

August 2025 Newsletter St. John American Lutheran Church



Service Opportunity
St. John will be serving a *Food To You*
Mobile Food Pantry distribution on
Thursday, August 28, 2025.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

- **We will need 4-6 able bodied volunteers** to arrive and meet the Coordinator at **4:15pm**. Some of these come early **volunteers** need to be capable of lifting 40 lb boxes. We will be sorting and assembling boxes of items, which includes some lifting. There is a special part of your sign-up for these early helpers. The distribution itself takes place from 6:00-7:00 pm with volunteers able to leave by 7:30 at the latest, after clean up and debriefing.
- **We will need about 18-20 volunteers**, including at least **six able to lift and carry boxes**. They are to **arrive by 5:10 pm**. Be ready for orientation and job assignments **at 5:15pm**. Volunteers need to be on time for training. Youth are welcome. **One adult per elementary student**.
- Host organizations are asked to supply a "Food of the Month." **August food of the month is pasta** (any kind). **175 boxes are needed**. Bring in pasta anytime between now and August 28th. Pasta can be placed in the large chest near the Fellowship Hall door.

There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers 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!**

Workshop on Menstrual Health & Period Poverty



Date: August 16, 2025

Time: 9:00-11:00 AM

**Location: St. John American Lutheran Church
1912 W 13th St, Sioux Falls**

Designed for girls ages 9 and up, along with their special person (parent - mom or dad, guardian, grandparent, or big sister)

****RSVP****



Limit to:
25 youth

****Donate a pack of pads, tampons, feminine wipes, and/or gallon size bags (though not required to attend)**

JOURNEY OF
HOPE

For more information, visit
journeyofhopesd.org/events/educate-and-empower-8-2025

VBS-Wonder Junction

Thank you to all volunteers who "got aboard" the Wonder Junction to make it a great week - Pastor Kyle, Intern Pastor Marit, Joanne, Ryan, Nancy V., Nancy P., Julie, Tondi, Kaylie, Sophia, Joy, Heidi, Felicia, Sarah J., Sara S., Scott S., Kari, Darin, Roxy, Dave, Rodney, Debra, Sophie, Rachel, Lizzie, Tyler, Savannah, Travis, Jackie, Phil. The kids had a great time and learned a lot. They already asked me what the theme is for next year! ☺

Cari Spier, Director



From the Pastor's Desk...

I hope you take the time to read Intern Marit Johnson's farewell in this newsletter and reflect with gratitude on all that we've shared with her over this past year. She learned a lot and will be the first to tell you so. However, we learned a great deal from her as well. As a staff, there were countless times we relied on her gifts and leadership to handle some challenging and delicate ministry situations. And she always stepped boldly forward and carried herself with confidence and compassion. To say she will be missed is an understatement.

With our prayerful goodbyes and well-wishes behind us, we have some important conversations and work to continue to do together. Now that I'm very near my second anniversary since I began my call at St. John, I've had enough time to learn a lot of the rhythms and rhymes of ministry in this place. But ONE of the things I just can't quite get a pulse on is why and when people choose to give their time and talents.

I know, I know, it's not even "stewardship season" and I'm talking about money. But, dear siblings in Christ, it's past time that we had this conversation. And besides, you've heard me preach a time or two already that stewardship season isn't just a few weeks in the fall, it is for every season of our lives. We are currently facing a financially challenging season as a congregation. As we told you at our annual meeting in January, there are no significant areas to cut the budget without touching staff salaries. After my first year, the deficit in our budget made the staff and council all say to ourselves, "The congregation hasn't had two fully-benefitted full-time salaries in a few years, so they will re-learn very quickly to pick up the slack."

Well, dear sisters and brothers, that time has come. **We are already \$36,000 behind in our budget** and only halfway through the year. And we just had to replace one industrial air conditioner to the tune of \$20,000+. And the other ones are the same age (28 years old or older), so it's only a matter of time before they need to be replaced as well. Obviously, we didn't plan for this expense, so those monies had to be borrowed from Special Funds with the plan to pay them back in February when one of our CDs will mature.

I know it's a lot to ask, but **EVERYONE (AND I MEAN EVERYONE)** needs to dig deep and find ways to increase their

(Pastor continued.....) giving to the general budget. **I'm being vulnerable in sharing with you that as a single-income family, we are increasing our giving, which we do bi-monthly, by \$10.** While that may not seem like a lot to some, there are others who know exactly how hard that is to do for a family budget with three growing and hungry boys.

My prayer is that **EVERY member of this congregation** can join in the effort to change the direction we are headed, and that we can weather this storm together. If you need a discernment partner in this regard, about how much you can afford to increase with your giving, don't hesitate to reach out to me. Apart from our conversation being entirely confidential, I will not offer any judgment about what you feel comfortable giving to the general fund. We all have a part to play. What will be yours?

