

## An April Message from your Pastor ...

The Season of Lent has drawn to a close. Holy Week has come and gone as well. Our Easter Celebration was wonderful. The remembrance of Jesus' conquering death was and is special for all.

During the month of April, we will gather as God's people for worship, Sunday School, Circles, and Bible Studies. Please see the church calendar printed in the newsletter for all the events planned this month.

Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> is the South Conference Spring Assembly. Our Northern Illinois Synod Assembly delegates as well as Steve & I will travel to Trinity Lutheran Church in Ottawa at 6:30 p.m. for a time to discuss what will take place at the Northern Illinois Assembly in June. Any resolutions to be presented at the NIS Assembly will be explained and discussed. Various delegates to the Churchwide assembly will be elected as well.

On Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a Celebration of Life for Robert and Eugene Pearson from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. It is an open house (*no memorial service*) with a catered meal around noon.

The weekend of April 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> is Good Shepherd weekend. An offering plate will be available. The funds collected will go to LSSI. The weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> will also be Rogation weekend. We will bless the seed, soil, & water as we anticipate Spring planting.

The last Sunday of April, April 28 is Confirmation Sunday. Two young people will affirm their faith through the rite of Affirmation of Baptism. Kira Barnes and Grant Shoener are our Confirmands. Please pray for these two young people as they continue their journey of faith.



FROM OUR  
**PASTOR**

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This Springtime, let us pray and give thanks through the words of Psalm 104:

*<sup>10</sup> You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow between the hills,  
...<sup>13</sup> From your lofty abode you water the mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.*

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



## *Attention All Ladies!*

The Fellowship and Hospitality Committee is sponsoring a **LADIES SALAD LUNCHEON on May 11 in the Fellowship Hall** . We will begin at noon with lunch followed by a presentation on TULIPS by Angie Grandgeorge of IVY OAKS FLORAL in Somonauk. Angie grew up in Somonauk and started her own floral business. Many of the flowers she sells are grown locally.

Please bring your favorite or most famous salad. Also bring a friend or several friends. This program is for ladies of all ages. A sign up sheet is in the Welcome Center. Please sign up by May 1.



# THE BEST SEED

There once was a farmer who grew the most excellent wheat. Every season he won the award for the best wheat in his county. A wise woman came to him to ask him about his success. He told her that the key was sharing his best seed with his neighbors so they could plant the seed as well. The wise woman asked, "How can you share your best wheat seed with your neighbors when they compete with you every year?"

"That's simple," the farmer replied. "The wind spreads the pollen from everyone's wheat and carries it from field to field. If my neighbors grew inferior wheat, cross-pollination would degrade everyone's wheat, including mine. If I'm to grow the best wheat, I must help my neighbors grow the best wheat as well."

This is not only excellent advice for growing the best crops, but also great advice for how to live your life. If you want to live a meaningful and happy life, help others find happiness.

Remember: The value of your life is measured by the lives you touch with love, kindness, respect, and hope.

## St. John's Lutheran Church Council minutes for March 14, 2024

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

Jeanette read devotions based on Romans chapter 12 verse 2.

Wayne opened the meeting at 6:30.

Wayne noted the wrong date for the year on February's minutes. Mike questioned a \$42 payment to Growing Hope in the check detail. Connie also noticed a Wal Mart debit charge for the same amount. Scott will need to be asked. Drew made the motion to accept the consent agenda items as amended. Jeanette seconded. Motion carried.

Jeanette mentioned that she hasn't received a reimbursement payment which she had seen noted previously.

### *Committee Reports*

Fellowship & Hospitality - no report

Outreach - Choir has been practicing for Easter

Finance - No report

Stewardship & Missions - Blood drive is June 6<sup>th</sup>.

MOG - no report

Parish Ed - March emphasis will be Sunday School.

Property

-Possibly exploring interest in repainting the sanctuary.

-Parking lot striping needs to be repainted.

-Looking into adding exterior lighting.

-Folding tables need replacing.

-Basement storage rooms need to be purged and organized. Drew was able to obtain free shelving from Plano Molding.

-Drew thanked Nancy and Mike Maroscia, Darla and Bob Fraley, and Ward Hearn for cleaning up the branch pile behind the parsonage.

Worship - See report.

Tech - no report

Endowment - no report

Pastor's report – See report. Pastor has met with the new Pastor from Salem about continuing joint confirmation classes.

Mike read off some names for possible council candidates.

Wayne reported there is one more month that we were unaware of on our copier contract with Konica. It was recommended by Drew to be careful before signing contracts in the future.

Jessica Ortega has begun her voice lesson classes. Tuesday nights and Thursday mornings. The executive committee waived the fee for use of the church.

Bob reported that Kyle Reuter and Eric Wold have both agreed to join the cemetery committee.

Connie reported that Joanna Esparza from Heartland Bank was asking if St John's would like to participate in this year's Christmas Walk.

Drew made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:09.

