

Welcome to
St. John Lutheran Church



“Holding Fast to
Biblical Truth for 150
Years!”

150th Celebration:
August 15, 2021

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

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2021

**Your
May
Newsletter**

Jesus died & rose to save:

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

St. John Lutheran Church

A word from our Pastor.....

May 2021
Volume 3, Issue 5

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It's been a busy few weeks and I suspect the busyness will continue, especially as restrictions continue to get lifted and activities resume. But I hope you take to the time to consider how the Lord has provided for us during these past months and will continue to do so by his grace.

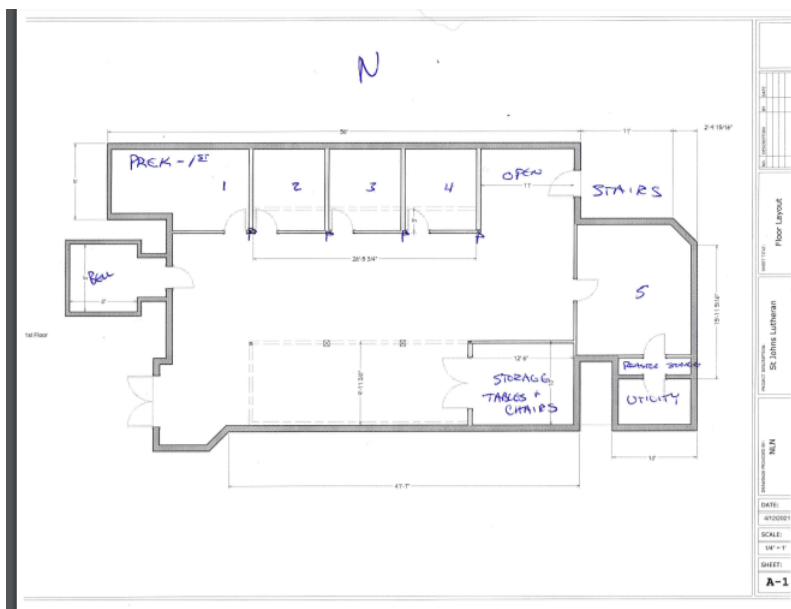
I want to make a note of congratulations to Joe Gratz, Rosie Holien, Brooke Schultz, and Benjamin Strickland in getting confirmed. I pray that even as you are done with confirmation you hold tight to Jesus as he holds on to you.

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Wilson Gratz, Levi Lil-
leberg, Braeden Pickle, Noah Renne, Kari Schultz, and Karla Schultz.
May the Lord bless you in your future endeavors. Know that your
church family here at St. John is always here for you.

There's a lot to celebrate – especially as we prepare to celebrate the
150th anniversary of this congregation. I'm looking forward to gather-
ing together as friends and family, united together as brothers and
sisters in Christ.

Pastor J. Christian Strickland

**PHASE II TO START THIS SUMMER on the basement remodel
project! Construction, Electrics, Ductwork will begin soon.
Thanks to the committee for their hard work in planning.**



Inside this issue

Letter from Pastor.....	1
Church Announcements.....	2
Calendar, Etc	3-4
150th Update/Summer Fun	5-6

**The finished project will
have 5 enclosed Sunday
School classrooms and
storage closets.**

ALL WOMEN—SAVE
THE DATE:
MN South Fall
Christian Life Retreat:
September 17-18, 2021

Church Announcements

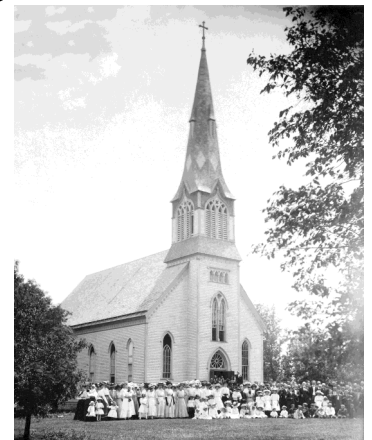


Who doesn't love a baby shower?! Please consider donating baby items (list on bulletin board) for the LWML National Convention held in June. Items/Gift cards collected through May and brought to the Convention by Carmen Hanson who will bring them with her.

