

October 2023 Newsletter

St. John American Lutheran Church

St. John Welcomes Pastor Kyle Svennungsen and Family!

Saturday, Sept. 30 and Sunday, Oct. 1 will mark an exciting new milestone in the life of our church! Pastor Kyle Svennungsen, our new pastor, will begin preaching at St. John that weekend.

Pastor Renee Splichal Larson, Associate to the Bishop, will be present to lead the installation of Pastor Kyle during both weekend services. As a congregation, St. John will welcome Pastor Kyle and his family with a brunch following Sunday worship. All members, friends, and neighbors are invited to worship, meet our new pastor, and enjoy a meal together. Pancakes, sausages, coffee, and beverages will be provided by the Call Committee and the Church Council. St. John members are asked to bring a brunch potluck dish to share. Games and activities will be available following the meal.

FROM PASTOR KYLE

Dear Faithful People of St. John American Lutheran Church,

Blessed autumn greetings to you all! October is one of my favorite months of the year, and not just for all the obvious reasons. The season is changing, school activities are in full swing, and there are always many milestones to celebrate in a church. And this year, it is an added bonus that this is the month that I begin my call with your lovely congregation as we share in its ministry together. My family and I are so grateful and excited to enter this next chapter of our pilgrimage with each and every one of you.

I want to extend my thanks again to Ryan McCormick and the call committee for their work and devotion to your call process. It was this group who represented you all so well and truly gave me a deep sense of call to serve as your next pastor. Thanks also to the council and the entire congregation for their generous support of my transition time since moving back to the States after living for 4 years in Slovakia. We have settled in well and will continue to do so, I have no doubt. We are so excited to meet you all very soon! If you would like to grab a cup of coffee or schedule a time to visit with me, please don't hesitate to reach out.

In Christ, Pastor Kyle

Call Committee Thank You

On behalf of the council and congregation, I would like to thank the Call Committee for all of their hard work they have done over the past year in preparing all the necessary documents, and doing all of the important work that has led us to October 1st of this year when Pastor Kyle will be installed as our new pastor.

The call committee members are: Ryan McCormick, Jane Nyhaug, Rodney Hughes, Annika Kvale, Kaylie Sorenson, Jill Severson, Daniel Pesicka, Doris O'Dea, Steve Matson and the late Rod Carlson. The committee chose Ryan McCormick as their chair, and Jane Nyhaug as their secretary.

All of them worked extremely hard and did absolutely marvelous work on preparing for and choosing Pastor Kyle as our new pastor. Without their work, this would not have been possible. When you see these people, please stop and tell them thank you for their many, many hours of hard work and dedication.

Pastor Dennis Hansen,
Congregational President



Freshen Up for a Cause Hygiene Drive in October

Journey of Hope will be collecting regular and travel-sized men's and women's deodorant and tubes of toothpaste during the month of October.

Help us make a difference in our community! We believe that good hygiene is a basic necessity that should be accessible to all.

Please place your donation in the tubs at the back of the sanctuary.

“Calling all kids age 3 - grade 5”

Do you want to do something sweet, fun & cool? Then tell your parents to bring you to St. John Sunday School!



St. John Sunday School has started, but you can still come up and join us any Sunday at 10:40-11:30am. Thank you to all of the teachers and helpers this year:

Sarah Jo Jorgensen
Roxy Weidenbach
Joy Schroeder
Felicia Fitzgerald
Heidi Brandts
Rondi Utne
Jennifer Utne
Cari Spier



Christmas Wreaths of various prices and sizes will soon be for sale! The sale proceeds will be going to our Youth Group. See Tondi or Kaylie Sorenson, Amber DeVries, any of our middle or high school students or there is an order form on the Welcome Center!

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



“Music Notes”



Greetings, St. John! I'm so happy autumn is here! It is my favorite season and I hope you've had some time to take in the dazzling colors and beauty of God's creation. My favorite autumn quote is "fall is proof that change is beautiful." It is so good to be back together, and we've been working hard on our first performances for the choir year. As we enter a new church choir year, I thought it would be appropriate for our first performances to combine some of our old favorites with new favorites. The handbell choir will be performing on Sunday, October 8th. We will perform an old standard, "My Lord, What A Mornin'!" and our fun new piece, "Wonderful Words of Life". The Adult Choir will perform two selections on Sunday, October 15th. We will perform one of our old favorites, "Beautiful Savior" and "Is He Worthy", a new song that gives us chills whenever we perform. It isn't too late to join either of these awesome groups. Rehearsals are upstairs in the Choir Room on Wednesday evenings. Handbell rehearsals are at 6pm and Adult Choir is at 7pm. We hope to see you there!!!!!!!!!!

