



Congregational Potluck

St. John joyfully welcomes each of you back home after a long period of pandemic-imposed isolation. We are thrilled to return to worship without restrictions and fellowship with our church family! In celebration of this unprecedented milestone, our joy in Christ and our love for one another, we are having a **"Welcome Home"** potluck in the church fellowship hall. The church council will host the event and provide hot sandwiches, drinks and cake & ice cream. *Please bring a side dish to share.*

Papers plates, plastic ware & napkins will also be provided.

All of the congregation and our friends & neighbors
are most welcome!!

Date: Sunday, July 18

Time: Immediately After Worship Service (10:30ish)



St. John hosts Laundry With Love
(a ministry of Church On The Street) on Tuesday,
July 13th. We will prepare and serve a meal to those
doing their laundry from 3-8 pm at The Laundromat
Company, 701 N. Cliff Ave. Please contact Brenda or
Kathy Jones if you are willing and able to help serve.
God's Work, Our Hands.

A SPECIAL MEMORIAL FOR



JOYCE HAASE NELSON

*WILL BE HELD DURING COFFEE HOUR ON JULY 11TH.
COME TO REMEMBER JOYCE, WATCH A VIDEO TRIBUTE, TO VISIT
WITH HER CHILDREN AND ENJOY COFFEE AND A TIME OF
FELLOWSHIP. 8:30 A.M. UNTIL WORSHIP AT 9:30 A.M*

**IF OTHER ST. JOHN FAMILIES WOULD LIKE TO DO SOMETHING
SIMILAR TO HONOR A LOVED ONE LOST DURING THE PANDEMIC,
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE. THANK YOU.**

ST. JOHN GENERAL FUND – May 2021

Harley Shafer, Treasurer

BALANCE ON HAND	5/1/2021	\$	16,380.64
	Total Receipts for Month	\$	27,104.26
	Total Cash on Hand	\$	43,484.90
	Less Expenditures for Month	\$	(26,537.21)
	From Capital Funds payable	\$	-
BALANCE ON HAND	5/31/2021	\$	16,947.69
	Harley Shafer, Treasurer		

EXPENSES	THIS MONTH PAID	YEAR TO DATE PAID	ANNUAL BUDGET
Our World Mission	\$ 1,805.00	\$9,065.00	\$ 21,700.00
Pastoral Ministry & Staff	21,947.64	110,173.74	296,174.00
Worship & Service	1,375.74	6,201.87	31,315.00
Our Church Home	1,408.83	19,331.99	47,350.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 26,537.21	\$144,772.60	\$396,539.00

OUR GIFTS FOR THE LORD AND HIS WORK – GENERAL FUND

	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
YTD Total (5/31)	\$135,389.50	\$(144,772.60)	\$ (9,383.10)



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 (National Alliance on Mental Illness) provides confidential support groups for family members and individuals living with mental health conditions.

Family Support Groups

- A support group for family members, significant others and friends of people with mental health conditions. Group meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 6:00-7:00PM.

Connections Support Groups

- A support group for people with mental health conditions. Groups meet weekly, Wednesday at 5:30PM and Thursdays at noon.

We will continue to meet online until further notice.

Find the registration link at:

<https://namisouthdakota.org/support-groups-meetings/>

For more information, call or text Kari Clark at (605) 351-4785.

Coffee Hour Help Needed



Now that we have started coffee hour again before church in the Fellowship Hall, I would love to have volunteers for as many or few times as you would like to help host/serve. The Sundays I am not serving, volunteers will need to be at the church by 7:45 a.m. to turn on the coffee machine and set out the baked goods. I

will have the treats at the church before you get there. It will be easy clean up as we serve everything with paperware. You can sign up at the church or call me at 605-370-9843. Thank you!

Your help will be very much appreciated!

Lori Meyer, Fellowship Board Chair

“TOP 10 SUNDAY”

St. John sings its “Top 10” favorite hymns!

Saturday Evening & Sunday Morning Worship, July 24 & 25!

LET US KNOW YOUR THREE FAVORITE HYMNS

BY MONDAY, JULY 12, TO ROUND OFF OUR LIST!

(Call or Email the Church Office @ 336-3253 /

stjohnlutheran1912@msn.com



“IT’S GOOD TO BE CHURCH TOGETHER!” “AMEN!”

Welcome (Back) to St. John’s Pulpit!

PASTOR REBEL HURD

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 10 & 11

“Always a very helpful sermon!”

