

NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

It seems like it has been a long week—and it is only Thursday. Yesterday was a day spent at the eye doctor in Dubuque—which for my mother did not turn out all that well. We might have our next appointment coming up down in Iowa City or Madison. The weather has been unpredictable—you walk out in sun—and get showered with rain by the time you reach the end of the street. You turn to walk back home to change clothes—the sun pops out—and your clothes are dry before you reach home... go figure.

Life can be unpredictable. We all know that. We all live with that reality. But we also live with the wish that life would go exactly as we have planned. This week, we are blessing our High School Graduates who have all made plans for their futures—each having their own dream. As we bless them, we place them into God's hands knowing and trusting that whatever the future might throw at them—God will have their back.

When I glance back at all the people I went to school with—that includes all the people with whom I went to college and seminary—I am surprised at the number who are no longer with us. Some have died surprisingly young. Others are no longer in their original plan to be pastors—some have chosen to be counselors, teachers, and some work at Home Depot. But for the most part, they seem to be happy wherever life has taken them.

This week we lift these young people up in prayer—but we also need to remember all those who will change vocations in the next few months—and those who will be unemployed. We lift up those who will be retiring this year after many years of meaningful service—whether that be at one place or multiple jobs. I am often reminded that our employment is a gift from God—and we should be good stewards of these gifts—to use them not only to serve ourselves—but also to serve others.

So when all is said and done, I am reminded of the end of Ecclesiastes:

before the silver cord is snapped, and the golden bowl is broken,
and the pitcher is broken at the fountain,
and the wheel broken at the cistern,
and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the breath returns to God who gave it.
“Life goes past so fast,” says the Teacher; “all is like a puff of smoke.” **

** last verse is my translation

Peace.

Pastor Mike

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Church Office Hours:
7:30AM- 3:00 PM Tues & Wed
7:30AM-12:30 PM Thurs & Fri

CHURCH WORSHIP:
5:30 PM - Saturday
9:15 AM - Sunday

Church Phone: 563-252-2355
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A Prayer for our Graduates

Dear God,

We pray for our graduates today and lift them before you. We thank you so much for these we love and for the work you are continuing to do in their lives. They are a gift to us and to many others. And during this season of new beginnings, we ask that you would make their way clear. We ask that you would keep their footsteps firm and remind them that you are with them, always.

May they sense the freshness of your Spirit over their lives in amazing ways, may they be strengthened, instilled with hope, for the new roads you have in store.

And today, again, we release our children straight into your tender care. Because we know that's the best place they could ever be. We thank you in advance for all you have in store, for this day, for this year, for their lives.

We pray for protection, for your covering, that you would surround their lives as with a shield.

Protect their coming and going. We ask that you would help them to live aware in a dark world and keep harm or evil intent far away. We ask that you would hide them in the safety of your powerful presence. Our world is currently anxious, fearful and uncertain. We pray our graduates are filled with your courage and strength, that they may be a light to their friends and neighbors in this uncertain time.

We ask for your wisdom and clear direction over their lives, that you would give them understanding beyond their years. Thank you that your timing is perfect. We pray that you would direct their steps, that your plans for them would prosper; that every place you have determined for them to walk would be paved clear. We ask for you to open doors that need to be opened and close every one that should be shut tight. Allow every gift and treasure you have placed inside their lives to grow, develop, and flourish, to bring you glory. We ask that you would remind them every day how very much you love them, that they would find security and confidence fully in you, knowing that you are trustworthy and true. We ask that you would teach them your ways and fill them with an unquenchable desire to learn your Word.

Give them a compassionate spirit, and the wisdom to look beyond outward appearances to the heart within. We pray that you would surround them with friends and leaders who would challenge them to press closer to you.

We ask for your peace to cover them. We ask for laughter and joy to fill their days. We pray that you would give them boldness and courage to face challenges set before them, with the confidence and peace that can only come from your spirit.

