

## A February 2025 Message from your Pastor ...

*<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*

*<sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,  
but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17 (NRSV)*

As we celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14<sup>th</sup>, we take time to remember God's incredible love for us each and every day.

2025 is off to a good start because we know, trust, and believe that God is with us, loves us and the whole world.

Our Sunday School children will be participating in the worship service on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Also, we will be collecting our Noisy Offering on that day as well. Bring your coins and cash to worship. Our SS children will collect your offering. Proceeds of the Noisy Offering will go to the three churches in Peru.

Lent begins next month; Ash Wednesday is March 5<sup>th</sup>.

- There will be 1 service this year at 6:30 p.m. with a meal prior to that from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- During the season of Lent, we will gather for Lenten services on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. with Soup suppers from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- A Lenten Men's Breakfast will be offered as well. We'll meet for 6 consecutive Saturdays during Lent beginning March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m.



- Also of note, the Federated Church in Sandwich will host the Wednesday Morning Lenten Breakfast again this year at 9:00 a.m. The theme will be *Conversations with Jesus*.

As we celebrate St. Valentine's Day in a few days, please consider these verses from Scripture ...

<sup>4</sup> *Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful.*

<sup>6</sup> *it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.*

<sup>7</sup> *It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

<sup>8</sup> *Love never ends. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NRSV)*



May we live out these words.

May you enjoy God's Blessings & Peace –

Pastor Chris

# Rebekah Circle

Date: Thursday, February 20th

Time: 1:00 pm

Lesson: Mary, a Woman for All Seasons

Session #2: Kingships, Friendships & Holy Encounters

Location: St. John's Fellowship Hall

Hostess: Jackie Harmon

# LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

February 18th

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

February 19th

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

With all the natural disaster in the world, Lutheran World Relief is always in need of Personal Care Kits. February will be the month to do Personal Care Kits at St. John's. Each kit must have:

1 light-weight bath-size towel, no larger than 27" x 52" Dark color recommended

Bath-size bar soap to equal 8 Oz. In original wrapping

1 Adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging. If multiple pack, put each tooth brush in business size envelope

1 Sturdy Comb /no pick style

1 metal Nail Clipper (attached file optional)

**PLEASE RETURN ITEMS TO CHURCH BY FEBRUARY 28TH**

If you are unable to shop, you may place a donation in an envelope and mark it for Personal Care Kits. We will shop for you!

January during work days we will be cutting school bags and getting the packs ready for people to sew at home. There will be blocks to cut for the Piece Maker packets which go home to be sewn into quilt tops. The sewn quilt tops will be matched with a center and a back so they are ready for the tiers. Happy fingers will tie the quilts and pin the edges. Then the quilts will be sewn around and folded so they can be packed for transport to Elgin. We put together things that have come in for the Baby Care Kits so they can be sent. We will also be working on assembling Personal Care Kits. There are many jobs that need to be completed to get things ready for packing. I know we are all busy doing many things throughout the year, but can you give a little time to the LWR causes?

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

## St. John's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - January 12, 2025

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

- Wayne led devotions on Jesus' abiding presence.
- Wayne called the meeting to order at 10:36.
- Connie made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Mike seconded. Motion passed.
- Scott presented the Treasurer's report and the 2025 budget. He noted envelope contributions for the year were \$227,538.52 with total expenditures being \$235,237.79. Based on these figures he presented a 2025 budget of \$230,300. He also noted there has been a steady regression in contributions the past few years. Cindy made the motion to accept the budget. Jeanette seconded. Budget was approved by council.
- Committee reports
  - ◇ Fellowship/Hospitality – There were eighteen people who attended the chili supper.
  - ◇ Outreach – None
  - ◇ Finance – None
  - ◇ Missions/Stewardship – See report. Bob brought up the status of the Sharing Pantry possibly having some financial need. He will look for further information.
  - ◇ MOG – There was an \$800 money donation to purchase oil filled candle holders. Lynn Skrzpiec is going off the committee with Jerry Lundeen coming on. A portion of the committee bylaws were rewritten to allow Nancy Miller to remain financial secretary but not as a voting member. It was presented to council. Connie made a motion to accept the rewritten bylaw. Cindy seconded. Motion carried. Now it will move on to the congregation for approval.
  - ◇ Parish Education – None
  - ◇ Property – A bid for \$2000 from Yellow Jacket Electric was presented to change out the ballasts in some of our lighting to allow for LED lights. This should hopefully save in energy costs.
  - ◇ Worship – See report. Another piano has been offered to the congregation by Doris and Neil Miller. This, along with the other donation offer will both be further evaluated.
  - ◇ Tech – None

