

**Two things I need to say:**

First things first. I need to tell you how much I love you. How fortunate I feel to be your pastor and co-worker in Christ's kingdom. All dearest friendships are mine right down to this day for all the faith we've shared right here, all the good work we've been able to do together. My time at St. John has been breathtaking beautiful, truly, a most *life-giving* proposition. Twenty-five years we've been together. It has been everything I could have ever hoped for, and more, to serve in Christ's kingdom as church with you. I can't thank you enough.

And so, a second thing I need to say: I am retiring. It's time for me to step away from my work as a parish pastor. It's just time. Only that. My last day with you will be Easter Sunday. Easter Monday, when no one's around, I'll clear off my desk, empty my drawers, remove the last of my books from the shelves, and take my leave. The quiet, trust me, will be just what Paul needs.

I'll explain to our Church Council when next we meet that I would take my leave in this fashion and *on* Easter Sunday *by design* – of course, because the Resurrection of our Lord is *everything* to us, but the truth be told, because it's also an exceptionally busy day and everyone will have somewhere to go after church... and I'll be able to leave my beloved St. John just as I arrived, when no one is looking. I would wrap up like this not because I don't appreciate heartfelt farewells... just not all the *cake*, confetti, clapping, and cards that so often accompany these things. Time is long-passed since I've needed or even wanted as much.

And so, with this announcement, I make my most earnest pitch per transitional formalities, strange as it might sound to anyone *who never knew me*: With all gratitude, and in all humility, let's please just forgo any fancy farewell (coffee or lunch). Instead, let's just, all of us, gather to worship these next few Sundays. Let's, like every other Sunday we've shared just sing together, stand together, pray together, commune together. Let's let a handful of Sundays give us all the time we, all of us, really need to say all the truly important things, like: "Thanks, gracious God, for all good gifts." "Thanks for dear, dear friends." "I love you." "I'll miss you." "I'll never forget you." "Everything's going to be okay." Your presence in worship these next three weeks will be, I promise, everything I'll ever need to make this transition. I sincerely hope it will be enough for all of you, too.

- **Pastor Paul, March 27, 2022**

## COVID PROTOCOL UPDATES

St. John Council, acting on recommendations of its Wellness Team per masking and distancing protocols at all St. John activities moving beyond, hopefully, of our very long season of COVID, asks St. John members to *soldier on* in the following ways:

- Masks, while strongly recommended for neighbor's sake, are no longer mandated. But please do remember that the unvaccinated are still among us, and those especially vulnerable to viral infection remain vulnerable. Not taken up by Council because it just goes without saying: If you're not feeling well, just stay home.
- Social-distancing is still strongly recommended *throughout* the sanctuary and church proper and will be mandated, so to speak, by "taping" off pews only in the back few rows of St. John's worship space. Worshipers still quite conscientious about physical distancing may find it easier to accomplish in taped-off areas.
- Elements for Communion (bread & grape juice) will, for a short while longer, be distributed using the usual self-contained packages.
- Coffee Hour resumes in the St. John Fellowship Hall right after worship.
- Thank you for your patience and kindness and care through all our days and months and years of pandemic. Your grace has been giving, loving, selfless, and breathtaking beautiful.

*Please especially know that it's perfectly understandable and acceptable to refrain from any such gathering given all that we have learned about COVID19 and all its variants.*

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 14th, 6:30 P.M.  
Holy Communion  
(one service only)

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GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15th, 6:30 P.M.  
(one service only)

+

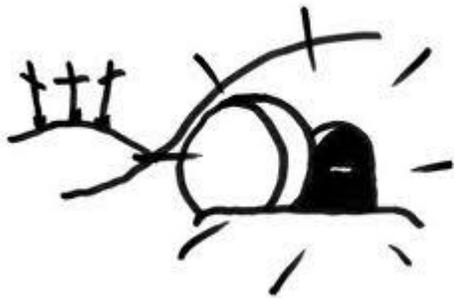
EASTER VIGIL WITH HOLY COMMUNION  
APRIL 15th, 5:30 P.M.

