



JULY 2025

## July 2025: A Summer Message from your Pastor ...

Summer has begun. Vacations are being enjoyed and the crops in the field are growing. We pray for seasonal rains and good weather as the plants in the field grow and mature.

Our worship times remain the same: Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday.

On Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup> Vacation Bible School begins. VBS will be from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. The theme for VBS this year is Camp Chaos. Consider signing up your child for VBS. Talk to your children and grandchildren, encourage them to sign up for VBS as well. In addition, urge your friends and neighbors to sign up for a fun week of "chaos".

St. John's church picnic is coming up in August. The picnic is August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Somonauk Park. Worship will be at 9:00 a.m. Bring your own lawn chair and food to share. There will be food and fun after the worship service. Join us!

Dear Friends in Christ, I have been made aware that, yet another text has gone out to members of St. John's asking for assistance from "me". I did not send out any texts asking for gift cards or assistance. Please do not open the text and also, please delete these texts. They are not from me! ... *the only time I will ask for assistance is when I'm retired and Steve & I move back to Clifton in August ...*

The lazy, hazy days of summer are more crazy than lazy; and yet it is a good time to be the church. Please be safe this summer!

God's Blessing & Peace,  
Pastor Chris Schoon

# Dirty Washing

(Your Judgements Say More About You Than the Person You Judge)

A young couple moved into a new house. The next morning while they were eating breakfast, the young woman saw her neighbor hanging the washing outside.

“That laundry is not very clean; she doesn’t know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better detergent.”

Her husband looked on, remaining silent. Every time her neighbor hung her washing out to dry, the young woman made the same comments.

A month later, the young woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband, “Look, she’s finally learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this?”

The husband replied, “I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows.”

And so it is with life ...

What we see when watching others depends on the clarity of the window through which we look. So don’t be too quick to judge others, especially if your perspective of life is clouded by anger, jealousy, negativity or unfulfilled desires.

“Judging a person does not define who they are.  
It defines who you are.”



# LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

July 15th

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

July 16th

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

ATTENTION: On Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, we are having School Backpack Workdays. The backpacks will need to be strung, more backpacks sewn, school supplies taken out of the packaging and pencils and pens need to be banded together. We will be working from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm each day. Then on August 17<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at 4:00 pm to fill the backpacks and pack the backpacks for shipment. Please put these dates on your calendar!

Work days in July 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. Some tooth brushes have been purchased and need to be put in envelopes before they go into 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

No meeting was held in June.

### WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

No meeting was held in June.

### STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES

No meeting was held in June.



# St John's Lutheran Quarterly Congregational Meeting - June 8, 2025

- A quorum was established of 28 members and the meeting was called to order at 9:46 am.
- Pastor lead us with an opening prayer.
- Wayne addressed the congregation about Pastor's retirement. He said he is waiting to hear from the synod but expects we will have supply pastors followed by an interim.
- Scott presented the treasurer's report. He said our balance has increased from this point last year and that we are steady.
- Nancy presented the MOG report. The total investment portfolio stands at \$535,791.45. The Money Market account (the portion of the portfolio they are allowed to draw from) stands at \$84,402.90. All donations and memorials, along with the interest from the stocks and bonds go to the Money Market. Resource Bank reinvests the interest based on the market, leaving \$80,000 for projects or emergencies.
- Wayne explained and Jeanette Pfeifer asked for a motion to include the following addition to the MOG committee bylaws...

## **Addition to the Memorial and Other Gifts Committee Bylaws:**

### **CS.06.03D**

**The Financial Recorder shall be a yearly position appointed by the Committee at its first meeting following the Annual General Meeting. The Financial Recorder shall have voice but no voting rights.**

**The Financial Recorder shall keep the ledger of accounts of the Memorial and Other Gifts Committee. The Financial Recorder shall receive all funds and disburse them as directed by the committee.**

**The Financial Recorder shall attend all meetings of the Memorial and Other Gifts Committee and provide monthly and yearly financial accounting information. All checks must be signed by the Financial Recorder and the current Treasurer of St. John's Lutheran Church.**

