



JUNE 2025

A June Message from your Pastor,

Dear Council Members and Members of St. John's Lutheran Church, Somonauk, Illinois

Greetings to you in the powerful name of Jesus the Christ!

I begin this letter with a reading from Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 where the writer says that everything has its time:

3:1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

.....4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 ...a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

7 ... a time to keep silence, and a time to speak(NRSV)

This Scripture is sometimes used at funerals. But it is also applicable today, therefore I add – *A time to arrive and a time to depart.*

Dear Friends in Christ, I am announcing my retirement from active ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and at St. John's Lutheran Church, Somonauk effective August 31, 2025. My last Sunday will be August 24.

This has not been an easy decision. Steve and I have been thinking about and discussing my retirement for some time. After much prayerful discernment I felt this is the appropriate time for me to retire.

You, the members of St. John's, will always hold a special place in my heart. It is my fervent prayer that you will continue walking with God here in this place called St. John's, Somonauk. Any transition is a time of anxiety for both you and me. Rest assured the Northern Illinois Synod Office will faithfully lead you through the process of receiving an Interim Pastor and then a new called Pastor. You are held in prayer by the Synod Staff as well as members of the Synod Council and me.

Over the next three months, we will have time to share stories and celebrate God's work together. At the congregational meeting on June 8th, you will have

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the opportunity to organize a Call Committee.

I began my ministry here at St. John's in January 2019 as your interim pastor and was called to serve as your pastor later that same year. We have been together through many highs and lows and for that I give thanks. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your pastor. May God guide and bless these days of holy and sacred transition.

God's Blessing & Peace,

Pastor Chris Schoon

Congratulations to
Jack & Evelyn Smith on their 70th Wedding Anniversary.
Let's help them celebrate by throwing them a card shower.

70

Please send an anniversary card to:

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Smith
c/o Pavilion on Main
515 North Main
Room 222
Sandwich, IL 60548

The goal is for Jack & Evelyn to receive 70 cards.

LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

June 17th

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

June 18th

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

We want to thank everyone for their donations to the Baby Care Kits during the month of May. We try to do 20 Baby Care Kits each month, so that means at least 40 t-shirts are being used each month. The t-shirt can be long or short sleeve- sizes 12 month, 18 month, or 24 month(2T). We always love seeing the beautiful colors and prints that t-shirts come in. We cannot use sleeveless shirts or onesies.

Work days in June will be used for cutting school bags and getting the packs ready for people to sew at home. Someone can match baby patchwork tops with material to make a small quilt for the Baby Care Kits. These small quilts are also tied. We will cut blocks for the Piece Maker packets which go home to be sewn into quilt tops. These tops are matched with a center and a back when they are returned, so ties can be made on them. The ties hold the layers together and then they are stitched around. After sewing, they are packed in boxes to go to Elgin and later transported to New Windsor, Maryland. We also put together items for Baby Care Kits. There are many towels that have been purchased that need the paper tags removed so we can make more Personal Care Kits. Needless to say, there are always many jobs to be completed, so come spend some time with the LWR workers!

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!

St. John's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - May 18, 2025

Present: Scott Horsch, Wayne Karp, Cindy Karp, Mary Carlson, Pastor Schoon

Absent: Joanne Robinson, Bob Fraley, Connie Hamer

Devotion -Pastor Schoon

Call to Order - 10:56 am – Quorum was not present

Minutes/Financial Reports

April Minutes and Check Details were reviewed- Approval tabled until June meeting

Treasurer's Report

Checking balance of 125,974.05 Monthly Activity - \$15, 426.58

Reviewed Asset's/Liabilities, Budget vs. Actual, and Monthly Activity reports

Committee Reports

Fellowship-Hospitality – Church Picnic and Ladies Luncheon were discussed

Outreach – Pastor Meeting June 4, 2025, Shut in Communion delivered, visitors Saturday night

Finance – No meeting

Stewardship – Report acknowledged

Parish Education – Sunday School concluded – Confirmation concluded

Worship Committee – Discussion of trays vs board for communion and piano donations

Tech Committee – No Report

Property – Lighting in fellowship hall completed (LED)- Discussion of paving and other lighting projects.

