



MARCH 2024

A March 2024 Message from your Pastor ...



The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 14th – Valentines Day. Lent is a season of reflection and repentance; renewal and remembering. We remember God's incredible love for us and how Jesus came to wash away our sin through the cross.

Throughout the month of March, we will gather on Wednesday mornings at the Federated Church at 9:00 a.m. and in the evening for a Soup Supper from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. then Lenten Services at 6:30 p.m. We are singing Holden Evening Prayer throughout these Lenten Evening Services. Worship together is alternating between St. Johns and Union Congregational Church: March 6th we worship at Union Congregational Church, March 13th we worship at St. John's and March 20th we worship at Union Congregational. Please consider joining us on Wednesday morning and evening.

Traditionally, Lent is considered a time to "give up something." Perhaps we could "give up" being judgmental, critical, sharp tongued, full of grudges, stingy – you know ... this negative list could go on and on. But what if we were to add something during Lent? We could add more prayer time and more Bible study time. We could make a determined effort to be more kind, generous and caring. Send someone on our prayer list a note or give them a call. Talk to your friends & family. Share the love of Christ with all you meet.

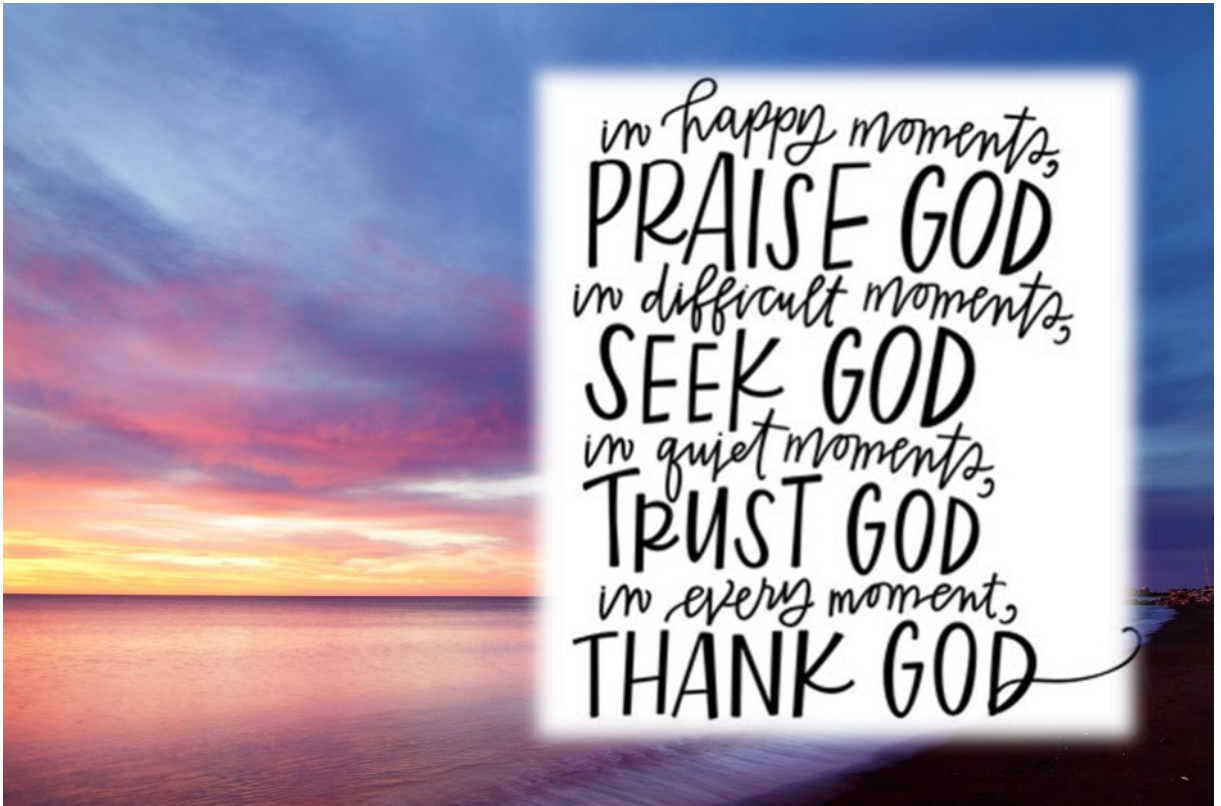
Lent continues through March. Holy Week begins with Palm/Passion weekend on March 23rd & 24th, Maundy Thursday services are at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's on March 28th and an ecumenical Good Friday service, March 28th, will be at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church. This year our Easter Celebration will be on the weekend of March 30th & 31st, Saturday, March 30th at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 31st at 9:45 a.m. Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!



