

St. John's

monthly NEWS & INFORMATION



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

APRIL 2026



There will be an Easter sunrise service at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery at 6:30am on Sunday, April 5th. The cemetery is located just south of Lake Holiday on Hoxsey Road. Please enter the north driveway and exit the south driveway. You may leave your car on the drive.

Sunday, April 5th, 2026
9:45 am

Easter Vigil
Saturday, April 4th, 2026 5:00pm



Our small but mighty group had a rewarding experience at Feed My Starving Children.

14,256 meals were prepared during our session, feeding a daily meal to 39 kids for a year.

Picture is missing Dan, Grayson and Joey Denault

LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

April 14th

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

April 15th

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

The Lutheran World Relief Work Days for 2026 have had some changes. We will now be meeting the second Tuesday and Wednesday of the month. This new schedule will help with the use of the Fellowship Hall. For the winter months especially we have taken out the Tuesday night work times. After a full day's work, going back in the cold has been tough! If this causes a problem for you, please let Karol Grandgeorge or Connie Hamer know.

We would like to thank everyone including the Endowment Fund for all the contributions to the Personal Care Kit Fund so far. We have ordered enough items to do over 275 kits in addition to those items which have come in from the congregation. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Just think how many people will be able to be cleaner because of those kits!

The month of March will find us doing the usual jobs of putting quilts and Baby Care Kits together, cutting out school back packs and taking apart sheets and blankets that have been donated. We also need people to sort and measure donations of fabric which keeps coming our way. People have been sewing on the school backpacks at home during the year, so we will be ready to string and fill them in August. There are always more jobs than workers, so please take a few moments to come and give us a hand.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!

St. John's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - March 8, 2026

Members present: Pastor Selena Blackwell, Bob Fraley, Scott Horsch, Cindy Karp, Wayne Karp, Joanne Robinson

- Bob led devotions from the book of Job regarding helping those who suffer.
- Wayne called the meeting to order at 11:07.
- Cindy made the motion to accept the consent agenda. Joanne seconded. Motion was approved.
- Scott gave the treasurer's report.
 - ◇ The checkbook balance is \$128,748.90, up significantly from this point a year ago. He noted to keep in mind that we will be accruing Pastor's salary and copier fees soon. There is endowment money which needs to come out also.
 - ◇ We are below our targeted monthly income for the first two months of the year.
- Committee Reports
 - ◇ Fellowship/Hospitality – Fellowship is scheduled for after church April 19th.
 - ◇ Outreach – None
 - ◇ Finance – None
 - ◇ Missions/Stewardship – See report
 - ◇ MOG – Did not meet
 - ◇ Parish Education – Going well. Confirmation is on leave through Lent. Grayson Denault has been helping serve Lenten meals.
 - ◇ Property – A new garage door opener has been installed at the parsonage.
 - ◇ Worship – See report. There is interest in holding a sunrise service out at the cemetery Easter morning.
 - ◇ Tech – A laptop computer for Pastor and a desktop computer for the office have both been purchased.
- Pastor's report
 - ◇ Pastor reported that she has been warmly welcomed by both our church and the wider community. She is settling in well.
 - ◇ Pastor said she is scheduling and beginning to visit our homebound members.
 - ◇ "Where there is the spirit of God, there is life" – Pastor Selena
- Wayne reported the copier is no longer working and would cost more to repair than to lease a new one. A motion was made by Cindy to lease a copier from Gordon Flesch providing service for 60 months at \$308.59/month with a \$1 buy-out after 60 months. Joanne seconded. Motion approved.
- The council discussed Our Sharing Pantry's request to install raised garden beds along the south and east outside walls of the church. Joanne made the motion to

- approve this request. Cindy seconded. Motion approved.
- Pastor asked if there are any local benevolence funds which can be used for those in the area for those who inquire and are seeking help. Scott explained the two accounts which are set up; a community good Samaritan fund run by many churches in the wider area, and our own discretionary fund to be used by the pastor as needed.
 - There was discussion on trying to be considerate of Pastor's weekly schedule. She said once Lent is finished she will have a better idea as to her routine.
 - Joanne made the motion to adjourn. Cindy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 and closed with the Lord's prayer.

In God's service,

Bob Fraley

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 3-4-26

Present: Pastor Selena, Toni Lundeen, Julie Horsch and Cindy Karp.
Meeting began at 1:00 pm.

Hymns and organists are all scheduled for the month of April.

We talked about the different options there are for Easter services and decided on using the same formats as we used last year. In lieu of a procession into church waving our Palms on Palm Sunday, we will wave them from our pews as we did last year. Julie will ask Adam Killey and his sister Erin if they would be available to play on Easter Sunday. Julie will also be looking for some volunteers to do some readings on Saturday Easter Vigil service.

Wayne will be installing Pastor Selena this weekend as our Interim Pastor.

Sign up sheets are in the Welcome Center for Easter Lillies. Confirmation will be coming up soon, date not confirmed yet.

Some exciting news, we will have a baptism coming up soon for Oliver and Ella Judge, the son and daughter of Anna Judge.

We closed our meeting with a prayer from Pastor Selena.

In God's service, Cindy Karp

STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 3-2-26

The March 2, 2026, Stewardship meeting began at 8:51 a.m. with Karol Grandgeorge, Mike Hamer, and Connie Hamer present.

The February minutes were approved as read.

Michael's February offering report was as follows: General Fund - \$11,685.54; Capital Fund - \$1159.60; Cuzco Lutheran churches - \$67.60; Kitchen Fund - \$250; Easter Lilies - \$40; Personal Care Kits - \$683.36; Habitat for Humanity - \$200; Ash Wednesday - \$250; Parsonage - \$195.