Pastor's Report – Report Acknowledged – Service time change next weekend

Old Business – Additional council members are still needed

New Business – Summer Project Discussions

Parsonage Driveway – Remove and Replace Driveway - \$14,900 Bid

Church Lighting Fixtures – 66 Fixtures – 194 bulbs - \$90.00 each = \$5,9400.00 Cry Room – LED \$150.00

Pastor Schoon submitted her planned retirement for August 31, 2025. Council acknowledged receipt. Acceptance will be tabled until the June Council meeting.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment – 11:45 am

Submitted - Scott Horsch

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 5-7-25

Present: Pastor Schoon, Lois Spizzirri, Toni Lundeen, Julie Horsch and Cindy Karp. We began our meeting at 1:00 pm with prayer.

Altar Guild meets this month on May 20th, but had a question for Worship Committee. They wanted to know who is responsible for watering the flowers we get for special times of the year like Easter and Christmas. Julie is here a lot of the time and will try to water them when needed. Also at the Altar Guild meeting we will be discussing whether to keep using the round silver trays or go back to the boards for communion.

Someone asked when we were going to do favorites hymns again. So we decided to do it for the whole summer, June, July and August.

We talked about the piano situation again, it feels like we're just sitting in limbo on this. We know the baby grand will not fit where the current piano is. Do we want talk to property committee about whether it would be possible to enlarge the platform to accommodate the baby grand and what would that cost? There are questions that need to be answered and we're looking for Council's help and guidance. This is kind of a big deal and we feel "the ball is in your court" so to speak. There is a company in St. Charles that are experienced piano movers, Chicagoland Piano.

We closed our meeting with The Lord's Prayer at 1:45pm.

In God's Service, Cindy Karp

STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 5-7-25

The May Stewardship meeting was called to order at 8:50a.m. with Mike Hamer, Mark Lee, Karol Grandgeorge, Pastor Chris Schoon, and Connie Hamer present. We prayed to God asking that “we nurture the bonds of community & serve humanity to God’s glory.”

The April minutes were approved as read.

Due to several members not available in June, our next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, July 2nd, 2025 at 8:45 a.m.

Michael’s offering report was as follows: General Fund - \$14,938.44; Capital Fund - \$1058.41; Good Samaritan - \$122; Habitat for Humanity - \$631.13 (current total); St. John’s Local Benevolence - \$500; Sharing Pantry - \$1294.13.

Mark is setting up drivers for June Meals-on-Wheels. Connie will take June 24th-27th. We do not need to do Mondays as someone else is covering those.

Michael attended the CROP meeting. Our Savior’s will be hosting the event on Sunday, Oct. 5th with walking to be at the Fairgrounds. They will continue with partnering with local restaurants and having the Tip Jar at the Fairgrounds. Cindy Frasier is the contact person.

LWR update: May’s emphasis is Baby Care Kit month. Karol put it in her monthly article and reported that more diaper flannel has been ordered. Cindy Karp is ALWAYS in need of t-shirts sized 12 months to 24 months (2T).

The Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, June 5th from 2:30-7:00. Mark will work 2:00-4:30 and Karol from 4:30-7:00p.m. Connie did sign-ups at church May 3rd & 4th; Michael will do May 10th & 11th; Karol will do May 18th; and Connie will do May 25th. Connie will make phone calls and Julie will put out a blast to St. John’s members. Approximately 20 flyers will be distributed to: FVOAS; Som Library; Bethany (Leland); United Church of Sandwich; Our Savior’s Sandwich; Salem Lutheran; St. Paul’s (Sandwich); St. John the Baptist; Federated Church; Baptist Church Som; Union Congregational Church; Rambos; Bud’s Citgo; Doug’s; Art’s; Pancake House; Country Kitchen, Casey’s; and J.C. Fitness.

Our emphasis in June is Midwest Shelter for Homeless Vets. Connie will

put up the display at the end of May.