**FROM OUR
PASTOR**

As the Spring days lengthen and our journey to the cross continues, we remember to turn to God, remembering to give thanks for sending His Son to be our Savior, light, and life. Dear Friends in Christ, remember to take the time this Lenten season to reflect, repent, and renew your mind in Christ Jesus.

May each of you enjoy God's Blessings & Peace
this Lenten & Easter Season,
Pastor Chris





WORSHIP
WITH US THIS
Easter

MARCH 30th at 5:00pm

MARCH 31st at 9:45am

St. John's Lutheran Church Council minutes for February 8, 2024

Pastor Chris led with devotions on hope.

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 with the following members present: Bob Fraley, Connie Hamer, Mike Hamer, Scott Horsch, Cindy Karp, Wayne Karp, Jeanette Pfeifer, and Pastor Chris Schoon.

Mike made a motion to accept the consent agenda items. Cindy seconded. Motion carried. Scott presented the treasurer's report saying we are financially stable and in a good position. Bob asked about the current copier situation and suggested the church use the old copier until June since we are having to pay for it until then.

Wayne received a call from the bank regarding a couple credit card charges which he assured them were good.

Committee Reports

Fellowship

February 10 is a game night with pizza provided.

May 11 is a ladies' luncheon with Angie Grandgeorge from Ivy Oaks being the program.

July 14 will be the church picnic in the park.

Outreach - *Jeanette is working on forming a choir for Easter.*

Finance - *No report*

Stewardship & Missions - *See report*

Parish Ed

Vacation Bible School is July 22nd thru 25th.

The noisy offering will be on weekends when the kids are singing.

Kaydence Eade and Kira Barnes will be attending the youth gathering in New Orleans. The Boczkos will be the chaperones.

Property - *No report*

Worship - *See report*

Tech - *No report*

Endowment

\$9500 was distributed

Pastor's report – See report

Wayne welcomed our new members, Connie Hamer and Cindy Karp.

Brainstormed names for possible council members.

Lynn Skrzypiec has volunteered to attend the NI Synod convention. One more attendee is needed. Pastor and Steve will not be able to attend due to a wedding.

The endowment committee is in need of a representative. It was suggested to ask Jackie Eade.

Jeanette made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:18.

In God's service, Bob Fraley



**It's ALWAYS great fun
when we serve at
Feed My Starving Children!!**



News from St. John's Committees

STEWARDSHIP MINUTES 2-7-24

The February meeting was called to order at 8:48 a.m. Present at this meeting were Karol Grandgeorge, Mark Lee, Michael Hamer, Pastor Chris Schoon, and Connie Hamer. Pastor led us in a prayer for the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts with love, wisdom, and joy.

The January minutes were approved as read.

The chili cookoff was changed to a game night on February 10th.

Karol called the Federated church office, and we were advised to be there between 8:00 – 8:15 on the morning of the 21st for the Lenten breakfast. We will pick up the pastries at our church that morning. We do not have to make the coffee.

The following is the schedule for the Lenten services:

(Meals are from 5:00-6:00 p.m.)

Feb. 14th St. John's – Ash Wednesday services 4:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 21st UCC – service 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 28th St. John's – service 6:30 p.m.

Mar. 6th UCC – service 6:30 p.m.

Mar. 13th St. John's – service 6:30 p.m.

Mar. 20th UCC – service 6:30 p.m.

