

Dear Friends in Christ,

Some wounds never heal. In our Confirmation class, we watched "The Life of Jesus" film based upon the Gospel of John. The scene with Thomas especially struck something within me. I am not one for graphic violence—but this rendition took away almost all the suffering that Jesus went through. The thrusting of the spear was done by while looking at the bystanders. We need to remember time and again the pain and suffering that Jesus endured—even when it is difficult to watch.



When it came time for the scene with Thomas, the movie had Jesus showing his wounds—but they looked as if they were

basically healed. Somewhere in the recesses of my brain I asked, "How was Thomas supposed to put his finger in the wounds in his hands—or put his hands in Jesus side where he was pierced?" The voice in the movie then glossed over the detail by asking Thomas to put his hand on the scar....so not Biblical. We cannot sanitize Jesus' death and suffering.

Some wounds never heal. When I read the story with Thomas, I am struck with the vivid description of the wounds. Even with his resurrected body, they were still present. I consider the pain and suffering that we bring upon both ourselves and others—through our sin—through our actions and our inaction. Those wounds are still there—causing pain and suffering.

Some wounds never heal. As most know, I suffered second degree burns about five years ago. Some days, it is still painful to walk. Every now and then, I notice a bubble on my leg. Once it pops, it feels like the pain from the original burn—and takes weeks to heal thoroughly. Just the mere touch of a finger causes pain.

While we celebrate the celebrate the resurrection of Jesus—and the promises given. The promises of joy and peace—the promise of eternal life. We should never forget how we got to this side of the cross. We should never forget the journey that Jesus made on our behalf.

Peace,

Pastor Míke

St. John's Lutheran Church PO Box 819 203 Pearl Street Guttenberg, IA 52052

Pastor Michael Ashman 319-231-6440 mikepstr64@gmail.com **CHURCH WORSHIP:**

5:30 PM - Saturday 10:15 AM - Sunday **Church Office Hours:**

Tues: 7:00AM - 3:00 PM Wed & Fri: 7:00AM - 12:30 PM Thursdays 12:30-3:30 PM

Church Phone: 563-252-2355

Church Email:

stjohnsoffice@alpinecom.net



GRADUATES

Advance Notice: We will have our Grad Recognition on May 28th. We will send out invitations in the very near future. Plan to RSVP so we can make plans. Worship will be at 10:15 am.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This summer
Vacation Bible School
takes place the week of
June 12-16th!

Registration is now available please use the registration form on the
next page and return it with your
payment to the church office.

The family of Elaine
Wants to thank you In moments of Socrow;
for your gift of flowers.
Your gift was greatly who bring
appreciated by the Love & Peace.
Whole family.

The family of Elaine & Notion



COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

"Shine Jesus' Light"

(One child per form PLEASE)

Monday, June 12 through Friday, June 16, 2023

Sponsored by the Living Water, United Methodist, St. Mary's Catholic,
St. Paul Lutheran & St. John's Lutheran Churches
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR TO VOLUNTEER, CALL ST. JOHN'S OFFICE @ 252-2355.

WHO: All area children - Age 4 (by Sept. 15th 2022) through those who have completed the 6th Grade. Grandparents and others with children visiting during the week of VBS are invited to attend.

WHEN: 8:00 am - Noon (June 12-16) Breakfast provided at 8:00 am at St. John's - Program starts at 8:30 am
Thursday evening, June 15th - 6:30 pm program followed by Ice Cream Social at 7:00 pm at St. John's

REGISTRATION DEADLINE - Wednesday, May 3rd

(very important for adequate planning of class sizes, securing staff and ordering materials)

COST:\$10 - payable <u>WITH</u> the Registration form. (\$15 after May 3rd) **Checks payable to Community VBS) Scholarships are available if necessary. (Contact St. John's office)

OPPORTUNITIES? We need donations of snacks/treats, as well as volunteers to help organize and run VBS (adults & youth). Call St. John's Church office (252-2355) if you can help out.

