



MARCH 2025

A March 2025 Message from your Pastor ...

The Season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. Lent is a season of reflection and repentance; renewal and remembering. We remember that Jesus came to wash away our sin through the cross.

Throughout the month of March and into April, we will gather on Wednesday evenings for Soup Suppers from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. then Lenten Services at 6:30 p.m. We will be singing Holden Evening Prayer during these worship services. Please consider joining us on Wednesday evenings.

Also of note, the Federated Church will be hosting Wednesday Morning Prayer Breakfasts. They will take place during Lent on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Let us join together with our ecumenical brothers and sisters in the faith for a time of prayer, food and fellowship.

On Saturday morning, we will gather at 7:00 a.m. for Men's Prayer Breakfast beginning March 8th through April 12th. Guys, join us for breakfast and devotions.

Please see the articles in this edition of the Journal for opportunities to come together for worship and fellowship on Saturday and Sunday, Lenten Soup Suppers & service on Wednesdays, join us for Bible Study on Sunday and Thursday mornings, or come to one of the Circle meetings or men's prayer breakfast.

As the Spring days lengthen and our journey to the cross begins and 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, remem-

Continued on next page...

ber 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 Season,
Pastor Chris

Lenten Weekends Special Offering will be donated to
Habitat for Humanity in DeKalb and LaSalle Counties

Lenten Wednesday Meals Offering will be donated to
Our Sharing Pantry

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.

Rebekah Circle

Date: Thursday, March 20th

Time: 1:00 pm

Lesson: Mary, a Woman for All Seasons

Session #3: Mary Among the Disciples

Location: St. John's Fellowship Hall

Hostess: Nancy Maroscia

LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

March 18th

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

March 19th

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

We would like to thank everyone who has brought in Personal Care Kit items and those who have given money. We have purchased some items and will be able to purchase more! Thanks again.

Lutheran World Relief is celebrating its 80th Birthday this year. Just think of all the quilts and kits that have been sent to vulnerable people in those 80 years. In 2024 alone 370,818 quilts, 140,117 School Backpacks, 45,690 Baby Care Kits, 127,621 Personal Care Kits and 5,568 Fabric Kits were distributed in 16 countries. What an accomplishment for those that work country-wide for Lutheran World Relief!

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. 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 - February 9, 2025

Members present: Mary Carlson, Bob Fraley, Connie Hamer, Scott Horsch, Cindy Karp, Wayne Karp, Joanne Robinson, Pastor Chris Schoon.

Guests present: Donna Fraley, Mike Hamer, Michelle Henson, Chuck Lee

- ◆ Pastor led devotions based on Matthew Chapter 10 calling us to travel light and not carry our burdens and grievances.
- ◆ Wayne called the meeting to order at 10:49 and introduced our three guests from “Our Sharing Pantry”.
- ◆ “Our Sharing Pantry” update on their current situation and needs.
 - ◇ Number of families has increased 64 percent in the past year, from 394 to 648 families. Since August numbers have steadily increased to an average of around 80 clients/month. Half of their clients are senior citizens.
 - ◇ Receive food and toiletry items from the Northern Illinois Food Pantry, the State Emergency Food Assistance Program, and the U.S. Government Commodities Program. They received a DeKalb County grant to get items from local farms.
 - ◇ The inventory they are allowed to purchase from the NI Food Pantry is based on previous numbers of needy families. The numbers have not caught up with the current need increase, not allowing them to keep up with demand.
 - ◇ Since November they have been calling on the community to bring awareness to their situation.
 - ◇ They have dropped their budget by \$12,000.
 - ◇ They are requesting better signage, possibly using an \$800 grant they recently received.
 - ◇ They thanked our church for both our financial support and providing a home for the pantry.
- ◆ Wayne welcomed JoAnne and Mary to the council.
- ◆ Connie made a motion to approve the consent agenda items, Cindy seconded, motion approved.
- ◆ Scott presented the treasurer’s report. Our giving contributions since the beginning of the year were more than our expenditures which is good. We basically need 18 to 20 thousand dollars a month to run the church. He reminded the council to always be aware of where our money is being spent. Pastor had a question as to some money contributions and whether they should be directed to MOG. Scott said he was aware of it and was waiting for various reasons.
- ◆ Committee reports
 - ◇ Fellowship/Hospitality - None
 - ◇ Outreach – None
 - ◇ Finance – None
 - ◇ Missions/Stewardship – None
 - ◇ MOG – Pastor was asked about the status of the altar candles. The new oil candles for the altar have not been ordered yet because of size issues and the cost being more than what MOG approved.
 - ◇ Parish ed. – Going well. Vacation Bible School dates have been set for July 21 thru 25.
 - ◇ Property – Ward said he would be able to change over all the lower lights to LED, but not the higher ones in the fellowship hall. Bob agreed to work with Donna Fraley from the Sharing Pantry on better signage.
 - ◇ Worship – See report.
 - ◇ Tech – Bob asked about the status of Pastor’s microphone. It is being replaced and hope to have a new one by next week.