Connie submitted the article for March's emphasis (Sunday School). There will be a community egg hunt on Saturday, April 4th. Karol will write the article for April's emphasis which is the St. John's Capital Fund. LWR Baby Care Kits is the May Emphasis. Connie will write the article for the May newsletter for the June blood drive.

Lent and Easter information – The Federated church in Sandwich is hosting Lenten Prayer breakfasts every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. Our own Lenten services are at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday with the soup supper from 5:00 to 6:00 prior to the service. Offerings from the Lenten *meals* are going to We Are Called to Care, a group from Plano/Yorkville, which assists those fostering children.

LWR news – Karol reported on ingatherings within driving distance. Bethlehem in St. Charles is having one on Saturday, May 2nd from 10:00-2:00. There are 2 currently scheduled for October 3rd and 4th; one is in Naperville and the other at Zion in Rockford. We used to take our kits (3-4 times a year) to Church of the Brethren in Elgin, but that program shut down. We discussed the possibility of having an ingathering here at St. John's. Whenever we deposit our kits, we will need physical help to unload our vehicles and put them in the semi.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1st at 8:45 a.m. We adjourned at 9:35 a.m. by praying The Lord's Prayer.

Rebekah Circle

Date: Thursday, April 16th, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: St. John's Fellowship Hall

Lesson: Travels With Jacob

Session #1

Hostess: Cheryl Hearn



April Special Offering

The April Special Offering will benefit the St. John's Capital Fund. The Capital Fund pays for improvements and repairs to the St. John's building and property. There are always 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 close to 20 years old and need some tender, loving care, which may include painting and some major building upkeep. If you are a property owner, you know that owning property costs money and it is no different with the church. It may be a leaky sink or something much larger that is needing attention, but everything comes with a cost. None of us would be happy if we didn't have good heat in winter or nice, cool air conditioning in the summer. That may not be the case if we have a break-down of equipment. Please be generous to the special offering for April and remember the Capital Fund in your regular giving.

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
Terry Hulon	04/25
Nancy Strever	04/28



NEXT READING BUDDIES WITH WENDY
MERKEL'S KINDERGARTENERS IS TUESDAY,
APRIL 28TH
@ 10:00AM

SIGN UP IN THE
WELCOME CENTER.



MEETING



Property Committee

10am Wednesday, April 1



Church Council

10:45am Sunday, April 12



Rebekah Circle Meeting

1:00pm Thursday, April 16



Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, April 1



Worship Committee

1:00pm Wednesday, April 1



Fellowship & Hospitality

3:00pm Wednesday, April 15



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<h1>April</h1> <h1>2026</h1>			1 8:45am Stewardship 10:00am Property Mtg. 1:00pm Worship Mtg. 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
5 6:30am Sunrise Service at St. John's Cemetery 9:45am Worship <i>Easter</i>	6	7 11:30 Sandwich/Somonauk Ministerial Assoc. meeting 6:30pm Growing Hope Globally Dinner and Presentation	8 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
12 8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:45am Worship 10:45am Church Council Meeting	13	14 <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9:00am-3pm</i>	15 3:00pm Fellowship & Hospitality Meeting <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9am-3pm</i> 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
19 8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:45am Worship SUNDAY SURPRISE SOCIAL HOUR AFTER WORSHIP	20	21	22 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
26 8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	27	28 10:00am Reading Buddies	29 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 5:00pm Worship
9	10	11 5:00pm Worship
16 1:00pm Rebekah Circle	17	18 5:00pm Worship
23	24	25 5:00pm Worship
30		

The background of the page is a light gray with a repeating pattern of small white flowers. Scattered throughout are various colorful Easter eggs with different patterns: a blue egg with white stars, a purple egg with a diamond pattern, a red egg with white polka dots, a green egg with a zigzag pattern, a yellow egg with white swirls, a pink egg with white polka dots, a green egg with white daisies, a white egg with a green zigzag and red dots, a yellow and white striped egg, a blue egg with white daisies, and a pink egg with a white zigzag. There are also small pink cherry blossom branches and white daisies scattered around the eggs.

The Parents Corner

An old saying I learned as a child is “The Lord helps those who help themselves.” That doesn’t quite sound like “Trust in the Lord.” or “The Lord will provide.”

But think of Moses and the Israelites in the desert. They had to trust God and obey His instructions to have food and water in the desert.

Martin Luther uses the words of Jacob during a famine to illustrate the difference between trusting or testing God. “When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, ‘Why do you keep looking at each other?’ He continued, ‘I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die.’” - Genesis 42:1-2

I will illustrate with an old joke about the old man on his roof during a flood praying for the Lord to rescue him. A boat came and offered a ride. He refused saying he’d wait for the Lord. He refused a ride on a helicopter saying he’d wait for the Lord. When he finally asked the Lord why he wasn’t helped, the Lord replied, “I sent a boat and a helicopter, what more do you want?”

There is a difference between testing and trusting God that parents will need to help children learn... like Jacob did.

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
Mike Hamer
Connie Hamer
Cindy Karp
Joanne Robinson

Lutherdale Bible Camp Representatives-2026

Karol Grandgeorge, Nancy Miller

Synod Assembly Representatives-2026

Wayne & Cindy Karp

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, Adam Killey
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:

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: Jerry Lundeen

Prayer Chain: Karol Grandgeorge

Parish Education

Confirmation

- a. Primary Instructor—Scott Horsch, Maury Killey
- b. St. John's Congregational Council

3N1: 7—12 gr. Youth Ministry:

Coordinators:

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 April 2026

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



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