We ask that you would raise up greatness in their lives, greatness in this generation, willing to stand strong and true, passionate for you, believing that you have designed them for purpose and good works, which you have planned and prepared in advance for them to do.

Be a lamp for their feet, and a light to their path. Shine over them. Fill them with your spirit.

Bless them with your favor and peace.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen.

- from Your Daily Prayer, Debbie McDaniel



From the Church Council President

As I write this, the church council has already made some changes in the way we are conducting worship in response to the changing guidelines put out by the CDC concerning the Covid Pandemic. We have been singing for a few weeks and it sounds and feels wonderful to have that back in our worship services.

I believe that the pandemic is slowing down and we have taken some steps to lessen the restrictions on our worship services and workings of the church. However, according to USA Facts, Clayton County has had 1,696 confirmed cases and 56 people have died. Due to the due diligence of the people and the number being vaccinated we are making progress in our battle with this virus.

At our last council meeting on May 13th, the council made a number of changes to our worship plans. Seating will be by whole pew but only every other one and the back pews are now available. Masks are no longer required, but recommended. Singing of the liturgy and hymns has returned. The council believes in your ability to self-regulate to maintain social distancing as best you can. As a result, you will no longer be dismissed by an usher at the end of the service.

A few matters will continue to be restricted somewhat. Fellowship after the service will begin on June 6th by having it held outside by the northwest door of the church. Communion and the collecting of the offering will continue, for the time being, as we have been doing since the restrictions were put in place.

We are making progress in dealing with this virus. The church council will be addressing further additional easing of restrictions as we get more guidelines from the CDC. It has been a trying time for all of us and because of our due diligence and sound decision-making in the past, we are now able to take steps to get back to 'normal', whatever that might be. The impressive thing about this time has been our drive to continue to serve the community and the members of our congregation.

God bless!

Brian Rodenberg, Council President



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.

June 23rd - In Honor of Mary Beth Allyn's Birthday



-PLEASE PRAY FOR-

George and Mary Lou Harbaugh, Mick Pierce, Bill Tielbar, George Harbaugh,
Bob & Carla Ferguson, Brayton Kuhse, Donna Pont, Cecil and Janice Bahls, Ammi Hugo, Shelby Preston,
Tiffany Moser, Bev Aulwes, Tom Kraus, Owen Aulwes, Pastor Bruce Hanson, Darlene Hemann, Terry Meyer,
Denny Roth, Randy Moser, Arlene Tackman

Guttenberg Care Center: (SJ) Una Bishop, George Harbaugh, Vonnie Bormann, Shirley Moore, Janice Bahls

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

Edgewood Convalescent Home: (SJ) Terry Krieg

Homebound: (SJ) Bob & Carla Ferguson, Gayle Kahle

On **June 7th**, Pastor Mike will be leading worship at the Guttenberg Care Center at **10 am**.

If you would like to help, please drop him a line.



On **June 6th**, we are having our very first **fellowship** following worship in what seems like forever. In honor of this day, Pastor will be supplying cinnamon rolls—the gooey kind along with some cookies. He is asking people to make reservations for the rolls so he has some idea how many to make - please contact the church office to reserve your goodies! We will make sure to have some hot coffee and cold drinks available also.

We hope to see you there!

St. Paul Lutheran will be having their **Annual Bake Sale on June 3-4th**. Pastor has been asked to provide some goodies—so we are once again firing up Grandma Vera's bakery for pies, cinnamon rolls, and cookies. Please help support the ministry of St. Paul Lutheran—and enjoy some goodies. BTW, they will also have a number of plants for sale at the church the same days.



FROM OUR PARISH NURSE



June is PTSD awareness month:

PTSD (posttraumatic stress disorder) is a mental health problem that some people develop after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event, like combat, a natural disaster, a car accident, or sexual assault. It's normal to have upsetting memories, feel on edge, or have trouble sleeping after a traumatic event. At first, it may be hard to do normal daily activities, like go to work, go to school, or spend time with people you care about. But most people start to feel better after a few weeks or months. If it's been longer than a few months and you're still having symptoms, you may have PTSD. For some people, PTSD symptoms may start later, or they may come and go over time.