Your partner in ministry, Pastor Kyle

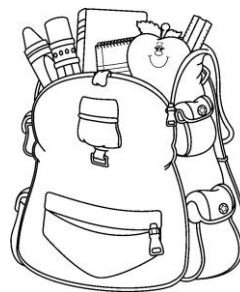
Intern Marit's Musings...

Everyone talks about how quickly a year goes by, and my year with you all flew by. I am so grateful for this year, the many opportunities it brought, and the privilege to get to know all of you. Thank you for allowing me the chance to experiment, try new things, and learn with all of you. Thank you for your feedback, coffee chats, and your accompaniment this year. I know it was an experiment for St. John to share an intern with Pueblo de Dios. I hope this was a good experience for you as we practiced different ways of being the body of Christ together. You all have played a significant role in my formation to be a pastor in the ELCA. Thank you! Additionally, I'm grateful to Pastor Kyle, Joanne, Pastora Maria, and to my internship committee: Lara Kvale, Jeff Nyhaug, Dave Weidenbach, Megan Lange, and Katie Ángel-Housiaux. There were many parts (and pieces of paperwork) throughout this internship year. After I move and settle in, classes begin Sept. 1 at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. My anticipated graduation date will be in May 2026, and then we'll see what God has in store.

In some Latin American countries, people don't use "adios" for goodbye because that is only used for final goodbyes. Instead, some people prefer to say "nos vemos"—"see you later." The world is small, and the church is smaller. Our Triune God works through you and among you, and we will see how the Spirit moves. *Mil gracias y nos vemos*—a thousand thanks and we'll see you later.

Paz,

Intern Marit



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Bring your backpacks for a special back to school blessing during worship on **Sunday, August 24th**. This blessing is for everyone attending a new school year – Pre-K to Grad School!



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!

WELCA Bible Study will be studying the book of Genesis for a few months. All are welcome. We meet in the church Library. August 20, 2025 @ 1:30 PM



We continue to offer free Blood Pressure Screenings on the 2nd Sunday of each month which we call "**Check'n on the 2nd**". This is being done to offer up-to-date blood pressures to notice any changes in health. Anna Svennungsen, CNP and Marjell Wendland, RN, FCN, will be checking the blood pressures and will answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Annual Used Book Sale

Sioux Falls Lutheran School will host their Annual Book Sale August 13 - August 16. This sale will be held at Memorial Lutheran Church (5000 South Western Ave.) from 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Wed.-Fri. and from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday morning the 16th. They will continue the fun tradition of the \$7 Bag Sale on Friday and Saturday, where shoppers simply pay \$7 for a bag and shop until the bag is filled to the top! See poster on bulletin board for more information.



*St. John Family,
Now that I'm back home, I have time to express my deep appreciation for all your calls, visits, prayers and cards while in the hospital in Norfolk, VA and Encompass Rehab here in Sioux Falls.*

I've always known, and have witnessed, how special St. John's is. You are my church family, and I'm forever grateful and blessed to be among you as fellow children of God.

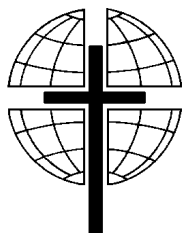
*With much love & gratitude,
John McIntyre*

Dear friends,

Thank you everyone for the 90th birthday cards! As of this writing, I have received 90 cards for my 90th birthday! You helped make the day very special.

Lois Bontje

August Mission Globe 2025



Intern Marit Johnson is the mission globe recipient for August. We want to be able to help Marit with the costs of her final year of seminary. You are welcome to make a contribution, *above and beyond your regular giving*, during weekly offering in worship or in the globe at the front of the sanctuary. Please make checks payable to St. John Special Funds. Thank you.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT NEIGHBORHOOD PIE AND ICE CREAM PARTY



**TUESDAY,
AUGUST 5
5:30 TO 7:30 P.M.**

**ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH
2001 S ELMWOOD**

FREE INDOOR EVENT

**PIE
ICE CREAM
COFFEE
LEMONADE**

**FOR THE KIDS:
BOUNCY HOUSE
OBSTACLE COURSE**

**All
Are
Welcome**

**PERFORMANCE BY
El Son De Mi Tierra Folklor
Traditional Latinx Dance Group
PERFORMING 6:00 to 6:30 P.M.**

GIFT CARDS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

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. In most instances, Gift Cards purchased at St. John result in a 5 or 10% 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!



Men's Saturday Bible Study

All men of St. John are invited 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.

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!

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



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!



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.**

We make giving easy!