**We are hosting the ecumenical Good Friday service on Friday, March 29th and Pastor Tom Bourke is preaching.

Connie will write the Sunday School article for the March emphasis and Karol will write the Capital fund article for the April emphasis.

Michael reported on the January offering as follows: General Fund - \$25,970.89; Capital Fund - \$1124.04; Good Samaritan fund - \$100; LWR Quilting supplies - \$50; MSHV - \$50; January emphasis to be split between Outreach and Fellowship/Hospitality⁶ - \$597.23.

Michael reported that 2 will be going to the Lutheran Youth gathering in New Orleans; Kira Barnes and Kaydence Eade.

The Feed My Starving Children outing on January 3rd went well with 13 from St. John's working.

Current needs for LWR Baby Care kits are socks, 18-24 month jackets and hand towels.

We went through all the numbered account listings of the church and cleaned-up, deleted, renamed, or combined those which needed changing at this time. Karol and Connie will give Scott Horsch the updated list. Michael will also make those changes.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3rd.

We adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 12-6-23

Worship Committee Report 2-7-2024 Pastor Schoon, Julie Horsch, Lois Spizzirri and Cindy Karp began our meeting with prayer at 1:30 pm. Altar Guild reported that Easter Lillies will cost \$17.00. For Lent the Altar will be bare, but the Altar Cross will be draped with purple as they did last year. Organists have been scheduled for Lent and hymns have been selected through the end of March. The Federated Church in Sandwich will be hosting Wednesday morning Lenten Breakfasts Feb. 21st, 28th, March 6th, 13th & 20th at 9:00am. We at St. John's will be offering Saturday morning Lenten breakfasts for all who want to come, beginning Feb. 17th at 7:00 am. Wednesday evening Lenten meals are all scheduled and will alternate between St. John's and the Union Congregational Church with the church hosting also providing the meal. April 21st is Rogation and Pastor will offer a blessing of the seed and soil. New Business: May 19th is the last day of Sunday school. We will also acknowledge our High School graduates that day during service. May 26th Sunday services will go back to 9:00am. We ended our meeting with prayer at 2:00pm.

Submitted with God's guidance, Cindy Karp

March Emphasis=Sunday School

As you are aware, Stewardship made some changes to our emphases during this last year. One of the months that we changed was March. We changed it to our Sunday School and would like to continue with Sunday School now in 2024. We would like to begin by thanking all who supported our Sunday School in the past. Your generosity certainly eased the path for our staff this past year. Nancy Miller reported that they have gone to a one room school platform this year. They continue to use the Whirl lectionary program by Sparks, which coincides with the readings on Sundays. They have purchased only one teacher's manual and are sharing it among the three teachers. Due to your generosity, they were able to purchase items for this year's Easter egg hunt, the remaining lessons for this year (through May), and some items for Vacation Bible School. Their next expenses will be Bible School and Rally Day. They would also like to get some rolls of bulletin board paper which run \$25 to \$45 a roll. All the staff are extremely grateful for our assistance. Once again this will be our March emphasis.

All are also welcome to attend adult Sunday School at 8:30 a.m. Extra Bibles are available.

Emphases for the following months are as follows:

March – Sunday School

April – Capital Fund

May – LWR Baby Care Kits

June – Midwest Shelter for Homeless Vets

Thank you again and again!!



HAPPY anniversary



Mary & John Burgin 03/09
Robin & Ray Raupp 03/10
Dave & Julie Gottlieb 03/12
Gary & Marion Gaffney 03/18
Andrew & Brynn Hallman 03/21

HAPPY Birthday



Jerry Lundeen 03/01
Courtney Drape 03/04
Roger Campbell 03/04
A.J. Parkison 03/05
Becky Vermeland 03/08
Valerie Spizzirri 03/10
Ben Beal 03/11
Violet Smith 03/12
Douglas Shoener 03/16
Tom Martin 03/19
Kaydence Eade 03/22
Della Chapp 03/23
Jeannine Dingman 03/23
Robert Huss 03/25
Anita Reis 03/28
Michael Maroscia 03/31

Rebekah Circle

Date: Thursday, March 21st

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: St. John's Fellowship Hall

