

Spirit *Alive*

JULY NEWSLETTER 2024
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

FAITH

Faith, somedays it wavers, other days it exudes out of me. Everyone has faith, just in whom or what?

My confirmation bible verse is from the book of Revelations, chapter two, verse ten.

“Be thou faithful until death and I will give thee a crown of life!”

What do we have if we don't have faith. Doubt? Eternal damnation? There is no middle ground here. We know without a doubt that faithfulness, along with asking His forgiveness, and honoring his commandments can lead us to the best life ever. Beyond our wildest dreams. Jesus had said “blessed are those that have not seen but still believe.” Our faith leads us to his kingdom which is around us every day. Rejoice! Hallelujah! Rejoice!

Prayer: Dearest Lord, even your wisest disciples needed strength to fortify their faith. I pray for the same strength so that I may be ready to face any doubts that block my path. Even with faith the size of a mustard seed, I know anything is possible in Your name. Amen.

Council Member,
Brian Sawall



President-Pat Mielke

V. President-Amy Bazile

Secretary-Mandy Malueg

Brian Sawall

Crystal Schwan

Dawn White

Linda Mielke

Mary Hoppe

Melissa Pfeiler

Ron Krueger

Wanda Tucker

Please contact the council members for any concerns.

Happy July!

Thank you for your continued support of St John's with your prayers, worship attendance both in house and online and your financial support.

As we continue our ministry at St John's without a pastor in residence, we are reliant on the generous offerings of all of you. Our Lord has blessed you with gifts and talents that together our church remains a vibrant asset to our community. We can provide resources to our community for events and get togethers in addition to spiritual support of worship, community, and emotional support. It is heartwarming to drive up and see so many activities during the week that invite the community at large to attend.

My focus this month is on our Property Committee. This group of members focus is on not only maintaining our facilities but also planning for the needs in the future. This spring they laid out a five-year plan for upcoming repairs. The plan gives the Council a "picture" of what will be needed so funds can be allocated responsibly.

Repairs this year are substantial. Along with the annual projects of painting, landscaping refresh, lawn care etc. the group has used the five-year plan to focus on the large repairs or replacements that need to be addressed. It has been decided to upgrade the heating system. In the last 12 years over \$30,000 has been spent on repairs to the existing system, and an estimate of \$10,000 was received to do some necessary repairs this year. The age of the existing units and estimated repairs of what must be done before the next heating season prompted the committee to pursue the cost of replacement. While bids are still being received the estimates are in the range of \$80,000.00

GOOD NEWS is we have the funds available to pay for this year's planned projects. Your generous support of the building fund every year and the finance committee budgeting yearly to prepare for large repairs allows the property committee the monies needed to keep our facilities in good working order.

Other repairs and updates happening this summer are resealing the parking lot, sidewalk repairs, gutter replacements, and car port window frame repairs. The gutters and sidewalks have been completed. **TOTAL estimated or actual costs of the 2024 projects is \$110,000. As of the end of May we have \$113,336.00 in the building fund.**

The committee's 5-year projection for upcoming years include parish hall floor and club room floor replacement, parish hall sound system update, air conditioning units replaced, to highlight just a few. The estimated cost of these updates is an additional \$125,000.

To accomplish these projects, we need your continued support of the **building fund**.

Please be aware the Council will be eliminating the "sub accounts" of past individual fund-raising efforts that were completed that have residual funds. The money will be allocated to the building fund; the reason being the sub accounts mentioned were building-related projects. For example, the cross repair and roof fund. Consolidating sub accounts that no longer have a foreseeable use or need allows us to be good stewards of our funds.

I close by thanking you for your generous support not only monetary but participation in the mission our Lord has tasked us with to serve this community. I welcome your comments or questions.

Pat Mielke, President of the Council

Call Committee Update

The call process started just over a year ago in January 2023. Since that time, we received 3 applications from the synod.

Last spring we received and interviewed two applicants from the Synod. One of the candidates withdrew his application for personal reasons and the other candidate was not a fit for our congregation.

This past February we began the interview process with another applicant we received from the Synod. After the first interview, the candidate decided not to continue the interview process with St. Johns. The applicant was interviewing at four different churches and decided St. Johns was not where she was being called.