- Pastor's Report – See report
- Joanne Robinson and Mary Carlson have agreed to serve as council members.
- Thank you to Drew, Mike, and Jeanette for your time serving on council.
- Pastor asked and there was discussion whether we should have some first aid/ CPR training.
- Connie made the motion to adjourn. Mike seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:22.

In God's service,

Bob Fraley

## News from St. John's Committees

### STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 1-8-25

The January meeting was called to order at 8:48 a.m. with Mark Lee, Karol Grandgeorge, Pastor Chris Schoon, Connie Hamer, and Mike Hamer present. The opening prayer was asking for God's presence, insights, and wisdom.

The December minutes were approved as printed.

Michael's December offering report was as follows: General Fund - \$43,187.91; Capital Fund - \$1054.04; Safe Passage - \$430.08; Good Samaritan - \$533.00; and LSSI - \$100.

Michael still has about 25 offering envelope packs for anyone needing new envelopes.

The emphasis for January was our Outreach and Hospitality committees. Karol will put information about the February emphasis which is LWR Personal Care Kits in her monthly LWR article. Each personal care kit has five items: 1 bath towel, 8 oz. soap, 1 nail clipper, 1 toothbrush, and 1 sturdy comb. Karol will purchase the towels, soap, and toothbrushes for approximately 150 kits (from funds already available) to complete kits with supplies left over from last year. We will put out the display in late January for our congregants. Other LWR information: A new roll of flannel for diapers has

arrived. LWR monthly workdays for 2025 were set and Diane will put out a few pamphlets with the quilt top packets for those interested. Also, Karol and Connie made a trip up to Elgin on Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> to deliver the LWR kits and quilts that had accumulated.

There will be a meeting to discuss details for the Community Fellowship Dinner scheduled for Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at 10:00 this morning.

Mark and Connie will not be available for the next scheduled Stewardship meeting, so we have set the February meeting for **\*\*\*Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at 8:45 a.m.\*\*\*** Stewardship usually skips the month of March for a meeting, but Connie will submit an article for the March journal for our March emphasis which is our Sunday School.

A reminder that March 5<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday and Easter is Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

We adjourned at 9:37 a.m. by praying The Lord's Prayer.

## WARSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 1-8-25

Meeting opened with prayer at 1:01. Those present: Lois Spizziri, Cindy Karp, Julie Horsch, Toni Lundeen and Pastor Chris.

- Baby grand piano... Julie will talk to Brad about getting it measured and checked out.

- Lent: March 5: Ash Wednesday. 6:30 only service

~Lenten services, Wednesday nights at 6:30. March 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9. Maundy-Thursday - April 17th, Good Friday - April 18, Easter Vigil - April 19 5pm, Easter - April 20 9:45am

~Holden Evening Prayer will be used for Lenten services. All services will be at St. John's. UCC will be invited to join us.

~Pastor will use "Artisans of the Crucifixion" for the sermons during Lent

~We will use setting 10 liturgy during Lent on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Meeting ended at 1:50pm.

## MOG MINUTES 1-7-25

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by chairperson, Kathy Anderson. We said a prayer for wisdom and insight to guide our meeting together. Present were Kathy Anderson, Karol Grandgeorge, Connie Hamer, Nancy Miller, Pastor Chris and Anita Milligan.

The October meeting minutes were read and were approved unanimously.

Nancy Miller presented the Financial Secretary's report. The money market value is currently \$91,524.89. The books were audited and all was found to be in good order. Anita motioned and Karol seconded to accept the printed Financial Secretary's report. The vote was unanimously approved.

Twenty Rectangular tables and four Round tables were purchased for \$2944.92 (this cost was under budget).