Sarah Jo Jorgensen
Director of Choirs



Men's Saturday Bible Study

All men of St. John are invited and welcome to attend a monthly Bible Study on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the 12th Street Fryn' Pan. **We meet at 8:30 a.m.** for coffee, Bible study and fellowship.

WELCA Bible Study

Wednesday, October 18th at 2:00 PM
(We will meet in the church Library)

Online & E-giving

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 for sharing your blessings and 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!



It's not too late to join the WELCA monthly Bible study on the third Wednesday of each month (routinely not held in December, January). Of course, the date is always subject to adjustments based on

church events. We will be using a yearly Bible study booklet called "The Ten Commandments" written by Rob Suggs. It is part of a series called Life Guide Bible studies. Each lesson includes an introduction, a reference to a Biblical text followed by questions with room to write your responses and thoughts.

Mark your calendars for a fun and festive Christmas Event on the morning of **December 9th**. Watch for more details in the coming months!

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. Stop in and check them out!

LWR (Lutheran World Relief)

We are in need of flannel sheets and materials for making quilts. They can be left in the box in front of the office door.

Thank you to all who have donated recently. Everything donated is much appreciated.

Barb Buchanan & LaVonne Schimke
Chairs of Mission Action Service Group



NIGHTWATCH – Oct. 30th.

The Nightwatch Food Ministry was started in 2006 as an agreement between 8 local Methodist churches. The mission of the group was to "Serve any person who shows up needing a hot meal".

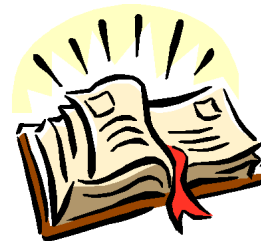
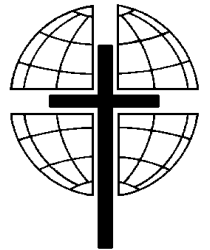
St. John has been asked to participate and the Social Concerns Board approved our participation. We are to prepare and provide the meals we serve and the volunteers to serve the meal. The meals are served from a van that is set up especially for this kind of service.

St John will be serving Monday, October 30th at Hayward Elementary School. 400 N Valley View Rd. There is a volunteer sign up on our website or at the Welcome Center.

God's Work, Our Hands.

October Mission Globe

Our mission globe gifts for October will go to support **Garfield Elementary Initiative Project**. This is a crisis fund used by the Garfield social worker and principal to help the families of children attending Garfield. We think primarily of helping families have a good Christmas, but this fund is needed throughout the school year to provide assistance to students from low-income and homeless families in crisis situations with acute needs that require immediate help. You are encouraged to contribute, *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.



NOON BIBLE STUDY: A weekly Bible Study meets at 12:00 p.m. on Thursdays in the Church Library. We will be reviewing the Lectionary for the upcoming Sunday each week. The scripture lessons for the next week are noted in the Sunday bulletin announcements. All are welcome and you may bring your sack lunch if you wish. See you on Thursdays!



The Outreach Board will once again be awarding a “Traveling Trophy” for the best decorated vehicle at Trunk or Treat... Yes, vehicle. If you choose to bring your car, van, SUV, or ATV / UTV and you decorate it you will be eligible to win the “Best Decorated Participant” award. This trophy will have your name and year of participation engraved on a plate and mounted to the trophy. That trophy will then be displayed at your residence or at the church... your choice. The trophy will be turned back in and updated with the next year’s winner. Take this opportunity to stand out and be that winning participant!

All participating vehicles will be given a number and separated by one parking space. We also ask that you hand out the candy, not allowing the children or adults to reach in your bag. Candies must be individually wrapped. We (St. John) can help purchase candy if needed. Just let us know.

Please consider participating in this year’s “Trunk or Treat”. Either by decorating your vehicle or by donating candy to hand out. Your St. John family needs your participation, and the community will appreciate it. Thank you!

Please join us Sunday, October 29th from 5:30 to 7 pm in the East parking lot. Cars can line up and start decorating at 4 or shortly after. Thank you.

Calling all Middle School & High School kids!