We trust the call process while we wait for the candidate that has the qualities and traits to lead us and shares our vision as a congregation.

We ask for continued prayers and trust God's guidance as He leads us to our next Pastor.

The Call Committee consists of: Jackie Suehring, Tracy Conrardt, Sharon Piastowski, Tom Pamperin and Kay Tellock. Our alternate but involved members are Jackie Stuhr and Lee Kersten.

Greetings from Sunday School's Compassion International Student Isuru!



We host Isuru for Compassion's child development program. This is what life at our center is like for Isuru.

Isuru (blue flannel) can be seen high-fiving friends At our center, Isuru and his friends have a place to bond over games and activities. These lighthearted moments don't just help children and teenagers build social skills — they also help them heal from the wounds of poverty and claim the wholeness that Christ promises.

Three ways to pray for our community and the children – like Isuru – we serve.

- Pray that our participants will have hope and vision for their future and courage to pursue it.
- Pray for the success of our vocational training programs and income- generating activities.
- Give thanks for the opportunities we have to demonstrate God's love. Pray that our work will be fruitful.

Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. — Psalm 127:1, NIV

Your faithful sponsorship makes it possible for our church to provide critical child development opportunities for Isuru and many more children in our community. Thank you! We pray that you have enjoyed this inside look at your caring generosity in action. May God continue to bless you!

— Your friends at the center

Pause Ponder Pray

Faith vs Worry

One of the great basketball players years ago was Bill Bradley. He's a former U.S. Senator, but I got to know him at Princeton. Bradley went on to play with the New York Knicks and led them to a couple of world championship titles.

Bradley was the subject of a book called *A Sense of Where You Are*. Whenever he played basketball, he had a sense of where everybody was on the court. The thing that made him great, they said, was that he had such great peripheral vision. It's been said that he could look straight ahead and still see everybody on the court. He was actually tested for his peripheral vision, as well as his vertical vision. The people doing the tests discovered that he was exceptional in both. Bradley could actually see the basket while looking at the floor.

The rest of us aren't quite built that way. So we have to ask how's our horizontal vision? How aware are we of the needs of the people around us? And how's our vertical vision? How willing are we to actually lift our heads and look up to where our blessings are coming from?

When our eyes look to God, our hearts begin to change. As you ask him to guide you more and more, and listen to what he tells you to do, he takes you on a great adventure, and it gets to be a lot of fun wondering what he's going to do next. You might feel led to give somebody a certain amount of money and it will turn out to be exactly what they needed. You might feel led to buy a person a particular gift, and it could turn out to be exactly what they wanted.

And you might feel led to go beyond giving that 10 percent weekly tithe to the church, and it could open your eyes to the ways God stretches money in the hands of the faithful.

Matthew 6: 25-33: So I tell you, don't worry about everyday life – whether you have enough food, drink, and clothes. Doesn't life consist of more than food and clothing? Look at the birds. They don't need to plant or harvest or put food in barns because your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are. Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? Of course not. And why worry about your clothes? Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you? You have so little faith! So don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing. Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

What a promise – and what a great way to live! That truly is a definition of freedom, being free from worries and concerns, knowing that we'll be well taken care of as long as we live for him. In this equation, we get back far more than we give.

Be not anxious about what you have, but about what you are. -St Gregory the Great



God Bless America

*God bless America,
Land that I love...*

Shortly after becoming an American citizen in 1918, Irving Berlin, already a highly successful popular lyricist and composer, was inducted and stationed at Camp Upton in Yaphank, Long Island, New York. He beguiled his commanding officers into allowing him to write a rousing musical comedy review which would serve to raise both funds and Army morale. For the finale of this production, *Yip, Yip, Yaphank*, Berlin wrote the original "God Bless America." But he felt the song was too solemn for a comedy and put it aside for twenty years.

In the fall of 1938, as fascism and war threatened Europe, Irving Berlin decided to write a peace song. He recalled an unpublished version of a song that he had set aside in a trunk, took it out and shaped it into a second national anthem, "God Bless America."

Once Berlin decided to re-work the song, he worked in typical style: with speed and attention to detail. The first manuscript of "God Bless America" (in the hand of musical secretary Helmy Kresa) is dated October 31, 1938, and the earliest "final" version of the song is dated November 2.

