

St. John
American Lutheran

February 2021



WEEKEND WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, STARTING FEBRUARY 6TH

Four opportunities for in-person worship weekends at St. John beginning in February are yours **Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m.**, and **Sunday mornings at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.**, in the St. John sanctuary, with **Family Church/Sunday School** in the Fellowship Hall **at 9:30 a.m.** Services will be 30 minutes in length, leaving plenty of time for participants to enter and exit the premises with minimal exposure to other parishioners coming or going. All participants are required to wear facemasks and social distance with no more than one family in each pew.

Please participate in in-person worship with great care and caution. While we shall take every measure to provide a COVID-safe environment, including, if deemed necessary, cancelling all in-person worship should COVID numbers spike, nothing we do in any gathering will be fail-safe. Please do not participate in in-person worship if you've had any recent contact with anyone who has been sick with COVID 19 or are exhibiting any signs of illness (ie. fever, dry cough, tiredness, aches and pains, sore throat, diarrhea, rash, shortness of breath.)

Please especially know that it's perfectly understandable and acceptable to refrain from any such gathering given all that we have learned about COVID19. Your call in this regard has all your brothers' and sisters' respect.

Please also know that worship service videos at St. John are also available via St. John's Website: www.stjohnlutheran.net and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnAmericanLutheranChurchSF>

7

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS FROM THE CROSS WEDNESDAYS IN LENT / 7:00 a.m. + 12:00 p.m. + 5:30 p.m. / ST. JOHN SANCTUARY

From Pastor Paul: "Stop your crying. They're only words," we're told. "Haven't you heard? 'Sticks and stones will break my bones, but...'"

But effete, our words *are not*, nor are they benign, mere dead letters on a page; they are power. They have pack a wallop. They have power to create. We know this from the very first words we form... We say, "Mommy." We say, "Daddy." It makes people smile; hugs and kisses appear, as if out of thin air. We learn this, too, at the last... We say, "Thank you." We whisper, "I love you. I'll never forget!" then, "Thank you," again. One last time. And people weep. Someone squeezes your hand.

The Evangelist John, a poet at heart, knew a thing or two about words. He knew how we're known only to ourselves right up until the moment we speak. Our words open us up. They reveal us, expose us. (For this, I rarely ventured a try when, in class, my professors levelled a question. I didn't want to be found out. I didn't want *them* to know how little I knew, or thought I knew.)

God's words of all uttered words, because God is God and we are not, must, therefore, be the most powerful words of all. Wrote John: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being" (John 1.1-3). When God speaks, things happen. His words have all the power of life... and so, all the power of death... and so, all the power of life again. "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only Son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known" (John 1.14, 16-18).

Look to Jesus and know the Word of God. See how he lives. See how he dies. See how he lives again. Hear what he says/does... and know the heart of God. As our words reveal us, God's Word reveals God. Nowhere else does God want to be known by frail, human flesh than in the person of Jesus. Nowhere else than

(Pastor Paul continued...)

Christ, as often as he's given in, with, and under bread and wine, or all awash in water, or tucked, this Word, within the words of holy writ... or proclaimed on the lips of hayseed preachers like Pastor Paul, like you.

Of all the words, the first and last most pack a wallop. Jesus is God's first Word from the beginning of time. God's Word is the final Word over all of us. **This Lent, let us hear the Word's last words – The Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross.** "Listen to what people say to you on the way out the door," I've told every intern we've ever had at St. John. Most important words, I've found, are often left to last. What were Jesus' ? What did they mean? What do they do?

Worship Opportunities during Lent

7:00 A.M., 12:00 P.M. 5:30 P.M.

+ ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021

"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." - Luke 23.32-38

+ WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

"Today, you shall be with me in paradise." - Luke 23.39-43

+ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021

"Woman, behold your son! . . . [Son], behold your mother." - John 19.26-27

+ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" - Matthew 27.45-49

+ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021

"I thirst." - John 19.28-29

+ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021

"It is finished." - John 19.30

+ GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2021, "Father, into your

hands I commend my spirit." - Luke 23.46-49

****Notice to Confirmation Students and families****

Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 17th, all confirmation students are asked to arrive at the church by 5:15 PM to assist with the 5:30 PM worship service every week through Lent.

There will also be a brief class period held immediately after worship, starting by 6:10 PM in the Fellowship Hall, dismissing by 6:45 pm. Parents and family are encouraged to attend worship and stay for class afterward. Please contact Pastor Paul with questions.

Thank you!



