

NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

There are days when time passes so slowly—and others where Saturday/Sunday sneaks up on me. To think that we are almost finished with Lent is truly remarkable. These days are filled with good and bad news from here on the home front—if you have not heard, Mom had an allergic reaction to one of her meds—and then a delayed reaction to her second shot. One night I was afraid that I was going to lose my Puddytatt—she could barely move. This week we received the news that my cousin Tim who has been battling Parkinson's for many years is in his final days. On the good side, Mom became great grandma for the 10th time with the birth of a baby boy.

This is how we mark our days and our weeks—these are the milestones that create the tapestry of our life. Our life is filled with bits and pieces of shared memories that over time we weave into a blanket which we ultimately leave behind for the next generation. We can only hope that they will add on to seams—maybe make a few additions of their own—and maybe a few changes here and there to what suits them the best.

We can see congregations in the same manner—they are an inter-weaving of generations of faith. We pass the garment on to the next generation—and while we have time, teach them about the patterns and stitches. In places we can see where the garment has been torn—and some areas where it has been mended.

At the end of Mark's gospel, we have the women fleeing the tomb—saying nothing to anyone. While this might be the end of Mark's gospel, this is not the end of the story—we know that for certain because you and I worship together in faith—a faith that has been passed down through the generations—which includes many names that we cannot pronounce and many more saints who have died anonymously.

This month we celebrate Easter—we celebrate the victory of life over death, of love over hate, forgiveness over sin. When our sin crucified Jesus on the cross and buried him in the grave, God had the final answer—and that answer is life. In our lives together, may we be reminded that God will indeed have the final word—a word of life.

Peace.

Pastor Mike

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www.stjohnsguttenberg.com
stjohnsoffice@alpinecom.net
Office Hours: 8am - 1 pm (M-F)

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Mary Lou Harbaugh, Mick Pierce, Bill Tielbar, George Harbaugh, Bob & Carla Ferguson, Brayton Kuhse, Donna Pont, Cecil Bahls, Ammi Hugo, Shelby Preston, Joyce Bakken, Tiffany Moser, Bev Aulwes, Brian Larson, Tom Kraus, Owen Aulwes, & Pastor Bruce Hanson.

Guttenberg Care Center: (SJ) Una Bishop, George Harbaugh, Vonnie Bormann, Shirley Moore, Eunice Zearley, Mary Carrier, Carla Ferguson (SP), Janice Bahls

Assisted Living: (SJ) Joyce Bakken, Arlene Tackman, Shirley Moser, Marie Hagen

St. Pt. Lutheran Home: Neil Morarend

Edgewood Convalescent Home: (SJ) Terry Krieg

Homebound: (SJ) Bob Ferguson, Gayle Kahle

Our condolences to -

the Kraus family on the death of Curt Kraus on March 21st. His funeral was held in Luana on March 27th. Dale Linderbaum on the death of his father, Lawrence who passed on March 23rd. His funeral will be at Grau's Funeral Home April 10th.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Pastor Ashman's family:

Prayers of sympathy with the death of Pastor's cousin Tim Ashmann from the complications from Parkinson's Disease at age 67.

ADOPT A DAY

How would you like to consider adopting a day(s) and paying for St. John's church utilities for that day(s)? This would be above your regular church giving and would be a huge financial plus for St. John's. You choose the day(s). Why not consider adopting a day for your birthday or that of a family member, or an anniversary of your baptism, wedding or all of them and more? If you would like to adopt a day, just write your information on a piece of paper and enclose it with your payment of \$38 per day.

- April 14 In honor of Allysa Allyn's birthday by Rick & Mary Beth Allyn
- April 25 In honor of Matthew Watson's birthday by Craig & LeAnn Watson
- April 25 In honor of Kristin Watson Lewis' birthday by Craig & LeAnn Watson

APRIL STEWARDS

	Ushers	Camera	Lector
April 4	Stephanie Thomas Chuck Hemann	Sam Thein	Brian Rodenberg
April 11	Stephanie Thomas Chuck Hemann	Lynda Schaefers	Nancy Heitman
April 18	Stephanie Thomas Chuck Hemann	Sam Thein	Michele VonHandorf
April 25	Stephanie Thomas Chuck Hemann	Tim Puls	Lynda Akers

No Confirmation classes on April 7th! We are taking a well deserved Sabbath rest from our studies.