Anyone can develop PTSD at any age. A number of factors can increase the chance that someone will have PTSD, many of which are not under that person's control. For example, having a very intense or long-lasting traumatic event or getting injured during the event can make it more likely that a person will develop PTSD. PTSD is also more common after certain types of trauma, like combat & sexual assault. Personal factors, like previous traumatic exposure, age, & gender, can affect whether or not a person will develop PTSD. What happens after the traumatic event is also important. Stress can make PTSD more likely, while social support can make it less likely.

There are four types of PTSD symptoms, but they may not be exactly the same for everyone. Each person experiences symptoms in their own way.

1. **Reliving the event (also called re-experiencing symptoms).** Memories of the traumatic event can come back at any time. You may feel the same fear and horror you did when the event took place. For example:

*You may have nightmares. *You may feel like you are going through the event again. This is called a flashback.

*You may see, hear, or smell something that causes you to relive the event. This is called a trigger. News reports, seeing an accident, or hearing a car backfire are examples of triggers.

2. **Avoiding situations that remind you of the event.** You may try to avoid situations or people that trigger memories of the traumatic event. You may even avoid talking or thinking about the event. For example:

*You may avoid crowds, because they feel dangerous. *You may avoid driving if you were in a car accident or if your military convoy was bombed. After a traumatic event, it's normal to think, act, and feel differently than usual—but most people start to feel better after a few weeks or months. Talk to a doctor or mental health care provider (like a psychiatrist, psychologist, or social worker) if your symptoms: *Last longer than a few months *Are very upsetting *Disrupt your daily life

"Getting better" means different things for different people. There are many different treatment options for PTSD. For many people, these treatments can get rid of symptoms altogether. Others find they have fewer symptoms or feel that their symptoms are less intense. Your symptoms don't have to interfere with your everyday activities, work, and relationships. If you were in an earthquake, you may avoid watching movies about earthquakes. You may keep very busy or avoid seeking help because it keeps you from having to think or talk about the event.

3. **Negative changes in beliefs and feelings.** The way you think about yourself and others changes because of the trauma. This symptom has many aspects, including the following: *You may not have positive or loving feelings toward other people and may stay away from relationships. *You may forget about parts of the traumatic event or not be able to talk about them. *You may think the world is completely dangerous, and no one can be trusted.

4. **Feeling keyed up.** You may be jittery, or always alert and on the lookout for danger. You might suddenly become angry or irritable. This is known as hyperarousal. For example: *You may have a hard time sleeping. *You may have trouble concentrating. *You may be startled by a loud noise or surprise. *You might want to have your back to a wall in a restaurant or waiting room. Psychotherapy, or counseling, involves meeting with a therapist. Trauma-focused psychotherapy, which focuses on the memory of the traumatic event or its meaning, is the most effective treatment for PTSD. There are different types of trauma-focused psychotherapy, such as:

* **Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT)** where you learn skills to understand how trauma changed your thoughts and feelings. Changing how you think about the trauma can change how you feel.

* **Prolonged Exposure (PE)** where you talk about your trauma repeatedly until memories are no longer upsetting. This will help you get more control over your thoughts and feelings about the trauma. You also go to places or do things that are safe, but that you have been staying away from because they remind you of the trauma.

* **Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)**, which involves focusing on sounds or hand movements while you talk about the trauma. This helps your brain work through the traumatic memories.