Something new and exciting at St. John!
All St. John families with children are invited to 30-minute Sunday morning Family Worship/Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m., beginning on February 6th! Please only seat one family per table. Facemasks required.

Come join the fun!



Service Opportunity

St. John will be serving a *Food To You* Mobile Food Pantry distribution here at St. John on Thursday, February 25th. **We need your help.** Please consider helping in any or all of the following ways:

- Host organizations are asked to supply a “Food of the Month.” **February’s food of the month is pasta** (any kind). Bring in pasta anytime between now and February 25th. Pasta can be placed in the large chest that is just inside the East entryway.
- You may bring in hygiene packs as well. (a bar of soap, roll of toilet paper, and a bottle of shampoo in a sealable plastic bag.) Hygiene packs are an extra item that *Food To You* gives out and relies on volunteers to provide. They can be left **next to** the chest. If you put them in the chest, the food absorbs the scent of the soaps and must be thrown away.
- **We need at least 6 able bodied volunteers to come at 4:15 pm** to help unload the truck and unpack the food. Some early volunteers need to be capable of lifting 40 lb. items. **We need 2-3 people to help unpack the boxes of food** and package up boxes for recipients. **Face masks required** while doing this step in the Fellowship Hall.
- Outside distribution begins at 6:00 pm. **We will need about ten volunteers willing to serve from 5:10 pm until 7:30** or so to successfully staff the distribution. You will be carrying boxes (using carts) from the Fellowship Hall to recipients vehicles and placing in their trunks. No person-to-person contact with recipients. **Face masks required.**

There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center. Or simply call the church office and let Joanne know if you can help. If you have served a distribution before, you know what a rewarding experience it is. If you are looking for a way to serve your neighbors and community, please consider this wonderful opportunity. Thank you!



My deepest thanks to each of you for your never ending support! I am very humbled by your care, concern & responses to me while recovering from Covid19! The outpouring you’ve shown to me has had many blessings. The prayers, the phone calls, the many cards, the meals provided, are all very much appreciated. I am still recovering, but stronger each day and I thank each of you for your concerns. Kerry & Ben have been rock solid in helping and caring for me during this time. God’s Blessings to each of you!!

Marv Okrina

On behalf of Tim Janssen’s family... we are so blessed by the prayers and kindness shown by all of you. Your thoughts and outreach to our family brought great comfort. Thank you only begins to express how you touched our hearts during this difficult time. A special thank you to Pastor Paul. His presence with our family throughout our loss was comforting and inspiring. Reminding us of God’s promise of eternal life with Him in heaven. To everyone....may God Bless and be with you and your families always.

Dear Friends at St John,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you! On behalf of our siblings in Christ who serve and live in the Rosebud West Mission, I want to thank you for your gift of \$500. Your funds will help transform lives in that region of our diocese and especially so during this COVID19 pandemic. Your generosity is a blessing and know that we are grateful for your support and prayers. Thank you again for your donation, and may God bless all of you in the upcoming year!

*Faithfully,
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Jonathan H. Folts
XI Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of SD*

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 31st at 12 noon

Please call the church office (336-3253) to let us know how you will be attending—in person or via Zoom—in-person attendance is limited to 30 so reservations are a must!

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021
OUTDOOR WORSHIP / WEATHER PERMITTING / ST. JOHN PARKING LOT / BYO LAWN CHAIR / SOME SEATING PROVIDED



Project CAR Drivers Needed

You Are The Key!

Volunteers are the key to independence and quality of life for seniors.

Our church partners with Project CAR in its mission to provide transportation to church activities, medical appointments, and jobs. While there's always a need for more volunteer drivers, there are other ways to support this vital service.

Project CAR is currently looking for someone with an accounting background to complete the Form 990 we file annually with the IRS. This is a small time commitment, but it's important to have a set of outside eyes to review this required form. For more information, please contact Managing Director Dr. Christopher Montgomery at 332-2777.

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥



The **deadline** for the monthly Newsletter is 8:00 a.m. on the 20th of the preceding month. This month it will be 8:00 a.m. Saturday, February 20th.



St. John has a **Facebook** page Check us out! Keep informed about upcoming events, weekly bible verses, special announcements, photos & more!

www.facebook.com/StJohnAmericanLutheranChurchSF

THE ALTAR FLOWER CHART for 2021 is now up and ready for you select a date. If you wish to donate altar flowers for a particular Sunday this year, please sign your name and include your phone number next to that date. **Please, only one bouquet per Sunday.** If you wish to share a Sunday with someone who has already signed up, you must check with them first to see if they wish to share that Sunday. The Altar Guild will contact you prior to your Sunday for details. The cost of a bouquet is \$30.00 (includes tax). Sign up poster is next to the Welcome Center. Thank you!



