



The *GOOD NEWS*

To provide hope by Reaching out and Connecting people to Jesus through the Holy Spirit and Encouraging them to share the same Good News.

May 2021



From the desk of Pastor Brewer

I don't know about you but one of the questions that has been on my mind in one form or another since about last June is, "When are things going to get back to more normal?" Now obviously things will never be exactly the same as they were before, but how do we intentionally recover from this last year? The key to that question is the word "intentionally." How do we intentionally come together again when each of us is in a different place concerning the world around us? A few people still haven't left their homes, other's anxiety goes off the chart if people come into close contact with them without masks, others have a growing sense of confidence in their health safety because they've been vaccinated, and others yet are just plain ready to move beyond masks, vaccines and Covid 19. So how do we bring all these people together again as the Body of Christ?

The Word of God. That's the answer ultimately. It binds us together as brothers and sisters in Christ and draws us closer to our Savior. One of our recent epistle readings was from 1 John 3:16-18, "16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." This passage reminds us of our Savior's humility toward us and encourages us to exercise that same humility in our interaction with each other. How can the love of Christ shape how we interact with each other as we slowly come back to church?

The apostle John says in the next chapter of the same letter, 1 John 4:7-12, "7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." And in 1 John 4:19-21, "19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister." Both of these lessons point us to care for our brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as our neighbors, with the same love that Christ has first loved us with. (cont. pg 2)

St. John Lutheran Church
Pastor Carl Brewer
Pastor Craig VanPay

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In-person Services

Sunday
8:00 am
10:30 am

Wednesday
7:30 pm

We will continue to stream the 8am service each week on the St John Lutheran Church Facebook page.

Online giving is available!

Visit www.stjohnlux.com
and click on Online Giving – Your Support Counts!

John isn't the only scripture writer to make this point either. Paul also deals with this same concept of the love of Christ causing us to love others in Philippians 2 and 1 Thessalonians 1. The point I am trying to make is that right now is the perfect opportunity to put this Christian love into practice. To humbly look around us at our fellow Christians at church at think of their needs before our own. One of the beautiful benefits of having a large sanctuary and multiple services is that we have lots of options that we can give people to get more space if they need it, to wear a mask or not wear a mask and spread out away from others, to go to a service that is lighter attended than others or watch the service online. We are so fortunate to be able to offer lots of options in the attempt to help others feel comfortable.

What I'm trying to encourage all of us to think about right now is how we can come together in a way that we feel secure while giving others options that they are secure with as well, to think about each other's personal freedoms in the light of our Savior. If you want to know more about the topic of individual freedom google Paul's writings on eating meat sacrificed to idols.

Another way that we are looking to help everyone feel comfortable coming back to church is to put on a church picnic on August 22. We will be celebrating outside Pastor Craig's ordination and that we are still kicking. There will be more information in coming newsletters about the picnic but please mark your calendars to save that date.

In Christ ✝,
Pastor Brewer

NEWS & EVENTS

Save the date! The 2021 VBS will be held July 19, 20, and 21st for PreK-6th Grade. Keep watching the bulletin for more info.

Garage Construction Help is needed! If you are able and willing to help in the garage addition, there is a sign-up sheet in the back of church.

Diaper Express will take place on Saturday, May 15 (same day as Luxemburg village wide rummage sales) at St John. We will be giving away free diapers, baby wipes and sleepers. Keep watching the bulletin for more information.

Luxemburg Community Garden has food plots available for 2021. Price is \$25 for a 20x20 plot with a vine area included. The community garden will be tilled and available for planting after May 31, 2021 (weather permitting). If you are interested in a plot, contact Lance Kirchman at 920-536-0376.

Lakeshore Lutheran's for Life Roses for Mom: Honor your Mother with the gift of a rose or roses on Mother's Day. Lutherans for Life will have available long-stemmed roses after the church services on Mother's Day weekend for a recommended donation of \$2.00 each.

Food Sale (Garage Addition Fundraiser) will take place during Luxemburg village wide rummage sales. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church for those able to help on either Friday, May 14 or Saturday, May 15. We will be serving from 9am – 2pm on Saturday – Menu items include burgers, brats, curds and blooming onions. Stop in and treat yourself!

St John Church E-mail is changing to stjohnlux@gmail.com. Please update your records. Thank you!

Gentle + Exercise Class: Join us for a few sessions of Exercise before we take our summer break. Classes will take place in Luxemburg on Monday's at St. Johns from 9-10am. \$3.00 suggested donation. Class sessions will take place on May 3, 10, 17, 24 – Then we're off for the summer! Classes will probably start again in September. DUE to other commitments we will not offer the class in Rankin or the water class in Algoma until September, so please join us in Lux for the next few weeks. *Face coverings: It's a recommendation, not a requirement per Kewaunee County Public Health Department.* Any other questions call or Text Diane Dorner at (920) 609-2765.