The May Community feast is on Tuesday, May 27th at Salem Lutheran. We are responsible for 10 desserts which need to be at Salem by 4:00p.m. or here to be delivered by 3:00p.m. United Church of Sandwich will host the August 26th feast. At that time, St. John's will be responsible for 4 – dinner casseroles; 4 – veggie dishes; and 4 – potato dishes. We will host the November 23rd dinner. At the end of the year, a decision will be made whether to continue with the dinners.

Our August emphasis is children's charities. Some suggestions are Sononauk #432, We Are Called to Care, or LSSI. We will consider whether to split the funds between organizations or to choose just one.

Reminder: next meeting will be July 2nd, at 8:45a.m. We adjourned at 9:45a.m. by praying The Lord's Prayer.



Jaxon Palmer	06/02
Gary Gord	06/03
Jackie Eade	06/04
Marlene Allen	06/06
Sarah Palmer	06/07
Wendy Merkel	06/11
Connie Hamer	06/12
Emma Horsch	06/12
Donna Guehler	06/13
Andrew Reuter	06/14
Lori Wold	06/15
John Weber	06/15
Ray Raupp	06/17
Rylie Merkel	06/18
Jamie Johnson	06/19
Calleigh Rogers	06/20
Jeanette Pfeifer	06/20
Aiden Wold	06/21
Rose Rubis	06/22

Cynthia Reuter	06/24
Dan Denault	06/24
Jase Lindstrom	06/26
Julie Gottlieb	06/26
Brooke Wilson	06/26
Doris Miller	06/27
John Johnson	06/28
Daniel Hallman	06/30



Christopher & Jeannine Dingman	06/10
Mike & Connie Hamer	06/11
Glen & Cynthia Reuter	06/12
Larry & Doris Rogers	06/14
Homer & MaryAnn Hulon	06/17
Jack & Evelyn Smith	06/18 70 Years!
Michael & Terry Hulon	06/21
Becky & Kevin Anderson	06/24
Ron & Wendy Merkel	06/26
Neil & Doris Miller	06/29
Jerry & Toni Lundeen	06/30

LAST READING BUDDIES OF THE YEAR

It was another fantastic year reading with Wendy's kindergarten students. The last day was celebrated with ice cream and fun was had by all.





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 5th, 2:30-7:00p.m.**

We tried very hard last year to reach the goal of 15 units. After many phone calls and some very generous dedicated people, we **MADE IT!** Several people who couldn't donate on our drive date went to a Versiti site, donated, and had it credited to the St. John's drive.

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.

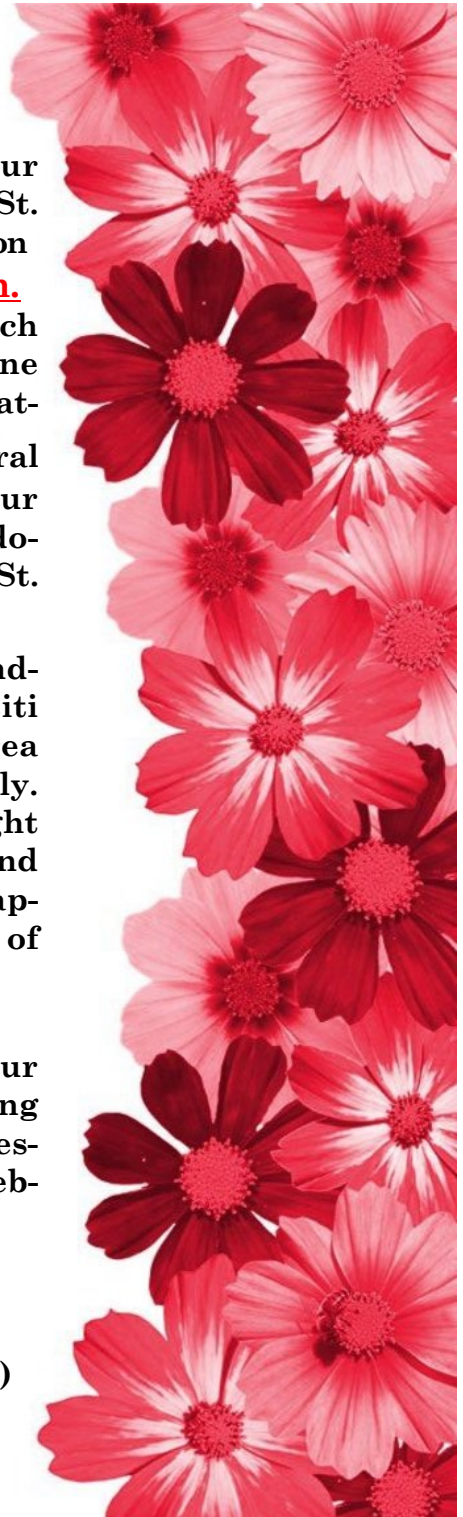
Appointments can be scheduled by:

Calling 800-786-4483 (Versiti)

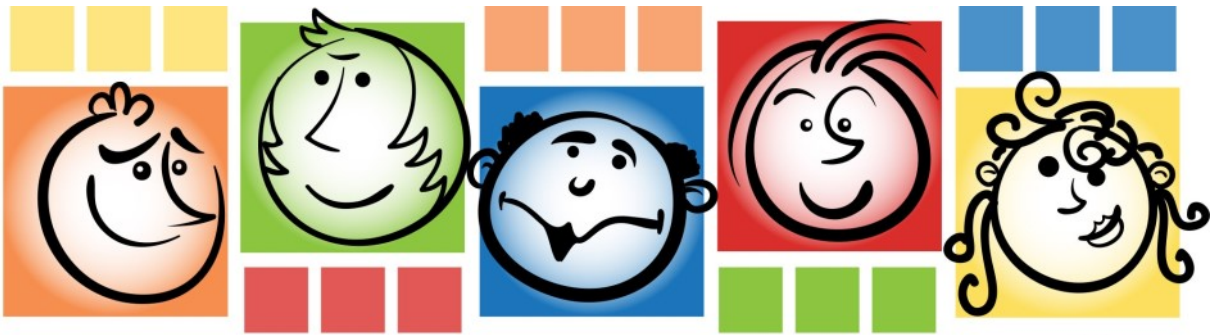
Calling 815-498-3667 (our church office)

E-mail: donate.il@versiti.org

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



EVERY DROP WILL HELP!



MEETING

Worship Committee

1:00pm Wednesday, June 4

Property Committee

10am Wednesday, June 4

Quarterly Congregational Meeting

9:45am Sunday, June 8

Fellowship & Hospitality

2:00pm Wednesday, June 4

MOG Committee

6:30 pm Tuesday, July 1

Church Council

10:00am Sunday, June 8

Endowment Committee

6:30 pm Thursday, August 7

Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, July 2

Altar Guild

6:30pm Tuesday, August 19



Dear Parishioners,
As it has been for several years, St. John's emphasis for June is Midwest Shelter for Homeless Vets (MSHV). MSHV is our opportunity to lift and THANK those who have given so much for us. Founded in Wheaton, IL by 2 veterans, Bob Adams and Dick Enger, MSHV operates on the vision of no veteran left behind due to homelessness, poverty, joblessness, and/or mental health issues. This non-profit agency provides: affordable and transitional housing; permanent supportive housing; support services for vet families; GPD case management; employment programs; and the freedom commissary. MSHV desires to ease the suffering for veterans and their families and to empower them to become productive members of their communities. Their efforts in this regard are evident in that they are serving fewer households (over 500 in a 13 county area) than a couple of years ago. Vets must meet lifestyle and income requirements for some services. MSHV is a non-profit 501(C)3 organization and their tax ID# is 36-4337985 (for your tax purposes).

St. John's will be accepting supplies and monetary donations (made out to St. John's and marked MSHV) throughout the month of June.