AEFT or Online giving

AEFT, or Automated Electronic Funds Transfer, is available at St. John. With this program, you can transfer money from your checking or savings account once a month to St. John Lutheran's General Fund. If you are interested in using AEFT, please contact Joanne Pesicka, church secretary, she will help you get it set up. You can also make your contributions online using a link on our website or Facebook page. Remember, we continue to do God's work and pay our bills even though we may not be worshipping in person.

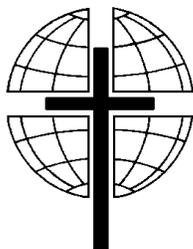


Meals-On-Wheels 2021

St. John is responsible for **Meals-on-Wheels** drivers and helpers every **Tuesday**. If you are able to help out with this important community activity, please call the church office. The meals are picked up at Active Generations. Thank you!

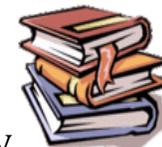
Remember – you can sign up for just one Tuesday if you wish. Any and all help is needed and appreciated!

February Mission Globe



February Mission Globe gifts will go to support **Lutherans Outdoors**. Lutherans Outdoors provides opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to connect to each other. This is done in a nurturing environment. Participants can develop new skills and build life-long relationships. Camps include: NeSoDak, Outlaw Ranch, Klein Ranch, and Joy Ranch. Explore and experience Christ's love in community and creation. You are welcome to

make a contribution, *above and beyond your regular giving*, by mailing your check to the church office or by placing in the globe at the back of the sanctuary. Please make checks payable to St. John Special Funds. Thank you.



From the church Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/stjohnchurch

It won't be long before we are all vaccinated for Covid 19. Then we will be able to come together for worship and gatherings at St. John. Meanwhile, the library is open for your viewing and listening pleasure. We do have some medical books and some spiritual help books in the non-fiction section on the west wall. Feel free to check them out when the church office is open.

For those of you who are interested in Bible study, there are several sets of materials on the shelves on the west wall. Many of the books are older, but if you want an in depth study on certain topics, they have valuable information. There are also some devotionals that will help get us through the next few months.

I have been reading The Friday Night Knitting Club by Kate Jacobs. Georgia Walker owns a store in New York City that sells knitting and sewing supplies. A couple women started hanging around after the store closed on a Friday night. The workers started making it a regular event for anyone who "dropped in" to learn to knit. Georgia's daughter, Dakota, even made fancy treats for them. Many interesting characters show up to the "club". We follow their joys, sorrows, and interactions.

Throughout the book, we learn of Georgia's history; meet her high school friend, Cathy, who deceived her terribly after high school; Meet her ex-boyfriend who is the father of her 13 year old daughter; and travel with them to Scotland to meet her grandmother. This story interweaves friendships old and new and renewed with the love/hate relationships that people encounter throughout their lives.

Stay healthy and happy. Find the things in life that give you pleasure. Pray for one another, as I pray for you all. Blessings!
Linda the Librarian (Linda Weber)



Third class mail cannot be forwarded. If you change your address, let us know so you receive your next Newsletter. **You will also save the church the 62¢ cost of address corrections.**



NAMI Family Support Group is a peer-led support group for family members, caregivers and loved ones of individuals living with mental illness.

Gain insight from the challenges and successes of others facing similar circumstances. NAMI's Support Groups are unique because they follow a structured model, ensuring everyone has an opportunity to be heard and to get what they need.

- Free of cost to participants
- Designed for adult loved ones (18+) of individuals living with mental illness
- Led by family members of individuals living with mental illness
- Meets the first Sunday of the month in the library 6-7:30 PM
- No specific medical therapy or medication is endorsed or recommended
- Confidential

NAMI is not meeting in person, however, we are having weekly support group sessions each Sunday evening via Zoom. For more information or register, visit <https://namisouthdakota.org/>.

For more information about the NAMI Family Support Group at St. John, contact Kari Clark at 605-351-4785.

A big “thank you” to John McIntyre for loading up and delivering 56 pounds of donated food to Feeding South Dakota in January from St. John. Thank you also to those that donated the canned goods and assorted dry goods in December.

God’s Work, Our Hands!

GIFT CARDS MAKE A GREAT GIFT!

