

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

CALLED TO WORSHIP / COMMITTED TO SERVE / CONNECTED IN FAITH

July 2024

A monthly Publication of
St. John Lutheran Church

Worship Schedule

Wednesday Worship

6:00 pm

Summer Sunday Worship

9:00 am

Interim Pastor

Pastor Ted Vanderpan

Office Staff

Rae Fimon

Audrey Zellman

Custodian

Amanda Schultz

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

Ice Cream Social:

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, July 31st. Sandy Schultz is the Chairman of the Ice Cream Social this year. We will be serving from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. (Note the time change.) Everyone from our church and the community is welcome to attend.

This event is the biggest event sponsored by the women of St. John. Proceeds from this event will help benefit many facets of our church community. This includes the building maintenance fund, confirmation camp, mission trip, Belle Plaine Food Shelf, Belle Plaine Bloodmobile, quilting supplies, school kits, Vacation Bible School, and many more....

Please prayerfully consider saying "yes" when asked to work on a committee by chairman. "Several hands make light work!"



*If you would like to begin receiving
the newsletter via email please read
on.*

We are encouraging people to opt-in to begin receiving the newsletter via email. We will be extending this invitation for several months before ceasing to send the paper copy. There will be people in our congregation who do not access this kind of information online or electronically at all. We will continue to mail the newsletter to anyone who wants it.

At a point several months from now we will evaluate the costs of sending the paper copies and make some final decisions. As you probably know, we use a bulk mail permit to send the paper copies. There is a minimum number of copies needed to get the reduced bulk rate. If we fall below that number, the cost to mail a copy will go up. So then, we want to be able to evaluate those numbers as we take the next steps.

It is best if you opt-in the email address of each individual in the household that would like to receive the e-newsletter. To start receiving e-newsletters, please send your request with emails to office@stjohnbelleplaine.org.

Watch for more information as this process unfolds.

From Pastor Ted

We are all disciples. The word disciples means student. We are learners, constantly growing in our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. So often when we hear the word “learn”, we think of knowledge, head knowledge, what we think. Following Jesus is not just about head knowledge. It is also about how we live, our actions. Discipleship is also about what we say and do with our words. This summer we are focusing the messages in our worship services on various Bible characters and what we can learn from their lives. Based on their life, an episode in their life, or something they did or said, the sermons will point us toward lessons for daily discipleship. This will begin on Memorial Day weekend and go through Labor Day weekend.

Everyday Faith from Everyday Disciples

July 7 TBD – (I will be gone and the substitute will decide.)

July 14 Ruth – Good Out of Bad

July 21 Jacob - Wrestling With God

July 28 Lydia – God Could Use Someone Like You

I look forward to seeing you in church!



Embracing Stewardship

We say that stewardship is about our time, talent and treasure. One of the ways we can give of our time and talents is through Committees. Here at St. John Lutheran Church, we have the following committees:

- **Facilities & Grounds Committee** plans for the maintenance and upkeep of the church properties.
- **Finance Committee** along with the Treasurer plan and manage the finances of the congregation and advise the Council in their decision making.
- **Memorial Committee** will oversee and manage memorial accounts.
- **Foundation Committee** shall oversee the investment and disbursement of endowed gifts.
- **Stewardship Committee** guides and encourages the congregation on how to faithfully steward the gifts God has entrusted to us.
- **Faith Formation Committee** organizes our worship volunteers.
- **Worship & Music Committee** helps members celebrate their relationship with God and their relationships with one another through the many aspects of worshipful and musical expression.
- **Children's Ministry Team** organizes and plans the children's ministry programs.
- **Technology & Communication** works to improve the church's technology assets and communication tools.
- **Altar Guild** prepares the altar for worship services.
- **Funeral Committee** organizes volunteers to serve at funerals.
- **Coffee Hour** organizes volunteers to serve coffee and refreshments between services.
- **Nominating Committee** recruits volunteers to serve on the Church Council, Personnel Committee, Foundation Committee, and the Auditing Committee.

These committees are good places to give your time and your talents. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please contact the church office.



As we move into the busy summer months with all the holidays, family vacations, VBS, fairs and festivals, we also look ahead to the start of an equally busy start to our church calendar in September. New this fall will be the recording and livestreaming of our 2nd service for viewing online instead of our 8 a.m. service. This service features greater attendance with families and Sunday School children. This change will prompt the need for additional volunteers who are interested in helping with the power point presentation of the worship service which will now be at both services on the overhead screen. Those interested simply need to follow along with the worship service and advance the slides by pressing a key on the keyboard. We hope to have enough volunteers so we can have a rotating schedule including substitutes. A great volunteer opportunity for our high school students. An easy skill to learn for those who have minimal computer expertise.

