, games, a movie, and a snack during the meeting.

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, February 4th: Noisy offering and children sing end of 8:00 service and beginning of 9:15 service

Sunday, February 11th: 1st grade and family social hour at 9:00am

Sunday, February 18th: NO CLASS

The Children's Ministry Team

Quilts for the Graduating Seniors from High School

Can you tie a knot or pin 2 pieces of cloth together?

Then we need your help.



Starting on Tuesday, February 6th, we will put together quilts for our graduating seniors. We will meet every Tuesday from 1 to 3 PM until we are finished.

(If we can get 5 or 6 helpers, we should be done by the end of February.) Call 952-873-0840 with questions.

Thank you!

2024 HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP is being planned for July 7-12th, 2024 for Students in grades 8-12. (during the 2023-2024 School year

There is still time to sign up for the 2024 Senior High Mission Trip to Benton Harbor, MI, through Youth Works. Contact Tim or Molly Moonen or Kirk Franck if you're interested.

Watch for ways to support the cost of the trip. You can help now by making a donation for the trip or by buying script cards.



MISSION TRIP

We need you!

We have a variety of Volunteer opportunities here at St John's for all ages to participate and take an active role in our Worship services! **We first want to Thank the many dedicated volunteers we currently have!** It's a great way to serve, get to know other members, and get involved to praise the Lord.

Fill out the form below or complete form on website (Click on Serve and then on Volunteer) or call the Church office at 952-873-6492 to inquire about any of these roles that are important for our church services and Audrey will have a member call you back to explain and answer any questions you have and get you started. We hope to hear from you soon.

Small Group Faith Formation Committee

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful Stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

The Faith Formation Committee is meeting to gather interest from our members in the area of worship assistance. The areas we are collecting information on are:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: Cell _____ (H) _____ Email Address: _____

Worship Service Volunteer Assistance: Please check areas you would have interest in.

Worship Service:	8:00am	9:15am
Ushering	_____	_____
Lay Reader	_____	_____
Serving Communion	_____	_____
Greet before Church	_____	_____
Live Stream/Record Service	_____	_____
PowerPoint During Service	_____	_____

Committee Volunteer Areas:

- Altar Guild (Set up for Communion) _____
- Worship Choir _____
- Funeral help _____
- Coffee Hour _____

If you have any questions, please contact the Church office: 952-873-6492

The information & responses will be collected in the following ways:

- Google Form Survey - Emailed to membership and posted on the Website (Click on Serve and then on Volunteer)
- Paper Survey - Printed in the monthly Messenger and in the weekly bulletin
 - There will be a collection basket outside the church office or members can put their interest surveys in the offering plates/give them to an usher.
- We will have Pastor Ted make announcements at services and also at the annual meeting.

We will be collecting data through the month of February and the committee will reconvene in March to compile the data and reconnect with the interested members.



SOUPS ON!

Ash Wednesday is February 14, and this marks the beginning of the Lenten Soup and Sandwich suppers hosted by our youth. These suppers are a much-anticipated tradition of the Lenten season here at St. John's providing a delicious evening meal and enjoyable fellowship with our church family prior to the Lenten worship service.

To help our youth with some of the costs of providing these suppers, there is a "Giving Pantry" board in the gathering area. Please consider selecting a grocery item (or two, or three) to donate to their soup and sandwich pantry. Donations can be dropped off in the kitchen prior to February 4th. Later donations are also appreciated.

And plan to attend these suppers-enjoy hot soup, sandwiches, yummy bars and coffee/lemonade and support our St. John Youth.

Soup and Sandwich Supper Menu 2024 Lenten Season (menu subject to change)

February 14- Ash Wednesday

Soups: Chicken Wild Rice and Creamy Baked Potatoes.

Other: Hotdish

Sandwiches: Sloppy Joes, Turkey, Ham & Egg Salad

Confirmation Group Serving: Kristin Stier, Tonya Smith, Deanne Fogarty

February 21

Soups: Chicken Wild Rice and Bacon Cheeseburger

Other: Tater Tot Hotdish

Sandwiches: Roast Beef, Turkey, Ham, and Egg Salad

Confirmation Group Serving: Mission Trip

February 28

Soups: Chicken Wild Rice and Cheesy Chicken Tortilla

Other: Walking Tacos

Sandwiches: Egg Salad, Turkey, and Ham

Confirmation Group Serving: Heather Hornaman, Holly Stier

March 6

Soups: Chicken Wild Rice and Creamy Cheesy Broccoli

Other: Potato Bar

Sandwiches: Turkey, Ham, and Egg Salad

Confirmation Group Serving: Elizabeth Koonst, Amanda Schultz, Margaret Schwichtenberg

March 13

Soups: Chicken Noodle and Chili

Sandwiches: Ham, Turkey, Sloppy Joes, and Egg Salad

Confirmation Group Serving:

March 20

Soups: Chicken Wild Rice and Tomato Basil

Sandwiches: Turkey, Ham, and Grilled Cheese

Confirmation Group Serving: Angie Hoff, Heather kes

Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes
January 8th, 2024

President Ben Aust called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present:

X	Pastor Ted	X	Ben Aust	X	Chris Schultz	X	Albert Koepp
X	Jan Effinger	X	Teresa Latzke	X	Anne Herrmann	X	Steve Kelm
	Jaime Petersen	X	Cayla Menke	X	Tim Moonen		
	Jerold Stauffacher						

Opening Devotions:

Pastor Ted opened up with a request for the council to write down three good things about St. John Lutheran Church and three things we hope for the church. He opened with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

Members of Council in attendance reviewed the minutes from December 11th, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the meeting minutes from November & December. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the agenda for January 8th, 2024.

Pastor Ted Report:

I have completed interviews with approximately 70 congregational members and the conversations were very encouraging. I am left with a sense that St John has a great future ahead of it. I will be writing a report in the next week or so, ahead of the Annual Meeting. You as a Council should be encouraged about your church because there is simply so much that is positive. It is easy to focus on a few negative things and then miss all the good. While there are things that can be corrected or improved, I really think we should be celebrating and talking up all the good things. Then we should work on the other things behind the scenes to get them fixed and not make a big deal about them.

We had a good Advent and Christmas season. I thought we had good attendance at the 7:00 pm and 9:00 am services compared to what I had been told to expect.

I am looking forward to the new year and getting committees up and running and working. I look forward to the positive momentum that healthy committees making progress brings to the congregation.

I have been working with the office staff on items the Personnel Committee has identified such as communication, deadlines, and sharing some tasks. The PC has more things for me to work on with the staff going forward.

I continue to attend to pastoral care visits and phone calls. Confirmation/Connect/worship continues to go well with the normal tensions that arise when kids act like kids. We have some awesome leaders who step up when help is needed. Something to think about is that there are over 100 people attending a worship service on Wednesday evenings but they are not being counted in "worship attendance".

Staff Reports:

A: Wanda's Staff Report - Members of Council reviewed Wanda's custodian report. Pastor Ted will report back to Wanda addressing any concerns.

B: Rae's Staff Report - Rae's report was reviewed by members of the council. Pastor Ted will report back to Rae addressing any concerns.

C: Audrey's Staff Report - Audrey's report was reviewed by the members of the council. Pastor Ted will report back to Audrey addressing any concerns.

Treasurer:

Canceled services with Republic, a contract was signed with Dicks Sanitation.

Offerings were down in December. With the Investment income in the month the Revenue was met. The expenses were up.

Meeting scheduled with the Audit Committee on Wednesday January 10th.

Council reviewed changes to the 2024 Budget for the Annual Meeting. A motion was made, seconded and carried to amend and approve the 2024 Budget.

Transfers:

In: None

- B. Out: Tom and Amy Stolee transferring to Trinity Lutheran Church St. Peter, MN
Bradley Latzke transferring to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church New Prague, MN

Ongoing Business:

- A. Church Roll Update: Audrey is creating checklists and forms for filing information on Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals.
- a. We need a quorum of 82 people to attend the annual meeting.
- B. Venmo Account: The council tabled until next month's meeting.
- C. 2024 Committee Goal Setting: Pastor Ted reviewed the Goal setting worksheet to the council members. Members of the council were in favor of the committee using these forms.
- a. Pastor Ted shared that he will write up a summary of the church committees.
- b. A discussion was had regarding the option to opt in for an electronic newsletter. The council was in favor of the Church staff to pursue the electronic distribution of Newsletter, annual packets and church notifications. Paper copies will still be mailed.

New Business:

- A. Rental Properties: A discussion was had on the rental properties. Kim Meierbachtol inquired in an email to Ben about an increase on the rental rate for the rental properties. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the rental rate increase.
- B. Kim also mentioned that the rental lease is outdated and will need to be updated. Ben Aust was going to follow up with Kim to update the lease contract.

Ministry Team Updates:

- A. Stewardship Committee - nothing new to report.
- B. Buildings and Grounds Committee
- a. Tim reported that the new carpet has been installed in the Parish rental.
- b. The new front entrance sign has been installed.
- C. Personnel Committee
- a. Nomination Conflict: A discussion was had regarding a new council member could perhaps be a conflict of interest. The council agreed that it will be handled the same way in past council meetings.
- D. Children's Ministry Team - nothing new to report.
- E. Small Group/Faith Formation Committee - Forms for small group/committee sign up have been created for the annual meeting.
- F. Worship and Music Committee - nothing new to report.
- G. Technology and Communications Committee - nothing new to report.
- H. Nomination Committee - nothing new to report.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa Latzke
Council Member