Medications for PTSD

Medications can be effective too. Some specific SSRIs, which are used for depression, also work for PTSD. These include sertraline, paroxetine, fluoxetine, and venlafaxine. If you are someone you know is has concerns that could be PTSD, talk, or encourage your friend, to talk with trusted clergy, medical provider, mental health provider, Parish Nurse or contact Stephen Ministry for someone to talk with confidentially.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

June 1	5:30 (SP) Council Meeting
June 3-4	Annual Bake Sale (SP)
June 5	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
June 6	8:00 am (SP) Worship 9:15 am (SJ) Worship
June 8	1:00 pm (SJ) Tuesday w/God 6:00 pm (SJ) Outreach Meeting
June 10	7:00 pm (SJ) Council Mtg.
June 12	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
June 13	8:00 am (SP) Worship 9:15 am (SJ) Worship
June 14	1-5:00 pm (SJ) Red Cross Blood Drive
June 17	1:00 pm (SJ) Bible Study
June 18	9:30 am (SJ) Food Pantry Pre-pack
June 22	1:00 pm (SJ) Tuesday w/God
June 19	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
June 20	8:00 am (SP) Worship 9:15 am (SJ) Worship
June 21	5:00 pm (SJ) Mobile Food Pantry
June 22	1:00 pm (SJ) Tuesdays w/God
June 24	4:30 pm (SJ) Stewardship Meeting
June 26	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
June 27	8:00 am (SP) Worship 9:15 am (SJ) Worship

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is Open:
 Tues & Wed: 7:30 am - 3:00 pm
 Thurs & Fri: 7:30 am - 12:30 pm



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to all who volunteered to help with the mobile food pantry, both pre-packing and distributing.

**The next pack date is June 18th @ 9:30 am.
 The next event will be a drive through event from 5-6:30 pm. Monday, June 21st.**

If you are able to help, please call the church office at and we will add your name to our volunteer list.



Volunteers are always welcome!

St. John's Lutheran Stewardship Committee News

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."
 John 15:5 NRSV

Our committee meets monthly on the fourth Thursday to discuss, be creative and expand upon our three goals.

- Goal 1: Create for St. John's members an "OPPORTUNITY LIST"
- Goal 2: Write a monthly stewardship newsletter article including the weekly giving report
- Goal 3: Plan special events to raise awareness of stewardship and being thankful to God

As the chair of the Stewardship Committee, I was contemplating our vision and goals for our upcoming meeting. My thoughts recalled portions from a Billy Graham book, "The Holy Spirit, Activating God's Power in Your Life." I paraphrase Billy's writing on the above bible verse, "Abide in Me." 1. We are to have a very close relationship with Christ. To accomplish this the disciplines of prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with other believers are key. 2. We can only bear spiritual fruit if we abide in Christ. The life of Christ that flows in us will produce the fruit of the Spirit to honor God, bless and nourish others. This leads me to Goal 1.

Our "OPPORTUNITY LIST" would provide a means to contact volunteers to match specific needs. Listed below are some needs the Stewardship Committee is aware of at the present time. Please consider how you could use your spiritual fruit to nourish and bless others. If any item on the list below peaks your interest, please call the church office at 252-2355 or contact Pastor Mike. We would appreciate any assistance in this or knowledge of other specific needs:

- *Drivers in town or out of town for medical appointments
- ***Friday, June 18-** in the morning to sort and bag the dry goods for Monday's distribution
- ***Mon., June 21-3:00-4:00-** Volunteers to use carts, elevators, or heavy lifting of food boxes from the basement to the outdoors & from **4:00-6:00-** Volunteers to assist with various jobs assigned during distribution of the food truck items to people's vehicles
- *Reading aloud a devotional or the Bible for a brief time (15 minutes) with care center residents
- *Researching baptismal dates and other church related information per people's requests
- *Picking up mail or medical prescriptions. *Assisting with fellowship after church services beginning in June

Related to Goal 2 above, the weekly giving in May for the general fund is shown in the figures below. The average monthly expenses is the amount based on the yearly budget approved by our congregational vote. These figures listed do not reflect the giving to benevolence or improvement funds. Thank you to all who contribute by mail, dropping their offering off at the church office or in the offering plate during worship.