Contribute to St. John American Lutheran Church and “*Help Us Grow*” wherever you’re worshipping from by visiting our online donation page at www.stjohnlutheran.net or simply
Scan the QR code below!



At St. John we want to ensure that every member gets the most out of worship.



HEARING LOOP
Switch hearing aid to T-Coil

We have a 'hearing loop' installed for those who use hearing aids. Some hearing aids automatically pickup this service, but you may have to switch to the "T" position on your device. Please contact your provider with specific questions or see Ryan McCormick for more information.

God's Work, Our Hands

The Blessing Box on the corner of 13th & Jefferson always needs filling. Only non-perishable items please. With hot weather upon us, keep in mind that we can't put out items that will melt or spoil quickly.

Rice, Rolled oats, Popcorn, Macaroni and cheese, Tea bags, Coffee (ground only), Pasta, granola bars, nuts, Ramen Noodles, jerky, etc.

Here is another idea--Baggies filled with all ingredients for a meal.

Please place your donations directly in the Blessing Box.

JULY STATS:

Families 328
Baptized Membership 603
Confirmed Membership 485
(Statistics as of 7/24/25)

Baptized: Rory Mae Petersen, July 13, 2025

Funeral: Hilma Downing, July 22, 2025

Memorial gifts: *In Memory of Onalea Barber:* \$175-Memorial & gifts

In Memory of Elaine Brodland: \$25 - Quilters

In Memory of Geneva Kluck: \$346 - Quilters

Other Gifts: \$865.47- Food To You from Endowment Fund Interest Distribution; \$718.04- Mission Globe for Necessities for Neighbors; \$100- Gift for Quilters; \$150- Gifts for VBS; \$50-St. Dysmas; \$4,327.32- Capital Fund from Endowment Fund Interest Distribution



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



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

www.facebook.com/StJohnAmericanLutheranChurchSF

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



Project CAR Drivers Needed

*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!**

ST. JOHN GENERAL FUND – June 2025

Tondi Sorenson, Treasurer

BALANCE	6/1/2025	\$	5,448.67
	Total Receipts for Month	\$	24,222.53
	Total Cash on Hand	\$	29,671.20
	Less Expenditures for Month	\$	(32,396.68)
	Loan from Capital Funds	\$	5,000.00
BALANCE	6/30/2025	\$	2,274.52
	Tondi Sorenson, Treasurer		

EXPENSES	THIS MONTH PAID	YEAR TO DATE PAID	ANNUAL BUDGET
Our World Mission	\$ 1,905.00	\$ 11,430.00	\$ 22,900.00
Pastoral Ministry & Staff	26,140.31	147,820.71	315,685.00
Worship & Service	1,447.93	12,825.41	30,720.00
Our Church Home	2,903.44	31,507.83	67,795.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 32,396.68	\$203,583.95	\$437,100.00

OUR GIFTS FOR THE LORD AND HIS WORK – GENERAL FUND

	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
YTD Total (6/30)	\$166,775.63	\$(203,583.95)	\$(36,808.32)

"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!

Capital Fund Statement					
Karen Scarborough, Treasurer					
SAVINGS BAL.	June 1, 2025				\$1,322.31
RECEIPTS					
	Interest		\$0.00		
	TOTAL RECEIPTS			\$0.00	
EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS					
	TOTAL EXPENSES & WITHDRAWALS			\$0.00	
SAVINGS BALANCE	June 30, 2025				\$1,322.31
CHECKING BAL.	June 1, 2025				\$8,065.61
RECEIPTS					
	Interest		\$0.19		
	TOTAL RECEIPTS			\$0.19	
EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS					
	loan to gen fund for expenses		\$5,000.00		
				\$5,000.00	
CHECKING BALANCE	June 30, 2025				\$3,065.80
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT					
	Mission Investment Fund; 3.94% maturity 2/2/26		\$94,376.98		
	Mission Investment Fund : 1.936% maturity 4/20/27		\$134,404.96		
	TOTAL CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT				\$228,781.94
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	June 30, 2025				\$233,170.05
PAYABLES					
	Beginning Balance 1/1/25		\$0.00		
	Transfer from General Fund		\$0.00		
	Transfers to General Fund 2025		\$0.00		
	TOTAL PAYABLES			\$0.00	
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
	Stewardship use in memory of Delpha Dumke		\$1,000.00		
	Elevator Funds for maintenance		\$6,512.08		
	Haase Nelson Memorial: Parish Nurse/COVID		\$18,324.26		
	Synod Funds for Intern Expenses		\$0.00		
	TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS			\$25,836.34	
TOTAL AVAILABLE CAPITAL FUNDS	May 31, 2025				\$207,333.71
	5% of 2025 budget		\$21,550.00		
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.					