+

EASTER WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION  
APRIL 16th, 7:00 A.M., 8:30 A.M. AND 10:00 A.M.

+

Easter Breakfast served by the St. John Youth Group in  
the Fellowship Hall immediately following Sunrise  
worship service



Do we have your e-mail address? Weekly announcements and prayer concerns are sent to the congregation each Friday. If you are not currently receiving this weekly e-mail and want to be added to the group, please contact the office at:

[stjohnlutheran1912@msn.com](mailto:stjohnlutheran1912@msn.com)



The Theme this year for  
**Vacation Bible School** is:  
Tree of Healing

**SAVE THE DATES:**  
**June 7-10, 2022**

Watch for more details and  
registration information in future  
Newsletters and announcements!

**\*\*\*\*\*The newly revised St. John Constitution and Bylaws and  
the 2022 Church Directory are printed and ready for you to pick  
up on the Welcome Center!  
One each per household, please. Thank you!\*\*\*\*\***



### **From Intern Pastor Elias Johnson-Youngquist**

As I continue our overview on the books of the Old Testament, you may be surprised that the books are not ordered in chronological order. Instead we have groupings of books within the Old Testament by theme. This next section from Job to Song of Solomon is called the Wisdom and Poetry books. They mostly contain poetry and pieces of practical wisdom, but how they approach that wisdom varies from book to book. The authors of proverbs generally hold that wisdom can be discovered or gained from the things of this world, but Ecclesiastes and Job start to poke holes in this theory. Ultimately, these 5 teach that ACTUAL wisdom is a gift from God, rooted in a fear (read respect) of the Lord.

**Job-** The story of a good man who suffers incredible loss. This is possibly the oldest written book in the Bible, which speaks to how long we've been struggling with the question "why do bad things happen to good people." At the end of the story, God answers Job with "I'm God and you're not, but I care for you as I care for all the creatures of the world."

**Psalms-** The precursor to our own hymnals, this book is a collection of 150 poems, songs, prayers and liturgies. You'll find nearly every topic and theme that exists in the rest of the Bible, in Psalms, from songs of Lament (Ps 130) to shouts of Joy (Ps. 16) and everything else in-between.

**Proverbs-** This is perhaps the most secular of all the books of the Old Testament. It's a book of instructions for successful living—the self-help book of its day. Yet the key to this book is that "fear of the Lord" is the foundation for wisdom. My favorites are: Proverbs 12:22, 15:17, 17:28, 25:17, 26:11 and so many more. This is a good one to mine.

**Ecclesiastes-** The perfect partner to Proverbs, this book reads as a memoir written by a wise person referred to as "Teacher." The author reflects on the folly of chasing wisdom and the cyclical nature of life. The ultimate message of Ecclesiastes is to trust God and find contentment in the gifts God has given.

**Song of Solomon-** Ah yes, the book of love. On first reading, it is about lifting up love, creation and sexuality as gifts from God. However, you can also read this book as a Love letter from God to his people. Either way, I dare you to compliment your significant other by telling them their "hair is like a flock of goats." (Song of Solomon 4:1)



**WELCA Bible Study**  
Sunday, April 24, 2022  
at 10:30 AM

*(We will meet in the church Library immediately following worship)*

### **LWR (Lutheran World Relief)**

St. John Quilters meet Wednesdays from 9am - 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. ***We need sheets and materials for making quilts.*** They may be left in the box by the office door.

We have been very busy the past few months. 15 quilts were given to the St. Francis House, 15 to the Union Gospel Mission, 10 to Glory House and 21 to Church on the Street.

We thank all who have donated sheets and material for the quilts, as well as monetary support.

We would enjoy having more people join us on Wednesdays for fellowship and quilting. No sewing experience is needed! Coffee is always on. Bring a sack lunch if you would like to.

Barb Buchanan & LaVonne Schimke  
Chairs of Mission Action Service Group

WELCA has greeting cards for sale in the church office. Easter Birthday, Sympathy, Thinking of you, Encouragement, Get Well, etc. at \$6.00 for a box of twelve. There are also beautiful table napkins for \$3.50 per package.