It is said in show business that "timing is everything." During the three days Berlin revised "God Bless America," the singer Kate Smith asked him for a patriotic song to perform on her CBS radio program, to be broadcast from the New York World's Fair on November 10 to honor Armistice Day. Berlin wanted his song introduced by Smith's fine contralto voice and the combination created an instant hit. Berlin generously signed over his royalty money from the song to charity and the revenues went to the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts of America.

Irving Berlin lived a long life, one hundred and one years, and built a catalog of over 1,000 songs. His first published song was "Marie from Sunny Italy" (1907) and his first major hit was "Alexander's Ragtime Band" (1911). He also wrote for Broadway and the movies. Among his most recognized songs are "A Pretty Girl Is Like a Melody," "Mandy," "White Christmas," "Always," "Cheek to Cheek," "Blue Skies," and "There's No Business Like Show Business."

YEARS AGO...



If you recognize the person in this picture. Please contact the church office so we can include the information in next month's newsletter. This picture was found in a Ladies Aid scrapbook 1988-1989.



This picture was in last month's newsletter.

Diane Schumacher correctly identified this picture of the Music Committee who served the congregation in 1961. Seated: Mrs. Manfred Schachtschneider, Mrs. Vilas Lehman, Standing: Hollis Sether, James Beyer.

Pictures like these can be found in our church library. There are also several new books, dvds, and cd's available to church members based on the honor system.

GOOD LAUGHS

**The reason why I use
Android is cause
Adam and Eve had an
Apple... and messed
everything up.**

The Best Christian Memes; 18th of June, 2024. <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=christian%20humor>

“So if Mary gave birth to Jesus,
and Jesus is the lamb of God”

Me: Dad, don't

“Mary had a little lamb...”

The Best Christian Memes; 18th of June, 2024. <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=christian%20humor>

Strawberry Rhubarb Crunch

- 2 c. flour
- 2 c. packed brown sugar
- 1 c. cold butter
- 2 c. quick cook oatmeal
- 6 c. fresh or thawed sliced rhubarb
- 1 c. sugar
- 2 T. cornstarch
- 1 c. water
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3 oz. pkg. strawberry jello

In a bowl, combine flour and brown sugar. Cut in butter until crumbly. Stir in oats. Press half into a greased 9x13 pan. Top with rhubarb. In a sauce pan. Combine sugar and cornstarch; stir in water until smooth. Bring to a boil and cook for 2 minutes, stirring constantly until thick. Remove from heat. Stir in vanilla and pour over rhubarb. Sprinkle with gelatin powder. Top with remaining crumbs. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes or until top is golden brown. Serve with ice cream or Cool Whip.

From: DeAnn Dey, pg. 111 of *Cookin' With St. John's* 2009 Cookbook

Month End: **May 2024**
Year to Date

General Fund:

Revenue \$ 74,649
Expenses \$ 71,449

**Financial Condition-
Balances as of May 31st**

General Fund \$ 49,634
Building &
Church Improvements 113,337
Benevolence Fund 4,664
Special Funds 44,938
Check EFT 1,485
Total \$212,571

Worship in the Park

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.....”

After enduring a long winter of bundling up and staying indoors we are more than ready to get outdoors and enjoy God’s creation. The Wednesday evening worship service will once again be held outdoors July thru August 28th. The service is going to be held at Veterans Park located on Mavis Road (across from Premier Community Bank).

There is a shelter with picnic tables at this location. You are also welcome to bring your own seating. In case of storms, the service will be held indoors at St. John’s.

Hope to see you there in the midst of God’s amazing creation!

Wedding

The wedding of Steven Paul Sether and Jill Mariann Romberg was held at St. John’s Lutheran Church on June 22nd. Pastor Mark Ziemer officiated the wedding.



