



LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWS 9/9/
INFORMATION



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

SEPTEMBER 2024

A September 2024 Message from your Pastor ...

Greetings to you in the powerful name of Jesus Christ!



Summer is winding down, and another school year has begun. Remember to keep our students, teachers, and staff in your prayers.

The Sandwich Fair is September 4th – 8th. St. John's is participating in the ecumenical worship service on Sunday the 8th. Join us for worship at 8:30 a.m. at the fairgrounds. **Please Note:** *there will **not** be a worship service at St. John's that day.* See you on Sunday, September 8th, at the fair!

Sunday School will begin with Rally Day, on Sunday, September 15th at 8:30 a.m. Adult Forum also begins September 15th, we will be studying the Book of Hebrews. **Worship** follows at **9:45 a.m.** (*Note the worship service time change on September 15th.*) Also of interest, we will be reintroducing parts of the sung liturgy on Sunday, September 15th.

Following worship on September 15th, there will be a picnic lunch of hot dogs, chips, and desserts. If you can assist in any way, please contact Nancy Miller. It will be a fun time for fellowship. Our time together will be a time for Sunday School students to get to know their teachers and all of us get to meet and greet each other.

There will be a Confirmation orientation session for 7th & 8th Grade students, parents and mentors at St. John's on Wednesday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m. Confirmation classes will begin on September 18th at St. John's beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m.



Thursday Morning Bible Studies will resume on September 19th at 9:00 a.m. We will finish the *I Am* study beginning with Week 4 Day 1.

Steve and I will be away September 15th (after worship) - 18th (will be back for Confirmation) for a brief time away.

And [Jesus] took [the children] in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. Mark 10:16 NRSV

God's Blessings & Peace,

Pastor Chris



Rebekah Circle

Date: Thursday, September 19th

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: St. John's Fellowship Hall

Session 1: Water, Water Everywhere

Hostess: Jackie Harmon

LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

September 17 **9:00 am to 3:00 pm and
7:00 pm to 9:00pm Bring a Lunch**

September 18 **9:00am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch**

The month of September at St. John's will be for the collection of money for the Shipping Fund for all the Lutheran World Relief projects to get overseas. This fund does not reimburse the drivers who take things to Elgin to the truck. That job is strictly volunteer. The cost of shipping items overseas is as follows:

LWR Quilt	\$2.80
LWR Backpack	\$2.85
LWR Personal Care Kits	\$1.50
LWR Baby Care Kits	\$3.10
LWR Sewing Kits	\$1.80

Just to ship the Baby Care Kits we have completed, it will cost about \$744. That is only one of the items we have done. Needless to say, the expense to cover shipping everything we have done will be high. To donate to this Shipping Fund, put your donation in a Blue envelope anytime during September and mark it LWR Shipping Fund or include it with your white envelope offering and mark it Shipping Fund. We thank you in advance for your donations.

During work days in September we will be cutting quilt blocks and school backpacks, tying quilts, sewing around quilts and enjoying each others fellowship. Remember we take used sheets and blankets for use in quilts 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. Won't you please come spend a few minutes to help those less fortunate! Remember...

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!

St. John's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - August 8, 2024

Members present: Bob Fraley, Connie Hamer, Mike Hamer, Cindy Karp, Wayne Karp, Jeanette Pfeifer, and Pastor Chris Schoon.

- Devotions were read by Cindy Karp on the opportunity for joy.
- The meeting was called to order at 6:30.
- Lynn Skrzpiec gave a report on this year's synod assembly. There were 312 voting members present. She gave her notes to be typed up and printed and made available for the congregation to read. See report.
- Mike made a motion to accept the consent agenda, Connie seconded, motion carried.
- Wayne presented the check detail for July and treasurer's report. Giving has slowed down but we are doing okay.

Committee reports

- Fellowship/Hospitality – None
- Outreach – Jeanette welcomed two visitors.
- Finance – None. Preparations are planned for September for next year's budget.
- Mission/ Stewardship – See report.
- MOG – Anita Milligan has agreed to be secretary. There were no requests. It was discussed that the bylaws are out of compliance. Changes need to be made to allow Nancy Miller to be accepted as a non-voting member while retaining her position as financial recorder.
- Parish Ed – Vacation Bible School had 28 children, 12 adult and 8 young adult helpers. Seven congregations were involved. Rally Day is September 15th. Confirmation begins September 18th with orientation September 11th.
- Property – A torsion spring was replaced on the parsonage garage door at a cost of \$290 by J & D Doors. Connie brought up the need for parking lot restriping. Connie made a motion to accept a bid from Stephen's Tree Service for tree trimming at the parsonage for \$3550. Cindy seconded. Motion carried.
- Worship – See reports for both July and August. The August report was amended to read, "Sunday service changes back to 9:45." It was agreed to allow Jeanette to read a prayer she wrote at a future service. There was much discussion regarding the changing of the liturgy. Wayne suggested keeping it until October. It was felt that the Worship committee should have input. More discussion followed regarding a letter Jeanette wrote to

Continued on next page...

present to the congregation. It was tabled for further discussion.

