



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



235 S. Green Street
P.O. Box 245
Somonauk, Illinois 60552

Journal
October 2023

An October Message From Your Pastor ...

⁸...if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:8&9

It is October already and the harvest season is here. I look forward to Fall with the cooler, crisper temperatures and the leaves on the trees changing colors. Our prayer is that our farmers and all who travel rural roads be safe.

By the time you read this, Sunday School and Confirmation will be off to a good start. Sunday School begins at 8:30 a.m. and worship is at 9:45 a.m. This year we have 6 students in Confirmation. We alternate class between St. John's and Salem Lutheran Church.

Please join us on October 1st for our **Quarterly Congregational meeting** after worship. October 1st is also the CROP Walk in Hinckley. October 21st. is the Growing Hope Globally Harvest Celebration at the Sandwich Fairgrounds. Worship & presentation at the fairgrounds begins at 10:30 a.m.

Reformation Weekend is October 28th & 29th. Please wear **red** for Reformation. We remember we, the church, are always reforming with the help of God's Holy Spirit in our midst!

The Luther Rose

First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. ... It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. ...



The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. ...

This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed.

Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite... just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

(From: Letter from Martin Luther to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530 [WA Br 5:445]; tr. P. T. McCain)

May all of you enjoy God's Blessings & Peace,
Pastor Chris



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Cheyenne Palmer 10/02

Curtis Moody 10/04

Sid Wheeler 10/06

Susan Thomas 10/06

Cara Killey 10/10

Lucas Hallman 10/14

Dave Gottlieb 10/15

Betty Hegland 10/22

Mary Carlson 10/22

Cheryl Hearn 10/24

Gerry Gehrke 10/28



Adam & Amy Killey 10/01

Jackie & Brad Eade 10/05

Wayne & Cindy Karp 10/07

Doug & Linda Stahl 10/08

John & Sue Weber 10/08 40 Years!

Tom & Jackie Harmon 10/21



The ecumenical worship service held during the Sandwich Fair had a wonderful turnout of about 140 people. There weren't enough seats for all who attended. That's a good problem to have! Pastors from Somonauk, Sandwich and Leland participated.



IT'S time to start thinking about the Giving Tree for the children at Lutheran Social Services of Illinois! The tree will be up by October 28th. Just pick a name tag (or more than 1, if you are willing and able), shop for the item and bring the gift back to the church by November 26th. Remember, we ask that you DON'T wrap the gift but, gift wrap, tape and labels are always welcome and will be passed on to LSSI.

Proverbs 19:17 "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." Let's be generous so these kids who don't have a family or are not with their family, will have a wonderful Christmas.

News from St. John's Committees

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 8-9-23

Meeting was called to order at 1:20 pm. with prayer. Lois Spizziri, Pastor Chris and Julie Horsch were present. Report from altar guild .happy about the funds available: the same Christmas trees will be used this year and there will be a sign up for poinsettias the first part of November.

Report from Pastor: Council approved the decision to only have one Christmas Eve service since there will be a regular service at 9:45 due to Christmas Eve being on a Sunday. Services will be held at 9:45 am and 4pm.

Advent Morning Prayer will again take place on Tuesdays and will only last three weeks starting on December 5th.

Hymns for October were chosen.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord s Prayer at 1:42pm.

St. John's Lutheran Church Council minutes for September 14, 2023

Members present: Pastor Schoon, Jim Beal, Bob Fraley, Drew Hallman, Wayne Karp, Jeanette Pfeiffer

Pastor led with devotions on the 8th commandment.

Jim made a motion to accept the consent agenda items Jeanette seconded.

Motion carried.

Wayne presented the treasurer's report. The church is bringing in around \$4000/week which is keeping even with the bills. Wayne talked with Scott Horsch who said we are financially stable.

The council met with Pat Haugen from Lutherdale via Zoom. He updated us on the facility and reported that next year will be their 80th anniversary with events planned. He said they have a new executive director and thanked us for our financial support. Wayne related to Pat that Karol Grandgeorge and Nancy Miller are our representatives.

Committee reports

Fellowship/Hospitality – No report.

Outreach – Jeanette greeted a returning member

Finance – Will get together in October to begin the budget process. We are on track to meet our 2023 budget of \$240,000.