Following is a partial list of needed supplies (the full list is available at our display):

Clothing:

- Coats – men & women sizes – all sizes
- Hats & gloves, socks
- Men's white T-shirt sizes – all sizes
- Men's underwear – all sizes
- Women's underwear – all sizes

Household:

- Paper towels, toilet paper, kleenex
- Kitchen garbage bags (13 gal)

Kitchen:

- Microwaves, toasters, coffee maker
- Dish sets, silverware sets
- Pots & pans, crock pot
- All sizes ziplock bags
- Food storage containers
- Knife sets, towels, dish cloths
- Paper plates, napkins, plastic wrap

Bedding & Bathroom:

- Comforters – K & Q
- Sheet sets – king, queen, & full, pillows
- Bath rugs & towel sets, shower curtain
- Bath cleaners & toilet bowl brush

Cleaning supplies:

- Laundry & dishwasher pods, dryer sheets
- Disinfectant & cleaner sprays (Lysol)
- Bleach, disinfectant wipes
- Windex, dish soap,
- SOS pads, scrub brush

Personal Care Items:

- Body wash, shampoo
- Hand soap, body wipes
- Deodorant
- Razors, toothbrush, toothpaste
- Lip balm, dental floss (spools)

MSHV no longer accepts gift cards or used items. Consider supporting local businesses or if you would prefer, you may go to <https://a.co/b3ifTXn>

All of you at St. John's are such a blessing! Let's pass some blessings on to others.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
1	2	3	4 10:00am Property Mtg. 1:00pm Worship Mtg. 2:00pm Fellowship & Hospitality 4:00 Outreach	5
8 9:00am Worship 9:45am Congregational Quarterly Meeting 10:00am Church Council Meeting	9	10	11	12
15 9:00 Worship	16	17 <i>LWR Workday 9:30am-3pm 7pm-9pm</i>	18 <i>LWR Workday 9am-3pm</i>	19
22 9:00 Worship SUNDAY SURPRISE SOCIAL HOUR AFTER WORSHIP	23	24	25	26
29 9:00 Worship	30	31		

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<div>5</div> <div>Blood Drive</div> <div>2:30-7:00pm</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> <div>5:00pm Worship</div>
	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div> <div>5:00pm Worship</div>
	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <div>5:00pm Worship</div>
	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>5:00pm Worship</div>
			<div>June</div> <div>2025</div>



The Parents Corner

All my adult life I have made lists of my plans for the day. My daughters are so inclined, also. I have a nine-year-old great-granddaughter who has a pink desk, a computer, a telephone and all other pink office appointments to do her planning and make her own lists.

I have warned them all that in my twenties, my list was a daily dozen things to accomplish. In my thirties that was reduced to eight items, and by my fifties, I started listing what I had done by the end of the day instead.

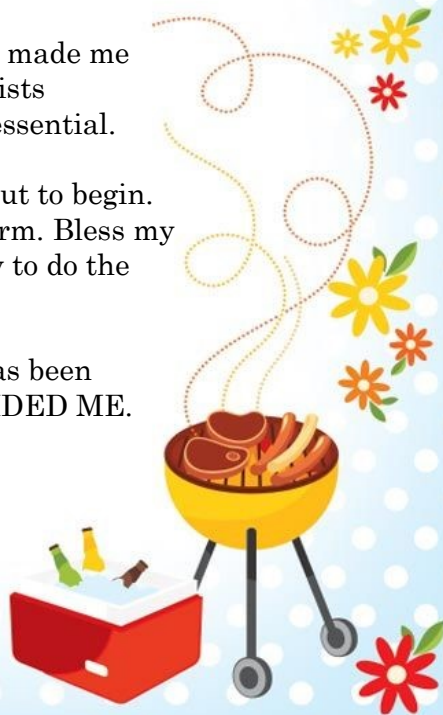
Recently, I found a morning prayer that made me realize that not once in my life had my lists intentionally included something most essential.

“Dear Lord, bless this day that I am about to begin. Bless my family and keep them from harm. Bless my friends and co-workers. Guide us all day to do the things that please you. Amen.”

Anything pleasing to God done by me has been random and not planned. God HAS GUIDED ME.

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

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 Boczeko

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 June 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

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