A special thanks to Pastor who led a special Prayer Service on Thursday, May 6th. The Prayer Service was written by Pastoral Counselor Rev. Robert Mundahl, titled "He Prayed *with* Them," and was based on Acts 20:36b. If you are interested in looking at the service please refer to the <https://www.lwml.org/prayer-service> website.

CHURCH HISTORY

- Rev Fred Erthal served as Pastor from 1898 - 1906.
- Rev Fred Rathert arrived at St. John in 1907. He also served as the school teacher.
- School was in session 10 months of the year. The church experienced great growth in membership especially among young people under Rev Rathert's leadership. The Pastor's 12-year old son was very proficient at the organ and played for special events.
- In 1909, the church was up-dated with the addition of pressed tin sheeting to cover walls and ceiling. We are so fortunate to be enjoying the beautiful wall coverings yet today.
- In 1911, the church purchased a 1800 pound bell to be placed in the steeple.
 - The bell was pulled on a slide up to the bell tower by horses.
 - The bell was rung at 6 PM on Saturday and at 8 and 9 AM on Sunday to remind people of church.
 - The bell was rung when someone passed away (10 times for an adult member and 5 times for a child). The bell was then rung for the age of the person that had passed away.
- Old custom at St John. MEN sat on the RIGHT side of church and WOMEN sat on the LEFT. MEN went to communion FIRST.
- In August, 1911, the young church celebrated their 40th anniversary with an all day event. Services were held in the morning and afternoon.
 - First Pastor Kollmorgen was in attendance
 - At noon, the ladies of the church prepared "a sumptuous dinner which was served under the shade trees by the parsonage". (Quote taken from a article in 1911 Newspaper).



May 2021

Sunday

Monday

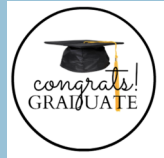

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1
2 9am SS/BC 10am Worship Church Council Meeting/Graduation Sunday 5th Sunday of Easter	3	4 7:00pm Elder's Mtg	5	6 1:30pm Ladies Aid Prayer Service ALL WELCOME	7	8
9 9am SS/BC 10am Worship w/ Holy Communion 6th Sunday of Easter	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 OUTSIDE 9am SS/BC 10am Worship 150th Cmt Mtg after church The Ascension of Our Lord Sunday	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 9am SS/BC 10am Worship 7th Sunday of Easter	24	25	26	27	28 	29
30 9am SS/BC 10am Worship with Holy Communion The Day of Pentecost	31  Memorial Day					

May 2021

Birthdays

2	Anthony Gratz Harold Minnick
6	Daniel Rubis
12	Leo Boniek Bradley Gratz
13	Gary Kragenbring
16	Elden Pickle Toni Mettling
17	Ricky Kragenbring
20	Kris Holien
21	Ethan Lilleberg
22	Elliot Gratz
25	Melissa Minowitz Jared Kaiser
26	Braeden Pickle
27	Patti Kaiser Sarah Strickland
28	Andrew Gratz
29	Christopher Laue

Wedding Anniversaries

25 Elbert & Roberta Mahn



Baptismal Anniversaries

2	Dorothy Pickle
5	William Rubis
9	Jillien Lilleberg
10	Marilyn Stoffers
14	Mavis Olson Nicole Lilleberg
18	Cole Zaeska
19	Bryan Weigelt Madeline Weigelt
21	Harold Minnick Richard Voigt
22	Colby Renne
24	Daniel Rubis
26	Bradley Gratz
30	Leo Bonick
31	Crystal Voigt

*May They Be
Kept in Their
Faith*

Congratulations to our Confirmands and High School Graduates!

2021 Confirmands:

Joseph Gratz
Roseann Holien
Brooke Schultz
Benjamin Strickland

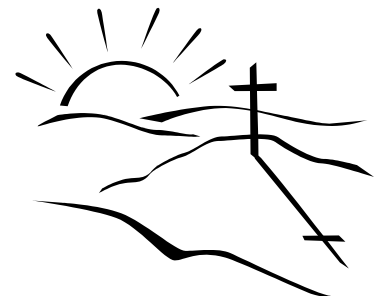
2021 High School Graduates:

Wilson Gratz
Levi Lilleberg
Braeden Pickle
Noah Renne
Kari Schultz
Karla Schultz



Shut Ins

Mary Baker
Stan Lilleberg
Phyllis Miller
Betty Moll
Pat Skluzacek
Marilyn Stoffers
Sharon Zaeska





“Holding Fast to Biblical Truth for 150 Years” Primary Celebration - Sunday, August 15, 2021

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

**** Schedule subject
to change.**

9:30am —10am	Preservice Music
10am —11:15am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
11:30am –12:00pm	Group pictures/School Class Pictures/Confirmation other group pictures may be taken during this time
12pm –1:30pm	Meal /Social “Hour” with Musical Entertainment
1:45pm —2:30pm	Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford /Former pastors/teachers
2:30pm—3:00pm	Socializing and Farewell.