Missions/Stewardship – Did not meet.

MOG – Did not meet.

Parish Ed. – Teachers are lined up. Classes will be combined. Rally Day is the 17th. Confirmation classes will alternate between Salem and St. John's.

Property – The downstairs hallway was painted. The fascia has been lined up to be repaired at the parsonage. The elevator certificate needs to be updated.

Worship – See report. Wayne reported around 150 people attended the combined service at the Sandwich Fair.

Tech – Jim helped Julie update the church website.

Pastor's report – See report.

In God's service,

Robert Fraley



GROWING
HOPE
G L O B A L L Y

PUBLIC INVITED!
FREE admission

Come...
enjoy

HARVEST DAY

Saturday **OCTOBER 21 • 2023**

1401 Suydam Road • Sandwich, Illinois
FOLLOW THE SIGNS

SANDWICH FAIRGROUNDS



10:30am Presentation

With photos from their visits Jerry & Toni Lundeen (Somonauk) recount the impact of GHG on locations, from inception through start up to results, especially as communities



- Lunch Served
- Fun, family activities
- Auction — **HOMEMADE PIES & MORE**
- Displays & Demonstrations

[www. Growing Hope Globally.org](http://www.GrowingHopeGlobally.org)



See you there!



OVER \$1,300,000 = 23,600 people raised to food security


since 2004 by these three local groups

40 Farmers + 33 Churches* = \$70,000.00 (Projected 2023)
from the Somonauk, Earlville and Twin Rivers-Barrington Growing Projects
helping people in developing countries become self-sufficient
in growing their own food

More Info: TJLundeen@gmail.com

* REPRESENTING 9 DENOMINATIONS

The Window Story



A young couple moved into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young woman saw her neighbor hanging the wash outside.

"That laundry is not very clean," she said. "She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap."

Her husband looked on, but remained silent.

Every time her neighbor would hang her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comments.

About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband, "Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this?"

The husband said, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows.

And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look.

Now that school is back in full swing...

Back-to-school season is a good time for a refresher on how to support your student this school year and beyond!

- Whether it be the pandemic, continued social unrest, gun violence in schools, or even the social stress of social media, the world is different than when you were growing up so avoid comparisons and suspend judgement when talking to your child.
 - Be open to sharing your struggles and thoughts and your child will feel more comfortable coming to you with theirs. Your kid may see these moments of honesty and vulnerability on your part and think they can reciprocate when they have their own problems.
 - Stay on top of your child's social media habits. A lot of social media can promote unhealthy behavior, unhealthy standards, and even bullying. While all of that might sound scary and may mean you want to avoid them having accounts keep in mind it is a new form of social connection and adolescents do seek that out. Know what they are consuming by having open dialogue.
 - Help your child find healthy ways of belonging. Encourage clubs and activities where they can find their people! If your kid isn't finding anyone they "click" with don't judge or shame.
 - Be kind to yourself. Your kids notice how adults in their life talk about themselves and if you aren't kind to yourself they might think they can be hard on themselves too.
- Make your child's mental health a priority. The same way you would check in on a child's physical health make sure to stay on top of their mental health by being conscious of changes to their mood.

If you or your child needs someone to talk to:

Chicago call LSSI Connect at 833.610.5774

Nationwide call NAMI Helpline at 800.950.6264

Nationwide call SAMSHA at 800.622.4357

Mental health emergency services dial 988



Reformation Sunday

Therefore, since we have
been justified through
faith, we have peace with
God through our Lord Jesus
Christ, through whom we
have gained access by faith
into this grace in which we
now stand.



Romans 5:1-2, 11

October 29, 2023



MEETING

Quarterly Congregational Meeting

October 1st after worship



MOG Committee

7:00 pm Tuesday, October 3

Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, October 4



Property Committee

10am Wednesday, October 4

Worship Committee

1:30pm Wednesday, October 4



Fellowship & Hospitality

2pm Wednesday, October 18

Rebekah Circle Meeting

1:00pm Thursday October 19

@St. John's



Endowment Committee

6:30 pm Tuesday, November 7

LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

OCTOBER 17th 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm to 9:00pm Bring a Lunch

OCTOBER 18th 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! These thankyou's go to everyone who helped in any way to make the completion of 568 Backpacks a reality. The people who sewed, the people who strung, the people who bought supplies, the people who got boughten items ready for packing, the people who gave money including the Endowment Committee, the people who helped fill and pack the boxes and the drivers who filled the vehicles and took them to Elgin. We had a great response this year and we couldn't be happier with the results. Just so you know we already have 18 backpacks ready for 2024! If you sew at home, we have bags cut out, ready to be sewn.