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				5:00 pm TOPS	6:00 pm Girl Scout meeting	1:00 pm Bromaghun Birthday Party in Gathering Area
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Noisy Offering 8:00 & 9:15 Worship Service 9:15 Sunday School 10:00 Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast 4:30 Girl Scout meeting 4:30 Girl Scout meeting	6:30 pm Boy Scout meeting 7:00 pm Personnel Committee meeting	11:00 Lutheran Home Service 1:00 pm Quilting 1:30 pm Kingsway Service	5:20 pm Pizza 6:00 Connect/Confirmation 6:00 pm Worship Service 7:00 pm Worship Choir	5:00 pm TOPS		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:00 & 9:15 Worship Service 9:15 Sunday School 4:30 Girl Scout meeting	6:30 pm Boy Scout meeting 6:30 pm Church Council	1:00 pm Quilting	Ash Wednesday 4:00 pm Book Club 5:30 pm Soup and Sandwich 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm Worship Choir	5:00 pm TOPS		1:30 pm Girl Scout meeting
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:00 & 9:15 Worship Service	6:30 pm Boy Scout meeting	1:00 pm Quilting	Lent 5:30 pm Soup and Sandwich 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Worship Choir	5:00 pm TOPS		
25	26	27	28	29		
8:00 & 9:15 Worship Service 9:15 Sunday School	6:30 pm Boy Scout meeting	1:00 pm Quilting	Lent 5:30 pm Soup and Sandwich 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Worship Choir	5:00 pm TOPS		



February Altar Guild: Sharon Adelman & Dorothy Koepf

February 4 Worship Assistants	
Coffee Hour: Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast	
February 7 Pizza Helpers: February 7 Pizza Patrol:	
8:00	9:15
Greeters: Angela Faucette Lay Reader: Albert Koepf Communion Assistants: Rob & Sandi Schultz, Patty Laabs Ushers: Marc & Mindy Chevalier , Joshua Sparby, Lydia Sparby, Andy & Will Steinhagen, Tammy Koepf	Greeters: Jeremy & Lainey Schwartz Lay Reader: Caren Grotberg Communion Assistants: Teresa Latzke, Sara Bungarden, Brent Koepf Ushers: Chris & Annette Moylan , Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter

February 11 Worship Assistants	
Coffee Hour: 1st Grade Sunday School	
February 14 Soup and Sandwich Serving Group: Kristin Stier, Tonya Smith, Deanne Fogarty	
8:00	9:15
Greeters: Jamey, Linda & Olivia Jeurissen Lay Reader: Janet Effinger Communion Assistants: Janet Effinger, Matt & Kristin Stier Ushers: Albert Koepf , Dorothy Koepf, Kevin Koepf, Matt Stier, Bruce Volek, Tim Carlson, Josh Koepf	Greeters: Kenny & Wendy Theis Reader: Beth Beuch Communion Assistants: Beth Beuch, Phoebe Einertson, Steve Schroeder Ushers: David & Sara Bungarden , Ron & Dianne Rasmussen

February 18 Worship Assistants	
Coffee Hour:	
February 21 Soup and Sandwich Serving Group: Mission Trip	
8:00	9:15
Greeters: Loren Kruschke Lay Reader: Michelle Melheim Communion Assistants: Michelle Melheim, Jerold & Kathy Stauffacher Ushers: Albert Koepf , Dorothy Koepf, Kevin Koepf, Matt Stier, Bruce Volek, Tim Carlson, Josh Koepf	Greeters: Brent & Wendy Koepf Lay Reader: Dave Bungarden Communion Assistants: Dave Bungarden, Tim Moonen, Renee Meuleners Ushers: David & Sara Bungarden , Ron & Dianne Rasmussen

February 25 Worship Assistants	
Coffee Hour:	
February 29 Soup and Sandwich Serving Group: Heather Hornaman, Holly Stier	
8:00	9:15
Greeters: Brent & Margaret Schwichtenberg Lay Reader: Renee Meuleners Communion Assistants: Renee Meuleners, Randy & Deb Kruger Ushers: Brent Schwichtenberg , Greg Schwichtenberg, Bruce Schmidt, Richard Laabs	Greeters: Ron & Diane Rasmussen Lay Reader: Caren Grotberg Communion Assistances: Peg Longhenry, Cindy Schoenbauer, Lynn Jeurissen Ushers: Scott & Tricia Ruud , Alex Ruud, Griffin Ruud, Jerry Meger

Financial Corner

CALLED TO SERVE THROUGH OUR GIVING		
Offering Received the week of		
December 21-27 General Fund—\$12,450 Improvement Fund—\$1,530	December 28-January 3 General Fund—\$13,050 Improvement Fund—\$2,126	January 4-10 General Fund— \$3,342 Improvement Fund- \$800
January 11-17 General Fund— \$3,698 Improvement Fund- \$900	January 18-24 General Fund— \$5,188 Improvement Fund- \$265	

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

**Non-Profit Organization
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Belle Plaine, MN 56011**

Change Service Requested