2nd Year Confirmation Families

We will need to have a meeting very soon which will include all students and parent(s) to discuss Confirmation Sunday. If you have a day and time that works well, please send me a message—and I will try to set a meeting ASAP!!

Message from our Council President

As your Church Council President, I believe it is important to keep an open line of communication with the members of the church. This posting in the newsletter is my first attempt. I am not promising a monthly edition, but will try my best to keep you posted about matters of significance that the church council has been or will be dealing with at different times of the year. I have enjoyed getting to know more about the members of the council, Pastor and Diane Schilling.

Diane Schilling has been serving our congregation for a number of years as church secretary. For that, I want to personally thank her for the years of dedicated service and for a job well done. When I was approached about being council president, one of the first major issues the new council would have to deal with was to find a replacement for Diane as she had informed the previous council of her intentions to retire at some point in 2021. The council went to work on this matter at our meeting in February and set an ambitious goal of having a replacement hired and trained so that Diane could retire by the end of April.

I am glad to report that the council has extended an offer for the church secretary/ministry coordinator position to Rabbecca Hennessey and she has accepted. Rabbecca comes to this position with experience working in church offices for a number of years. She also operates her own art studio and art collective business. Rabbecca has worked in sales, insurance and investment businesses for a number of years as well. She comes to us with a wealth of experience and is very much looking forward to the job. Rabbecca will start on April 12th with Diane providing up to three weeks of training. Rabbecca will be taking over the office position by May 1st.

Once again, many thanks go out to Diane for the exceptional work that she has done for St. John's. A huge welcome goes out to Rabbecca Hennessey as she begins her work at St. John's. We have been in good hands and we will be in good hands (a little attempt at insurance humor). Please stop by the office to offer your thanks and wish Diane well and to welcome Rabbecca.

Thank you for entrusting me with the position of Church Council President.

Brian Rodenberg

News from the Outreach Committee

The outreach committee has been busy arranging Easter gift bags as well as writing monthly greetings to our home bound. Thanks to those who donated and volunteered!



FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

April is Alcohol and Drug Dependence Awareness Month:

Alcohol and drug use can be dangerous. Overdoses, injuries and accidents may occur, with harmful consequences. These symptoms can be dangerous and should be managed by a physician. If your situation is an emergency, we urge you to go directly to your nearest hospital emergency room. Getting help for an immediate crisis is essential. Call 911 for immediate assistance.

Everyone suffering from alcoholism and addiction deserve the chance to be helped. If you are concerned about your own alcohol or other drug use or that of someone you care about – a child, relative, friend or co-worker – please contact us. (1-800-622-2255) Confronting alcohol and drug problems is difficult, but can be an important first step toward recovery and the chance for a healthier and more productive life.

Today there are more than 90 NCADD Affiliates across the United States, offering alcoholism and addiction recovery support services and policy/advocacy activities for individuals, families, and communities impacted by alcoholism and addiction. NCADD's founder Marty Mann understood that alcohol and drug dependence is a disease that affects people in the communities where they live.

