

JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER
ST. JOHN AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

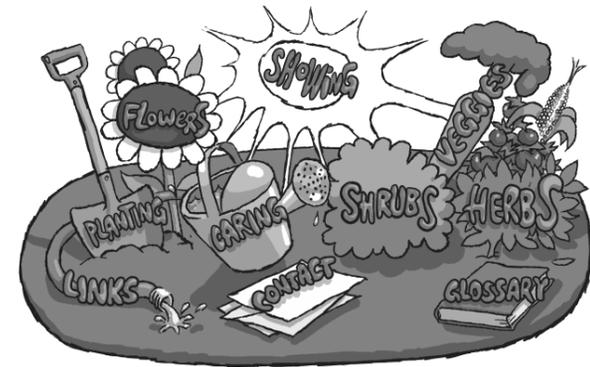


The Theme this year for **Vacation Bible School** is: **Tree of Healing**
June 7-10, 2022
5:30-8:00 PM
Open to age 5 through 5th Grade
Registration now open on our website or Facebook Page, by scanning the bar code or simply calling the church office at 605-336-3253. New this year--a FREE meal will be served to all students and staff each night at 5:30. Fun and Games begin at 6:00!

The youth will be having a rummage sale in September, if you have items that you would like to donate, you can put them in the garage in the big stall. They will accept all items except TVs. Please pick up the key from the church office. Thank you!



♪♪ Lord, Let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word. ♪♪



Gardening is happening! This is our 3rd year already. What started as a "seed" during Covid, has really blossomed!

Many thanks to a great crew who donned their gloves to clean up the churchyard for this Spring: Joanne Pesicka, Tom & Jill Alfieri, Daniel Pesicka, Larry Crittenden, Greg Rames, Keith Rippe, Darin & Kari Palmer & Duane Weisshaar. A couple of these guys have no fear of depth—they climbed down into the egresses to clean up!

Also thanks to those who helped plant: Nancy Plienis, Linda Kolb & Kay Stephenson. Most of the seeds are in the soil, with the plants to follow. Nancy also has the east-side planters looking lovely.

By the time this newsletter is in your hands, things should be sprouting in the "good soil". Come & check it out!

Jan & Marty McDonald

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



THE BANQUET

church office and let Joanne know that you can help out. Come, greet our Banquet guests and share in the serving. Thank you!

St. John serves the evening meal at The Banquet **WEST** on Monday, June 27, 2022. **The Banquet WEST is located at 5th Street and Marion Road. St. John must supply 6 to 8 volunteers at 2:00 PM to prepare the food, and 10-14 volunteers at 5:15 PM to serve the meal.** Please sign up to help on the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center or simply call the



Thursday noon Bible Study continues in the church Library. Please join in whenever you can. Intern Pastor Elias will lead us studying the weekly lectionary.

HAPPY FATHER'S Day!



The St. John WELCA executive board continues to meet every other month to handle events and activities related to local WELCA activities and support events sponsored by Crossroads Conference of WELCA. The Mission Action committee works

with coordinating activities of the quilting group plus assembling kits for distribution around the world for those in need. Mission growth leads the monthly Bible studies at St. John to encourage the exploration of the word of God. Mission community continues to supervise activities such as birthday parties, showers, anniversary celebrations, and memorial celebrations at St. John. Of course, our treasurer keeps documented records of the contributions that WELCA makes to charitable organizations locally and in the world. She also documents the funding for various activities supported by the ladies of St. John WELCA including donations to the national branch of WELCA, Crossroads Conference of WELCA, and funding many church activities such as funeral serving groups and quilters.

We invite you to attend a meeting at any time if you wish to participate. The board members are as follows: Mary Remmark, Barb Buchanan, Lavonne Schimke, Karen Dirkson, Theresa Emigh, Gladys Beck, and Judy McCormick. Please contact us for information about the time and dates for future meetings.

I wanted to share this with the woman of St. John. It was recently printed in a newsletter from the Crossroads conference.

“WELCA Purpose Statement: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”

This statement guides us, as the WELCA Executive board at St. John, as we continue to promote WELCA activities here at St. John and out in the world. Thank you for your continued support through your prayers, attendance at Bible studies, involvement in quilting activities, serving to supervise activities, serving in funeral groups, providing financial donations to WELCA, and much more.