In God's service, Bob Fraley



## Hang onto **'IT'** until June!



Dear St. John's Congregation,

We are asking that you hold onto your blood until June when once again St. John's will be hosting our blood drive on

**Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2:30-7:00p.m.**

We tried very hard last year to reach the goal of 15 units. Versiti had taken us off their list of possible drives because our numbers had fallen significantly. However, last year we had 21 people sign up and gathered 14 units. That was fantastic!

Versiti Blood Center of IL was founded in 1943.

Based in Aurora, Versiti serves 63 hospitals in a 12 county area and collects 155,000 units annually. Versiti's core values include do right always; strengthen the team (US!); find a better way; and make results happen. They recognize that the gifts of blood and life are precious.

**1 bag = 3 saved lives**

At critical times, we depend on our brothers and sisters for this life-saving gift. Many health and eligibility questions are answered on Versiti's website (<https://www.versiti.org>).

Walk-ins are always welcome. Appointments can be scheduled by:

Calling 800-786-4483 (Versiti)

Calling 815-498-3667 (our church office)

E-mail: [donate.il@versiti.org](mailto:donate.il@versiti.org)

*Please, please help if you can as we'd love to keep this ministry going!*

# News from St. John's Committees

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 4-6-24

Meeting began promptly at 1:30 with Lois Spizziri, Julie Horsch, Cindy Karp and Pastor Chris in attendance.

March 16th and 17th is quilt dedication.

From Altar Guild: the altar will be stripped and adorned with black from Maundy-Thursdays through Good Friday. Easter lilies will be ordered after the March 17th sign-up deadline. According to Julie, palms have already been ordered. Next meeting is May 21st.

No report from the banner committee.

April 6-7 is Holy Hilarity weekend. Children will be participating and noisy offering will take place. Also the orff instruments will be out and available to use.

Hawaiian bread will be used for communion for Easter, Confirmation Sunday, and First Communion Sunday.

It will be suggested to council that only one Ash Wednesday service be offered in 2025 at 6:30pm on March 5th.

It has been suggested that liturgy be added back into the weekly service. After discussion, it was decided to hold off until fall.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 1:54pm.



# READING BUDDIES

WITH MRS. MERKEL'S KINDERGARTENERS



## APRIL DOOR OFFERING

The Stewardship committee has decided to change the emphasis of some of our Door Offerings. March's Door Offering went to the Sunday School to help pay for their program, because of budget cuts. It was decided to make April's Door Offering for the St. John's Capital Fund. After the building loan was paid, the Capital Fund has not been receiving the same amount of monies as before. However, there are still expenses that need to be paid with Capital Fund monies plus we need a little "cushion" in case we have some emergency. The church building, the parsonage and even the last addition are all at least 15 years old, and repairs need to be made. We all know that owning property costs money and it is no different with the church. It may be a leaky sink or something much larger like the blacktop parking lot needing attention, but everything comes with a cost. None of us would be happy if we didn't have heat in winter or air conditioning in the summer. That could happen if we have a break-down of equipment. Please be generous to the door offering for April and remember the Capital Fund in your regular giving.

**Emphases for the following months are as follows:**

**May – LWR Baby Care Kits**

**June – Midwest Shelter for Homeless Vets**



**Thank you again and again!!**



Anita Milligan 04/01  
 Lily Horsch 04/01  
 MaryAnn Hulon 04/03  
 Larry Rogers 04/04  
 Sondra Bone 04/04  
 Jim Gletty 04/07  
 Phyllis Zoellner 04/11  
 Jim Beal 04/12



Lance Davenport 04/12  
 Jeffery Denault 04/13  
 Stella Gardner 04/15  
 Jackie Harmon 04/16  
 Erik Johnson 04/17  
 Julie Horsch 04/17  
 Bette Otto 04/20  
 Nancy Strever 04/28



## Esther Circle

Date: Wednesday, April 3rd

Time: 9:00 am

Location: St. John's Fellowship Hall

Women of the Bible Speak Book Study

## Rebekah Circle

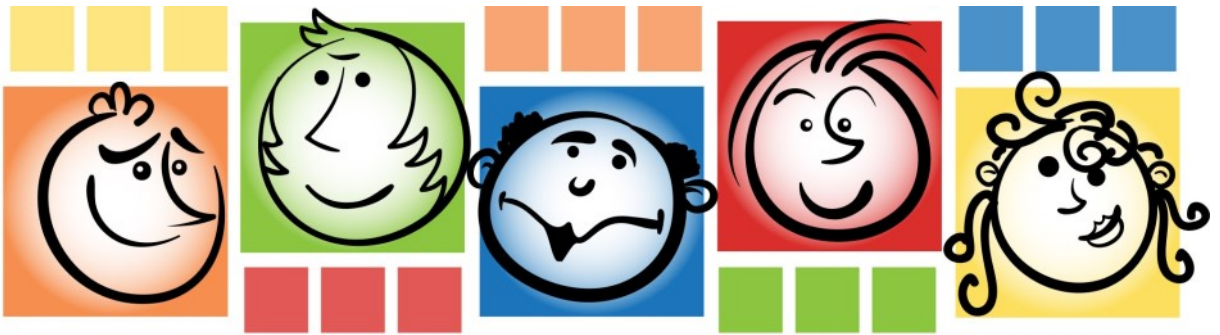
Date: Thursday, April 18th

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: St. John's Fellowship Hall