Ruby's PANTRY

May 8, 2021

Parking lot opens & In person registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

Food Distribution from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

\$20 donation for an abundance of food.

Express Track: Reserve your bundles ahead of time with Express Track! Visit rubyspantry.org and create an account. If that time is full, try a different one. Come to Ruby's on the day of the pantry at the designated time. It's that simple! We apologize we do not have an express track pickup lane at this time.

**You will receive an abundance of grocery items!
Drive-thru distribution at St. John Lutheran Church
700 Heritage Rd. Luxemburg WI**

BLOOD DRIVE

There is a critical shortage of blood right now. Live Life. Give Life. Donate Blood during the Luxemburg-Casco Community Blood Drive. The drive will take place in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, May 24, from 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Appointment PREFERRED. To make appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or log on redcrossblood.org. Save time by using Rapid Pass. Visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass for more information. Donate in May for a chance to win a travel trailer camper!

Sign-up sheets in the Narthex for volunteers, sandwich, cookie and bar donations (*everything must be individually wrapped*).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elder Minutes

April 22, 2021

Open with Prayer

Elders Present:

Pastor Carl Brewer, Pastor Craig VanPay, John Hanmann, Matt Kinnard, Eric Nelson, Paul Derenne, Jeff VanDenBerg, Gus Schmoll, Kevin Lampe

Transfers In/ New Members: None

Released from Membership: None

Old Business:

New Business:

- Put communion cards back in pews
- Summer hours: Sunday 9:00am, Wednesday 7:30pm (Memorial Day Weekend – Labor Day Weekend)

Closed with Prayer

Submitted by: Jeff VanDenBerg

Next Meeting: May 20, 2021 / 6:00 pm

Trustee Meeting

April 18, 2021

Attendance: Ken Batten, Dan DeGrave, Kevin VandenBush

1. Discussed estimate that was given to us from the Village for sewer and gutter at \$36,000. We will be meeting with engineers to put in a catch basin in our parking lot.
2. Hallways in the Education Wing have been painted and also Pastor Craig's office by Dan and Jenny DeGrave.
3. Dan has replaced the steeple lights.
4. Moving forward with the garage building project. The lumber has been ordered and excavation should start in the next 2 weeks.

Submitted by Ken Batten

Stewardship Committee

Date: April 19, 2021

Members present Gail Treml, Dana Engelking and Brenda Reckelberg and Pastor Brewer

Keys for all Committee members

We need to confirm keys were returned from previous committee members and obtain keys for Dana and Brenda.

Carmine will follow-up on with Dan DeGrave.

Blood Drive

The March 29th blood drive went well. We didn't have the final numbers, but there was approx.. 50 appointments prior to the date. Gail has the dates for the rest of the year, the next blood drive being July 26th. American Red Cross said we could provide sandwiches if we are interested. We'll chat more about as the date approaches. Gail will reach out to Rob to get our W-9 to provide to Red Cross.

Cookbooks

We have about 30-40 cookbooks remaining. Village Kitchen let us know they sold the five they had, so Gail will stop in there to pick up the money and drop off five more. We will post a reminder in the church bulletin to let members know we still have cookbooks for sale.

Church Directory

After some more discussion, we will reach out to Life Touch to see if there is any openings for this fall to perhaps have them do the church directory.

SHAPES

Pastor let us know the Evangelist committee is looking to do a class in late Oct/early November. We will look at coordinating our next meeting to have us all together to discuss planning and next steps.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next council meeting is April 22nd.

Next stewardship meeting is to be determined.

Submitted by: Carmine Nell

Outreach Minutes

March 22, 2021

Attendance: Miriam Hemp, Jenny Shaw, Peggy Miesler, Nancy Loberger, Pastor Craig Van Pay and Pastor Brewer

We have decided to send care packages to college students including a card of encouragement. We will start getting organized to send them out in Fall and again around February. Items to include would be devotional books, food & stress balls.

We will also be doing our Diaper Express again this year the weekend of the village rummage sales on March 13. We will give out diapers, wipes, sleeper, blanket, and words of encouragement.

Pastor Brewer wants to schedule a Shapes Class in fall. We will talk with the church council at the next meeting when it is best to hold the classes. We need to make sure we are organized what happens next after the initial classes. We should also offer this class to Youth. We will check if the Stewardship Committee also wanted to attend our first class and help us with the program.