In addition, as we welcome and learn new songs to incorporate into our worship services, we acknowledge that an unfamiliar musical selection can prevent our voices from “singing out” in praise and worship. We would like to incorporate Song Leaders into our service – people who will guide and lead the congregation in singing. Are you in a choir – high school or St. John’s worship choir – or do you simply enjoy singing and want to share that voice to encourage others? Eileen Hanlon will work with song Leaders to familiarize them with the song elections before they are used in a worship service.

If you can assist in our worship services, or if you have any questions, please call the church office 952-873-6492. We thank God for our Time and Talents in our desire to honor Him in our Worship and Praise.

Asking for volunteer help and support is difficult – we know everyone is busy. But volunteers provide key service to our church, and critical support for our programs. Volunteers are the foundation of who we are – and who we strive to be.



GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN ministries

Day Camp

**AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
BELLE PLAINE, MN**

AUGUST 5 - 8, 2024

GRADES: K-6 (CURRENT GRADE)

COST: \$50/STUDENT (\$150/FAMILY MAX)

HOW TO REGISTER: [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/KG6B8S8BJMP8E8Q59](https://forms.gle/KG6B8S8BJMP8E8Q59)

**QUESTIONS? EMAIL -
YOUTHSJLC@GMAIL.COM**

CREATED TO BE
Summer 2024

Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes
June 10th, 2024

President Albert Koeppe called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Present:

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

Opening Devotions:

Pastor Ted opened the meeting with some words from a Hymn.

Approval of Minutes:

Members of Council reviewed the minutes from May 13th, 2024 Council Meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the meeting minutes from May. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the agenda for June 10th, 2024 with an amendment to add section C. to New Business.

Pastor Ted Report:

June Pastor's Report

Confirmation and Connect

As noted last month (prior to the end of the year), we successfully finished up the year. I am planning next year's calendar and those dates will be discussed more over the summer and coordinated with Sunday School.

Confirmation/Bible Camp

I will be attending camp the week of June 23 to 28. I will be driving on my own and staying at the camp.

Visitation of Members

I continue to visit members in their homes and facilities and sometimes for coffee at a restaurant.

Belle Plaine Clergy

I meet with other area clergy about once a month. The priest at OLP wants to host, so we meet there and OLP buys us lunch. The usual attenders are from River Rock, East Union and Presbyterian churches, along with OLP and St John. The pastor from West Union has participated. Others are welcome.

Committees

It seems to me we have successfully launched our committees. Three committees met together on Sunday after church to coordinate activities and focus.

Transition Team

Dave B. has successfully launched the group and we are getting organized. We are scheduled to meet the first and third Sundays after church. We will get good work done over the summer and will be ready to fully engage the congregation when people get back to church in the fall.

Staff Reports:

A. Custodian Staff Report. Nothing to report.

B. Rae's staff report was reviewed by members of the council.

C. Audrey's Staff Report was reviewed by the members of the council.

Treasurer's Reports:

The monthly financial reports were reviewed by the Council members. Jerold reported May offerings and overall revenue for the month was down. Overall for the year our expenses are down compared to the budgeted amounts. Rae informed Jerold that Church Mutual is canceling our insurance effective November 10th. The search for a new carrier continues.

Transfers:

A. In: None

B. Out:

- a. Janene Meyer to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Prior Lake, MN
- b. Jessy and Vanessa Dols to St. John Lutheran Church, Montgomery, MN
- c. Marvin and Rhonda Doeden to Advent United Methodist Church, Eagan, MN

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the transfers.

Ongoing Business:

A. Church Roll Update has been tabled for next month.

B. The Transition Team has met and discussed the demographic and budget information. The next meeting they plan to review Section 2 of the Ministry Site Profile and will discuss it at the next meeting.

New Business:

- A. Tim Moonen presented to the council members that he has discussed with Building and Grounds about members volunteering time to fill the maintenance position. Bruce and Susie Volek, Diane Gerres and Tim Moonen have volunteered to mow the lawn. They are continuing to look for volunteers. The Personnel Committee have agreed and decided to see how it goes.
- B. A discussion was held regarding Audrey's leave of absence due to a health issue. Audrey will be going to physical therapy and working eight hours from home every week for four weeks. Church staff is currently looking for someone to temporarily fill in the 16 hours a week for the front desk office.
- C. Amanda Schultz has agreed to temporarily fill in the Custodian position until it is filled.
- D. Tim Moonen presented to the council, on behalf of Molly Moonen, a church Scholarship Fund for graduating seniors. Molly would like to get a committee together to organize this Scholarship program. They would like to have a silent auction dinner and other activities to raise money for the scholarship program. The program would be allowed to confirmed members of St. John Lutheran church in the upcoming graduating class to apply. The council members agreed to endorse this program for the first year and evaluate it.