Paul Matchan – *The Parish Messenger*

Celebration of Life

*in memory of John Severson who passed on
March 27, 2021. John would have been 96 on July 25th.
Come, remember with us and have a piece of cake!*

*Open House Saturday, July 24, 2021
1-3 PM*

*St. John American Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall*



Hosted by Jill Severson

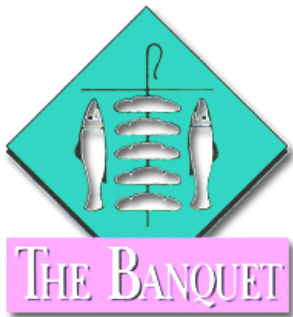
Commemorate 100-year Anniversary of "The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier"

Saturday & Sunday, July 24-25
Open to the Public 9-5 pm
The SD Military Heritage Alliance
1600 W. Russell St.

- View the half-scale replica, ask questions & discuss the history of the "unknowns" & the Tomb Guards who protect them.
- Enjoy Musical Performances & Guest Speakers throughout the day.
- Sioux Falls Municipal Bank in concert- 3 pm on Sunday

This is an INDOOR event, so plan to bring your family no matter the weather!

****See the posters on the bulletin boards for more information.****



Are you looking for something to do for the community? The success of The Banquet in feeding and encountering our guests is due solely to the kindness extended by our volunteers. On July 1 we will return to full service at The Banquet Downtown & Banquet West. We look forward to seeing new volunteers join with our current volunteers. Please keep us in your prayers! Thank you for sharing our message.

Brian A Majerus
Community Partnership Coordinator
The Banquet
900 E 8th St
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
volunteer@thebanquetsf.org
(605) 335-7066



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

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!

From Pastor Paul

"When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these is Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Preamble, Declaration of Independence, In Congress, July 4, 1776

The word *freedom* is perhaps the most treasured and most misunderstood term in the human vocabulary. It needs precise definition to be properly understood. Precision is necessary because fuzziness may well send one chasing after one freedom at the expense of another. One may sacrifice one's freedom of speech, for example, to obtain the freedom from want, the freedom from worry. While telling a person with affluence and power *what he wants to hear* may make one more secure in one's physical or social situation, it does not necessarily advance the cause of truth, generally speaking. Surrendering the freedom of the press, an editor harassed by powerful interests may attain freedom from fear, but he will no longer command the respect of his readers, nor his *reason for being* as a credible reporter or unbiased advocate, to say nothing of his humanity, his empathy as a fellow traveler in the human enterprise.

True freedom is never freedom to do whatever one may want, willy-nilly. No, it's only always the freedom to do what one *ought* – the freedom to speak the truth as one *ought* to speak it, the freedom to worship God as one believes one *ought* to worship God, the freedom to assemble with others for purposes of justice and mercy – God's good, which is often the *greater good*, not necessarily *just* my own. To defend these freedoms may not always diminish fear or want. It might in fact be dangerous, deadly dangerous. To defend these freedoms might actually land you, in some countries in jail, in some in exile, in still others on a cross.

God is the source, giver, and defender of all true freedom. Christ said, "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." A person in Christ is free from the guilt and dominion of sin – human self-absorption being the source of all sin – she is not free to do whatever she *darn-well* pleases, however "selfless" her work may

(Pastor Paul continued....)

seem on the face of it. In Christ's mercy, we're forgiven, not to sin again, but, using the best lights we're given, to do the next *right thing*, whatever that may be. In Christ's freedom, we're given the faith and courage to pit ourselves against all manner of injustice, tyranny, corruption, and all the forces that diminish and destroy life for others, both individuals and whole segments of the human community.

We should treasure the freedoms that have been bestowed upon us by God through faithful followers of Christ through generations and generations of struggle. We should, I should think, also recognize that following Christ into God's future just on the other side of yon horizon will require of us no less struggle, and at least a modicum of humility – and even shame – should the decisions we make per human rights and freedoms promote and advance merely *me*, *mine*, and *ours*... at the expense and to the exclusion of everyone else, any other child of God.

NOTICE: Pastor Paul's new e-mail address is:
pastormatchan@outlook.com

Please do not use his old e-mail: pastormatchan@msn.com. If you get something from this old e-mail address, please delete.
Thank you!

WEDNESDAY EVENING BOOK STUDY

Text: *Free to Be*

By James Nestingen & Gerhard Forde
(To be Distributed the First Evening)

Facilitator: Pastor Paul

6:30 p.m. In the St. John Library

We'll use the text to frame the conversation, open the Bible, revisit a few of the principle tenets of the faith... Yet, please feel free to bring anything to the table per the Bible, Worship, the life of faith, and Work of the Church... All the stuff you've never understood or ever dared question. (The Facilitator will love it.)

