

## An August Message from your Pastor ...

Summer is winding down and our children will soon be returning to school, Sunday School and Confirmation. Where did the summer go?! There have been many things to do this summer with vacations, ball games, Vacation Bible School. The Sandwich Fair will soon be here in September. Time goes quickly when you're busy.

As we look to the future:

- In August we will have a Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, don't forget to bring your backpack/school bag that day.
- On Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> we will fill Lutheran World Relief backpacks with school supplies that will be sent all over the world. Come at 4:30 pm, fill backpacks then we'll enjoy a meal together.

The ministries of this congregation will continue into August; the Church Council will meet, and the various Ministry Committees will gather as well. Lutheran World Relief workers will put together quilts, school kits and baby care kits. We will come together for worship. Come, be a part of the life and ministry of St. John's.

In the long season of green (green for growth in faith – the season of Pentecost and liturgical color) may all of us enjoy God's rebirth and renewal. Don't let the hurry and scurry of life pass you by. May we all remember how God was active in Jesus' resurrection and is active in our life as well.

God's Blessing & Peace,  
Pastor Chris





# VBS 2024 was a huge SUCCESS!

## Superheroes of Bible Vacation Bible School Recap

Wow! What a week we had!  
28 Children from ages 3 to 11  
8 youth helpers  
16 adult helpers  
7 different churches participated

The Children rotated to five different stations: crafts, bible study, music, games, and snacks.

Each day the children were given clues about who the superhero of the day was. They had to wait until Bible Story time to figure it out. The Superheroes were Jesus, Daniel, David, and Esther.

The crafts for the week went along with the stories for each day. Superhero banks for Jesus the Ultimate Superhero, Lion faces for Daniel and the Lions Den, Stained glass crosses from tissue paper for David for his superhero faith and crowns for Queen Esther.

I personally would like to thank everyone who donated supplies, all the helpers, the children and all the different congregations involved. This was truly a team effort and made this week of vacation bible school extraordinary.

Nancy Miller

VBS Coordinator





Mark your  
calendars!

Sunday School begins  
September 15th, 2024  
8:30am

No meeting held in July

## News from St. John's Committees

### STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 7-3-24

The July meeting was called to order at 8:50 with Mike Hamer, Karol Grandgeorge, Mark Lee, and Connie Hamer present.

The 5-29-24 (June minutes) minutes were approved as read.

St. John's June responsibility for Meals-on-Wheels went well.

Michael's June offering report was as follows: General Fund - \$24,185.10; Capital Fund - \$1309.04; and MSHV - \$1179.17.

Connie is delivering the MSHV supplies to Wheaton today.

Lynn Skrzypiec attended the Synod gathering as St. John's representative.

LWR update: Supplies for school kits are being ordered and received. July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00-3:00 have been set as school bag workdays. Many volunteers are needed to band pencils and pens, string backpacks, open packages of supplies, and sew more bags. Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, will be the date of actually filling the backpacks and packaging them for shipment.

The June Blood drive went well and we made our goal of 15 units thanks to many walk-ins. Connie is still waiting for a reply from Dr.

Dominic Ranallo as to the final total. Next year's drive will be Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. We need to remember to put out the word to all the area churches as well as local businesses and organizations. Connie will put a thank you in the August Journal.

Karol completed the article for July's emphasis which is Worship & Altar Guild Committees, and Connie will write one for August's emphasis which is the Good Samaritan fund.

Mike will start the process of getting Time & Talent brochures to the various committees for any changes before they are distributed in September to the congregation.

Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:45a.m. We adjourned at 9:25a.m. by praying The Lord's Prayer.

## **MOG MINUTES 7-2-24**

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Kathy Anderson, at 7:00pm. We prayed together a prayer from My Word Confession. Present were Kathy Anderson, Karol Grandgeorge, Connie Hamer, Linda Johnson, Nancy Miller and Anita Milligan.

Linda moved to accept the April meeting minutes and Karol seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Anita Milligan accepted the position of MOG Secretary.

Nancy Miller presented the treasurer's report. The money market value is currently \$83,300.57. There was a donation from the Pearson family in the amount of \$1,980. There was general discussion about designated/undesignated funds. Anita Milligan moved and Karol Grandgeorge seconded to accept the printed treasurer's report. The vote was unanimously approved.

We had a general discussion regarding updates to the by-laws. Anita Milligan moved and Linda Johnson seconded to start the process of updating the by-laws regarding the financial recorder's position to be ex officio,

and the person could be a non-voting member if no voting MOG member wants the financial recorder position. Kathy Anderson will send the request to the Church Council.