Ministry Team Updates:

A. The Children's Committee reported that the end of the year Sunday School program was a success. The Children's ministry team decided on going with Green Lake Bible Day Camp for VBS the first week in August.

B. The Personnel Committee had nothing to report this month.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa Latzke,
Secretary



July Altar Guild: Bonnie Vinkemeier

July 7 Worship Assistants

9:00

Greeters: Joyce Nyblom

Lay Reader: Linda Reuben

Communion Assistants: Linda Reuben, Brent Koepp, Teresa Latzke

Ushers: Myron Bratsch, Kirk Franck, Matt Kes, Jeff Eppen, Brian Siekmann, Brent Koepp, Mitchell Koepp, Tim Moonen, Justin Stauffacher

July 14 Worship Assistants

9:00

Greeters: Gerald & Diane Bratsch

Lay Reader: Chris Moylan

Communion Assistants: Chris & Annette Moylan, Sharon Adelman

Ushers: Chris & Annette Moylan, Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter, Jenny Petty, James & John Karl, Dan Herrmann, Tim Bristlin

July 21 Worship Assistants

9:00

Greeters: Anita Lambrecht

Lay Reader: Michelle Melheim

Communion Assistants: Steve Schroeder, Michelle Melheim, Terry Siemon

Ushers: Chris & Annette Moylan, Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter, Jenny Petty, James & John Karl, Dan Herrmann, Tim Bristlin

July 28 Worship Assistants

9:00

Greeters: Carol Schultz

Lay Reader: Renee Meuleners

Communion Assistants: Renee Meuleners, Dave Bungarden, Dave Latzke

Ushers: Brian Schmidt, Jonathan Schmidt, Jason Schmidt, Doug Hillstrom, Dave Latzke, Jerold Stauffacher, Dave & Sara Bungarden, Ron & Dianne Rasmussen

Financial Corner

St. John Financial Results Five Months Ending May 31, 2024 and May 31, 2023

General Operating Fund		Year Over Year
	May 31, 2024	May 31, 2023
		Increase (Decrease)
Income	\$ 131,789	\$ 143,493
Expenses:		
Personnel	(36,138)	(100,233)
Office	(8,646)	(7,753)
Property & Maintenance	(21,719)	(23,599)
Ministry	(10,952)	(10,717)
Other	(3,968)	(2,987)
Benevolence:		
Minneapolis Area Synod	(5,500)	(5,500)
Belle Plaine Fire Dept	-	(300)
Camp Onomia	(1,250)	(1,250)
Lutheran Social Services	(500)	(500)
Net Receipts / (Expenditures)	<u>\$ (16,884)</u>	<u>\$ (4,418)</u>
Cash Balance at January 1 (excl. all loans)	\$ 48,424	\$ 69,619
Net Income / (Expenditures)	(16,884)	(4,418)
Misc. cash not affecting income	(133)	769
Cash set aside for strategic planning	(25,000)	(35,000)
Cash Balance at May 31	<u>\$ 6,407</u>	<u>\$ 30,970</u>

Property Improvement Fund

	May 31, 2024	May 31, 2023
Income (Donations, Rent, Investments)	47,586	44,938
Expenses (1)	(64,638)	(12,512)
Net Receipts / (Disbursements)	<u>(17,052)</u>	<u>32,426</u>
Hayden House Loan Balance at January 1	121,503	125,664
Principal Payments	(1,792)	(1,722)
Hayden House Loan Balance at May 31	<u>119,711</u>	<u>123,942</u>
Liquid Assets at May 31	<u>173,757</u>	<u>197,004</u>

(1) New table, chair, door lock system, patio & furniture, 50% of new flooring, electrical - \$60,000

CALLED TO SERVE THROUGH OUR GIVING	
Offering Received the week of	
May 23-29 General Fund—\$1,895 Improvement Fund—\$5,125	May 30-June 5 General Fund—\$7,061 Improvement Fund—\$,046
June 6-12 General Fund— \$4,206 Improvement Fund- \$570	June 13-19 General Fund— \$7,710 Improvement Fund- \$841

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	2 11:00 Lutheran Home Service 1:30 pm Kingsway Service	3 6:00 pm Worship Service	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5	6
7 9:00 Worship Service	8 6:30 pm Church Council 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	9	10 6:00 pm Worship Service	11 5:00 pm TOPS	12	13
14 9:00 Worship Service	15	16 4:30 pm Stewardship Committee	17 6:00 pm Worship Service	18 5:00 pm TOPS	19	20
21 9:00 Worship Service	22	23	24 6:00 pm Worship Service	25 5:00 pm TOPS	26	27
28 9:00 Worship Service	29	30	31 4:00-7:00 pm Ice Cream Social 6:00 pm Worship Service			

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

**Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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Belle Plaine, MN 56011**

Change Service Requested