After discussion, the Financial Secretary's position updates to the bylaws we slightly revised. Karol motioned and Anita approved to accept the updates to the bylaws. The vote was unanimously approved. Kathy will update and submit them to the Church Council for approval.

Discussion was continued regarding scholarships for voice or piano lessons with Jessica Ortega. We will find out further information about cost of lessons.

A monetary request was made to purchase refillable candles for the Advent Wreath (four taper candles and one pillar candle for the center), and a refillable Paschal Candle. The cost will be approximately \$820. Anita motioned and Karol seconded to purchase the refillable candles. The vote was unanimously approved.

Jerry Lundeen will be joining the MOG Committee. His term will be from January, 2025 to January, 2030.

Anita motioned and Pastor Chris seconded to adjourn the meeting. The committee adjourned by praying the Lord's Prayer together.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 7:00pm.



St John's Lutheran Church Special Congregational  
Meeting - January 12, 2025

Present were Connie Hamer, Mike Hamer, Cindy Karp, Wayne Karp, Jeanette Pfeifer, and Pastor Chris Schoon.

Meeting called to order 11:45 Reason for meeting is to approve, Addition to the Memorial and Other Gifts Committee Bylaws:

**C5.06.03D**

**The Financial Secretary shall be a yearly position appointed by the Committee at its first meeting following the Annual General Meeting. The Financial Secretary shall have voice but no voting rights.**

**The Financial Secretary shall keep the ledger of accounts of the Memorial and Other Gifts Committee. The Financial Secretary shall receive all funds and disburse them as directed by the committee.**

**The Financial Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Memorial and Other Gifts Committee and provide monthly and yearly financial accounting information. All checks must be signed by the Financial Secretary and the current Treasurer of St. John's Lutheran Church.**

Motion to Approve Changes

1st Connie Hamer 2nd Cindy Karp

Motion Approved.

Meeting Adjourned 11:50

We were going to bring this to Annual Meeting for Approval and then send to Synod. However per Constitution, Council must receive changes in writing 60 days before regular or special Congregational Meeting called for that purpose. And Council shall notify congregation's members of the proposal with the Council's recommendations at least 30 days in Advance of the Congregational Meeting.

Council will work on getting this approved.

Submitted by Council President Wayne Karp.





**THE COMMUNITY FEAST IS  
COMING TO ST. JOHN'S!**

**FEBRUARY 25TH, 2025**

**4:00-6:30PM**

**COME ONE, COME ALL, COME HUNGRY!**

## **Tacos and Trivia**

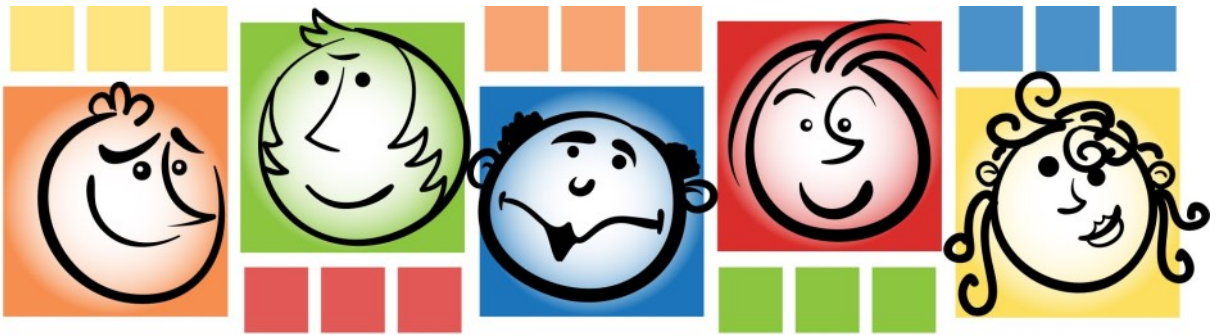


Get your brains cells up and working because we will be putting them to use on March 22nd at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall when we gather for Tacos and Trivia. In previous years, we had a great time eating, playing trivia and laughing. The menu will include beef and chicken tacos with all the fixings, chips and dips, fruit cups and a dessert. There will be several baskets to be raffled plus door prizes and prizes for the winners of the trivia rounds. Can't wait to see what group wins the most rounds this year! We will be ready to keep track! Invite your friends and join us on March 22nd in the Fellowship Hall for a night of fun and laughter.