There have been no new monetary requests at this time.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 7:00pm. Anita Milligan motioned and Karol Grandgeorge seconded to adjourn the meeting.



### **Blood Drive Results**

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Our blood drive on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> was a resounding success! Although I do not have exact figures as to deferrals, incompletes, etc., Dr. Dominic Ranallo did let me know that we did make our goal of 15 units. A special thanks to the folks that were walk-ins, those who brought in an extra person, and those who gave ahead of the drive, but had it credited to St. John's. At the time of the drive, we only had 10 people signed up, but the day of the drive, YOU CAME THROUGH!! Your 15 units will impact 45 lives. Dr. Ranallo was most appreciative as blood is needed more in the summer and harder to get. With our great response, they have scheduled us once again for Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> in 2025. Thanks ever so much.



HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

Happy  
anniversary

Blair Lindstrom	08/02	Blair Lindstrom	08/02
John Shoener	08/02	John Shoener	08/02
Nancy Maroscia	08/02	Nancy Maroscia	08/02
Don Loux	08/03	Don Loux	08/03
Richard Kossak Sr.	08/03	Richard Kossak Sr.	08/03
Brynn Hallman	08/05	Brynn Hallman	08/05
Cheri Kossak	08/09	Cheri Kossak	08/09
Jack Smith	08/09	Jack Smith	08/09
Ellie Kulton	08/10	Ellie Kulton	08/10
Grayson Denault	08/12	Grayson Denault	08/12
Roger Hallman	08/13	Roger Hallman	08/13
Adam Killey	08/13	Adam Killey	08/13
Brooklynn Misener	08/14	Brooklynn Misener	08/14
Linda Johnson	08/14	Linda Johnson	08/14
Alex Barnes	08/16	Alex Barnes	08/16
Rosemary Underwood	08/17	Rosemary Underwood	08/17
Joanne Robinson	08/17	Joanne Robinson	08/17
Marion Gaffney	08/18	Marion Gaffney	08/18
Julie Christopher	08/19	Julie Christopher	08/19
Amy Eighner	08/21	Amy Eighner	08/21
Mandi Grandgeorge	08/22	Mandi Grandgeorge	08/22
Gina Skofich	08/23	Gina Skofich	08/23
Karol Grandgeorge	08/23	Karol Grandgeorge	08/23
Brad Eade	08/25	Brad Eade	08/25
Roger Guehler	08/25	Roger Guehler	08/25
Lois Spizzirri	08/26	Lois Spizzirri	08/26
Steve Schoon	08/27	Steve Schoon	08/27
Scott Horsch	08/29	Scott Horsch	08/29
Brad Rogers	08/29	Brad Rogers	08/29
Glen Reuter	08/29	Glen Reuter	08/29
Sue Weber	08/30	Sue Weber	08/30
Glenda Andrews	08/30	Glenda Andrews	08/30
Heidi & Patrick Eaton	08/05		
Steven & Becky Vermeland	08/08		
Tom & Linda Martin	08/10 55 Years!		
Glenda & Dick Andrews	08/21		
Keith & Marian Larson	08/22		

# LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

August 20      **9:00 am to 3:00 pm and  
7:00 pm to 9:00pm Bring a Lunch**

August 21      **9:00am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch**

August means that school is starting and we will be working on filling School Backpacks. The Backpacks will be available to fill as of July 27<sup>th</sup>. The following is the list for shopping;

- 4--70 page spiral notebooks(college or wide ruled accepted)
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One pencil sharpener
- One 30-centimeter and 12" ruler
- One pair of blunt end scissors
- Five unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens NO GEL PENS
- One 2 ½" eraser

The backpacks should be returned by August 25<sup>th</sup> if possible. If you are unable to shop and would like to help, you may make a donation in a blue envelope and mark it School Backpacks. We will be having Backpack workdays on Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. We will be sewing backpacks, stinging backpacks, banding pens and pencils, counting notebooks etc.

Work days in August will be used for sorting donations, cutting blocks, tying quilts and sewing around the quilts. Remember we take used sheets and blankets for the centers of the quilts and we take donations for Baby Care Kits and other kits any time thorough out the year. If something is donated that is not usable by us, we find a new home for it. Very few things are disposed of. There are always many jobs to be done. Please come spend a few minutes to help those less fortunate!

**GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!**



## The Good Samaritan Fund – Our August Emphasis

As many of you are aware, St. John's usually has a mission emphasis each month. During the last 2 years, the Stewardship Committee has made some changes to these emphases due to church income, local needs, and the best use of our funds. We kept some of the missions but did change a few. The 2024 calendar is as follows:

January – St. John's Outreach,  
Fellowship & Hospitality  
Committees  
February – LWR Personal Care Kits  
March – Sunday School  
April – Capital Fund  
May – LWR Baby Care Kits  
June – Midwest Shelter for Vets  
July – Worship/Altar Guild Comm.  
August – Good Samaritan Fund  
Sept. – LWR Shipping Fund  
Oct. – CROP Walk & Growing Hope  
Nov. – LSSI Giving Tree  
Dec. – Safe Passage (DeKalb)

The Good Samaritan Fund was our emphasis in August of last year and we have kept it as it is a local fund to help with immediate, but temporary, needs of disadvantaged local residents.

**Aid:** The available aid is limited to the monies in the fund through vouchers. Long term or greater needs are addressed through other community programs. No individual or family receives this benefit more than once a year. Local residents normally receive a food/gas voucher and/or infant needs voucher. Transient individuals normally receive a food/gas voucher or meal voucher. **Process:** All requests are normally initiated from one of the local participating churches. A signed pastoral recommendation then goes to the Sandwich Police Dept. (308 E. College). With proper identification, the police assess the needs, approve the vouchers, then sign and date them. Vouchers are not honored without that signature. The Sandwich Police Dept. maintains the records to ensure compliance and merchants forward vouchers to the Sandwich/Somonauk Ministerial Assoc. for reimbursement.

We will be accepting donations for the GSF during the month of August. As always, make certain that your donation is marked Good Samaritan Fund. Many, many thanks to all you good and faithful folk who assist in keeping our mission work strong.



# MEETING

## **Endowment Committee**

6:30 pm Tuesday, August 6



## **Stewardship Committee**

8:45am Wednesday, August 7



## **Property Committee**

10am Wednesday, August 7



## **Worship Committee**

10:30am Wednesday, August 7



## **Church Council**

6:30pm Thursday, August 8



## **Altar Guild**

6:30pm Tuesday, August 20



## **MOG Committee**

7:00 pm Tuesday, October 1

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL LAUGHS

Why was the arithmetic book so sad?

*It had too many problems.*

What school supply is in charge of the classroom?

*The ruler*

What does the English teacher make for breakfast?

*Synonym rolls*

Why doesn't the school library have a clock?

*It tocks too much.*

What is the blackboard's favorite drink?

*Hot chalk-olate*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<h1>August</h1> <h2>2024</h2>				
<b>4</b> 9:00am Worship	5	<b>6</b>  6:30pm Endowment Committee Mtg.	<b>7</b>  8:45am Stewardship Mtg. 10:30am Property Mtg. 10:30am Worship Mtg.	
<b>11</b> 9:00am Worship	12	13	14	
<b>18</b> 9:00am Worship (Blessing of the Backpacks)	19	<b>20</b> <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9am-3pm</i> <i>7pm-9pm</i>  6:30pm Altar Guild Mtg.	<b>21</b>  <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9am-3pm</i>	
<b>25</b> 9:00am Worship  4:30pm Fill LWR School Bags	26	27	28	

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 1:00pm Wedding  5:00pm Worship
8  6:30pm Church Council Meeting	9	10  5:00pm Worship
15	16	17  5:00pm Worship (Blessing of the Backpacks)
22	23	24  5:00pm Worship
29	30 Feed My Starving Children Leave Church by 6pm Arrive @ 7pm Done by 8:45pm	31  5:00pm Worship

# The Parents Corner

For some reason, the quip in my calendar “On the edge of a precipice, only a fool does cartwheels.” led my mind to prophets.

The Biblical prophets carried the message that those peoples who forgot God would suffer greatly for it, but God loved those peoples and would eventually rescue them. Over the years, prince, priest or layman; they carried this warning to people who did not want to listen. Jonah, especially did not want to risk his life warning the enemies of Israel. In that case, God was a persistent recruiter.

We have had prophets in our own country that we haven’t listened to. Alexander de Tocqueville wrote that “America is great because America is good, and if America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.” Abraham Lincoln borrowed from the Bible to say, “A nation divided against itself cannot stand.”