Goal 3 is in the beginning stages of planning a special "THANK YOU" worship service in Nov., prior to Thanksgiving. More information regarding this theme & special occasion will come later in the year. Our Stewardship Committee will be gathering information this summer to make plans to host workshops during day/evening hours for those interested in estate planning, advance planning, or funding your wishes. Our committee has other ideas in the works & looks forward to sharing those in the future.

We as the committee are striving to meet regularly to assist St. John's Lutheran Church. Let us all continue to become the branches of the vine; to bear much fruit as we "Abide in Christ."

The Stewardship Committee members are: Pastor Mike Ashman, Council rep-Sherry Oliver, Cindy Niehaus, Tonya Randall, Diane Schilling, and Craig Tuecke.

JUNE STEWARDS

	Ushers	Camera	Lector
June 6	Nancy Heitman Sherry Oliver	Sam Thein	Ron Bahlman
June 13	Nancy Heitman Sherry Oliver	Lynda Schaefers	Stephanie Thomas
June 20	Nancy Heitman Sherry Oliver	Sam Thein	Craig Tuecke
June 27	Nancy Heitman Sherry Oliver	Tim Puls	Lynda Akers

Monthly Stewardship Report

Amount Needed Weekly	\$3564
Offering May 2	\$2261
May 9	\$1949
May 16	\$3048
May 23	\$1740
May 30	\$2111

Youth Trip

We are reaching out to all of our young people who have completed 8th Grade through this year's graduates who may be interested in a trip up North to Minnesota / St. Paul this summer. We are looking at four days in July or early August. We are looking to plan a mixture of activities that would last about four days and three nights. We need to get our heads around this ASAP-- if you are interested, please let us know, so we can set up a meeting to talk through details and set up fundraisers as soon as possible.

Contact Forest Brown or Pastor Mike!

Pastor Picnics!

It's summer which means that it is time for picnics! Picnics are not only great fun—they also provide a great place for people to get to know each other. Soooo... Pastor is inviting you to a backyard picnic. It will be first come, first serve—but there will be more dates coming. We are looking at **June 13th and 27th** for the first round. Pastor will fire up his grill. Please bring your own main entrée and one or so dishes to pass. Also, please bring your own drink. We will have some ice and water. We also will provide plates and silverware (from a previous large event). Please bring your own lawn chair—unless someone is willing to provide us with a couple of picnic tables. We will see how this works—lets say around 5 pm. I will be taking reservations for about the first 20 people. I look forward to seeing you - Please contact the church office to save your spot! Any questions, just ask.

Sunday School News

Sunday, May 23rd was the last day of Sunday School. We enjoyed a snack, played games, and had some fun. We are so thankful that we were able to meet in-person during Sunday School and will be very excited to return to a normal schedule in the fall.



Bristol Augustyn, Jaxson Augustyn, Mason Zwansinger, Ali Kann, Conway Johnson, Jagger Allyn, Maisyn Chase, Levi Chase, Weston Judkins



Carter Judkins, Nash Reimer, Mason Hinzman, Caleb Bittner, Madilyn Thomas, Jovi Allyn



Natalie Thomas, Alayna Judkins, Abby Duwe, Delaney Brown, Cole Bittner, Bristol Allyn



Dirx Reimer, Chase Kann, Audrey Thomas, Mila Allyn

Vacation Bible School News



Due to continued efforts to keep our youth and volunteers safe, we have again made the tough decision to postpone our VBS for one more year. With postponing, we are hopeful that we will be able to offer worship, singing, games, and snacking as we have in the past.

That being said, we plan to offer our St. John's youth (pk-6) a pick-up-and-go VBS option! Our theme will be Faith over Fear! We plan to include lessons, messages, snacks, and crafts!

Please sign up in one of three ways

- (1) respond to this post
- (2) contact the church office or
- (3) sign up at Sunday School!