Continued on next page...

- ◆ Pastor's report – See report. Pastor said she will be gone April 30 to May 5 for her daughter's wedding. She will also be on vacation from June 16th to July 4th. Our church is responsible for serving the community Lenten breakfast at the Federated church on Wednesday March 12th.
- ◆ Old business
 - ◇ Connie asked about the status of the MOG amendment. Wayne stated that Nancy Miller's position needs to be reworded from Financial Secretary to Financial Recorder. We then need to notify the congregation prior to a quarterly meeting. Once it is approved by the congregation it can then be sent to the Synod for approval.
- ◆ New business
 - ◇ Committee responsibilities were assigned.
- ◆ MOG – Connie
- ◆ Fellowship and Hospitality – JoAnne
- ◆ Outreach – Mary
 - ◇ Devotions were assigned
- ◆ March – Bob
- ◆ April – Mary
- ◆ May – Connie
- ◆ June – Cindy
- ◆ August – Wayne
- ◆ Connie made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Mary seconded, meeting was adjourned at 12:19.

In God's service, Bob Fraley

WARSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 2-5-25

Present: Pastor Schoon, Julie Horsch, Lois Spizzirri and Cindy Karp.

We began our meeting with prayer at 1:00 pm.

Hymns and organists are scheduled through the end of March except Wednesday evening organists are still being worked out.

Nothing to report from Altar Guild, they will meet next Tuesday.

The church picnic will be held at the park in Somonauk again this year on Sunday, August 3rd.

The season of Lent is coming up starting in March. 3-5-25 Ash Wednesday, 3-12-25, 3-19-25 & 3-26-25. Meals will be from 5 to 6 pm and service will start at 6:30 pm.

Maundy Thursday will be here at St. John's at 6:30pm.

April 18th is Good Friday. Service will be at Salem Lutheran at 7:00pm.

The Federated Church in Sandwich will be having a 9:00am breakfast during Lent as they did last year.

The Congo Church does have a supply Pastor but not for every Sunday.

We closed our meeting at 1:20 pm.

Submitted by Cindy Karp

STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 1-8-25

After several changes in meeting dates and times, the February Stewardship meeting began at 10:11a.m. with Karol Grandgeorge, Mike Hamer, Pastor Chris Schoon, and Connie Hamer present. The opening prayer stressed that God has made us stewards of all that he created and that He asks us to use our gifts wisely, share generously, and bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ.

The January minutes were approved.

Mike's offering report for February was as follows: General Fund - \$12,783; Capital Fund - \$573.50; Cuzco, Peru churches - \$179.55; MSHV - \$50; and Personal Care Kits - \$561.77 (2025 total - \$1166.49).

Articles for upcoming events: Connie completed the Sunday School article for the March emphasis and will put Blood Drive reminders in both the April and May newsletters. Karol will write the Capital Fund article for April.

LWR – We have packaged over 200 Personal Care Kits as of today. Since that line item is currently very healthy, we will order more Personal Care Kit items to be completed in June when we have gotten through Lent, Easter, and several other upcoming events.

The Community Fellowship Dinner served 79 people. We had two full hams left over, approximately 2 desserts + cookies, and 4 pans of hot dishes. Salem is responsible for the May dinner, United Church of Sandwich for August, and St. John's again in November. The November dinner will be on Sunday, Nov. 23rd followed by the ecumenical service at our church. The menu will be determined later.

Lenten soup/supper meals are all set up. Meal donations are going to Our Sharing Pantry. Karol will shop for crackers, margarine, and paper plates. Meals are served from 5:00 to 6:00 with the services starting at 6:30 p.m. using Holden Evening Prayer. Congregational church is contributing desserts on several evenings.

On Tuesday, March 11th, we are hosting the South Conference Spring Assembly at 6:00 p.m. The chili will be made by Pastor Chris, Karol, and Wayne Karp.

Our commitment of pastries to the Lenten Prayer Breakfasts at the Sandwich Federated Church on March 12th will be organized by Jackie Harmon, Nancy Maroscia, and Glenda Andrews.

***Because of conflicts with the Lenten Prayer Breakfasts, the next Stewardship meeting will be Tuesday, April 1st at 8:45 a.m. We adjourned at 11:01 a.m. by praying The Lord's Prayer.



READING BUDDIES

FRIDAY, MARCH 21ST

Sign up in the Welcome Center to read with Wendy Merkel's kindergarten class.