WELCA Bible Study

Sunday, June 26, 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 continue to need sheets and materials for making quilts.* They may be left in the box by the office door.

We thank all who have donated sheets and material for the quilts, as well as monetary support and for the recent gifts of sewing machine and serger.

We recently donated toothbrushes to Call To Freedom.

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. 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 Monday, June 20th.

From Intern Pastor Elias Johnson-Youngquist

This month we wrap up our overview of the books of the Old Testament with the second half of the prophets. Hopefully as we've worked through the Old Testament, you've picked up a few more handholds on these texts that can sometimes be unapproachable. The prophets we'll look at in this second half stretch from around 738 B.C.E. to maybe 350 B.C.E, meaning these are all at least 350 or more years away from Christ's birth. And yet we can see threads of the messiah's coming in these little texts.

Obadiah: This book is as difficult as it is short. It is only a single chapter long, but in this single speech, betrayal, judgment, revenge and hope in the future are expressed. Edom, one of the neighboring countries tied to Esau (from Genesis 25), betrayed Jerusalem when it fell. Obadiah threatens and eye for an eye, but at the end of the speech, there still is the promise that all kingdoms shall one day be the Lord's.

Jonah: You've probably heard this short story of the prophet who is told to go to Nineveh to deliver a message from God. When he refuses, a whale or great fish swallows him up and spits him out on the land. But read chapters 3 & 4 this time, and pay attention to the way Jonah still half-heartedly does the job, then waits up on a hill for Nineveh to be destroyed. Only to have the word of God work despite its faulty deliverer.

Micah: This is a book of alternating words of judgment and words of hope. Micah spoke these "oracles" during a time when war was right at Jerusalem's doorstep, and the leaders didn't seem to care. Even when judgment upon the sins of Israel's leaders is strong, this prophet shows that hope and mercy win out in the end. (pay special attention to Micah 7: 18-20).

Nahum: This prophet encouraged celebration after the opposing country of Assyria, and their capital of Nineveh, fell. This book has the most vengeful language in the whole of the New Testament. But read this with the other book about Nineveh—Jonah, and you start to see God's justice and mercy at the same time.

Habakkuk: This book starts with an angry complaint to God, but ends with the assurance of hope in God's promises. Habakkuk's and our "why" questions are rarely answered, but we are instead told that the "righteous will live by faith," (2:4).

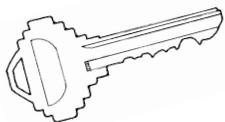
(Intern Elias Continued.....)

Zephaniah: Another prophetic book that starts in anger and judgment and ends in hope. This time, judgment against the wealthy, those who are worshipping other Gods, and the leaders of Israel. None of their wealth or power will protect Israel, rather, God will be their protection.

Haggai: Written during the time the Persian Empire ruled over Jerusalem, and acted as a kick in the pants to the Israelites still living in Jerusalem. Haggai instead points to the enduring love of God for his people, and the endurance of God’s temple even when all seems lost.

Zechariah: Written just after Haggai. Zechariah gives people hope by painting a picture of restoration of Jerusalem, in which Israel is at the center of the whole world. But it won’t be in the way the Israelites think it will be. 12:10- 13:1 starts to speak of a “pierced one” who opens the way for forgiveness of sin. It will be the messiah who puts Israel at the center of everything.

Malachi: The day of the Lord is coming. Even though God has restored the temple and has restored Israel, the people still don’t love and honor him. And so judgment is coming, but what kind of judgment will Christ bring?

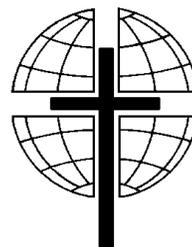


Project CAR Drivers Needed

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!**



June Mission Globe

Our June Mission Globe gifts will go to the Church on The Street Ministry “**Laundry with Love**”. 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.



We will also be collecting quarters this month to use when St. John serves Laundry with Love on July 26th. Please pick up a tube of Mini M&M’s in the back of the Sanctuary to enjoy and then refill that tube with quarters and return to the church prior to July 26th. Thank you!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES!