Council Meeting Minutes Thurs. May 13, 2021

**St. John's American Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Brian Rodenberg, Michele VonHandorf, Judy Puls, Nancy Heitman, Stephanie Thomas, Forest Brown, Chuck Hemann, Sherry Oliver, Mary Streich, Lorna Moser, Pastor Ashman, Rabeca Hennessey

Members Absent: Jim Solomon, Don Schmelzer

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

Devotions and Prayers: Pastor Ashman read Luke 17. We are far from perfect. Every Sunday we are reminded that we are forgiven. Peter asked Jesus how many times we must forgive. He answered 70 times 7. Do we keep a tally or let go? People tend to hang on to the details never hearing the resolution, forgiveness. We are called to repent & to forgive. Instead of "I'm sorry" & "That's okay" we should teach "I forgive you", words important to use & hear.

Secretary's Report: The council reviewed the minutes of the last council meeting. The minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting stand approved as published.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Solomon was absent.

General Fund:	\$17,878.91
Benevolence:	\$19,227.97
Improvement:	\$6,342.32
Memorial Savings:	\$47,642.42
Benevolence Savings:	\$15,762.66
Sunday School:	\$2,454.96
Organ Fund:	\$4,063.78
Scrip:	\$6,683.79
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 made 7 home visits, visited the hospital, visited members at Assisted Living—Living River Care & the Care Center, Sat & Sun worship services, put worship on website, baptism, funeral, attended committee meetings, & many other regular duties. Pastor shared he has been working with the student minister in Luana/Farmersburg on upcoming weddings & worked with families on funeral services that will be held in June & July.

Outreach Ministries: Nancy Heitman shared that her committee had met. They struggled with the wording of their goals. The main idea is to promote the church as a place to worship. They are looking at different events to hold after the pandemic such as an art show. The committee is seeking ideas. The committee will be doing friendly visits to shut ins. They are still sending monthly note cards. They are also helping pack dry goods for the Mobile Food Pantry on Monday.

Educational Ministries: Stephanie Thomas reported that her committee met. They made the following goals:

1 year goals:

- 1) Return to "normal" (ie full length Sunday School with singing & snacks)
- 2) Distribute Youth Bulletins during Sunday School

- 3) Begin offering a youth worship class to 5th/6th graders
- 4) Pick up and go VBS opportunity to St. John's Youth "Faith Over Fear"

3 year goals:

- 1) VBS Rocky Railway in June 2022
- 2) Increase youth involvement in church by starting/continuing youth bulletins and worship classes
- 3) Increase social event/parent opportunities with the youth:
 - * Muffins with Moms (reinstate)
 - * Donuts with Dads (reinstate)
 - * Ice Cream Social on VBS night (reinstate)
 - * Picnic in the Park (introduce)

The Youth Bulletins are already being distributed. The committee is working on a family picnic & a staycation type of Bible School with the theme Faith Over Fear. Pastor will do lessons on YouTube. The materials will be prepackaged & have a pick up type of distribution.

Children and Youth Ministries: Forest Brown & his committee are working to plan a youth mission trip. There are limited options this year. One option being looked at is a trip to Minneapolis to help at Sharing Caring Hands, visit the seminary, & spend a day at Valley Fair. Dates & fund raisers are being explored.

Public Relations Ministries: Chuck Hemann reported that there was an issue with the new video controller resetting itself to factory settings. Chuck suggested that we need network wiring, permanent wiring would be best. He said that there is a need for a permanent hardwire connection between the church & the parsonage. Checking with Alpine was an option to look at for installing the connections.

Stewardship Ministries: Sherry Oliver met with her committee on April 26. They are planning a Stewardship Sunday in Nov. to thank the parishioners. They plan to revisit searching for specific volunteers for specific jobs. If you hear of needs, contact Pastor, Rabeca, or Sherry. The committee is looking at ideas for a special themed worship & presenting a workshop on designated gifts & estate planning. They plan to continue to show the need for the general fund in the newsletter.