Our community project this month will be to help fill Hygiene bags for Journey of Hope on Wednesday, October 18th, from 7-8 PM (immediately following confirmation class for the 6-8th graders). Meet downstairs in the Journey of Hope room (formerly the Middle School room). See you on the 18th!



Meals-On-Wheels

St. John is responsible for **Meals-on-Wheels** drivers and helpers for **Tuesdays**. If you are interested in helping out with this important community activity, please contact the church office, or sign up on our website. The meals are picked up at Active Generations (west side location) and delivered on the west side of Sioux Falls. Thank you!

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



Project CAR Drivers Needed for Sundays

Project CAR (**Call A Ride**) offers transportation to Sunday church services 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!**



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

Psalm 85:12: *"The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest."*

Rite of Confirmation

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Reformation Sunday, October 29, 9:30 a.m.

Having been instructed in the Christian faith, the following desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

**Tavia Bowman, Riley Clark, Alaka DeVries,
Hailey Gambs, Timothy Schroeder, Carter Utne**

CONGRATULATIONS & GOD BLESS!

*****Parents and students please note: Confirmation Rehearsal will follow worship on October 22nd in the sanctuary. A light lunch will follow rehearsal. Please mark your calendars!*****

Support Our Youth! GIFT CARDS

Gift Cards for our local grocery stores and restaurants are available to purchase weekdays in the church office or after worship near the Welcome Center. Gift Cards may be purchased in varying denominations allowing you to purchase merchandise at the 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!



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 63¢ cost of address corrections.**



In our July Newsletter we congratulated Sophie Spier on her election as Governor for the 2023 SD Girls State program. We neglected to share that this program is hosted by the American Legion Auxiliaries across the United States. Here in Sioux Falls, Sophie was sponsored by the Sioux Falls American Legion

Auxiliary Unit 15. All expenses are paid for each girl that is sponsored. (registration, room, food) This year the unit sent 47 young women. The Auxiliary would like us to help spread the word that this program is open to all girls completing their junior year in high school. It is a one time opportunity that looks great on their resumes, too!

The Auxiliary also invites all those who are eligible to join them. They support the legion and also run many of their own programs. If you are interested in more information, call 605-336-3470. The Auxiliary thanks you for your prayers and support for veterans, our military and the programs they support.



TRUNK OR TREAT!

Sunday, Oct. 29th

***** 5:30-7 pm *****

St. John Lutheran Parking Lot

"AEFT"

AEFT, or Automated Electronic Funds Transfer, is also 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. This tool can help keep you on track for your yearly financial commitments. If you are interested in using AEFT, please contact Joanne Pesicka, church secretary at 605-336-3253. She will help you get it set up. Thank you!

God's Work, Our Hands

Our Blessing Box on the corner of 13th & Jefferson always needs filling! Only non-perishable items please, such as:

Peanut butter, Rice, Rolled oats, Beans, Popcorn, Macaroni and cheese, Tea bags, Coffee, Pasta, granola bars, nuts, Ramen Noodles, jerky, etc.

Our list is shorter with winter freezing issues. We will add to this list this spring with more food options! **This winter, feel free to also fill our Blessing Box with gloves, hats, sanitizer, etc. Personal hygiene items are welcome too! Soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc.**

Please place the items directly in the Blessing Box. If the outside box is full, you can put your items on the shelves located at the WEST entrance of the church.

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----|
| SEPTEMBER STATS: | Families | 338 |
| | Baptized Membership | 621 |
| | Confirmed Membership | 500 |

(Statistics as of 9/26/23)



-In memory of Carol Okrina: \$150-Quilters

-In memory of Harriett Matchan: \$25-Lutheran World Hunger, \$25-Memorials & Gifts

Other Gifts: \$330-Mission Globe for Church on the Street & Laundry with Love meals; \$50-St. Dysmas; \$340-Fellowship from 12 Steps to Sobriety



AngelFoods

The freezer is stocked, and **AngelFoods** are ready to be delivered to anyone you know who needs a visit, a lift, some comfort food and our prayers. Just stop by the church kitchen anytime to pick up a meal.

AngelFoods are for friends, family, neighbors ... anyone who needs our Christian love and support. Thank you.



Do you enjoy visiting and having a cup of coffee after worship on Sundays? Please consider being the coffee host on a Sunday or two each year. You can sign-up on the white board at the Welcome Center. Lori Meyer, our Fellowship Board Chair, will give you easy instructions on what needs to be done.