- Chuck Hoepe seconded. Motion carried with a vote of 25 – 1.
- Wayne presented to the congregation a cost of \$5930 to update the lighting in the Fellowship Hall and Welcome Center. Wayne explained any figure over \$5000 needs to get the congregation's approval. Scott stated there is money in the capital fund to pay for it. Nancy Miller made the motion, Anita Milligan seconded, motion carried.
- Chuck Hoepe clarified to Wayne that the MOG bylaw motion passed. There was confusion over the vote.
- Karol Grandgeorge asked how a call committee will be formed. Pastor said she meets with Jennifer Beamsley on July 5<sup>th</sup> and will know more information then.
- After a closing prayer by Pastor the meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

In God's service,  
Bob Fraley

No meeting was held in June

### SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JULY

It was decided at a recent Stewardship Committee meeting to make the special offering for July go to the Worship/Altar Guild committee. The Altar Guild does not have a budget, so everything must come from the Worship committee budget.

The Worship committee budget must include the wine, grape juice, wafers and cups for Holy communion, plus the copyrights for special music, the organists and pianists, and any special music and the players. For the past year, the wine and grape juice cost about \$250. That doesn't include the wafers or small plastic cups. If the altar guild has expenses for decorating the inside or outside of the church, that also comes from the Worship committee budget. In recent years members of the Altar Guild have purchased things to be used for decoration themselves or used donated items from church members. While no one is complaining about this, it may not always be the case that someone is able to do that. It would be nice for the Altar Guild members to know there is money available to purchase items when needed.

Because of the smaller amount of money available to budget, the Stewardship committee felt that the Worship/Altar Guild budget could use some help. We all enjoy worshipping in our very pleasant surroundings!



# JULY

## *birthdays*

Kathy Anderson	07/02	Tom Anderson	07/14
Dorinda Hartman	07/03	Emerson Wold	07/14
Heidi Eaton	07/05	Darla Fraley	07/24
Dick Andrews	07/05	Gary Gaffney	07/24
Victoria Pyle	07/05	Kira Barnes	07/27
Brody Lindstrom	07/10	Christi Gibson	07/29
Maury Killey	07/12	Linda Stahl	07/29
Michael Hulon	07/13	Ryan Johnson	07/29



# JULY

## *anniversaries*

Anita & Merlyn Milligan	07/01	30 Years!	Rhea & Richard Lumsden	07/20
Bruce & Diane Wold	07/13		Bob & Sharon Mueller	07/31 70 Years!
Kyle & Jennifer Reuter	07/16		Scott & Julie Horsch	07/31
Jeffery & Monda Denault	07/17			





July 21<sup>st</sup> - July 24<sup>th</sup>

9AM to 1130AM

St. John's Lutheran Church

235 S. Green St., Somonauk

Vacation Bible School is open to children aged 3 (must be potty trained) up to those completing 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

To register please call the church office at 815-498-3667 or stop in and fill out the registration form.

Please register by July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Bible Stories-Games-Fun-Music-Chaos-Crafts-Snacks

All are welcome!



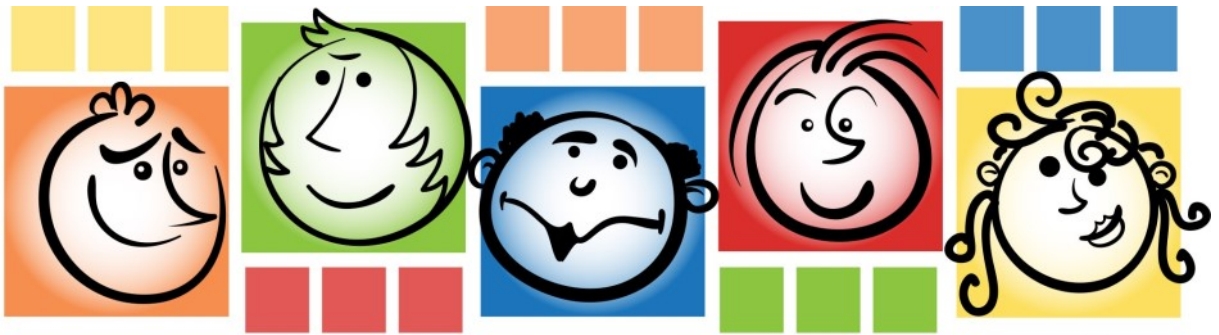
# **St. John's Lutheran Church (and friends) Picnic**