The regular work days in October will be used to do the usual: tying of quilts, cutting backpacks, making quilt packs and sewing around the quilts. We usually have some taking apart and sorting to do as things keep coming in. We all work hard at getting more quilt kits made for people to sew at home. If you can sew and are looking for something rewarding to do, consider sewing a quilt top from the basket in the hallway by the kitchen.

Please consider spending some time with us at work days in October. We need to get our LWR year off to a good start. Remember: GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 8:30am Sunday School 8:30 Adult Forum 9:45am Worship Noisy Coin Collection Quarterly Congregational Meeting	2	3 7:00pm MOG Meeting	4 8:45am Stewardship 9:00am <u>Women of the Bible Speak</u> book study 10am Property 1:30pm Worship comm. 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
8 8:30am Sunday School 8:30 Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	9	10	11 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
15 8:30am Sunday School 8:30 Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	16	17 LWR Workday 9am-3pm 7pm-9pm	18 LWR Workday 9am-3pm 2:00pm Fellowship & Hospitality Meeting 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
22 8:30am Sunday School 8:30 Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	23	24	25 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
29 8:30 Sunday School 8:30 Adult Forum 9:45am Worship Reformation Sunday (Wear Red!)	30	31	6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:00pm Worship</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:00pm Worship</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study</p> <p>1:00pm Rebekah Circle @ St. John's</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:00pm Worship</p> <p>Growing Hope Globally Celebration @ Sandwich Fairgrounds 10:00am</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:00pm Worship</p>
<p>9:00am Bible Study</p>		<p>October</p> <p>2023</p>

The Parents Corner

On a recent Sunday, my family rushed to get to a 9 a.m. church service in Homewood for my oldest great-grandson's First Communion. The congregation had returned to the full Lutheran liturgy that had been curtailed during the Covid 19 epidemic. My heart and voice sang for joy. Lutherans have always been known as the "singing" church and I have enjoyed that all my life.

Rituals in the church just as rituals in the family bind us together from one generation to another. After I put my little girls to bed at night, I would recite, "Good night, sleep tight, God bless you through the night," (I would touch my fingers to my lips and put a kiss under their pillows and say) "a kiss for under your pillow", followed by saying "and love for your heart", (touching my heart and then their hearts). Many years later, I watched my granddaughter do the same for her children.

Religious rituals can change. The Lutheran Church in America has several different settings for the service. A congregation can choose to use just one or change to others by the month or by the church season.

Family rituals can change. At Christmas when my dad was alive, we opened Christmas presents one at a time in turn from the oldest person to the youngest because he couldn't wait. After he was gone, our children insisted on opening from youngest to oldest. Now, all the children open their presents first in like manner and then the adults take over while the children go off and play.

All holiday meals were first held at my house and then at the home of my youngest daughter. Now that two of the grandchildren have settled into spacious homes, the location of holiday celebrations is decided each year.

In my family, the way we do things and the people who do them is treasured now and in memory. May your family be blessed in your special ways of living and celebrating God's love and your love for each other.

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

Jim Beal
Andrew (Drew) Hallman
Michael Hamer
Jeanette Pfeifer
Lynn Skrzypiec

Lutherdale Bible Camp Representatives-2021

Karol Grandgeorge, Nancy Miller

Synod Assembly Representatives-2021

Pastor Mike & Connie Hamer

Cemetery Ministry Team

Bob Fraley, Glen Reuter, Doug Stahl

Endowment Ministry Team

Mike Hamer, Wendy Merkel, Jeanette Pfeifer, Dale Robinson &

Finance Ministry Team

Tom Harmon, Chuck Hoepe, , Dave McKenzie,
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: Doris Miller

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: Jim Beal

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: Lois Spizzirri

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

Newsletter of St. John's Lutheran Church October
2023



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

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