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

♪ ♪ "Music Notes" ♪ ♪

Greetings, St. John! I hope you are all doing well during this Lenten season. It is so nice to be rehearsing Lent and Easter songs again! It's been two years and we're picking up where we left off when the pandemic began. The Handbell Choir will perform "All Glory, Laud and Honor" on Palm Sunday, April 10th. The Adult Choir will perform "Seek Ye First" on Sunday, April 3rd. We will also perform "O the Blood" at the Good Friday service. Finally, we will perform "Our Savior is Alive" on Easter Sunday. We look forward to performing these beautiful selections for you throughout Holy Week at St. John.

Sarah Jo Jorgensen  
Director of Choirs



## From the Library

[www.librarything.com/catalog/stjohnchurch](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/stjohnchurch)

Spring into some good reading! The St. John library has many good books for your enjoyment and education. Recent books that people have read and enjoyed are The Elizabeth Smart Story and Dianna and Jackie. They are both in the nonfiction section on the west wall. We have many other biographies also.

Don't forget, there are Bibles and Bible commentaries, and Bible stories, and Bible dictionaries and many other reference materials for you to learn many facts about God and His word. I encourage you to check them out. They are not all meant for reading cover to cover, but to skim for information. God bless you as you learn more about Him and His word.

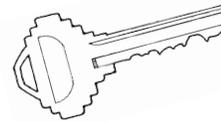
Linda the Librarian,  
Linda Weber

 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.**



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](http://www.facebook.com/StJohnAmericanLutheranChurchSF)



## 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 at heart ... We Need You!**

## Meals-On-Wheels 2022



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 Phil or Jackie Johnson. They can give you more information and details. The meals are picked up at Active Generations and delivered on the west side of Sioux Falls.

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

# Online giving

*Make your Easter offerings online during the Easter season! It is encouraging to see both new and familiar faces at our worship services. Throughout the year, many of you already support the congregation with your time, talent and financial contributions. But greater seasonal participation is always welcome. We encourage you to consider our electronic giving program. We accept donations made from your bank account and credit card or debit cards. It takes just a few minutes to setup a recurring giving plan. Visit our website [www.stjohnlutheran.net](http://www.stjohnlutheran.net) and click on the "Help us Grow/Giving" button. Thank you for your continued support. Your spirited generosity ensures we can carry our message and our works throughout our community and beyond for years to come!*

## Mission Globe



**Our April Mission Globe** gifts will go to NAMI-South Dakota. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (<http://www.nami.org>), is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. You are welcome to make a contribution, *above and beyond your regular giving*, in the globe at the back of the sanctuary. Please make checks payable to St. John Special Funds. Thank you!

NOT ABLE TO WORSHIP ON SUNDAY?  
SATURDAY EVENING  
WORSHIP  
5:30 P.M.



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.

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## **Endowment Fund Scholarships**

The St. John Endowment Fund has designated funds for scholarships for members of St. John American Lutheran Church for the purpose of attending higher education. The applications are available on the Welcome Center. Applications must be returned to the church office no later than May 31, 2022. Thank you.

## High and Middle School News

Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>: Coffee hour after church, this will be for both middle and high school youth. Please let me know if you can bring muffins, rolls, banana bread, or fruit. Please have your items at church by 10:00 a.m. so that we can get things ready. Palm Sunday worship begins at 9:30 am.

Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>: Easter Sunday, we will be serving breakfast at 7:30 a.m. after the early service. We will be serving egg bake, fruit (banana & Cuties). Please let me know if you would like to make an egg bake, or would like to donate items for the egg bake, or bring fruit. Let me know what you are interested in.

We are selling hot stuff pizzas, our goal is to turn in orders on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Belva Kurtz** | Youth & Family Ministry Director  
p. 605.214-7539 Call | Text e. [bkurtz@vastbb.net](mailto:bkurtz@vastbb.net)

### **GIFT CARDS MAKE A GREAT GIFT!**

Gift Cards for a number of local businesses/restaurants are available for purchase after worship or 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.