**ST. JOHN'S
CALENDAR**

April 1	1:00 pm (SP) Maundy Thursday Service 2:00 pm (SJ) Confirmation 7:00 pm (SJ) Maundy Thursday Service
April 2	1:00 pm (SP) Good Friday Service 7:00 pm (SJ) Good Friday Service
April 3	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
April 4	9:00 am (SP) Worship 9:30 am (SJ) Sunday School 10:15 am (SJ) Worship
April 6	5:30 pm (SP) Council Mtg.
April 8	1:00 pm (SJ) Bible Study 7:00 pm (SJ) Council Mtg.
April 10	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
April 11	9:00 am (SP) Worship 9:30 am (SJ) Sunday School 10:15 am (SJ) Worship
April 13	1:00 pm (SJ) Tuesday w/God
April 14	2:00 pm (SJ) Confirmation
April 16	9:30 am (SJ) Food Pantry Pre-pack
April 17	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
April 18	9:00 am (SP) Worship 9:30 am (SJ) Sunday School 10:15 am (SJ) Worship
April 19	5:00 pm (SJ) Mobile Food Pantry
April 21	2:00 pm (SJ) Confirmation
April 22	1:00 pm (SJ) Bible Study 4:30 pm (SJ) Stewardship Mtg.
April 24	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
April 25	9:00 am (SP) Worship 9:30 am (SJ) Sunday School 10:15 am (SJ) Worship
April 27	1:00 pm (SJ) Tuesdays w/God
April 28	2:00 pm (SJ) Confirmation



Prayer of thanksgiving as Great-Grandma Ashman added another child to her family: Greyson David was born to Stacie and Alex. With the addition of Greyson, Vera now has 10 great-grandchildren.



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Food distribution will be held on the third Monday of each month at St. John's. The next event will be a drive through event from 5-6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 19th. If you are able to help, please call the church office at 252-2355, and we will add your name to our volunteer list.



Volunteers are shown packing dry goods for the Mobile Food Pantry. In order to have a drive through food pantry we pack the dry goods in advance. Volunteers are always welcome. Next pack date is April 16th @ 9:30am.

Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 11, 2021

Members Present: Brian Rodenberg, Michele VonHandorf, Judy Puls, Nancy Heitman, Chuck Hemann, Sherry Oliver, Mary Streich, Lorna Moser, Pastor Ashman, and Diane Schilling

Members Absent: Jim Solomon, Stephanie Thomas, Forest Brown, Don Schmelzer

Call to Order: President Brian Rodenberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Devotions and Prayers: Pastor Ashman read this week's Gospel from John, Chapter 3. He shared that the focus of this Sunday's sermon will be on the year of lent we have experienced since last March and how it relates to Nicodemus' story. We see signs in many venues proclaiming the word or verse John 3:16. We need to look at its context with the verses before and after. God goes outside of our comfort zone to people we don't agree with. Yet, God remains a work in this world. He loves all of His creation and all of His people. God remains steadfast.

Secretary's Report: The council reviewed the minutes of the Annual meeting and the last council meeting. The minutes of the Annual meeting and the February 10, 2021 meeting stand approved as published.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Solomon was absent. Diane provided the following information:

General Fund:	\$5,045.05
Benevolence:	\$19,177.65
Improvement:	\$7,855.94
Memorial Savings:	\$47,587.59
Benevolence Savings:	\$15,760.43
Sunday School:	\$2,847.56
Organ Fund:	\$4,063.37
Scrip:	\$6,022.20
Luther League:	\$4,679.57

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ashman submitted a written report for the previous month to keep the Council updated on his activities. He highlighted the two baptisms this week and the two baptisms next week. His report included the preparation for services, phone calls, newsletter articles, work on the annual Synod Report, visiting residents at the Care Center via Skype, work on the website, Bible Study preparation and class, recording children's sermon, Lenten services, and many other duties.

Outreach Ministries: Nancy Heitman met with her committee, and they assembled Easter gift bags. They will be delivered the week of Easter. The committee is planning their outreach into the community. They will have material with Worship Services and prayers laminated for distribution in the community and at local campgrounds. They are pondering a float for the Stars and Stripes parade.

Educational Ministries: Stephanie Thomas was absent. She will be meeting with her committee soon.

Children and Youth Ministries: Forest Brown met with his committee and planned events for the year. They are discussing a mission trip. The sledding party at the Brown's went well!

Public Relations Ministries: Chuck Hemann reported that the small glitches in the new system are being taken care of. He will be posting Easter Service times on the sign.

Stewardship Ministries: Sherry Oliver will meet with her committee on March 25th.