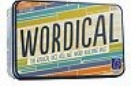
**Next Committee Meeting:
After church; Sunday, May 16, 2021**



- **RSVP** for your meal on 1) Facebook (St. John Lutheran Church, Atwater) or 2) by signing up on the sheet located outside the church office.
- **PHOTOGRAPHS**. Slots are still available!! Please sign up for a time to have your family photo taken for the updated photo directory. **Sign-up sheet** on table outside the church office. You can also sign up by calling the church to reserve your time and we will do our best to accommodate your request. Each unit will have 15-20 minute timeslot. If you are a member and live outside the Atwater area and/or would prefer to submit a family photograph instead of having picture taken, you may do **before May 30, 2021**. It needs to be a .jpeg file. Please email secretaryst.john@outlook.com with a note that the picture is for the 150th photo directory.
Dates to consider: ***Saturday, May 1st 9am—5pm; Sunday, May 2nd 8:30am—9:30am and 11:30am—5pm; Wednesday, May 12th 4pm—9pm; Sunday, May 16th 8:30am—9:30am and 11:30am—5pm.***
- **PROVIDE**. Fun photographs from your days as a student at St. John Lutheran School or at church. Please submit to Delwin Mahn or Bunne Johnston. Please label people in photograph and provide a name to whom the photo can be returned.

Preventing the Summer Slide

We all know that the summer months can get long and dull. Here are some ideas to keep the brain thinking and growing without “mandatory” school.



- ◇ **Play Games.** Really! A lot of Board Games can be educational. Here are some good examples. Monopoly, Wordical, Game of the States, Four Way Countdown, and even Sorry! Don't forget a classic, Cribbage.
- ◇ **Travel.** When is the last time you took a Sunday afternoon and hiked around a State Park or went fishing? Pull out the maps, (or look up on Google), a beautiful forest or waterfall and make a commitment to see more of the state that we live in. You could even cross the state border and check out some other parts of God's creation as well!
- ◇ **Back and Forth Journal.** Pull out those un-used notebooks from the school year (thanks COVID) and start a back and forth journal. You write a question and give to a child/grandchild. They can write a response and then ask you a question. You can also write whatever you would like or that is on your heart. You respond and then ask them a question. See how this works! According to the website, www.thewolfepackden.com this is something that her 13-year old son cherishes now that they have done it for a few summers. I bet it can be fun to look back through it as well in years to come.
- ◇ **Start a hobby.** Some, not all, have more free time over the summer months. What a great time to start something new. Maybe make a list of books you have wanted to read and make a plan to accomplish this. Maybe you want to start painting God's beautiful creation. Perhaps you want to start a new sport. What a great time to start!
- ◇ **Make a Human Sundial (STEM).** Here is what you need: Open space with no shadows/ clouds overhead. Sidewalk chalk, Camera, Tape Measure and notebook/pen or pencil to record observations. (1) – Choose a sunny day when no clouds, rain or snow is expected. (2) – Find an open cement or asphalt area near your home where the sun shines all day to make a human sundial. (3) – Place an 'X' on the spot that your child will stand on each time they have their shadow traced. (4) – Use sidewalk chalk to trace your child's shadow at least 3x throughout the day (Recommended times: 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm). (5) – Invite children to compare observations and formulate a hypothesis.



Further Questions to ask during and after the experiment:

- How do you think shadows are made?
- What did you observe about your shadow and the sun?
- Did the sun move? If yes, which direction?
- In what direction did your shadow move?
- Are the tracings the same? Why or why not?
- When was your shadow the longest? When was it the shortest?
- Why do you think that your shadow changes throughout the day?
- Do you think that your shadow also changes throughout the year?