

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

CALLED TO WORSHIP / COMMITTED TO SERVE / CONNECTED IN FAITH

March 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

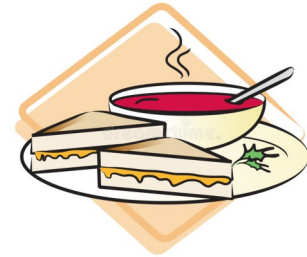
Eileen Hanlon

Accompanist

Sheila Schmidt

148 S. Chestnut St.
Belle Plaine, MN 56011

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**Lenten Services
Wednesday Evenings
thru March 20
6:30 p.m.**

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

H O L Y



W E E K

Palm Sunday March 24 Services at 8:00 & 9:15	Maundy Thursday March 28 Service at 7:00 pm	Good Friday March 29 Service at 7:00 pm	Easter Sunday March 31 Services at 7:00 & 9:30
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**Join us for Easter Brunch served by the
youth.
Starting at 8:00**

From Pastor Ted

Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose

In one sense that is what Easter is all about – reuse, recycle, repurpose – right?

I would guess that like me, you have noticed those art pieces around the countryside while you have been driving someplace. Someone takes some old piece of farm equipment and turns it into a flag or dinosaur or something like that. A few pieces of scrap metal are welded together and then attached other things to it to make it into something entirely new. It could have remained a pile of junk but in the hands of that artist it became materials for a masterpiece.

This month as we head toward Easter, we will find ourselves focused on someone like that, an artist who makes masterpieces out of “broken stuff”. Good Friday is a day God took something that seemed broken and damaged, useless and hopeless, and turned it into a masterpiece. On what we now call Good Friday, God watched a world out of control ready to throw away the very gift God had given to them, a savior. The people yelled for Jesus’ death, “Crucify Him. Crucify Him.” They no longer saw him as the great teacher, healer and leader. They just wanted to get rid of him like a pile of scrap metal or an old piece of equipment.

As you go through Lent, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter, I encourage you to think of the three crosses on the hill we call Calvary. Remember that it was sin that killed Jesus that day. The sin of those who were present but, also yours and mine. Jesus suffered a horrible and cruel death. It was real pain, real blood, real thorns, and a real spear. It was real nails that pierced his hands and real tears that flowed down his cheeks.

But God took an ugly and tragic death, something so broken and useless that there seemed to be no hope, and made it “good”. Let me tell you that God is still doing that today. God is taking people’s broken lives and remaking them into something good. In fact you and I have people all around us that are waiting, hoping for God to do just that. There are many people looking to reconnect with God, looking for forgiveness, looking for a fresh start, looking for a church home. This month and leading up to Easter is a perfect time to invite someone to worship.



March Children's Ministry Update

In February, the Sunday School children learned a lot about how powerful God's love is and to rely on him to give us strength. We will be focusing on Palm Sunday and Easter curriculum in March.

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, March 3rd: Noisy offering and Kindergarten and family social hour 8:45am
- Sunday, March 24th: **Palm Sunday**—sing end of 8am and beginning of 9:15am service
- Sunday, March 31st: **Easter Sunday**--NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

**The Children's Ministry Team will be discussing Vacation Bible School. Please stay tuned for information to be shared in the April newsletter!

The Quilt Group is looking for someone to sew straight lines!
The group meets on Tuesdays from 1-3 so that a few quilts get finished.

Can you help!



TRANSITION UPDATE

I, Pr Ted, sense that once we have our committees formed, meeting consistently, and getting work done we can take the next step in the transition process, but it is crucial to calling a new pastor that we have an effective committee structure in place. Here's an outline of what's ahead.

Forming a Transition Team (Approximately 9 members appointed by the Council)

I have suggested to the Council that if the committees are doing well, we could launch this team over the summer. The big task of this team will be to engage the congregation in the process of completing the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP will be about 20 to 25 pages and is sort of an advertising brochure of our congregation. The first part will be community and congregation demographics, current trends, and history. Next will be key elements of St. John's ministry like St. John's strengths, things we want to work on to improve or strengthen, and goals or priorities for the next 3 to 5 years. Then there will be a section identifying what kind of a pastor we are looking for – strengths, skills, desired focus, and such things.

I will meet with this group to guide them through the process. They will choose their own chair, vice chair and secretary. They will provide monthly updates to the congregation. The TT should be able to do this well, **in 7 to 9 months**.