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**THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING GIFT CARDS AT ST. JOHN.**

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<b>MARCH STATS:</b>	Families	354
	Baptized Membership	650
	Confirmed Membership	529

*(Statistics as of 3/23/22)*

### **BAPTISMS**

*Caleb James Muchow, March 6, 2022*

### **FUNERALS**

*Alice Leimbach, March 4, 2022*

*Diane Spear, March 18, 2022*



**-In memory of Bud Hohn:** \$20-Gifts for Youth; \$25-Lutheran World Hunger

**-In memory of Lavonne Rafuse:** \$25-Lutheran World

### **Other Gifts:**

*\$391.78 Mission Globe for Food To You*



I would like to thank Pastor Paul for his visit at the hospital and his prayers and also send thanks to all who sent cards and get well wishes when I broke my wrist. And a special thank you to the crew that provided the Nightwatch service this month, as they fed 192 hungry neighbors.  
Brenda Jones

## ST. JOHN GENERAL FUND – February 2022

*Doug McCain, Treasurer*

BALANCE ON HAND	2/1/2022		\$ 2,170.98
	Total Receipts for Month		\$ 23,773.12
	Total Cash on Hand		\$ 25,944.10
	Less Expenditures for Month		\$ (31,104.76)
	From Capital Funds payable		\$ 5,000.00
BALANCE ON HAND	2/28/2022		\$ (160.66)
	Doug McCain, Treasurer		

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>THIS MONTH PAID</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE PAID</b>	<b>ANNUAL BUDGET</b>
Our World Mission	\$ 1,805.00	\$ 3,650.00	\$ 21,700.00
Pastoral Ministry & Staff	24,857.51	50,215.82	298,563.00
Worship & Service	1,375.14	3,303.44	29,885.00
Our Church Home	3,067.11	12,798.77	42,790.00
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Total Expenditures	\$ 31,104.76	\$69,968.03	\$392,938.00

### OUR GIFTS FOR THE LORD AND HIS WORK – GENERAL FUND

	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
YTD Total (2/28)	\$50,566.57	\$(69,968.03)	(\$19,401.36)

## Capital Fund Statement

Karen Scarborough, Treasurer

<b>SAVINGS BALANCE</b>	Feb. 1, 2022			\$65,744.64
RECEIPTS				
	Interest			
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<u>\$0.00</u>	
EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS				
	transfer to gen fund	\$5,000.00		
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES &amp; WITHDRAWALS</b>		<u>\$5,000.00</u>	
<b>SAVINGS BALANCE</b>	February 28, 2022			<u>\$60,744.64</u>
<b>CHECKING BALANCE</b>	Feb. 1, 2022			\$1,856.26
RECEIPTS				
	Interest	<u>\$0.01</u>		
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<u>\$0.01</u>	
EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS				
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES &amp; WITHDRAWALS</b>		<u>\$0.00</u>	
<b>CHECKING BALANCE</b>	February 28, 2022			<u>\$1,856.27</u>
<b>CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT</b>				
	Mission Investment Fund; 2.23%; maturity 1/25/24	\$108,090.95		
	Mission Investment Fund : 1.936% maturity 4/20/27	\$125,603.34		
	Mission Investment Fund; 1.49%; maturity 10/20/25	<u>\$57,504.89</u>		
	<b>TOTAL CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT</b>			<u>\$291,199.18</u>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS</b>	February 28, 2022			<u>\$353,800.09</u>
<b>PAYABLES</b>				
	Transfers from General Funds (end of year)	\$33,000.00		
	Transfer from General Fund (year end) 2022			
	Transfers to General Fund 2022	<u>\$10,000.00</u>		
	<b>TOTAL PAYABLES</b>		\$23,000.00	
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>				
	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	<u>\$23,649.14</u>		
	<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>		\$49,826.48	
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE CAPITAL FUNDS</b>	February 28, 2022			<u>\$280,973.61</u>
	5% of 2022 budget	\$19,646.90		

*St. John Policy #5: The Capital Funds Account shall maintain a minimum balance amounting to 5% of the annual congregational budget.*