COME JOIN US NEXT TIME! MARCH 21ST @ 10AM



**LENTEN
BREAKFAST
SERIES 2025**

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SAVIOR

A LENTEN JOURNEY
INTO PRAYER

9AM

**WEDNESDAYS
MARCH 5 -
APRIL 9**

FELLOWSHIP, REFRESHMENTS, SPIRITUAL RENEWAL



**HOSTED AT
THE FEDERATED
CHURCH OF SANDWICH**



**403 N MAIN ST
SANDWICH, IL**

**A COLLABORATION OF THE
SANDWICH/SOMONAUK MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION**

Sunday School Emphasis + News

As many are aware, St. John's has special door offerings (emphases) each month. We would like to continue with our Sunday School for our March emphasis. Your past generosity has been greatly appreciated and has lifted some of the financial burden from the staff. They are truly amazing, dedicated, folks who are frugal and wise in using the funds. Nancy Miller reports that they continue with the 1-room schoolhouse format with the help of confirmand and high school students. Their current curriculum is from Oriental Trading with a shared teacher's guide and printable handouts. In addition, the teachers seek out a free online video which supports the lessons. She reports that they continue to study the parables and miracles of Jesus; the Christmas story; the 10 Commandments; and the Books of the Bible.

They are also trying to involve the children within worship services on a regular basis. Next, they are gearing up for Lent and Easter. Following that will be VBS (Vacation Bible School – July 21st-24th) and Rally Day in the Fall. Once again this will be our March emphasis.

Stewardship does check with Pastor and Council annually when making changes to our emphases so that we can direct funds where they are needed most.

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 &

Blood Drive

July – Worship & Altar Guild Committees

**MARK
DATE!**

**MARCH 16TH, 2025
SUNDAY SURPRISE
SOCIAL**

The Fellowship and Hospitality Committee is sponsoring this event following the 9:45 worship service. Please plan to attend for a time of fellowship with fellow members and guests. Better yet, invite a friend or two to come to worship that day and bring them with you to the Social for coffee, tea and treats... We hope to see you that day.



MEETING

Fellowship & Hospitality

10:30am Tuesday, March 4



Worship Committee

1:00pm Wednesday, March 5

Endowment Committee

6:30 pm Tuesday, March 4



Rebekah Circle Meeting

1:00pm Thursday, March 20

Church Council

10:45am Sunday, March 9



MOG Committee

7:00 pm Tuesday, April 1

Stewardship Committee

8:45am Tuesday, April 1



Altar Guild

6:30pm Tuesday, May 20





MARCH

Birthdays

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



MARCH

Anniversaries

Mary & John Burgin	03/09 62 Years!
Robin & Ray Raupp	03/10
Dave & Julie Gottlieb	03/12
Andrew & Brynn Hallman	03/21

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<h1>March</h1> <h1>2025</h1>			
2 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	3	4 1:00pm Fellowship & Hospitality Mtg. 6:30 pm Endowment Committee Meeting	5 10:00am Property Mtg. 1:00pm Worship Mtg. 5-6PM LENTEN MEAL 6:30PM ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
9 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45 Worship w/Noisy Offering...SS Students "bury" Alleluias 10:45am Church Council Meeting	10	11	12 5-6PM LENTEN MEAL 6:30PM LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE
16 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45 Worship 10:45am Sunday Surprise Pop-Up Social	17	18 <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9:30am-3pm</i> <i>7pm-9pm</i>	19 <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9am-3pm</i> 5-6PM LENTEN MEAL 6:30PM LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE
23 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	24	25	26 5-6PM LENTEN MEAL 6:30PM LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE
30	31		

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:00pm Worship
	6 9:00am Bible Study	7	8 5:00pm Worship
	13 9:00am Bible Study	14	15 5:00pm Worship
	20 9:00am Bible Study 1:00pm <i>Rebekah Circle</i>	21 10:00am <i>Reading Buddies</i>	22 5:00pm Worship 5:45PM TACOS & TRIVIA
	27 9:00am Bible Study	28	29 5:00pm Worship



As I watched WeatherTech's new commercial on TV, I couldn't stop laughing. I reached for the phone and called my daughter, Cindy, to ask if she had seen it. (Cindy and I often share absurdities.) She hadn't, and I wondered to her why I found that commercial so funny as I described the portrayal of four old women joyfully riding in a convertible car with the top down without a care for anyone else, as a long line of cars and trucks trailed behind them on a two-lane winding road.

They proceeded to do several unexpected wild and naughty things, and when they dropped food on the floor, the driver told them not to worry because she had WeatherTech. They ended up being arrested and jailed for speeding and made faces at the camera for their mug shots. Cindy replied that I laughed because I was living vicariously.

Martin Luther called us saints and sinners. Why are young girls drawn to bad boys? Why do young boys try to do things that could get them killed? If they are guided well and are lucky, they will gain wisdom before they are hurt badly.

I'm so glad Jesus saved us from ourselves, for here I am, nearing the end of my eighth decade of life, finding joyous licentiousness absolutely hilarious. I should know better. After all, WeatherTech did not save four women in an open convertible.

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

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 March 2025

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



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

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

Church Office 815-498-3667
office@elcastjohns.org

Follow and like us on Facebook

*[www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheran
churchsomonauk/](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranchurchsomonauk/)*