Come and join in any time!

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.

St. John Prayer Ministry & Prayer Box – Pastor Paul and prayer ministers would like to pray for you. Prayer requests are received in a secure prayer box in the back of the St. John sanctuary and



are kept in strictest confidence before, during, and after prayers are said on your behalf. It is of utmost importance to the St. John congregation that all our members and friends are prayed for on a routine basis. Please help your pastor and prayer ministers to be faithful and effective in this undertaking by sharing with us whatever you may have in your heart to share.

JUNE STATS:

Families	360
Baptized Membership	657
Confirmed Membership	529

(Statistics as of 6/23/21)

FUNERALS

Jerry Lundberg, June 4, 2021

Richard A. Peterson, June 12, 2021



-In memory of Jerry Lundberg: \$25-Lutheran World Hunger, \$20-Quilt makers; \$25-Endowment Fund; \$35-Nightwatch Food Van

-In memory of Eleanor Christopherson \$25-General Fund

Other Gifts:

\$340-Mission Globe for April for NAMI SD; \$50-Nightwatch Food Ministry; \$20-Quilt makers & \$60-Endowment Fund in honor of Ken & Barb Buchanan's 60th wedding anniversary



I want to give a very loving and caring thank you to our St. John quilters for the beautiful quilt I received from you. It truly is comforting at this time of recovery from surgery. We are so blessed to have such a talented group at St. John. God bless you and thank you so much. It is also very warming.

Robert Green

Special thanks to Our family is extremely grateful to the people of St. John for all your kind expressions of sympathy extended to us this past month for the loss of Jerry.

Pastor Paul for your prayers, calls and visits. Also, for making the Celebration of Life service so special.

Thank you to those that furnished food and served our family and friends after the service.

It is all deeply appreciated and will always be remembered by the family of Jerry Lundberg.

Rose, Lois, Kathy, Greg, Mick and Candy

Thank you to our St. John family for your support and love during Richard's struggle with Alzheimer's. Pastor Paul, your visits were so comforting. The lunch/fellowship time was a time to celebrate his life-thank you to the funeral group for serving. We appreciate all of you so much for your care, kindness, and understanding.

The family of Richard Peterson



Monthly WELCA Bible studies will recess until Fall. Watch for future dates in the August Newsletter.

We are updating our volunteer Funeral groups and are in need of additional workers as well. Would you be willing to provide baked goods, or a salad, and/or serve at funeral luncheons? If you are willing and able to help serve or bake, please call Mary Remmark at 334-1468. (Leave message with your name and phone number.) Thank you!!

LWR (Lutheran World Relief)

St John Quilters meet each Wednesday morning at 9:00 AM! We need your help! No sewing experience necessary!

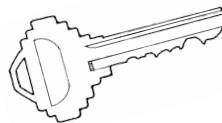
In July, August and September we will be collecting items for School Kits. Shop early for school supplies as they may be limited later on. Included in each kit is the following:

- FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled
- paper, 8" x 10 1/2"; **no loose leaf paper**
- ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters
- on one side and inches on the other
- ONE pencil sharpener
- ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with
- embedded steel blades work well)
- FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers;
- FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink);
- ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ONE 2 1/2" eraser

Items for any of the kits can be left by the office door.

We are also always in need of sheets to use for the backing for our quilts. Thank you for your continued support!

Barb Buchanan and Ann Mortenson
Co-Chairs of Mission Action Service Group.



Project CAR Drivers Needed

You Are The Key!

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

Project CAR (Call A Ride) offers transportation to Sunday church services, and other church functions, and medical appointments for the elderly members of six different churches. This transportation is a crucial element in their ability to remain connected to their church and community. Project CAR provides vehicles, gas, etc. Please call the Project CAR office (332-2777) for more information. **Men, women, retired, working, young, young at heart ... We Need You!**

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN

Your continued financial support is needed. St. John's expenses do **not** stop during the Summer months. You can continue your giving while away by arranging for an automatic bank withdrawal or giving online through our website or Facebook page. If that is not possible, please consider sending in or dropping off your regular offering. Please contact Joanne Pesicka at 336-3253 to make these arrangements. It would be greatly appreciated.



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. Tuesday, July 20th.



Ahhh, It's Summer Thyme!

Everything is sprouting in the garden! I read that weeds have "mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows." Say it ain't Cilantro, but I guess it was Mint to be...