Worship and Music Ministries: Mary Streich met with her committee. They will continue to work on their goals. They are considering a contemporary service & getting families involved in advent services. The committee is planning the Country Western service. Mary reminded us that Senior Recognition is coming up. Pastor & Rabeca are looking at new church bulletins.

Property Ministries: Don Schmelzer was absent. The committee is waiting for an estimate from Jackson Tuck Pointing to power wash the church. Don will be doing a walk through the church with Dennis Koehn. It was suggested that a walk through be done twice a year. The grab bar has been installed in the parsonage garage.

Parish Fellowship: Lorna Moser told us the butterfly project was underway. Her committee is looking at selling Fair Trade coffee at the Farmer's Market.

Vice President: Michele VonHandorf had nothing new to report.

Old Business:

Church Pictorial Directory: Pastor checked with one company. They do not have a representative in this area. Michele will check with the school photographers to see if they do churches.

Seating Restrictions Moving Forward: The changes in the seating arrangements in the pews is going well.

New Business:

General Funds from Community Foundation Accounts to offset decrease in giving due to the pandemic:

- a) St. John's Matthew 28:19 Endowment Donor Account
- b) St. John's Matthew 28:19 Endowment Agency Account
- c) St. John's Benevolence Endowment Agency Account

The balance is in the neighborhood of \$11,520. Forest suggested we find out the stipulations on all of our endowment accounts. Pastor, Sherry, Forest, Jim, and Craig will look at the contract. Brian will get more information. This was tabled.

Music & Worship Recommendations: Mary shared her committee's recommendations. We currently have two services: Sat night & Sun morning. The recommendations to begin on Pentecost Sunday including singing all hymns & liturgy, keeping communion & offering as is, departing as in the past (not ushering out). We will start fellowship in June - outside by the kitchen doors. This fall we will bring back the acolytes & Psalm readers. The committee recommended that the Saturday service keep the protocols that are in place now with the exception of singing the last hymn. Those who did not want to sing could leave prior to the sending hymn. The council also discussed the latest CDC recommendations, the percentage of fully vaccinated individuals in Clayton County, the current seating arrangement, & music at both services.

Michele VonHandorf moved, Forest Brown seconded, to change the mask requirement to "Masks are recommended, but optional" starting May 15th & 16th, to start singing the hymns and liturgy on May 22nd & 23rd, to keep communion as it currently is, to have members dismiss on their own, to have fellowship outside beginning in June, & to keep offering as it is currently. These changes will be announced in church both Saturday & Sunday.

Community Foundation Investment: The council was asked to think of how we want to use the Community Foundation Investment payout from the Matthew 28 and Donor Account. Bring your ideas to the next council meeting.

Church Phone Update: The phone has been fixed and works!

Internet Service for the Parsonage: This was given to Chuck and the Property Committee to get a plan set up to update the system, wiring, phone and internet.

Adjournment: Brian adjourned the meeting at 8:24 pm. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Regular Council Meeting: Thursday June 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Judy Puls

**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.

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. experience. Any questions, please ask.



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!



THANK YOU!

First of all – thank you to everyone who donated to the **FLOOD BUCKETS**—The Northeastern Iowa Synod put together this program several years ago as a way of Iowans to help fellow Iowans. Each bucket contains items which help people affected by floods to clean their house so that they are able to live there once again without worry of mold, mildew, etc. The buckets are stored in a church basement not far from our synod offices—and kept until needed. Many people in this area—even in this church know of the devastating effects of flooding. I have heard that some in the area have received these buckets to assist them when the waters of the Turkey River rose a few years back. So, Thank You in advance for all your help in this project.



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 Schaefer, 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.



Lutheran World Relief

The Sewing Ladies have been busy! Guess how many LWR quilts Lynda Akers and her grandson, Austin Holderness, took to Decorah on May 1?