We will also keep a summer picnic idea too.

We closed our meeting with prayer.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 26 at 4:00

Nancy Loberger

Church Council Meeting – April 22, 2021

Members present: Pastor Brewer, Pastor VanPay, Edward Treml, Rob Funk, Norene Giese, Jenny DeGrave, Kevin Lampe, Jeff VanDenBerg, John Hanmann, Janice Krueger, Loren VanDenBerg, Gail Treml, Brenda Reckelberg, Kevin VandenBush, Dan DeGrave, Ken Batten, Nancy Loberger, Peggy Miesler

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Treml.

Pastor VanPay opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the March 18 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Peggy Miesler. Seconded by Jeff VanDenBerg. Motion carried.

Pastor reported no changes in membership in the past month.

Rob Funk provided the budget for January 1 through March 31, 2021:

- Total Undesignated Contributions - \$79,353
- Total Church Revenue - \$84,332
- Total Expenses - \$85,065
- Total Assets - \$263,938
- Difference: Contributions minus Total Expenses = negative \$733
- Ruby's Pantry: Savings - \$3,280 & Checking - \$3,730
- Paid on Loan 2021: \$6,000 – Loan Balance: \$73,855
- Apron Gang: Savings - \$25 & Checking - \$4,708

Elders –

- The summer hours for Sunday worship services will be 9:00 am beginning Memorial weekend through Labor Day weekend. Attendance will be monitored the first few weeks, if attendance is more than expected, consideration will be given to returning to two Sunday services at 8:00 and 9:30 am. Wednesday evening service will remain the same.

- Communion/attendance cards will be placed back in the slots on the pews. Communion will continue to be offered with the disposable cups in the pew and continuous line.

Trustees –

- Luxemburg Village has given an estimate of \$36,000 for sewer and gutter installment cost. Payments can be made for five years. The Trustees will meet the engineers regarding placement of catch basins in the parking lot for excess water.
- Hallways in the Education Wing and Craig's office has been painted by Dan and Jenny DeGrave.
- The steeple lights have been replaced.
- The garage project is moving forward. The lumber is ordered and excavation should start in the next two weeks.

Stewardship Committee –

- The March 29 Red Cross blood drive went well with 41 pints of blood collected. The next date is July 26. Gail Tremel shared with Treasurer that the Red Cross has requested a W-9 form.
- The Committee is looking at completing a new church directory in the fall. Members will be given the opportunity to order pictures for the holidays.
- Plans are being discussed to work with the Evangelism Committee to conduct a SHAPES group.

Board of Education –

- A meeting will be set up to discuss how to do VBS this summer.
- In-person Sunday School will begin in the fall.

Evangelism Committee –

- Discussion will be taking place to hold a SHAPES group in the fall.

Future Needs Committee – No meeting scheduled.

Old Business –

- St. John has received correspondence from the insurance carrier, Hastings Mutual, regarding a formal plan for a Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan. Rob conducted a 30-minute phone interview with the carrier regarding what procedures took place, but a written plan also needs to be submitted. The Elders, as they've set policy, should meet to write a plan to be submitted. Carl will contact our circuit congregations what they have done.
- Discussion took place about Covid-19 procedures that have been in place for the past year and how should the church move forward as more members are being vaccinated and no longer feel the need to wear a mask in church. Concern has been expressed by members feeling uncomfortable with no masks. Further discussion took place regarding members' need to be aware and be conscientious of those that prefer to wear masks and maintain some distance in the pews. At this time, all pews are available for seating and are no longer taped to prevent use.

New Business –

- Pastor Brewer reminded the Council the 150th anniversary for St. John will be in 2024. Planning will need to take place regarding a celebration.
- A summer worship service/picnic will take place for all church members to celebrate Craig VanPay's ordination as only a limited amount of members could be present in January when the ordination took place. August 22 has been selected. An outdoor service at 10:30 will take place with a picnic afterwards.
- Rob Funk shared as Pastor VanPay has been ordained, a housing allowance of \$18,000 beginning January 1 will need to be added to the 2021 budget. Kevin Lampe moved to add \$18,000 to the 2021 budget for housing allowance for Pastor VanPay. Seconded by Peggy Miesler. Motion carried.
- Financial Secretary Jenny DeGrave asked the Elders regarding procedures used for depositing contribution envelopes and cash into the church safe after services. It was felt that a separate bag should be used after each service with a note inside the bag stating date and time for each service.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, May 20, 7:00 p.m. in person and Zoom.

Rob Funk moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Loren VanDenBerg. Motion carried.

Closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norene Giese, Council Secretary

Voter's Special Meeting – March 21, 2021* – Garage Addition
***Corrected April 25, 2021**

37 Voting Members via Zoom and present.

Meeting called to order at 9:18 am by President Ed Tremml.

Pastor Brewer opened the meeting with prayer.

Council President Ed Tremml asked if there were any new voting members that needed to be approved before the meeting began. The following members to be accepted as voting members: Dennis and Beverly Dalebroux. Janice Haen moved to accept the listed people as voting members. Dan DeGrave seconded. Motion approved.

Information was shared with attending members about the shortage of space in the present garage. It is difficult to access items located in the rear of the garage without moving many things out of the way. Discussion of garage expansion was tabled in the past due to the Covid pandemic.

It is being recommended to expand the garage another 36 x 40 feet to the already existing 28 x 36 feet.

Spartan Construction has agreed to honor their previous quote of approximately \$12,000 which includes excavating of ground, water, gas and electrical lines and concrete. The funds for this part of the expansion is already set aside in the church budget through memorial donations.

One quote for garage materials has been received from Van's Lumber for a total of \$50,800. Another quote will be obtained from Brauns of Manitowoc. Ruby's Pantry has also committed to give \$6,000 towards the expansion. Construction material costs are expected to rise considerably in the next months.

It was shared that the village will be putting in curb and gutter on Heritage Road in the near future. Drainage problems in the parking lot will also be addressed and repaired at that time. The congregation will be assessed costs by the village after the completion but there will be the opportunity to make payments to the village rather than pay the total cost immediately.

Janice Haen moved to do the cement work now and spend up to \$70,000 for materials. Charlie Piesler seconded.

Treasurer Rob Funk recommended that the present loan with the Bank of Luxemburg be extended two years to cover the cost of materials. All labor will be done by church members.

Janice Haen moved to amend her motion to a cost of \$80,000. **Kevin Lampe** seconded. Motion approved.

Discussion took place to start construction as soon as possible due to expected increase of building materials cost.

Keith Pilgrim moved to extend the Bank of Luxemburg loan for garage expansion. Kevin Lampe seconded. Motion approved.

Rob Funk moved to adjourn. Gail Tremml seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Norene Giese, Council Secretary

Voter's Meeting – April 25, 2021

24 Voting Members present and 1 Voting Member per Zoom.

President Trembl called the meeting to order at 9:20 am.

Pastor Brewer opened the meeting with prayer.

Council President Ed Trembl asked if there were any new voting members that needed to be approved before the meeting began. The following members to be accepted as voting members: Andy and Marvel Reed. Tom Werner moved to accept the listed people as voting members. Charlie Piesler seconded. Motion approved.

Minutes of the January 31, 2021, Voters' Meeting were reviewed. Tom Werner moved to approve the minutes. Marv Perleberg seconded. Motion approved.

Minutes of the March 21, 2021, Voters' Special Meeting were reviewed. A correction to the second of the motion made by Janice Haen was made. Kevin Lampe seconded the motion, not Keith Pilgrim. Keith Pilgrim moved to approve the minutes. Brenda Reckelberg seconded. Motion approved.

Rob Funk provided the budget for January 1 through March 31, 2021:

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- Apron Gang: Savings - \$25 & Checking - \$4,708

Rob shared the Loan Extension took place this month.

President Trembl stated that minutes from the Committees are also attached to the agenda. There will be one Sunday service at 9:00 am beginning Memorial Weekend and ending Labor Day Weekend. Attendance will be monitored and if needed, two Sunday services will take place at 8:00 and 9:30 am. The fellowship hall will also be available for any overflow and for those wishing to maintain Covid procedure distancing.

New Business –

- Groundbreaking should be taking place this week. Removal of siding on the north side of the garage will take place Sunday afternoon. All materials have been ordered. It is hoped to keep total costs to \$60,000 rather than the \$80,000 added to the loan. Insulating of the total garage cost will be \$4,600.
- August 22 has been set for a church picnic to celebrate Craig VanPay's ordination. It is hope to have an outdoor church service with the picnic taking place afterwards.
- The assessment of \$36,000 with a five-year payment plan has been received from the Village for the curb and sewer work to take place on Heritage Road this summer. The Trustees will consult with their engineers for additional drainage for standing water in the parking lot and lawn.
- Lawn spraying will take place this spring. This does not affect the garden area and was asked to avoid signage.

Next Voters' meeting will be Sunday, July 18, 2021.

Rob Funk moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 am. Ken Batten seconded. Motion approved.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Norene Giese, Council Secretary