Thank you!



We wanted to say "THANK YOU" to our St John family for all the phone calls, cards, words of encouragement and visits from Pastor Kent while Mike was in the hospital & at home recuperating. We are blessed to have such wonderful friends in our lives. Sincerely,

Mike, Felicia and Jacob

Thanks to all who sent get well wishes, cards, offers of food, calls and prayers. Thanks to Pastor Kent for the hospital visit and prayer. Extra thanks to all who have stepped up to support the Social Concerns ministry making sure that all of our commitments were met. We sincerely appreciate all that you have done for us. God's Blessings to you.

Brenda and Kathy Jones

St. John American Lutheran Church,
Thank you for serving supper on August 16th. Your group served 124 adults and 29 children. The guests of the Banquet are grateful for your ongoing support. God Bless!

Brian Majerus,
Community Partnership Coordinator, The Banquet



ST. JOHN GENERAL FUND – August 2023

Doug Daniels, Treasurer

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|----|-------------|
| BALANCE | 8/1/2023 | \$ | 21,031.55 |
| | Total Receipts for Month | \$ | 19,030.67 |
| | Total Cash on Hand | \$ | 40,062.22 |
| | Less Expenditures for Month | \$ | (20,918.06) |
| | Transfer to Cap. Fund Payables | \$ | - |
| BALANCE | 8/31/2023 | \$ | 19,144.16 |
| | Doug Daniels, Treasurer | | |

| EXPENSES | THIS MONTH PAID | YEAR TO DATE PAID | ANNUAL BUDGET |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Our World Mission | \$ 1,805.00 | \$ 14,987.00 | \$ 21,700.00 |
| Pastoral Ministry & Staff | 15,546.64 | 121,070.13 | \$260,499.00 |
| Worship & Service | 1,068.92 | 14,960.11 | 32,900.00 |
| Our Church Home | 2,497.50 | 43,090.83 | 48,803.00 |
| Total Expenditures | \$ 20,918.06 | \$194,108.07 | \$363,902.00 |

OUR GIFTS FOR THE LORD AND HIS WORK – GENERAL FUND

| | Offerings | Expenses | Difference |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| YTD Total (8/30) | \$207,685.40 | \$(194,108.07) | \$13,577.33 |

JOKE OF THE DAY

Where does a penguin keep its money?



In a snow bank.

Capital Fund Karen Scarborough, Treasurer

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| SAVINGS BALANCE | August 1, 2023 | | | | \$31,941.62 |
| RECEIPTS | | | | | |
| | Interest | | | | |
| | TOTAL RECEIPTS | | | \$0.00 | |
| EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS | | | | | |
| | TOTAL EXPENSES & WITHDRAWALS | | | \$0.00 | |
| SAVINGS BALANCE | August 31, 2023 | | | | \$31,941.62 |
| CHECKING BALANCE | August 1, 2023 | | | | \$119.03 |
| RECEIPTS | | | | | |
| | gift from endowment fund | | \$2,547.61 | | |
| | Interest | | \$0.22 | | |
| | TOTAL RECEIPTS | | | \$2,547.83 | |
| EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS | | | | | |
| | TOTAL EXPENSES & WITHDRAWALS | | | \$0.00 | |
| CHECKING BALANCE | August 31, 2023 | | | | \$2,666.86 |
| CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT | | | | | |
| | Mission Investment Fund; 2.23%; maturity 1/25/24 | | \$112,382.11 | | |
| | Mission Investment Fund : 1.936% maturity 4/20/27 | | \$129,922.78 | | |
| | Mission Investment Fund; 1.49%; maturity 10/20/25 | | \$58,774.27 | | |
| | TOTAL CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT | | | | \$301,079.16 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS | August 31, 2023 | | | | \$335,687.64 |
| PAYABLES | | | | | |
| | Beginning Balance 1/1/23 | | \$23,000.00 | | |
| | Transfer from General Fund | | \$10,000.00 | | |
| | Transfers to General Fund 2023 | | -\$10,000.00 | | |
| | TOTAL PAYABLES | | | \$23,000.00 | |
| 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 | | \$7,590.51 | | |
| | TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS | | | \$33,767.85 | |
| TOTAL AVAILABLE CAPITAL FUNDS | | | | | \$278,919.79 |
| | 5% of 2023 budget | | \$18,195.10 | | |