Kaylie Sorenson from Southeast Technical College with a Surgical Technologist Degree

Evan Miller from St. Ambrose in Davenport, IA

We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!



www.librarything.com/catalog/stjohnchurch

Happy summer. The St. John library has many books to check out. Please take advantage of the nice collection we have. Many books have recently been donated. I am currently adding them to the computer. There are still a few books that Pastor Paul donated. If you chose some of his from the rolling cart, you may keep them. If you have any books checked out that are stamped with St. John, please remember to return them as soon as you are done with them.

I have recently been reading a book about a Pennsylvania Dutch community. It is The Parting by Beverly Lewis. The main character is a teenage girl who is struggling with coming of age in a "Plain" family. Her younger sister has recently drowned, so she is trying to find out what actually happened with her. Nellie Mae runs a bakery from her home. She meets many "fancy" people so knows and wonders about that kind of life.

Her father begins to read the whole Bible and realizes that what their church teaches is not the whole truth. He knows that confessing that he knows he is saved by Jesus Christ can get himself and the entire family shunned. Meanwhile, Caleb takes a romantic interest in her. It is very important to him and his family that she remain "plain" and become baptized with him soon.

I have learned a lot about this kind of life and religion. It makes me ever grateful for the church I have and the knowledge that through Jesus I am saved. It does not depend on the works that someone tells me to do. I recommend that you stop by the library and check it out!

Linda the Librarian,

MAY STATS:	Families	354
	Baptized Membership	648
	Confirmed Membership	527

(Statistics as of 5/24/22)

FUNERALS

Donald Janssen, May 18, 2022



-In memory of Linda Janssen: \$20-Care Team Ministry; \$25-Gifts for Youth; \$50-Memorials & Gifts
-In memory of Don Janssen: \$25-Luth. World Hunger; \$50-Memorials & Gifts

Other Gifts:

\$340.00 Mission Globe for NAMI SD; \$30-St. Dymas; \$500-H.S. Youth trip; \$500-M.S. Youth Trip



Pastors and members of St. John, I just wanted to write a quick note thanking you for your support to Call to Freedom! We are so thankful we had the opportunity to come speak and your offering means the world to us. Thank you again!

Kassidy Peters

Thank you to everyone at St. John who prayed and visited the Janssen family during the recent loss of our mother, Linda and our father, Don. Although it's been a difficult past few months, knowing that so many were supporting us was incredible. The food, visits, and phone calls from Pastor Paul and Intern Elias were so comforting. We simply could not have made it through this without your love and concern.

The Janssen Family
Tammy, Troy, Nicholas (Daniel), Kelly and Kaleigh

YOUR 2022 CHURCH COUNCIL

Our Stewardship Board Chair position is filled!!

Dennis Hansen, President
Marv Okrina, Vice-President
Kara Dirkson-Daniels, Secretary
Doug McCain, Treasurer
Cari Spier, Education Chair
Lori Meyer, Fellowship Chair
Karen Scarborough, Finance Chair
Rodney Hughes, Outreach Chair
Marty McDonald, Properties Chair
Lance Jeschke, Public Relations Chair
Brenda Jones, Social Concerns Chair
Angie Brown, Stewardship Chair
Claudia Kapp, Visitation Chair
Polly Hooks, Worship & Music Chair
Tondi Sorenson, Youth Chair

***Thank you to the above volunteers for your commitment to St. John American Lutheran Church!
Ask them how you might help!***



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

 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.

GIFT CARDS MAKE A GREAT GIFT!

Gift Cards for a number of local businesses/restaurants are available for purchase on Sunday mornings in the east entryway of the church. (Cards are also available 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.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

The Blessing Box on the corner of 13th and Jefferson is being used and our recipients are plentiful, so please consider contributing any grocery items you can. A HUGE thank you to all who have brought in items for the box. Some items to include:

Canned soups and sauces (plastic or metal only), canned fruits, canned vegetables, bottled water, Peanut butter, Rice, Oatmeal, Popcorn, Macaroni and cheese, Tea bags, Coffee (ground only), Pasta, Granola bars, etc.

Personal hygiene items are welcome too! Shampoo, Soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc. Just don't place them right next to food items.

PLEASE place your items right in the Blessing Box. If it is full, you can put items in the blue tote located by the coat rack by the WEST entrance. Thank 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!