Please note: A parent or another adult will be required to sign students out

Birthdate
e Phone Phone
allergies, medical concerns, handicaps,
up your child at St. John's after the closing programmir
12 14-16 (XL) (XXL) (XXXL)
sion for your child(ren) to have their picture taken and within walking distance of the classroom.
- (Date of Signature)



-PLEASE PRAY FOR-

Ross Abbott, Dan Ashman, Renee Schaburt, Vera Ashman, Bev Aulwes, Owen Aulwes, Cecil Bahls, Kay Becker, Lois Davis, Bob Ferguson, George Harbaugh, Jerry Kolker, Paul Kraus, Brayton Kuhse, Richard Larson, Kathy Meskimen, Jenny Meyer, Randy Moser, Shirley A. Moser, Shirley M. Moser, Tiffany Moser, Jean Pensel, Mick Pierce, Shelby Preston, Zander Purman, Denny Reth, Pat Rodenberg, Denny Roth, Terry Thein, Bill Tielbar, Arthur Tomkins, Al Ullerick, Paul Walter, the friends & family of Carla Ferguson

River Living Center: (SJ) Nell Stone, Arlene Tackman, Mae Jetter, Janet Lundt, Judy Olson, Virginia Roth

Guttenberg Care Center: **(SJ)** George Harbaugh, Shirley Moore, Shirley Moser

Ennoble Nursing Care: (SJ) Dennis Roth

<u>Garden View Place, Monona: (SJ)</u> Terry Thein <u>Homebound:</u> (SJ) Bob Ferguson, Bill Tielbar



A special welcome to our newest member: Kurt Allen Ross

We will also be receiving New Members again in April. We try to make the process as easy as possible. If you would like to join, or know someone interested in finding a church home, please let us know. We are also very flexible – you are welcome to join on any weekend—just contact Pastor Mike!





CARE CENTER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

GUTTENBERG CARE CENTER: Every Monday at 10:00 AM RIVER LIVING CENTER: Thurs. April 6 - 10:30 AM

Many thanks to Karilyn McArthur for providing music when possible!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Camera Ministry



April 2 - Madilyn Thomas

April 9 - Madilyn Thomas

April 16 - Caleb Bittner

April 23 - Mason Hinzman

April 30 - Crystal Duwe &

Brandon Duwe



April 2 - Mason Hinzman

April 9 - Myka Bries

April 16 - Jovi Allyn

April 23 - Nash Reimer

April 30 - Jovi Allyn

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 \$45 per day.

March - by Deb & Rich Preston in celebration of their family's March birthdays

April 14 - by Rich & Mary Beth Allyn in honor of their daughter Allysa Allyn's birthday

April 25 - by Larry & Dorothy Moser, in honor of Larry's birthday

APRIL Stewards

	Ushers	Lector
April 2	Paul & Joni Talsma	
April 9	Diane & Myron Thiese	Gail Larson
April 16	Jon & Stephanie Thomas	Nancy Heitman
April 23	Gary & Sue Meyer	Cindy Niehaus
April 30	Paula Hemann & Mary Streich	Renae Kraus



Join volunteers, families, and church groups to help Ewalu get ready for the summer season. Take time to explore camp and meet staff and other volunteers ... come Friday evening to enjoy a campfire, and spend the night at Ewalu!

A variety of projects are being prepared for all ages and abilities. If you can't be here for the weekend, we have plenty of things for volunteers at any time. Just give us a call!

◆ 37776 Alpha Ave, Strawberry Point, IA (camp entrance is 3 miles west of town, on Iowa Hwy 3)

For more information:

3 563-933-4700

www.ewalu.org/event/spring-work-day

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday, May 5: Come for an evening campfire and spend the night at Ewalu.

Saturday, May 6:

Volunteer Work Day

8:00 a.m. Arrival

9:00 a.m. Work Projects

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Work Projects

4:00 p.m. Departure

Contact with questions:

J Paul Frantsen at 563-933-4700

RSVP for lodging:

Diane Parker at 563-933-4700 or email office@ewalu.org



Give your child an experience of a lifetime!

EWALU Bible Camp is offering unique programs for youth of all ages. experience.

St. John's Sarah Circle has scholarships available.

A great experience—great staff—and new friends!

A recipe for a great summer!

WELCOME TO YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL 2023

Featuring | Craig Tuecke | Treasurer

I grew up around...

and have lived in Guttenberg most of my life. I have been a member of St. John's Lutheran Church for my entire life. One of the advantages of growing up in Guttenberg was I lived less than a block from school and church, and a very short distance away from other important places in the life of a young boy. I never wanted to live anywhere else, even as I grew older that never changed.