Lesson: Act Boldly with Balance

Leader: Karol Grandgeorge



MEETING

Property Committee

10am Wednesday, March 6

Fellowship & Hospitality

10:30am Wednesday, March 6

Worship Committee

1:30pm Wednesday, March 6

Church Council

6:30pm Thursday, March 14

Rebekah Circle Meeting

1:00pm Thursday, March 21

MOG Committee

6:30 pm Tuesday, April 2

Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, April 3

Endowment Committee

6:30 pm Tuesday, May 7

LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

**MARCH 19th 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and
7:00 pm to 9:00pm Bring a Lunch**

MARCH 20th 9:00am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch

We would like to thank everyone who has helped in any way with the Personal Care Kits so far. A big thank you to the Endowment Committee for the generous donation so that we were able to buy supplies to complete many kits. As of February 18th, we have 226 rolled and packed and there are many more waiting to be done when the fingernail clippers arrive, plus the tubs in the Welcome Center were full.

March workdays will be used to sort the donated items, take apart some of those things that came in, tie quilts, cut school bags and sew around the tied quilts. We always have jobs that need to be done! Some of the jobs do require standing but we don't force anyone to stand beyond what they are able.

We do enjoy fellowship with each other as we work on projects to help those less fortunate. There usually is a treat or two to enjoy for break or with our lunch. Will you please come spend a few minutes helping with our projects. There is such a great need in this world!

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<h1>March</h1> <h1>2024</h1>			
3 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	4	5 6:30 Endowment Committee Meeting	6 9-10am Lenten Breakfast @ Federated Ch. of Sandwich 9am <u>WOTB Speak</u> book study 10am Property Committee 10:30 Fellowship & Hospitality 1:30pm Worship Comm. 5pm Lenten Meal & 6:30pm Worship at U
10 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	11	12	13 9-10am Lenten Breakfast @ Federated Church of Sandwich Lenten Service (Hosted by St. John's) 5-6:00pm - meal 6:30 - worship
17 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship Noisy Coin Collection (LWR Quilt Dedication)	18	19 LWR Workday 9am-3pm 7pm-9pm	20 9-10am Lenten Breakfast @ Federated Church of Sandwich LWR Workday - 9am-3pm Lenten Service (Hosted by UCC) 5-6:00pm - meal 6:30 - worship
24 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship <i>Easter</i> 31	25	26	27

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 5:00pm Worship
UCC	7 9:00am Bible Study	8	9 5:00pm Worship
	14 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	15	16 5:00pm Worship (LWR Quilt Dedication)
	21 9:00am Bible Study 1:00 pm Rebekah Circle @ St. John's	22	23 5:00pm Worship
	28 9:00am Bible Study 6:30 pm Maundy-Thursday worship	29 6:30 pm Good Friday worship (ecumenical service @ St. John's)	30



The Parents Corner

As a child and young adult, I was accustomed to “random acts of kindness”, so I paid them little attention. I lived in three different neighborhoods in Chicago... far south side, far north side, and west side. In each community, members were friendly, caring and helpful.

The first time I really became aware of a kind act given to me by a stranger was on a bitter cold, blustery day after a week of snow piled high. I took three buses to get home from school and the last one came once an hour. I missed it.

There was a telephone booth on the corner and I called my mom for help. She called a taxi to pick her up at her house so she could come get me, but due to miscommunication, the taxi never arrived. In the meantime, my hands and feet lost feeling and I began shivering without stop. Then there was hope. I saw the bus go by in the opposite direction and knew it would be coming back soon.

As I boarded the bus and fished in my pocket for the last of my money, I realized that I must have dropped the \$20 bill in the telephone booth. The driver was about to make me disembark when the Navy came to my rescue. A young sailor came from the back of the bus. He never spoke to me. He just deposited my fare and returned to his seat.

I have since collected in my memory random acts of kindness and appreciated every one. I have tried to perform some of my own.

His was a lesson well-taught and well-learned. May God’s call for kindness be answered by us wherever we may be.

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: 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:

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
March 2024

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



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