Volunteers are still needed on Saturday mornings to help with the FREE Garfield Neighborhood Soccer League at Spellerberg Park. This will run through June 11th. Please sign up on the Welcome Center or on the Sign Up Genius on our website. There are two shifts per Saturday. Please consider helping out for a couple of hours. You can help with set up or tear down. Get to know our neighbors! Contact Intern Pastor Elias or Rodney Hughes, Outreach Board Chair with questions. This FREE league will run through June 11th. Thank you.

Online giving

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 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 set up a recurring giving plan. Visit our website (www.stjohnlutheran.net) and click on the "Help us Grow/Giving" button. Thank you again for your continued support of our church. Your spirited generosity ensures we can carry our message and our works throughout our community and beyond for years to come!

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

Introducing Pastor Don Lehmann



ST. JOHN GENERAL FUND – April 2022

Doug McCain, Treasurer

BALANCE ON HAND	4/1/2022	\$	15,313.52
	Total Receipts for Month	\$	26,055.96
	Total Cash on Hand	\$	41,369.48
	Less Expenditures for Month	\$	(32,791.27)
	From Capital Funds payable	\$	-
BALANCE ON HAND	4/30/2022	\$	8,578.21
	Doug McCain, Treasurer		

EXPENSES	THIS MONTH PAID	YEAR TO DATE PAID	ANNUAL BUDGET
Our World Mission	\$ 1,805.00	\$ 7,260.00	\$ 21,700.00
Pastoral Ministry & Staff	24,831.46	93,055.66	298,563.00
Worship & Service	1,320.82	6,894.92	29,885.00
Our Church Home	4,833.99	21,096.94	42,790.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 32,791.27	\$128,307.52	\$392,938.00

OUR GIFTS FOR THE LORD AND HIS WORK – GENERAL FUND

	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>
YTD Total (4/31)	\$117,645.03	\$(128,307.52)	(\$10,662.49)

Pastor Don will be our Interim Pastor June 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022. Here is a little Bio from Pastor Don:

I grew up in New Richland, MN, which is 20 miles north of Albert Lea, MN. I attended Wartburg College in Waverly, IA, and received my Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, IA. I then received an STM degree in Pastoral Counseling from Andover Newton Theological School in Boston.

I have been in ministry for 56 years, ordained in 1966. My first call was as assistant pastor at Overland Park Lutheran Church in Overland Park, KS. From there I was called to serve St. John Lutheran in Pittsburg, KS as solo pastor. I then receive a call to serve as Director of the Branch Office for Lutheran Welfare Society of Western Pennsylvania in Greensburg, PA where I did counseling and special needs adoptions. Following that I served as Director of the Branch Office for LSS of SD in Watertown. My final call was as Associate Pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls where I served over 20 years before my retirement in 2009. Since that time I have done interims in Humboldt and Pierre, SD. I then did visitation for Our Savior's Lutheran Church for 10 years.

We have three children and six grandchildren, with two children and four grandchildren living in Sioux Falls and out other child in Lakeville, MN, with two grandchildren. My wife, Sharon, and I have lived in Sioux Falls since 1988.

Introducing Rev. Dr. Lon Kvanli



Pastor Lon will be our Interim Pastor October 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023. Here is a little Bio from Pastor Lon:
I grew up on a farm near Montevideo in west central Minnesota. I graduated from Augustana College in 1979.

My wife, Heidi, and I were ordained in 1983; and we have been pastors in Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota. From 20014 to 2021 we were pastors at First Lutheran, Mitchell. Before that (from 2002 to 2014) I was a pastor at East Side Lutheran in Sioux Falls. In 2008 I received a doctor of ministry degree from Luther Seminary for my thesis on stewardship in the church. My wife and I have completed "Healthy Congregation" training, and we are also trained leaders of marriage enrichment retreats.

We have four children (all married). One daughter in Roseville MN, another daughter in Aberdeen, and twin sons in Sioux Falls. They have blessed us with five grandchildren.

My wife and I retired last year due to my wife's health issues. In 2021, she had three cranial surgeries to deal with brain tumors and suffered a stroke during the third surgery. Her recovery is slow but continuing. I bring her to therapy 2-3 days a week. As hard as she works, she may be preaching again later this year.

I look forward to walking alongside St. John Lutheran as the leadership works their way through the call process.

By the way, the name Kvanli is Norwegian in origin. In Norway, the name is pronounced by speaking both the K and the V. Over the years in the U.S., the pronunciation has shifted to "Quan-li". But you are welcome to just call me Pastor Lon.