My most meaningful accomplishment in high school...

actually took place outside the walls of Guttenberg High School. I attended Shattuck Military Academy located in Faribault, MN for two summer sessions, earning the rank of First Lieutenant during my second year. My ultimate goal at the time was to earn an appointment to West Point. Unfortunately, this goal was never realized but my experiences and the education I received at Shattuck have remained with me to this day.

After college I...

After graduating from Luther College in 1974 with a BA degree in political science and business administration, I began my career working for the State of Iowa as a data coordinator for several regional programs within the Department of Public Safety.



In 1979, I went to work for Farmers Mutual of Garnavillo, a mutual insurance association of which my Great Grandfather Julius Tuecke was one of sixteen men who organized the company in 1896. My Grandfather Edward Tuecke served as President of the Board of Directors for over fifty years. I retired from the company after thirty-seven years. It was during this period of my life that I met my wife Kari, to whom I have been married for almost thirty-four years.

One of the biggest life lessons I learned from...

my parents. I recall my mother, who was a former school teacher, sharing with me that you should never stop learning. When you stop learning you stop growing.

To me, grace means...

getting something you don't deserve. We don't deserve the gift of salvation, we don't deserve the help of the Holy Spirit, and we don't deserve the joys and pleasures of this life. And yet our Heavenly Father's love for us is so great that we get to experience all of these forms of grace and more.

I'm a Lutheran because...

my parents were Lutheran and they fulfilled their promises made at the time of my baptism to provide for my religious instruction in the Lutheran faith. I remain Lutheran because I truly believe that I can do nothing on my own to earn my salvation, and that through Jesus's suffering and death on the cross my sins are forgiven. For me, this is the cornerstone of being Lutheran.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Spirit leads us to rest in the Easter message of compassion, love, and surprising resurrection. There is nothing we need or can do but keep our focus on obedience to God, the love of Jesus, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

We are all called to reach out from the true gifts God has created and given to each and everyone of us. He nudges us quietly, peacefully, and respectfully in all we do. He has filled our personal Easter baskets to the brim to help each other when we listen and use those gifts.

Jesus told His disciples that He had to leave so another could come. Yes, the Holy Spirit resides in the hearts of all who believe. He readily covers us with His protection and leads us day by day and night by night.

Let Him who knows you so intimately be in your thoughts and actions for whomever and whatever God puts before you. Our unjust earthly home has many trials and tribulations - rest in His Glory as you pray and reach out - His work never goes undone.



Happy Easter!

-Diane Thiese

All women are cordially invited to the

Mother, Daughter, Friend Banquet Friday May 12 at 6:30 pm

United Methodist Church 200 First Street Guttenberg

Fun Fellowship and Finding Joy
- A meal will be served Program: A speaker from Phelp's Farm

Please bring a small wrapped adult gift.

Hope to see you there!



St. John's American Evangelical Lutheran Church Sunday, March 12, 2023

Council Meeting Minutes

Members present; Diane Thiese, Craig Tuecke, Deb Preston, Brian Rodenberg, Forest Brown, Michele Von Handorf, Mary Streich, Sherry Oliver, Penny Rausch, Chuck Hemann

Staff Present: Pastor Ashman

Members Absent: Rabecca Hennessey, Lorna Moser, Frank Davis **Call to Order:** President Brian Rodenberg called the meeting to order at 11:20 am.

Devotions & Prayers: Pastor Ashman led with an opening devotion & prayer.

Secretary's Report: The council reviewed minutes of the February 9th council meeting. No additions or corrections were noted. Diane motioned to approve the minutes as published. Craig seconded the motion. President Rodenberg declared the minutes as approved.

Treasurer's Report: Diane motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. Michele seconded the motion.

General Fund: \$22,540.76 Benevolence: \$ 26,248.67 Improvement: \$45,501.59 Memorial Fund: \$75,248.91 Benevolence Savings: \$15,769.81 Sunday School: \$ 1,559.86 Organ Fund: \$ 3,364.38 Scrip: \$ 4,942.73 Luther League: \$ 5,673.59 **Ending Balance:** \$200,850.30

Pastor's Report: A written report was presented by Pastor Ashman highlighting last month's activities. The Golden Oldies service has been postponed until next year. Confirmation will be Sunday, April 30th. One student from each congregation will be confirmed.

Outreach Ministries: Diane provided a report to the group. A sing a long is planned for River Living Center on March 13th. The group is developing flyers for the campgrounds. Laminated sheets will also be distributed to the campgrounds.