In our churches, we have prophets in every pulpit. And then, we have family prophets who warn against ordinary dangers. “Put a hat on in this heat or you’ll get sunstroke.” “Look both ways before you cross the street, or you might get hit by a car.” Could those almost daily warnings be the reason we don’t pay attention to the monumental ones, or have we maybe just lost our focus?

Submitted by Lois Spizzirri



## Church Staff

### A. Administration

- i. Office Secretary: Julie Horsch

### b. Business

- i. Financial Recorder: Mike Hamer
- ii. Treasurer: Scott Horsch

### c. Facilities

- i. Building Superintendent: Diane Wold

### d. Worship

- i. Accompanists: Jessica Ortega, Toni Lundeen, Becky Stephens, Margaret Page

## Church Council

President: Wayne Karp  
Vice-President:  
Secretary: Bob Fraley

## Congregation Council

Andrew (Drew) Hallman  
Michael Hamer  
Connie Hamer  
Cindy Karp  
Jeanette Pfeifer

## **Lutherdale Bible Camp Representatives-2024**

Karol Grandgeorge, Nancy Miller

## **Synod Assembly Representatives-2024**

Pastor, Lynn Skrzypiec

## **Cemetery Ministry Team**

Bob Fraley, Glen Reuter, Doug Stahl

## **Endowment Ministry Team**

Mike Hamer, Wendy Merkel, Jeanette Pfeifer, Dale Robinson

## **Finance Ministry Team**

Chuck Hoepe,

Bob Mueller, Joanne Robinson

## **Memorial and Other Gifts Fund Team**

Kathy Anderson, Connie Hamer,

Nancy Miller, Lynn Skrzypiec

## Church Ministries & Organizations Contacts

Altar Guild

CROP Walk: Mark Lee & Mike Hamer

Growing Hope: Jerry & Toni Lundeen

Global Missions: *In need of leadership*

Habitat for Humanity: Karol Grandgeorge

Hearts & Hands: Stella Gardner

House of the Little Ones: Linda Johnson

LSSI Christmas Hope Chest: Karol Grandgeorge & Julie Horsch

LWR Projects (Mission Quilts, Baby Care Kits, School Kits,

Personal Care Kits, Sewing Kits): Karol Grandgeorge

Meals on Wheels: Mark Lee

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans: *In need of leadership*

Our Sharing Pantry: Chuck Lee

Partners In Mission - Uganda, Africa: *In need of leadership*

Prayer Chain: Karol Grandgeorge,

## Parish Education

### Confirmation

- a. Primary Instructor—Pastor Chris & Scott Horsch
- b. St. John's Congregational Council

### **3N1: 7—12 gr. Youth Ministry:**

Coordinators: Jason & Kim Boczko

from Salem Lutheran Church, Sandwich

Youth Ministry Connection from St. John's—Julie Horsch

**Esther Circle:** Jeanette Pfeifer

**Rebekah Circle:** Connie Hamer

**Sunday School Coordinator:** Nancy Miller

## Chairpersons/Ministry Summaries

*(Listed alphabetically by ministry)*

**Cemetery Ministry:** Doug Stahl

Oversees the care of the church cemetery, maintenance and improvements.

**Communications Ministry:** Bob Fraley

Seeks to improve communication with members and the community.

**Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry**

Plans activities and recreational outings to promote friendship and fellowship in our congregation and community.

**Finance Ministry:** Scott Horsch

Proposes the budget and administers incoming and outgoing funds.

**Outreach Ministry:** Jeanette Pfeifer

Reach out to the community by welcoming new neighbors with bread, hosting/participating in community events, following up with visitors, and bringing God's love to St John's 'special members' from cradle roll through the homebound.

**Parish Education Ministry:**

Oversees Sunday School Program, Summer Bible Day Camp, and youth related activities.

**Property Ministry:** Drew Hallman

Oversees the care of the church facilities and grounds, maintenance and improvements.

**Stewardship /Missions Ministry:** Lynn Skrzypiec

Provides opportunities for members of our congregation to use their gifts and resources, which includes raising funds for special projects. Provides a variety of opportunities to do God's Work with Our Hands. Organizes activities, publicize events and coordinate participation. Please join us in any way that works for you.

**Worship Ministry:** Cindy Karp

Striving to provide Spirit filled worship opportunities in an atmosphere of hospitality.

Newsletter of St. John's Lutheran Church  
August 2024



**We're on the Web:**  
[www.elcastjohns.com](http://www.elcastjohns.com)

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