Prayers

- ◆ Becky Van Buren
- ◆ Brayden Mielke
- ◆ Cayden Arndt
- ◆ Darla Dieck
- ◆ Dave Krueger
- ◆ Dave Schmidt
- ◆ Denise Pamperin
- ◆ Jackie Suehring
- ◆ James O. Krueger
- ◆ Jerome Portnoy
- ◆ Jerry & Pat Skogan
- ◆ Jerry Zimdars
- ◆ Kristy Overman
- ◆ Larry Schuster
- ◆ Lee Kersten
- ◆ Nancy Helms
- ◆ Nathan Nick
- ◆ Oliver Joren
- ◆ Rachel Fischer
- ◆ Scott Elandt
- ◆ Tracy Narf
- ◆ Will Wege



Prayer for Those In Assisted Living

- ◆ Karen Aschenbrenner-Kindred Hearts
- ◆ Anne Erdman-Green Tree
- ◆ Jack Lozier-The Lodge at Whispering Pines
- ◆ Arnold Kriesel-Kindred Hearts
- ◆ Gloria Krieser-The Pines
- ◆ Dave Krueger-Aster
- ◆ Mary Mengert-Green Tree
- ◆ Lois Miller-Aster

Prayer for Those at Home

- ◆ Corrine Kroening
- ◆ Dorothy Arndt

Prayer for the Families Of

- ◆ Elmer Hehner
- ◆ David Erdman
- ◆ Beverly Genskow

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St. John's Church Council Minutes – May 21, 2024

Council members present: Pat Mielke, Linda Mielke, Mary Hoppe, Melissa Pfeiler, Mandy Malueg, Ron Krueger, Crystal Schwan, Brian Sawall, Wanda Tucker, Amy Bazile, and Dawn White. **Also present:** Sheri Fuhrman **Absent:** none

Meeting called to order by Pat Mielke at 6:45 p.m. Ron opened with devotions and prayer.

Member Comments: Brian attended Synod Assembly at Crossways Camp. The Synod presented an excellent presentation. Pastor Mark Ziemer celebrated his 45th anniversary in ministry.

Secretary's Report: The meeting minutes for April 2024, were reviewed. A motion was made by Ron seconded by Linda, to approve the Council minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Amy, seconded by Crystal, to approve the April 2024 financial statements as presented. Motion carried.

Vital Statistics: None to Report

Old Business: Items of Old Business considered were:

- Student Conduct Code – The council reviewed and no changes were made. A motion was made by Mary, seconded by Wanda to approve the code as presented. Motion carried.
- Any Other Old Business – none

New Business: Items of New Business considered were:

- Approve Purchase of Lawnmower: A motion was made by Amy, seconded by Melissa to approve the purchase of a lawnmower for \$1500. Motion carried.
- Technology Update: Dennis Federwitz will come to church and give suggestions on potential technology upgrades.
- Pastor Discretionary Fund: Council will create guidelines are parameters on how the funds should be used.
- New Business: None reported.

Action Team Reports: The following Action Team reports were provided:

- Property – Ron presented 5-year budget. The sidewalk project has been completed. The driveway will be resealed. Todd Conrads pressure washed the steps and sign.
- Worship and Music – Tracy submitted a request to Thrivent for funds for the keyboard. The tentative Befriender Sunday will be July 28, 2024.
- Education – Sunday School has finished for another year.
- Community – Sue Conrads will touch base with Tammy Borden to plan and schedule her presentation.
- Youth - none

Closed Session: none

The next meeting will be on June 18, 2024 at 6:45 pm.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BEFRIENDER MINISTRY

On July 28th, Pastor Mark Ziemer will be leading worship with us! There will be Coffee Hour on this date. At this service he will talk about the BeFriender Ministry program. BeFriender Ministry is a “pastoral care” ministry that trains members in many different areas. Here are just a few: how to visit shut-ins, assisting members who are getting married or divorced, grief counseling, hospitalizations, etc. St. John’s Lutheran Church is interested in becoming a trained BeFriender, please contact the church office.



A Listening Presence

CAMELOT WORSHIP

Every first Wednesday of the month, a Camelot service is offered at the Camelot apartments at 3p.m.

COMMUNION

The next time communion will be offered is Sunday, July 14th at 9:30a.m. in the Sanctuary, Wednesday, July 17th at the Veteran’s Park at 6p.m.

CONFIRMATION/SUNDAY SCHOOL

The restart date for Sunday School will be September 8th. Teachers are NEEDED. The goal is to form a team so each volunteer would only teach one Sunday a month. Please contact the church office to volunteer so we can continue to offer this service to the future of the church! The restart date for Confirmation will be September 11th. You may register at: <https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=33047fdf-8bd1-494d-a40f-d45bf9f49b3a> by August 29th or there will be registration forms in the Great Room and you may leave the form in the office Dropbox.