## **READING BUDDIES**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH**



# MEETING

## **Property Committee**

10am Wednesday, February 5



## **Fellowship & Hospitality**

10:30am Wednesday, February 5



## **Worship Committee**

1:00pm Wednesday, February 5



## **Church Council**

10:45am Sunday, February 9



## **Stewardship Committee**

8:45am Wednesday, February 12



## **Parish Education Meeting**

10:45am Sunday, February 16



## **Altar Guild**

6:30pm Tuesday, February 18



## **Rebekah Circle Meeting**

1:00pm Thursday, February 20



## **Endowment Committee**

6:30 pm Tuesday, March 4



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## **MOG Committee**

7:00 pm Tuesday, April 1

# February

## BIRTHDAYS



Reagan Hallman	02 01	Drew Milligan	02 16
Christine Schoon	02 02	Toni Lundeen	02 17
Don Rubis	02 03	Olivia Rogers	02 17
Renee Hallman	02 05	Tyler Stahl	02 18
Meredith Stahl	02 06	Lee Gehrke	02 22
Cindy Karp	02 06	Destiny Eaton	02 22
Amy Killey	02 11	Elfriede Korallus	02 25
Susan White	02 13	Jessica Wold	02 25
Emily Denault	02 13		

# February

## ANNIVERSARIES



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<h1>February 2025</h1>				
<b>2</b> 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00am Property Mtg. 10:30am Fellowship & Hospitality Mtg. 1:00pm Worship Mtg. 6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's	
<b>9</b> 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship 10:45am Church Council Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 8:45am Stewardship Mtg. 6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's	
<b>16</b> 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship w/Noisy Offering 10:45am Parish Ed Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9:30am-3pm</i> <i>7pm-9pm</i> 6:30pm Altar Guild Mtg.	<b>19</b> <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9am-3pm</i> 6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's	
<b>23</b> 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:00am Reading Buddies Northern IL Food Bank 9-11:30 am <b>COMMUNITY FEAST</b> <b>4:00-6:30 PM</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's	

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p><b>1</b></p> <p>5:00pm Worship</p>
	<p><b>6</b> 9:00am Bible Study</p> <p>10:30am Lenten Meal Planning Meeting</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>5:00pm Worship</p>
	<p><b>13</b> 9:00am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Fellowship Hall reserved</p> <p>5:00pm Worship</p>
	<p><b>20</b> 9:00am Bible Study</p> <p>1:00pm <i>Rebekah Circle</i></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>5:00pm Worship</p> <p><b>GROWING HOPE GLOBALLY</b></p> <p><b>GALA WITH THE TRAVELING CHEF</b></p> <p><b>5:00PM</b></p>
	<p><b>27</b> 9:00am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	



*The*  
Parents Corner

## **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**

Mary Carlson

Connie Hamer

Cindy Karp

Joanne Robinson

## **Lutherdale Bible Camp Representatives-2025**

Karol Grandgeorge, Nancy Miller

## **Synod Assembly Representatives-2025**

Karol Grandgeorge & Steve Schoon

## **Cemetery Ministry Team**

Bob Fraley, Glen Reuter, Doug Stahl

## **Endowment Ministry Team**

Marion Gaffney, Mike Hamer, Ward Hearn, Wendy Merkel

## **Finance Ministry Team**

Chuck Hoepe,

Bob Mueller, Joanne Robinson

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

Kathy Anderson, Connie Hamer, Linda Johnson,

Jerry Lundeen, Nancy Miller, Anita Milligan

## **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

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

Prayer Chain: Karol Grandgeorge

## **Parish Education**

### **Confirmation**

- a. Primary Instructor—Pastor Chris & Scott Horsch, Maury Killey

- 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:** Bob Fraley

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:**

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:**

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

**Stewardship /Missions Ministry:**

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 February 2025

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



**We're on the Web:**  
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