Many of you to thank for helping our garden grow:

Donations of hoses—Linda Weber, Bob Neeley, Ann Johnson,
Kerry Okrina

Time spent weeding & watering—Nancy Plenis & Kerry Okrina

Offers of help—JoAnn Plenis & Kay Stephenson

Using the soaker hoses for watering seems to be working well, and it's definitely more resourceful. Many of the plants are blossoming

& setting fruit. Soon the tomato & cucumber plants will be outgrowing their cages, so we're gradually replacing them with larger ones. If you have any that you're not using and we could borrow, please give me a call.

And please visit the garden often—to look, to rest, to taste...

And, Lettuce pray for rain! 😊

Jan McDonald
605-212-2769
jnmcdonald75@gmail.com



From the Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/stjohnchurch

God is good! I am thankful for all the wonderful things he has given us. Nature is so interesting. Just look around and see all the beautiful plants and animals that surround us this time of year. Thanks for all the people whom God has helped create the bountiful garden at the church. I have enjoyed salad fixings already and look forward to many more tasty treats!

My yard has suffered from the drought and the weeds are trying to take over. The book I have chosen to read this month is helping with that. It is Great Green book of Garden Secrets by Jerry Baker. In it, Baker gives tips on growing many common plants, trees, vegetables and lawns, as well as tips for keeping your houseplants in tip top shape. He also has hints for getting rid of pests such as ants, grubs, beetles, rabbits, moles and many more.

One of the tips that keep coming up is using mulch. It helps put nutrients in the soil, and prevents the roots from getting sunburned, as well as keeping plants moist. I got rid of moles by using juicy fruit gum. Epsom salts are good for tomatoes and, well...lawns and many more plants.

Now that church is opened and the Bibles and Hymnals are back in the pews, remember that if you see any with torn pages, put it on the library desk and I will repair them. Jan McKenna made bookmarks for the hymnals. Thank you.

Thanks to Annika Kvale for helping reorganize and clean the library. It is in good shape for you to stop by and check it out!

Linda the Librarian,
Linda Weber



Support Our Youth!

Monday, July 5th,
41st Street Pizza Ranch
5-8 PM.

A portion of all sales that evening benefit the St. John Youth Group. Hope to see you all there. Thank you!

High and Middle School News

The youth will be serving Pizza Ranch on West 41st on July 5th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please come and enjoy a meal while the youth clean your tables.

The High School Youth will be traveling to Puerto Rico July 10th thru the 17th for their Summer Servant Trip. They will be painting, building and serving the homeless.

The youth will be having the rummage sale in September, we will do another outdoor one. If you have items that you would like to donate, you may drop them off in the garage, you will need to get the key from Joanne. If you are cleaning out your closets, we are accepting clothes, household items, shoes, purses, and miscellaneous. We are not accepting TV's.

Belva Kurtz | Youth & Family Ministry Director
p. 605.214-7539 Call | Text e. bkurtz@vastbb.net

Capital Fund Statement					
Karen Scarborough, Treasurer					
SAVINGS BALANCE	May 1, 2021				\$72,616.83
RECEIPTS					
	In memory of Eleanor Christopherson	\$410.00			
	Interest				
	TOTAL RECEIPTS			\$410.00	
EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS					
	TOTAL EXPENSES & WITHDRAWALS			\$0.00	
SAVINGS BALANCE	May 31, 2021				\$73,026.83
CHECKING BALANCE	May 1, 2021				\$1,874.47
RECEIPTS					
	Interest	\$0.01			
	TOTAL RECEIPTS			\$0.01	
EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS					
	Harley Shafer (reimburse for equipment)	\$425.00			
	Mac Doctors (Ipad)	\$441.98			
	TOTAL EXPENSES & WITHDRAWALS			\$866.98	
CHECKING BALANCE	May 31, 2021				\$1,007.50
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT					
	Mission Investment Fund; 2.23%; maturity 1/25/24	\$106,307.94			
	Mission Investment Fund : 2.3% maturity 5/27	\$125,000.00			
	Mission Investment Fund; 2.23%; maturity 10/15/21	\$56,240.21			
	TOTAL CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT				\$287,548.15
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	May 31, 2021				\$361,582.48
PAYABLES					
	Transfers from General Funds (end of year)	\$33,000.00			
	Transfer from General Fund (year end) 2021	\$0.00			
	Transfers to General Fund 2021	(20,000.00)			
	TOTAL PAYABLES			\$13,000.00	
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
	Stewardship use in memory of Delpha Dumke	\$1,000.00			
	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			\$57,243.61	
TOTAL AVAILABLE CAPITAL FUNDS	May 31, 2021				\$291,338.87
	5% of 2021 budget	\$19,826.95			