Worship and Music Ministries: Mary Streich met with her committee tonight. Plans were made for Palm Sunday and Easter services. A spring outdoor service is being considered with the possibility of singing. The committee is also working on goals.

Property Ministries: Don Schmelzer was absent.

Parish Fellowship: Lorna Moser asked about handing out pre-bagged cookies after services in lieu of the coffee fellowship. The answer was yes.

Vice President: Michele VonHandorf had nothing new to report.

Old Business:

Church Secretary/Ministry Coordinator: Brian shared that we have offered the position to Rabecca Hennessey with a salary of \$20,500, no insurance, and starting April 12, 2021. MSC to hire Rabecca Hennessey as Secretary/Ministry Coordinator at a salary of \$20,500 starting April 12th.

Piano Lamp: A piano lamp was purchased for \$110. Katie is elated.

Plumbing Update: Municipal Piping has paid \$811 to cover the costs of the plumbing fix.

Golden Oldies Service (Ushers): The need for extra ushers for the Golden Oldies service was discussed. We also discussed the need for ushers on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

Committee Goals: Committees are working on goals for the year and the years to come. Pastor suggested we consider ways to get more people involved in church. Brian suggested a council retreat to work on the council goals.

Parsonage Bedroom Carpeting: We are still waiting on the installation of carpet in the parsonage bedroom. Brian will talk with the gentleman and ask if this can be completed in the next two weeks.

New Business:

WELCA Garage Sale (June 3, 4, 5): WELCA asked if they could continue with their annual garage/rummage sale. At this point, the county has only 9% of its population vaccinated for COVID. The council passed a motion a few months ago denying the use of the church for public events until it is deemed safe. The request was denied.

Amazon Prime: Diane has been using her personal Amazon Prime account to obtain free shipping for church purchases. We discussed the need for the church to have its own account. MSC to have St. John's become a member of Amazon Prime for \$119 annually.

Lenten Offering: We discussed the recipient of our Lenten Offering. MSC to donate the Lenten offering to the Family Resource Center.

Ghost Elevator: The doors of the elevator have been opening with no one pushing the button or even near the elevator. Schumachers were called in to repair it. The parts will cost \$1,300.

Adjournment: Brian adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Regular Council Meeting: Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judy Puls



Want to give your child an experience of a lifetime—and for free. EWALU Bible Camp is offering unique programs for youth of all ages. St. John's has scholarships available. And friends are always welcome to join. A great experience—great staff—and new friends! A recipe for a great summer experience. Any questions, please ask.

EWALU Spring Work Day - Saturday, May 1
Volunteers are invited to Camp EWALU to help with a variety of outdoor service projects. The day starts at 9:00 a.m. Sack lunch provided. Please RSVP to camp@ewalu.org or call 563-933-4700.

**St. John's
Matthew 28:19 Endowment**

Our St. John's Matthew 28:19 Endowment is supporting and will continue to support disciple-making in this place forever.

Contributions \$50 and over qualify for Iowa tax credit. Those checks should be made out to CFGD St. John's Matthew 28:19 Endowment. Contributions less than \$50 should be made payable to St. John's and will be credited to your giving record.

Consider the Endowment when making memorial gifts. Memorial envelopes are available in the old Narthex.



All Women of St. John's. www.womenoftheelca.org

2021 St. John's Women of the Board

President: Lynda Akers -- Vice President: Carolyn Hoffmann -- Treasurer: Cindy Niehaus -- Secretary: Pat Meyer
At Large: Lynda Schaefers, Jan Solomon Sarah Circle Representative: Judy Puls

Mission: To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Purpose: 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.



Great Turnout for World Day of Prayer on March 22 at St. John's

Over 30 people attended "Build On A Strong Foundation" this year's theme for World Day of Prayer. The program, written by the women of Vanuatu, focused on what Jesus said about someone who hears his words and acts on them. They will be like a wise man who built his house on rock and his house stands firm.