Gift Cards for a number of local businesses/restaurants are available for purchase weekdays in the church office. Gift Cards may be purchased in varying denominations allowing you to purchase merchandise at their respective businesses up to the face value of each card. In most instances, Gift Cards purchased at St. John result in a 5% profit from participating businesses to our St. John Youth to help with summer camps and servant events.

THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING GIFT CARDS AT ST. JOHN.

JANUARY STATS:	Families	362
	Baptized Membership	662
	Confirmed Membership	535

(Statistics as of 1/21/21)

FUNERALS

David R. Knudson, January 6, 2021



-In memory of Tim Janssen: \$25-Lutheran World Hunger

-In memory of Robert Shaff: \$210-St. John Youth Group

-In memory of Joni Carlson: \$485-Capital Fund; \$25-Lutheran World Hunger; \$50-Endowment Fund

In memory of Delpha Dumke: \$1000-Capital Fund to be used toward Stewardship

-In memory of Ruby McCormick: \$50-Lutheran World Hunger

Other Gifts:

\$100-WELCA; \$150-Rosebud Ministry

Capital Fund Statement

Karen Scarborough, Treasurer

SAVINGS BALANCE	December 1, 2020					\$91,655.07
RECEIPTS						
	Memory of Eleanor Miller	\$100.00				
	Memory of Darrell Kryger	\$100.00				
	Memory of Joni Carlson	\$415.00				
	Transfer from General Fund at year end	\$12,000.00				
	Interest	\$2.35				
	TOTAL RECEIPTS			<u>\$12,617.35</u>		
EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS						
		\$0.00				
	TOTAL EXPENSES & WITHDRAWALS			<u>\$0.00</u>		
SAVINGS BALANCE	December 31, 2020					<u>\$104,272.42</u>
CHECKING BALANCE	December 1, 2020					\$438.85
RECEIPTS						
	Interest	\$0.00				
	TOTAL RECEIPTS			<u>\$0.00</u>		
EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS						
		\$0.00				
	TOTAL EXPENSES & WITHDRAWALS			<u>\$0.00</u>		
CHECKING BALANCE	December 31, 2020					<u>\$438.85</u>
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT						
	Mission Investment Fund; 2.23%; maturity 1/25/24	\$106,307.94				
	American State Bank; 2.7%; maturity 3/3/21	\$105,476.33				
	Mission Investment Fund; 2.23%; maturity 10/15/21	\$56,240.21				
	TOTAL CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT					<u>\$268,024.48</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	December 31, 2020					<u>\$372,735.75</u>
PAYABLES						
	Transfers from General Funds (end of year)	\$32,000.00				
	Transfer from General Fund (year end) 2020	\$12,000.00				
	Transfers to General Fund 2020	-\$11,000.00				
	TOTAL PAYABLES			<u>\$33,000.00</u>		
DESIGNATED FUNDS						
	Elevator Funds for maintenance	\$6,853.08				
	Haase Nelson Memorial: Parish Nurse/COVID	\$18,324.26				
	Semmler Bequest: future Internship Programs	\$31,066.27				
	TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS			<u>\$56,243.61</u>		
TOTAL AVAILABLE CAPITAL FUNDS	December 31, 2020					<u>\$283,492.14</u>
	5% of 2020 budget	\$19,766.95				

St. John Policy #5: The Capital Funds Account shall maintain a minimum balance amounting to 5% of the annual congregational budget. Any transfer of money from the Capital Fund to the General Fund shall have Council approval.

ST. JOHN GENERAL FUND – December 2020

Harley Shafer, Treasurer

BALANCE ON HAND	12/1/2020	\$ 17,521.33
	Total Receipts for Month	\$ 31,304.85
	Total Cash on Hand	\$ 48,826.18
	Less Expenditures for Month	\$ (30,495.39)
	To Capital Fund Receivable	\$ (12,000.00)
BALANCE ON HAND	12/31/2020	\$ 6,330.79
	Harley Shafer, Treasurer	

EXPENSES	THIS MONTH PAID	YEAR TO DATE PAID	ANNUAL BUDGET
Our World Mission	\$ 1,955.00	\$21,850.00	\$ 21,700.00
Pastoral Ministry & Staff	20,913.26	247,052.55	291,839.00
Worship & Service	4,184.95	22,062.53	30,950.00
Our Church Home	3,442.18	36,815.01	50,850.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 30,495.39	\$327,780.09	\$395,339.00

OUR GIFTS FOR THE LORD AND HIS WORK – GENERAL FUND

	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
YTD Total (12/31)	\$329,476.69	\$(327,780.09)	\$ 1,696.60