Forming a Call Committee (CC) (Approximately 7 voting members and 3 alternates appointed by the Council)

As the MSP nears completion and is sent to the Synod, we are ready to form a Call Committee, which is normally separate from the Transition Team but could have a couple of TT members carry over. The CC will launch in conjunction with the Synod Staff and then function on its own. I am not involved with the CC. I can give some advice and share my experience but I do not meet with the CC in any formal way.

Generally the Call Committee's work **will take 3 to 6 months** to identify their preferred candidate. Three months is if everything goes perfectly. I suggest you plan on 6 months. The CC will get a list of names of interested pastors about 6 weeks after forming. They can begin interviewing when they are ready. Once the CC identifies their preferred candidate there are steps to be taken.

Steps for extending the Call:

CC identifies the preferred candidate and has the candidate's intention to accept a call.

The Council approves the candidate and calls a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of extending a call. It will take 2 to 3 weeks to have the meeting and congregational vote.

After the congregational vote, the candidate has 2 weeks (up to 30 days), to give their final answer.

The candidate notifies their current congregation of their intention to accept St John's call and gives a (customary 30-day) resignation notice.

Often candidates want a week or two break between calls.

So given the above, from the time the CC identifies their candidate and brings the name to the Council it usually takes approximately three months to get someone in the office ready to start.



Wild Game Feed
April 14th
St. John Lutheran Church
5 P.M. dinner
6 P.M. speaker



Open to all who would like to get together for a delicious wild game dinner and get together with others from our wonderful community. Guest speaker will be a member of the Minnesota D.N.R. Free will donation of \$10.00 at the door to help offset the cost of the guest speaker and help with the cost of the ingredients for food preparation. Please R.S.V.P. the St. John church office so we can get a head count for food preparation amounts.

952-873-6492

First Communion Instruction- Will be held Wednesdays, April 3 and 10. This class is for 5th grade and up students and families who have not yet received the sacrament of communion.



Seventeen members of St. John will be traveling to Michigan this summer to participate in a high school mission trip. Please consider making a donation. Any denomination is greatly appreciated. An envelope may be taken from the wall and returned by Easter Sunday. Thank you for your financial support, but most importantly, thank you for your prayers!



Daylight Savings starts
March 10

Don't forget to move your
clocks ahead one hour.



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.



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

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: Andrea Gerres & Trisha Anderson

March 20

Soups: Chicken Wild Rice and Tomato Basil

Sandwiches: Turkey, Ham, and Grilled Cheese

Confirmation Group Serving: Angie Hoff, Heather Kes

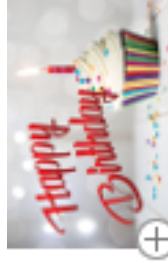


Coffee time!

A time for fellowship over coffee, lemonade and refreshments between services has been a St. John's tradition for at least 15 years, going back to the completion of the Gathering Area. A visit with church family and friends is a great way to start our busy week. Thank you to the individuals, families, groups, and children's teams that served during the years and to Sherrie Simcox for chairing this for so many years. We know this is an important part of the ministry here at St. John's. Some minor changes are being made that should continue to grow our coffee time together well into the future!

Coffee Time will be available from 8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. We hope this time change will allow for 2nd service worshippers to arrive early and enjoy some refreshments and fellowship with the first service attendees. Although most Sundays there will be a host/hosts providing the refreshments – there will now also be a less formal “self-service” option on the Sundays we do not have a host scheduled. Coffee, lemonade and refreshments will continue to be available. We encourage you to make this fellowship time part of your Sunday worship routine.

March 2024



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



March Altar Guild: Renee Meuleners

March 3 Worship Assistants	
Coffee Hour: Kindergarten Class	
March 6 Soup and Sandwich Serving Group: Elizabeth Koonst, Amanda Schultz, Margaret Schwichtenberg	
8:00 Greeters: Greg & Linda Schwichtenberg Lay Reader: Renee Meuleners Communion Assistants: Krik Franck, Sharon Adelman, Patty Laabs Ushers: Brent Schwichtenberg , Greg Schwichtenberg, Bruce Schmidt, Richard Laabs	9:15 Greeters: Sue Koenig Reader: Steve Schroeder Communion Assistants: Steve Schroeder, Beth Beuch, Sara Bungarden Ushers: Scott & Tricia Ruud , Alex Ruud, Griffin Ruud, Jerry Meger