- Pastor's report – See report
- JoAnne Robinson and Mary Carlson have both agreed to join Council starting in 2025.
- Wayne said that a final balloon payment was made to the Konica copier company but that we now own it.
- Jeanette made the motion to adjourn, Mike seconded, meeting was adjourned at 8:13.

In God's service,
Bob Fraley

News from St. John's Committees

STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 8-7-24

The August 7, 2024 meeting was called to order at 8:46 a.m. with Mark Lee, Connie Hamer, Pastor Chris Schoon, Karol Grandgeorge, and Mike Hamer present. We prayed that the Holy Spirit would instruct our faithful hearts and help us make wise decisions.

The July minutes were approved as read.

Michael's July offering report was as follows: General Fund - \$12,075.54; Capital Fund - \$930.41; Good Samaritan Fund - \$245.50; and Worship/Altar Guild - \$302.11.

Karol will do an article for LWR Shipping for the Sept. Journal. We will be scheduling a date to take completed LWR projects to Elgin. August 17th-18th has been scheduled for blessings students' and LWR backpacks.

Michael will give edited Time and Talent brochures to Julie to be amended. She will print 75 copies to be distributed on Rally Sunday, Sept. 15th.

Michael and Mark reported that there will be a CROP organizational meeting on Sunday, August 18th at 2:00 p.m. at UCC in Somonauk.

Janice Dunn is the head of the group and the ‘walk’ will be at Somonauk Park.

The MSHV supplies were delivered.

There will be a new format for Confirmation lessons which will incorporate some of the church projects (ex. Giving Tree) and personal reflections into the lessons.

Pastor indicated that there is interest in reviving the Community Feasts that were held before the pandemic. They would probably be quarterly and the first one would be held on Tuesday, Oct. 22nd. Pastor will seek more information.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 4th at 8:45 a.m. We adjourned at 9:55 a.m. by praying The Lord’s Prayer.



Community Interfaith CROP Hunger Walk – helping end hunger one step at a time

Contact: Mike Hamer / Mark Lee

815-498-3667

Community Interfaith CROP Hunger Walk to be held on October 6, 2024

Looking to make a difference in our local community and in communities worldwide, the CROP Hunger Walk has set a goal to help end hunger and poverty through long-term sustainable approaches to significantly reduce or eliminate hunger. A portion of the funds (25%) raised here in our area will go to Our Sharing Pantry.

Last year, several walkers raised more than \$2000 through this CROP Hunger Walk. This year Somonauk and some 1,000 other communities nationwide are joining together in interfaith CROP Hunger Walks around the theme “Ending hunger one step at a time.” Many walkers will be walking in solidarity with the millions of neighbors around the world who have to walk to live – as well as with the millions served by local food pantries, food banks and meal sites here in the U.S. These local ministries share in the funds raised by CROP Hunger Walks. From combating droughts in Nicaragua to providing agricultural training in Indonesia to stocking shelves in hundreds of food pantries across the United States, CROP Hunger Walks are fighting hunger.

This year’s walk will be hosted by United Congregational Church in Somonauk, The walk starts at 2:00 pm with registration between 1:15 and 2:00. The walk itself is at the Somonauk Park on Depot Street. It’s a one-half mile route (you can do multiple laps) with refreshments at the end in the pavilion.

2024 SYNOD ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

"And being so fed, we will lean into the grace and grit of our vocation to Be the Body, to live into the called life"



ACTIONS TAKEN

- blessed a new synod banner
- heard from Rev. Miguel Gomez-Acosta, Senior Director for New Ministry Development and Evangelism at ELCA Churchwide
- passed the Fiscal Year 2026 Northern Illinois Synod Budget
- passed the 2025 Rostered Minister Compensation Guidelines
- passed three resolutions brought to the assembly
- elected several members to serve on Synod Council, committees, and 2025 Churchwide Assembly.
- heard from Bishop Fidlar about a new development project.
- heard from Becoming, a new Synod Authorized Worshipping Community in Oswego



St. John's donated to the yellow portion of the banner.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were passed by the assembly:

- **R-1: Celebrating and Supporting the 50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger**
- **R-2: Northern Illinois Synod to Consider Becoming Reconciling in Christ**
- **R-3: Reject Christian Nationalism**