55!!

In addition, 11 quilts have been given to The Resource Center.

We received a gracious thank you from Lea Norlinger, NE IA SWO Board and LWR contact, for the many donations.

"St John's gals, together we make a difference! You all are truly wonderful. Thank you."

* Quilts-3494 * School kits-437 * Personal Care Kits-1651

**JUNE MINISTRIES
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".

**Note- 1/2 c melted butter was missing from the crumb topping in last month's recipe.
(I tried the Rhubarb Crunch recipe and it is DELICIOUS!)*



Strawberry Dessert – Shelly Parker

St John's Generation to Generation Cookbook – 1997

- 2 1/2 c graham cracker crumbs
- 2 (3 oz) pkgs strawberry Jello
- 1/2 c sugar
- 2 (10 oz) pkgs frozen strawberries
- 2/3 c melted butter
- 2 c boiling water
- 1 (8 oz) pkg softened cream cheese
- 1 (8 oz) carton Cool Whip
- 2 c powdered sugar

Mix first 3 ingredients together; press into 9 x 13-inch pan. In bowl, mix cream cheese, Coop Whip & powered sugar; put on graham cracker crust. Mix Jello in boiling water until dissolved; add strawberries. When berries are thawed, Jello should thicken; pour over everything in pan. Refrigerate until set.

Cookbook Snippet: *Faith is the daring of the soul to go farther than it can see.*



St. John's Quilting crew,
we can not say thank you enough for the beautiful quilts we pts enjoy the colors, the patterns, the thoughtfulness and the warmth they bring them. We appreciate you donating them. It definitely brings joy to them and to us.
St. Croix Hospice



JUNE BAPTISMS

June 1
Lynda Akers
Lawson Waterman

June 2
Marilyn Heitman
Morgan Meyer

June 3
Tonya Klein

June 4
Maddelline
Radabaugh

June 5
Kya Brown

June 7
Letha Moser

June 9
Gayle Hanna

June 10
Nancy Heitman
Tom Weyant

June 11
Wanda Lacy
Brooklyn Witham

June 12
Natalie Thomas

June 14
Lyla Dewelow

June 17
Vonnice Borman
Troyce Vich

June 18
Denise Moser

June 19
Jenni Brown
Colby Friedman
Isabella Friedman
Rebecca Hillers

June 20
Linda Benskin

June 21
Robin Esmann
Darlene
Hinderberger

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1
Karen Backes
Brycen Finnegan
Trudy Glawe

June 2
Ali Kann
Kohl Moser

June 3
Ashlynn Finnegan

June 4
Cindy Johnson

June 5
Brandon Bries
LeAnn Watson

June 6
Linda Benskin
Jim Seevers

June 7
Amberlynn Pense
Gavin Stoerp
Penny Sweet

June 8
Diane Bockenstedt

June 9
McKenna Hackett
Peyton Reth
Al Ullerick

June 10
Julie Davis
Tom Kraus
Aaron Moore
Judith Moser

June 11
Mariah Balajadia
Mike Hinzman

June 12
Dennis Reth

June 14
Jack Benskin
Dorothy Weyant

JUNE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

June 3
Jon & Stephanie
Thomas

June 7
Denny & Virginia
Roth

June 8
Richard & Mary
Newbern

June 9
Scott & Sarah
Fischer

June 10
Josh & Hilary
Anderegg

June 12
Dave & Sheryl Bahls
John & Sandy Barron
Jim & Maureen
Seevers

June 14
Paul & Joni Talsma

June 15
Tim & Courtney
Severson

June 16
Dennis & Gayle
Hanna

June 17
Scott & Becky Kelly

June 18
Don & Deb Bries

June 19
Tim & Sherry Oliver

June 20
Jack & Linda
Benskin

June 22
David & Renae
Kraus

June 24
Glenn & Donna
Witham

June 29
Paul & Joan Manson