



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



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

Journal
August 2023

An August Message from your Pastor ...

Summer is winding down and our children will be returning to school, Sunday School and Confirmation. Where did the summer go?! There have been many things to do this summer with ball games and practices, Vacation Bible School and the Sandwich Fair will soon be here. Time goes quickly when you're busy.

As we look to the future:

- In August we will have a Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 13th, don't forget to bring your backpack/school bag that day.
- The ministries of this congregation will continue into August; Council will meet, and the various Ministry Committees will gather as well. Lutheran World Relief workers will put together quilts, school kits and baby care kits. We will come together for worship. Come, be a part of the life and ministry of St. John's.

In the long season of green (green for growth in faith) - our current season of Pentecost and liturgical color - may all of us enjoy God's rebirth and renewal. Don't let the hurry and scurry of life pass you by.

May we all remember how God was active in Jesus' resurrection and is active in our life as well.

May all of you enjoy ~ God's Blessing & Peace,

Pastor Chris



IT'S TIME TO FILL LWR SCHOOL KIT BACKPACKS!



SUNDAY, AUGUST 20TH • 5:00 PM • ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

STAY FOR



AFTERWARD!

Blair Lindstrom	08/02	Linda Johnson	08/14	Brad Eade	08/25
John Shoener	08/02	Alex Barnes	08/16	Roger Guehler	08/25
Nancy Maroscia	08/02	Rosemary Underwood	08/17	Lois Spizzirri	08/26
Don Loux	08/03	Joanne Robinson	08/17	Steve Schoon	08/27
Richard Kossak Sr.	08/03	Marion Gaffney	08/18	Scott Horsch	08/29
Brynn Hallman	08/05	Julie Christopher	08/19	Brad Rogers	08/29
Cheri Kossak	08/09	Mandi Grandgeorge	08/22	Glen Reuter	08/29
Jack Smith	08/09	Gina Skofich	08/23	Sue Weber	08/30
Ellie Kulton	08/10	Karol Grandgeorge	08/23	Glenda Andrews	08/30
Grayson Denault	08/12				
Roger Hallman	08/13				
Adam Killey	08/13				
Brooklynn Misener	08/14				



The Good Samaritan Fund - Our August Emphasis

As many of you are aware, St. John's usually has a mission emphasis each month. At Stewardship Committee's February meeting, we made changes to that emphasis schedule due to our church income and budget cuts. We kept some of the missions (LWR), but changed a few. This year's calendar was changed as follows:

February - LWR Personal Care Kits

March - Sunday School

April - Capital Fund

May - LWR Baby Care Kits

June - Midwest Shelter for Vets

July - Worship/Altar Guild Comm.

August - Good Samaritan fund

Sept. - LWR Shipping fund

Oct. - CROP Walk & Growing Hope

(formerly Foods Resource Bank)

Nov. - LSSI Giving Tree

Dec. & Jan. - not decided yet

The Good Samaritan Fund was our emphasis in August of last year and we kept it as it is a local fund to help the immediate, but temporary, needs of transient travelers and disadvantaged local residents.

Aid: The available aid is limited to the monies in the fund through vouchers. Long term or greater needs are addressed through other

community programs. No individual or family receives its benefits more than once a year. Local residents normally receive a food/gas voucher and/or infant needs voucher. Transient individuals normally receive a food/gas voucher or meal voucher. Process: All requests are normally initiated from one of the local participating churches.

A signed pastoral recommendation then goes to the Sandwich Police Dept. (308 E. College). With proper identification, the police assess the needs, approve the vouchers, then sign and date them. Vouchers are not honored without that signature. The Sandwich Police Dept. maintains the records to ensure compliance and merchants forward vouchers to the Sandwich/Somonauk Ministerial Assoc. for reimbursement.

We will be accepting donations for the GSF during the month of August. As always, please make certain that your donation is marked Good Samaritan Fund. Many, many thanks to all who assist in keeping our mission work strong.



<i>Heidi & Patrick Eaton</i>	<i>08/05</i>	<i>30 years!</i>
<i>Steven & Becky Vermeland</i>	<i>08/08</i>	<i>25 years!</i>
<i>Tom & Linda Martin</i>	<i>08/10</i>	
<i>Glenda & Dick Andrews</i>	<i>08/21</i>	
<i>Keith & Marian Larson</i>	<i>08/22</i>	

News from St. John's Committees

STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 7-5-23

The meeting was called to order at 8:51 am with Mike Hamer, Pastor Chris Schoon, Karol Grandgeorge, Connie Hamer, and Lynn Skrzypiec present. Pastor led us in prayer asking that God help us to use His gifts wisely and to share them generously.

The June minutes were approved.

Karol reported on LWR projects. Karol and Mike delivered our recent quilts and kits to Elgin on June 28th. The date of Sunday, August 20th was chosen to fill school bags. School kits: There will be 2 extra days for sewing school bags on August 1st and 2nd. There are other tasks that people can do that day other than sewing - banding pencils and pens, stringing bags, opening supplies, etc. Michael reported that the Walmart supplies for 400 bags should be in by the end of July. Baby Care Kits: Cindy Karp is in need of 9 month T-shirts and 18-24 month jackets. No fleece or sherpa for infant clothing. The most recent roll of diaper flannel was delivered.

Michael's offering report for June was as follows: General Fund - \$14,949.34; Capital Fund - \$1,027.73; MSHV - \$747.53; Baby Care Kits - \$75.

The June Blood Drive was a success! We had 21 people who signed up to give and the final number of units was 14 - 3 no shows; 2 deferrals; and 2 rejected. Next year's Blood Drive is scheduled for June 6th.