ELECTIONS

Synod Council Offices

Treasurer, Ms. Nancy Lillevold

Synod Council

Mr. Trace Gallagher, Ms. Leann Heimerdinger, Mr. Dave Kromphardt, Rev. Chris Lee, Rev. John Rothfusz

Congregational Life Committee

Ms. Carol Johnson, Mr. David Crippen

Global Missions Committee

Dr. Alan Esker, Rev. Makayla Dahleen, Rev. Jonathan Black

Ministry Support Committee

Ms. Julie Eshleman, Mr. Jason Gustafson, Rev. Matt Kamprath

Outreach Committee

Rev. Sarah Wilson, Rev. Dr. Eric Lemonholm

Social Ministry Committee

Mr. John Gustafson, Rev. Patrick Fish

2025 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

Ms. Clara Solak, Mr. Luke Snyder, Ms. Paula Ebener, Mr. George Sanchez, Mr. Brandon Graves, Rev. Chad McKenna, Bishop Stacie Fidlar, Ms. Minnette Willard, Mr. Mel Ehrler, Ms. Rita Gustafson, Rev. Jamie Gallagher, Rev. Julane Nease, Mr. Bill Wescott, Ms. Merianne Morris, Preston Fields, Shari Simon



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO
the table

BE
MYLE
Young
Adult
Gathering

Two youth from St. John's, Kaydence Eade and Kira Barnes attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans with 3n1 Youth Group. A presentation was given by 3n1 leaders, Kim & Jason Boczko during worship on August 25th. Here are a few of the pictures that were included in the presentation for anyone that wasn't able to attend.







MEETING

Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, September 4



Property Committee

10am Wednesday, September 4



Worship Committee

10:30am Wednesday, September 4



Church Council

6:30pm Thursday, September 12



Rebekah Circle Meeting

1:00pm Thursday, September 19



MOG Committee

7:00 pm Tuesday, October 1



Endowment Committee

6:30 pm Tuesday, November 12



Altar Guild

6:30pm Tuesday, November 19





Joe Denault	09/01
Ward Hearn	09/03
Jennifer Reuter	09/04
Chuck Lee	09/04
Bob Fraley	09/06
Wayne Karp	09/08
Ron Merkel	09/09
Fran Parkison	09/11
Charles Vermeland	09/13
Madison Vermeland	09/13
Karie Misener	09/18
Homer Hulon Sr	09/19
Dan Lundeen	09/21
Benjamin Stahl	09/24
Susan Keenan	09/27
Merlyn Milligan	09/28
Angie Shoener	09/30



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

Dale & Joanne Robinson	09/03
Christine & Steve Schoon	09/16
Don & Rose Rubis	09/17
Dan & Kelly Denault	09/19
Ward & Cheryl Hearn	09/20 60 Years!!
Blair & Paul Lindstrom	09/26
Bob & Anita Reis Sr.	09/30

Happy Anniversary!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 9:00am Worship	2	3	4 8:45am Stewardship Mtg. 10:30am Property Mtg. 10:30am Worship Mtg.
8 8:30am Worship @ Sandwich Fairgrounds No worship @ St. John's	9	10	11
15 Worship Time Change 9:45am Worship 	16	17 <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9am-3pm</i> <i>7pm-9pm</i>	18 <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9am-3pm</i>
22 9:45am Worship	23	24	25
29 9:45am Worship	30		

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	5	6	7 5:00pm Worship
	12 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	13	14 5:00pm Worship
	19 9:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Rebekah Circle	20	21 5:00pm Worship
	26 9:00am Bible Study	27	28 5:00pm Worship
			September 2024



The Parents Corner

Supposedly, today the American Dream is owning a house. Due to high housing costs and mortgage rates, this dream is now out of reach for most people. But when bankers, builders and realtors equate a house with the American Dream, they are misleading us. Owning a car, taking a vacation, earning a living wage or starting a business are also American Dreams.

To understand THE American Dream, we must go back to our country's beginning. Our founding fathers were serious about God. To them, God was not a nebulous thought or a "Sunday kind of thing". They told us this in the words of our Declaration of Independence. "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." The "Pursuit of Happiness" was a common phrase which meant to seek to be the person God wants us to be. Freedom for this pursuit was included in the first amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof".

To seek to be the person God wants us to be is essential for our country's existence. Children watch what we do and mimic us... at least until they become teenagers.

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.

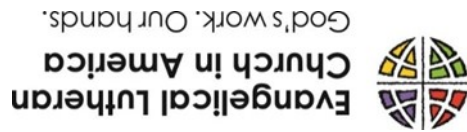
Stewardship /Missions Ministry: Lynn Skrzypiec

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
September 2024



We're on the Web:
www.elcastjohns.com

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