March 10 Worship Assistants	
Coffee Hour: Girl Scouts– Ashley Schultz	
March 13 Soup and Sandwich Serving Group: Andrea Gerres, Trisha Anderson	
8:00 Greeters: Susie Steinhagen Lay Reader: Susie Steinhagen Communion Assistants: Susie Steinhagen, Dave Latzke, Terry Siemon Ushers: Chris Schultz , Luke Schultz, Rob Schultz, Mark Schultz, Wayne Koepf, Aaron Leonard	9:15 Greeters: Chris & Annette Moylan Lay Reader: Annette Moylan Communion Assistants: Chris & Annette Moylan, Teresa Latzke Ushers: Brent Koepf , Mitchell Koepf, Jackson Stauffacher, Justin Stauffacher, Tim Moonen

March 17 Worship Assistants	
Coffee Hour: Bryn Davis	
March 20 Soup and Sandwich Serving Group: Angie Hoff and Heather Kes	
8:00 Greeters: Gerald & Diane Bratch Lay Reader: Bonnie Vinkemeier Communion Assistants: Bonnie Vinkemeier, Angela Faucette, Dorothy Koepf Ushers: Chris Schultz , Luke Schultz, Rob Schultz, Mark Schultz, Wayne Koepf, Aaron Leonard	9:15 Greeters: Jeremy & Lainey Schwartz Lay Reader: Phoebe Einertson Communion Assistances: Phoebe Einertson, Lynne Jeurissen, Beth Beuch Ushers: Brent Koepf , Mitchell Koepf, Jackson Stauffacher, Justin Stauffacher, Tim Moonen

Palm Sunday March 24 Worship Assistants	
Coffee Hour: Eggers/Swanson Connect Class	
8:00 Greeters: Wesley Koepf Lay Reader: Sandi Wolpern Communion Assistants: Sandi Wolpern, Abby Kubes, Mindy Chevalier Ushers: Myron Bratsch , Kirk Franck, Matt Kes, Jeff Eppen	9:15 Greeters: Brent & Wendy Koepf Lay Reader: Brent Koepf Communion Assistances: Brent Koepf, Renee Meuleners, Dave Bungarden Ushers: Chris & Annette Moylan , Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter

Easter Sunday March 31 Worship Assistants	
Coffee Hour: Easter Brunch	
<u>7:00</u> Greeters: Nick & Bryn Davis Lay Reader: Bryn Davis Communion Assistants: Nick & Bryn Davis, Albert Koepf Ushers: Myron Bratsch , Kirk Franck, Matt Kes, Jeff Eppen	<u>9:30</u> Greeters: Kenny & Wendy Theis Lay Reader: Sara Bungarden Communion Assistances: Peg Longhenry, Cindy Schoenbauer, Sara Bungarden Ushers: Chris & Annette Moylan , Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter

Financial Corner

St. John General Fund Financial Results One Month Ending January 31, 2024 and January 31, 2023

	General Fund		Year Over Year Increase (Decrease)
	January 31, 2024	January 31, 2023	
Income	\$ 32,946	\$ 22,266	48%
Expenses:			
Personnel	(19,573)	(18,680)	
Office	(1,967)	(1,371)	
Property & Maintenance	(3,626)	(3,502)	
Ministry Teams	(1,099)	(469)	
Other	(692)	(259)	
Benevolence:			
Minneapolis Area Synod	(1,100)	(1,100)	
Camp Onomia	(250)	(250)	
Net Receipts / (Expenditures)	\$ 4,639	\$ (3,365)	
Cash Balance at January 1 (Excl. Loans)	\$ 48,424	\$ 69,619	
Net Income / (Expenditures)	4,639	(3,365)	
Misc. cash not affecting income	(267)	710	
Cash Balance at January 31	\$ 52,796	\$ 66,964	

Property Improvement Fund

	January 31, 2024	January 31, 2023
Income (Donations, Rent, Investments)	\$ 5,910	\$ 14,559
Expenses	(487)	(557)
Net Receipts / (Disbursements)	\$ 5,423	\$ 14,002
Hayden House Loan Balance at January 1	\$ 121,503	\$ 125,664
Principal Payments	(333)	(302)
Hayden House Loan Balance at January 31	\$ 121,170	\$ 125,362
Liquid Assets at January 31	\$ 197,682	\$ 180,000

CALLED TO SERVE THROUGH OUR GIVING	
Offering Received the week of	
January 25– 31 General Fund—\$3,384 Improvement Fund—\$505	February 1-7 General Fund—\$3,972 Improvement Fund—\$595
February 8-14 General Fund— \$3,705 Improvement Fund- \$810	

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

**Non-Profit Organization
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Change Service Requested