Lesson 2: Act Boldly with Balance, Session 2

Leader: Connie Hamer



# MEETING

## **Fellowship & Hospitality**

10:00am Tuesday, April 2



## **MOG Committee**

6:30 pm Tuesday, April 2

## **Stewardship Committee**

8:45am Wednesday, April 3



## **Esther Circle**

9:00am Wednesday, April 3

## **Property Committee**

10am Wednesday, April 3



## **Church Council**

6:30pm Thursday, April 11

## **Rebekah Circle Meeting**

1:00pm Thursday, April 18



## **Endowment Committee**

6:30 pm Tuesday, May 7

# LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

**APRIL 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and  
7:00 pm to 9:00pm Bring a Lunch**

**APRIL 17<sup>th</sup> 9:00am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch**

**Thanks, thanks, thanks!** On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 3 vehicles delivered 386 Personal Care Kits plus boxes of quilts, Baby Care Kits and Sewing Kits to the truck in Elgin. We really appreciate all the help it takes to get the projects done. Many people have sewn, shopped and laundered things to get these things ready.

In April we will be sorting the donated items, taking apart some of those things that came in, tying quilts, cutting school bags and sewing around the tied quilts. There are a variety of jobs that need to be done. Some of the jobs do require standing, but we also have sitting down jobs. Come see what you may be able to help with!

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
<p><b>April</b></p> <p><b>2024</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>10:00am Fellowship &amp; Hospitality</p> <p>6:30 MOG Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>8:45 Stewardship &amp; Missions</p> <p>9am WOTB <u>Speak</u> book study</p> <p>10am Property Committee</p> <p>6:30 pm Confirmation at Salem</p>
<p><b>7 Holy Hilarity Sunday</b> (kids participating in service)</p> <p>8:30am Sunday School</p> <p>8:30am Adult Forum</p> <p>9:45am Worship</p> <p>Noisy Coin Collection</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>6:30 Confirmation at Salem</p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p>8:30am Sunday School</p> <p>8:30am Adult Forum</p> <p>9:45am Worship</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>LWR Workday</p> <p>9am-3pm</p> <p>7pm-9pm</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>LWR Workday</p> <p>9am-3pm</p> <p>6:30 Confirmation at Salem</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p>8:30am Sunday School</p> <p>8:30am Adult Forum</p> <p>9:45am Worship</p> <p>Rogation Weekend</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>6:30 Confirmation rehearsal at St. John's</p>
<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Confirmation Sunday</p> <p>8:30am Sunday School</p> <p>8:30am Adult Forum</p> <p>9:45am Worship</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Holy Hilarity Weekend 5:00pm Worship</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:00pm Worship</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 pm Rebekah Circle @ St. John's</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10am Celebration of Life Bob &amp; Eugene Pearson</p> <p>5:00pm Worship Rogation Weekend</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:00pm Worship</p>



# The Parents Corner

When I was in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and learning to read, the powers that be had decided that a “look/say” method was best for teaching. This required remembrance and recognition of words, boring repetition and learning limited to the words presented each day. Fortunately, my mother had already started helping me decode words by the sound of letters and groups of letters (phonics). She had also studied Latin and introduced me to the root words on which much of our language is based.

In our living room were twenty feet of glass-door-fronted bookcases filled with hundreds of books. Now I could decipher them, and I did so with glee. Stories of Horatio Alger, Little Women, Ivanhoe, The Leatherstocking Tales, Treasure Island and the list goes on. There was a multi-volume encyclopedia and a huge dictionary where I could get lost for hours. I reveled in them all. I confess that when the story was exciting and the hour was late, I would skip to the ending to know what happened. When later I dutifully read what I had skipped, I was always disappointed because I already knew the ending.

In the home of my childhood there was a large book that lay by itself on the library table in front of the French windows. Its cover was always open, inviting anyone to read. I have always had my own copy of that book and I read from it every day. It well deserves the description of “the greatest story ever told.”

The Holy Bible’s prologue is lengthy and filled with stories and songs, wisdom and prophecies that tell of a powerful and loving God with more to come. I often read the ending at any time of the day, for it is the Good News of God and I am never disappointed. The ending is the fulfillment of a promise God made. The ending is the beginning that God planned for all time. Thanks be to God.

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.

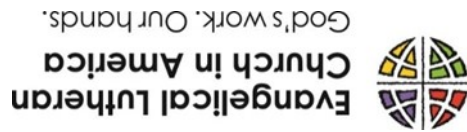
**Stewardship /Missions Ministry:** Lynn Skrzypiec

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  
April 2024



**We're on the Web:**  
[www.elcastjohns.com](http://www.elcastjohns.com)

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