Educational Ministries: Penny stated that Vacation Bible School will be June 6th-12th. The T-shirt design has been submitted. Registration forms are due by May 3rd.

Children & Youth Ministries: A pool party was held for 3rd -6th graders. The Sarah Circle is doing a fund raiser to assist with sending children to Camp Ewalu. Forrest and his group are meeting with Pastor to plan this year's mission trip.

Public Relations: No report

Stewardship Ministries: Sherry and Craig met with the Foundation for Greater Dubuque and provided a summary of their meeting.

Worship & Music Ministries: Mary highlighted the many activities in the future including Confirmation, Psalm Sunday, 1st Communion, Easter, and Graduation Sunday on May 28th. The summer service schedule will begin on June 4th.

Property Ministries: Frank was absent, but Brian stated that the work in the parsonage is almost completed.

Parish Fellowship: No report

V.P. Report: Michele further discussed a project proposed by the Guttenberg Police department that we will not be supporting at this time, however other projects will certainly be considered as they become available.

Old Business:

The remodel project continues. The walls are ready for paint. A floor scrubber has been ordered. It was suggested that the floor in the kitchen be upgraded to match the new flooring that is being installed. Mary made a motion and Diane made a second to that motion to continue with new flooring into the kitchen.

New Business:

Pledge Update – Craig provided a pledge update and the allocation of funds. "Total gifts to the Improvement Fund" have been expended. Michele made a motion and Chuck made a second to the motion that the Improvement Fund balance remain at a minimum of \$25,000.

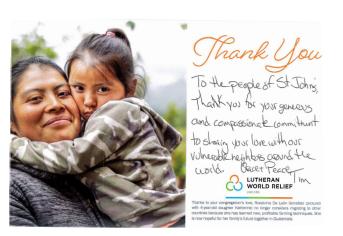
The Decoration Committee reported that the counter tops, vinyl trim, and paint colors have been selected. Window coverings have yet to be determined.

Adjournment: Brian motioned to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 12:22 pm.

Next regular council meeting: Thursday, April 13th, at 7:00.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Deb Preston.

Monthly Stewardship Report Amount Needed Weekly \$3,774 Offering Feb. 26 \$3,223 Mar. 5 \$3,490 Mar. 12 \$2,625 Mar. 19 \$3,487 Mar. 26 \$2,892



April 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

National Child Abuse Prevention Month





At LSI, we work tirelessly to provide crisis childcare, inhome visits and parenting classes to families across lowa through our Early Childhood Services. In these services, we provide lowa parents the support they need to provide a healthy, stable home for their children.

Through our Family Centered Services, we help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable. We also provide therapy services to adults, children and families to help build healthier, more secure homes.

You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Thanks to the support from faith-based organizations across lowa...

- ...a young mom now has the education and resources she needs to create a better life for her and her family,
- ...a person with a disability learned to be a little more independent,
- ...a former refugee found a new home in lowa and has found new ways to successfully support their family.

All of these successes are possible with the support we receive from congregations and people like you! LSI is proud to provide these essential services to people all across lowa.

Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! Step and get to know your neighbors.



	APRIL CALENDAR
Sat. April 1 Sun. April 2	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship 8:15 am (SP) Worship / Palm Sunday 9:00 am (SJ) Sunday School 10:15 am (SJ) Worship / Palm Sunday / First Communion
Mon. April 3 Tues. April 4	4:30 pm SJ) Stephen Ministers 1:00 pm (SJ) Tuesday w/God 5:30 pm (SP) Church Council
Wed. April 5	1:00 pm (SJ) Sarah Circle 2:00 pm (SP) Confirmation 5:30 pm (SJ) Confirmation
Thur. Apr 6	1:00 pm (SP) Maundy Thurs Worship 7:00 pm (SJ) Maundy Thurs Worship
Fri. Apr 7	1:00 pm (SP) Good Friday Worship 7:00 pm (SJ) Good Friday Worship
Sat. Apr 8	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
Sun. Apr 9	8:15 am (SP) Worship / Easter 9:00 am (SJ) Sunday School 10:15 am (SJ) Worship / Easter
Tues. Apr 11	1:00 pm (SJ) Tuesday w/God
Wed. Apr 12	2:00 pm (SP) Confirmation 5:30 pm (SJ) Confirmation 6:00 pm (SJ) Bell Choir Practice
Thur. Apr 13	1:00 pm (SJ) Bible Study 7:00 pm (SJ) Church Council
Sat. Apr 15	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
Sun. Apr 16	8:15 am (SP) Worship 9:00 am (SJ) Sunday School 10:15 am (SJ) Worship
Tues. Apr 18	1:00 pm (SJ) Tuesday w/God
Wed. Apr 19	2:00 pm (SP) Confirmation 5:00 pm (SJ) Food Pantry Drive-Thru 5:30 pm (SJ) Confirmation
Thur. Apr 20	1:00 pm (SJ) Bible Study
Sat. Apr 22	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
Sun. Apr 23	8:15 am (SP) Worship 9:00 am (SJ) Sunday School 10:15 am (SJ) Worship
Tues. Apr 25 Wed. Apr 26	1:00 pm (SJ) Tuesday w/God 2:00 pm (SP) Confirmation 5:30 pm (SJ) Confirmation
Thurs. Apr 27	4:30 pm (SJ) Stewardship
Sat Apr 29	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
Sun. Apr 30	8:15 am (SP) Worship 9:00 am (SJ) Sunday School 10:15 am (SJ) Worship / Confirmation