**Games and prizes for everyone!**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 3RD  
AT THE SOMONAUK PARK**

- ♥ **WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:00 AM**
- ♥ **GROUP GAMES AND SILLY SONGS**
- ♥ **LUNCH AT 11:00AM**
- ♥ **PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE**
- ♥ **HOT DOGS AND BRATS PROVIDED**
- ♥ **ICE TEA, WATER AND LEMONADE PROVIDED**
- ♥ **BOARD GAMES, CARD GAMES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES!!!**



# MEETING

## **MOG Committee**

6:30 pm Tuesday, July 1

## **Stewardship Committee**

8:45am Wednesday, July 2

## **Property Committee**

10am Wednesday, July 2

## **Worship Committee**

1:00pm Wednesday, July 2

## **Fellowship & Hospitality**

2:00pm Wednesday, July 2

## **Church Council**

10:00am Sunday, July 13

## **Endowment Committee**

6:30 pm Thursday, August 7

## **Altar Guild**

6:30pm Tuesday, August 19

# The Daylily

In the many flower beds in our yard, one flower stands out as prominent and most prolific, the daylily. They vary in color, from yellow, orange, or multi-colored. Some are a foot tall while the old-fashioned ones stand nearly four feet tall. They are a hardy perennial, withstanding the cold of winter in their dormancy to the drought of late summer. With minimal care, they produce their blooms throughout the long, hot Southern season.

Although probably different from the lilies found in our flower gardens, the flower is mentioned several times throughout the Scriptures, especially in the love song of Solomon. Most bible students agree that the "lily of the valleys" in Song of Solomon 2:1 is a type of Jesus Christ. We sing the old song, "He's the lily of the valley, the bright and morning star, He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul." Jesus used the natural growing lily to illustrate God's providential care for us. "Consider the lilies, how they grow, they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." (Luke 12:27)

One characteristic of our daylilies and perhaps a sad one, is the short lifespan of the blooms. They last only a day, then wither away only to be replaced by another bloom the day after. The Lord uses a flower as a metaphor to describe the brevity of life. "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever." (1 Peter 1:24–25)

As we enjoy the flower of the daylily today, let it remind us of the shortness of life and to make the very best of this day the Lord has made and to rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
July 2025		1  6:30pm MOG meeting	2  10:00am Property Mtg. 1:00pm Worship Mtg. 2:00pm Fellowship & Hospitality 4:00 Outreach	
6 9:00am Worship	7	8	9	
13 9:00 Worship  10:00am Church Council Meeting	14	15 <i>LWR Workday 9:30am-3pm 7pm-9pm</i>	16 <i>LWR Workday 9am-3pm</i>	
20 9:00 Worship	21  Vacation Bible School July 21-24	22	23	
27 9:00 Worship	28	29	30	



	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	3	4	5  5:00pm Worship
	10	11	12  5:00pm Worship
	17	18	19  5:00pm Worship
	24  9:00-11:30am	25	26 5:00pm Worship



# The Parents Corner

The U.S. Congress has designated a day in May to honor mothers and a day in June to honor fathers. I don't know if the greeting card industry helped lobby Congress to do this, but they certainly benefit from those holidays. There seem to be cards given to everybody from everybody. That can be confusing to a child. It can possibly defeat any specialness for a person.

Not so in my family. My brother and I had guidelines. My father never gave mom a gift on Mother's Day. She was not his mother. She was his wife. What he did do was take me shopping for a card and a gift, help me wrap the package and sign the card and lift me into mom's lap for a hug and a kiss. He did this until I was old enough to manage for myself. In June, mom did the same for me to help learn to show love and respect for a very special person in my life.

As for my parent's mothers and father, mom mailed a gift and made a long-distance child-to-parent call to each of them. My dad's gifting was easier because his mother lived with us.

However well-meaning, those acts of Congress seem meager compared to God's command thousands of years ago to honor our father and mother. It was given without restrictions... no day or month or year, but always and anywhere.

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 July 2025

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



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

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