CROSSWAYS CAMPING SCHOLARSHIPS

Campership Scholarships are available through St. John’s to help offset 75% of camp costs. The scholarship application can be found at <https://www.stjohnsmarion.org/information-forms/> or contact the church office for a paper copy. Crossways Camps also offers scholarships available to all for Crossways programs, thanks to generous supporters. Our scholarships are available for programs of any length and any age. There is no proof of eligibility required, simply complete an application at [CrosswaysCamps.org/scholarship](https://www.crosswayscamps.org/scholarship) to express need. Please contact Robyn Koehler (robyn@crosswayscamps.org) with any questions regarding the scholarship process. We believe that finances should not be a barrier to camp experiences!



CROSSWAYS
CAMPING MINISTRIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS



FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry needs for July are soup and pasta sauce. The food pantry wants are surface cleaners and paper towels. Distribution is the first and third Thursday of every month from 3-4p.m.

HANDING OUT OF BIBLES

Handing out of Bibles will occur on September 8th. If your child is turning 3 years old or is going to be in 3rd grade this year, please contact the church office by August 29th so we can ensure we have enough bibles for everyone. Please indicate which service you will be attending on September 8th as well. You may also sign up online at: <https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=33047fdf-8bd1-494d-a40f-d45bf9f49b3a>.

SCRIP CARDS



Mama's House of Hope has teamed up with St. Vincent De Paul to help ANYONE in need within the Marion/Tigerton/Wittenberg area. To help with this very worthy cause St. Vincent De Paul is doing an ongoing fundraiser. Ten percent of all SCRIP cards, to any SHELL station, that are being sold will be donated to St. Vincent De Paul. These cards are good for gas or anything in the store. Cards can be obtained from Jackie Suehring or the church office.

If you would like several cards, please contact the church office or Jackie Suehring (St. Vincent De Paul board member).

SUMMER WORSHIP

Worship from July 7th through August 25th will be at 9:30a.m. in the Sanctuary. September 1st worship will be in the Parish Hall at 9:30a.m. Wednesday worship September 4th will be in the Sanctuary at 6p.m. The following week Sunday will be split between 8a.m. and 10:30a.m.

THANK YOU

Thank you to those who have taken care of our lawn and have donated flowers to the church. Thank you to the several members who have donated and volunteered for funerals; and to those who are ensuring worship happens each week at St. John's.



Thank you to the following for helping in the purchase of a portable keyboard to be used at the outdoor services: Jim Jueds and family in memory of Connie Jueds, David and Betty Bertram, and Thrivent Community Impact. It truly takes a team to make all of this happen and we thank you!

CHURCH CALENDAR

Church Services

July 7th, 21st, 28th—Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30a.m.

July 10th, 24th—Worship at 6p.m. at the Veterans Park

July 14th—Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30a.m. with Communion
(Pastor Bob Wilkinson)

July 17th—Worship at 6p.m. at the Veterans Park with Communion
(Pastor Jill Meyer)

July 28th—Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30a.m. with Communion
(Pastor Mark Ziemer)
Coffee Hour

July 31st—Worship at 6p.m. at the Veterans Park with Communion
(Pastor Nicole Behnke-Welke)

Wednesday worship at 6p.m. at the Veteran's Park through September 4th. Worship from July 7th through August 24th will be at 9:30a.m. in the Sanctuary. September 1st worship will be in the Parish Hall at 9:30a.m. The following week will be split.

Camelot Worship—July 3rd at 3p.m.

Council—Does not meet in the month of July

Dominos—Every Wednesday 1p.m.

Quilting—Every Wednesday 12:30p.m.

Yoga—Class is July 1st, 8th, 15th, 29th at 9a.m.

Confirmation Classes

Meet with Confirmation Mentors Throughout Summer Months

Confirmation Class will resume on September 11th at 6:45p.m.

Confirmation Sunday for the 9th Graders will be October 27th at 9:30a.m. with Pastor Lois Graper

Handing Out Bibles

September 8th at both 8a.m. & 10:30a.m.

Sunday School

Classes will resume on September 8th at 9:15a.m.

All Saints Day

Sunday, November 3rd

Fall Dinner

Sunday, November 10th



St. John's Lutheran Church
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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