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is Open:

Tues: 7:00 am - 3:00 pm Wed: 7:00 am - 12:30 pm Thurs: 12:30 - 3:30 pm Fri: 7:00 am - 12:30 pm

Please note:

Please pick up your church directory if you had your photo taken, or contributed your photo! If you would like a church directory, but didn't have your photo done, cost is \$15 - purchase in the church office.



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

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

Mobile Food Pantry is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Truck from the Northeast Iowa Food Bank is scheduled to arrive at 4:30 pm, with distribution from 5 - 6 pm.

The next event will be a drive through event at 5:00 pm on Wed. April 19th - - volunteers needed at 4:30 to unload the truck

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



THANK YOU to the volunteers from Community State Bank who assisted with the March Mobile Food Pantry.

APRIL Baptisms

April 1 April 18 Carson Palmer Justin Bittner Myron Thiese Paula Hemann Mason Hinzman April 3 Dennis Horstman Dennis Koehn Richard Larson Cody Preston April 4 Ron Bahlmann Layla Johnson April 19 Jerel Holohan

April 6
Ke'Andre Armstrong
Kayla Kelly
Darla Zittergruen

April 20
Dorothy Moser
Shelby Preston

April 7
Audie Baumgartner
Declan Holohan

April 21
Judith Olson

April 22
April 9
Deb Preston

Courtney Severson

April 23
Tina Brown
Arlyn Herzog
Shirley Moser

Mindy Stoerp

April 11 April 24
Ethan Ertl Jaxson Augustyn
Keith Drewelow
April 12 Calista Harbaugh

Sylvia Chase

April 25
April 13

Emma Kulper

Todd Strader

April 26

April 15

Allison Troester

Annalise Niesman

April 16
Gary Hinderberger
April 28
Sienna Seevers
Paul Talsma

April 17 Karen Backes

APRIL Birthdays

April 1 April 21 Reagan Brown Lesa Reimer Jim Solomon April 3 Rebecca Hillers Gene Ruegnitz April 23 Marilyn Heitman April 4 April 24 Jake Meyer Myrna Backes Kya Brown Sheila Johnson April 25 Josef VonHandorf John Kahle Hillary Kann

Larry Moser

April 28 Braydn Harbaugh

April 30

Lynda Akers

Sherry Oliver

Sue Meyer Sharon Reth

April 11
Dan Sadewasser April 26
Pete Sakas

April 12
Isabella Friedmann
Gary Meyer

April 27
Shannon Reth
Brooklyn Witham

<u>April 13</u> Paul Talsma

April 7

April 14 Joe Backes

April 17 Chad Harbaugh

April 19 Evelyn Bries Maureen Seevers Deb Vaughn

April 20 Robin Esmann Luann Martins Lorna Moser Grace Franzen Stephanie Thomas

APRIL Wedding

Anniversaries

April 1 Kevin & Rabecca Hennessey

April 3 Lynn & Lorna Moser

April 4 Gary & Connie Backes

April 6 Terry & Pat Meyer

April 13 Steph & Tracey Radabaugh

April 19 Dennis & Susan Koehn Ron & Julie Rosacker

April 23 Kenny & Tonya Klein

April 28 John & Tammy Kahle Dennis & Julie Zittergruen