MARCH MINISTRIES
World Day of Prayer, Post Prom & Senior Blankets

ST. JOHN'S SEWING LADIES

Information on donations needed or helping with piecing tops, tying or binding contact Carol Tomkins.



Quilt tops for LWR need to measure 60" x 80".

Thank you for giving to the 1-Minute Fundraiser!



Lutheran World Relief

Lenten Appeal - Personal Care Kits
(kits are in short supply due to Covid)

For people in need all over the world who have lost everything from life-threatening violence or a natural disaster.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- (combs and clippers have already been donated)
- 1 Lightweight, dark color bath towel
- 2 or 3 Bath-size bars of soap in wrappers
- 1 Adult-size toothbrush in package

Put in tub on table in vestibule - We would like to make at least 40 kits this year

Ham Balls with Pineapple Sauce

Ardith Anderegg

St. John's Generation to Generation Cookbook - 1997

- 2 lbs ground ham
- 2 lbs ground pork
- 2 c. soft bread crumbs
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 c chopped onion

Mix together and make into balls. Place in shallow pan. Mix pineapple sauce and pour over top. Bake 1 1/4 hrs at 350 degrees. Baste occasionally. Time may vary depending on size of meat balls.

Pineapple Sauce:

- 2 x 9 oz crushed pineapple
- 2/3 c catsup
- 2/3 c vinegar
- 1 c brown sugar



APRIL BAPTISMS

April 1
Carson Palmer

April 3
Dennis Koehn

April 4
Ron Bahlmann
Layla Johnson
Abi Jostand

April 6
Ke'Andre Armstrong
Kayla Kelly
Darla Zittergruen

April 7
Audie Baumgartner
Declan Holohan

April 9
Deb Preston
Courtney Severson

April 10
Shirley Moser

April 11
Ethan Ertl

April 13
Todd Strader

April 15
Allison Troester

April 16
Gary Hinderberger

April 17
Karen Backes

April 18
Justin Bittner
Carla Ferguson
Mason Hinzman
Dennis Horstman
Richard Larson
Cody Preston

April 19
Jerel Holohan

April 20
Dorothy Moser

April 21
Judith Olson

April 22
Russ Loven
Linda Hackett

April 23
Tina Brown
Arlyn Herzog
Mindy Stoerp

April 24
Jaxson Augustyn
Keith Drewelow
Calista Harbaugh

April 25
Emma Kulper

April 26
Wanda Martell
Annalise Niesman

April 28
Sienna Seevers
Paul Talsma

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1
Wanda Martelle
Lesla Reimer

April 3
Rebecca Hillers
Gene Ruegnitz

April 4
Myrna Backes
Kya Brown
Sheila Johnson
Josef VonHandorf

April 7
Sue Meyer

April 11
Dan Sadewasser

April 12
Isabella Friedmann
Gary Meyer

April 13
Paul Talsma

April 14
Joe Backes

April 17
Chad Harbaugh

April 19
Evelyn Bries
Maureen Seevers
Deb Vaughn

April 20
Robin Esmann
Luann Martins
Lorna Moser
Judy Puls
Stephanie Thomas

April 21
Reagan Brown
Jim Solomon
Clark Strader

April 23
Marilyn Heitman

April 24
Lee Horstman
Harlan Meyer
Jake Meyer

April 25
John Kahle
Hillary Kann
Larry Moser
Sharon Reth

April 26
Pete Sakas

April 27
Shannon Reth
Brooklyn Witham

April 28
Braydn Harbaugh

April 30
Lynda Akers
Debbie Leeman
Sherry Oliver

APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

April 3
Lynn & Lorna Moser

April 4
Gary & Connie Backes

April 6
Terry & Pat Meyer

April 15
Tracy & Stephanie
Radabaugh

April 16
George & Mary Lou
Harbaugh

April 19
Dennis & Susan Koehn
Ron & Julie Rosacker

April 23
Kenny & Tonya Klein

April 28
John & Tammy Kahle
Dennis & Julie
Zittergruen