Nancy Miller would like the children's Sunday School to have a monthly service project next year. For example, Ivory soap could be collected one month for Baby Care Kits or diapers for the Diaper Pantry.

Connie will do an article for the August emphasis which is the Good Samaritan Fund.

Connie will deliver the MSHV supplies collected to Wheaton on Thursday, July 6th. The phone number is 630-871-8387 ext 3.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 2nd at 8:45 am.

We adjourned at 9:33 am by reciting The Lord's Prayer.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 7-5-23

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 am with Toni Lundeen, Pastor Chris Schoon, Julie Horsch and Lois Spizziri present. Lois opened with prayer.

There were no reports from Altar Guild or the Banner Committee.

Music committee: Becky Stephens will be out of town for 2-3 weeks, possibly more. Toni will fill in for her on July 8, 9 and 29th. She will check with our other accompanists about coverage for July 15, 22, and 23.

No report from Pastor Chris.

Old Business:

Reformation Weekend - October 28 & 29

Church Picnic - July 23 at Somonauk Community Park; will need to arrange for things to be brought over
Worship Time Change to 9:45 am starting September 17.

Growing Hope Globally Harvest Celebration - October 21, 11:00 am start time

New Business:

Blessing of the Backpacks - Sunday, August 13; 1st day of school is August 16

Hymns for August were chosen.

We adjourned at 2:07 pm by reciting The Lord's Prayer.

NI SYNOD ASSEMBLY NEWS

Dear Congregation,

On June 16-17, 2023, the Northern IL Synod held its annual assembly. Pastor Chris and Steve, and Mike and Connie Hamer (representatives of St. John's) attended. The following actions were taken:

Passed the 2024 Northern Illinois Synod Budget

Passed the 2024 Rostered Minister Compensation Guidelines

Passed synod constitution changes received from 2022 Churchwide Assembly

Passed both resolutions brought to the assembly

Elected several members to serve on Synod Council and committees.

Heard from Bishop Fidlar on new initiatives including a partnership with Southeastern Iowa Synod

We thank you for the opportunity to represent St. John's.

M06 MINUTES 6/27/23

The regularly scheduled meeting for July 4th was rescheduled for a week earlier as July 4th is a national holiday. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by chairperson, Kathy Anderson. Nancy Miller led us in prayer using a daily devotion, as Pastor Chris Schoon is currently on vacation. Present at this meeting were: Nancy Miller, Lynn Skrzypiec, Anita Milligan, Linda Johnson, Kathy Anderson, and Connie Hamer.

Kathy passed out the agenda. Anita moved and Linda J. seconded to approve the April minutes as read. All were in favor. Nancy passed out the treasurer's report (see attached report). A few of the investments have shown some loss due to market instability, but it is nothing to be concerned about at this time. Other than fees to Resource bank, there have been no other expenditures. The Money Market minus designated funds gives us \$73,733.12 available funds, with the reminder that we have decided to not spend more than \$10,000 annually. Nancy is also working on adding and deleting authorized signatures with the bank. For example, Scott Horsch, St. John's current treasurer's name, will need to be added.

The following list notes when each committee member's service ends:

Connie Hamer - January of 2024

Lynn Skrzypiec - " " 2025

Kathy Anderson - " " 2026

Anita Milligan - " " 2027

Linda Johnson - " " 2028

Nancy Miller has continued to be treasurer, but is not a voting member.

Another piece of old business was forming a yearly spending plan. After much discussion, it was decided to keep the \$10,000 possible annual budget fluid. Rather than assigning a percentage to various possible projects, we will discuss projects as they are presented and make decisions as to funding them at that time.

We do not currently have any requests. Some possibilities for funds are the Hospitality Committee for the church picnic, vacation Bible School, or Sunday School programming and supplies. We will be kept updated on these issues during the next few months.

There being no other new business, Connie moved and Anita seconded to adjourn.

We adjourned at 8:51 pm by reciting The Lord's Prayer.

As of Date: June 26 2023

Ticker	CUSIP	Description	Quantity	Cost	Market Value	Unrealized G/L
ILVEX	197660866	COLUMBIA INTEGRATED LARGE CAP VALUE ADV	5318.923	\$66,858.86	\$71,220.38	\$4,361.52
FRGXX	31607A703	FIDELITY GOVERNMENT PORTFOLIO INSTITUTIONAL CLASS 5.	85974.4	\$85,974.40	\$85,974.40	\$0.00
GERIX	38144N569	GOLDMAN SACHS EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY INSIGHTS	1100.474	\$8,077.48	\$8,682.74	\$605.26
HGIIX	41664R192	HARTFORD CORE EQUITY CL I	879.965	\$34,045.84	\$37,697.70	\$3,651.86
JSMGX	47103C357	JANUS HENDERSON TRITON I	183.958	\$4,575.03	\$4,836.26	\$261.23
MFEKX	552985673	MFS GROWTH FUND CLASS R6	306.316	\$42,446.20	\$49,748.78	\$7,302.58
MGRDX	552746356	MFS INTERNATIONAL GROWTH R6	276.217	\$10,134.39	\$11,037.63	\$903.24
NDVVX	552982696	MFS NDW DISCOVERY VALUE R6	279.135	\$4,575.03	\$4,675.51	\$100.48
PIIDX	74256W592	PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL I R-6	1173.719	\$14,166.79	\$15,293.56	\$1,126.77
TBGVX	901165100	TWEEDY BROWNE INTERNATIONAL VALUE FUND	393.416	\$10,134.39	\$10,752.06	\$617.67
VCOBX	922020839	VANGUARD CORE BOND FUND ADMIRAL SHARES	3426.935	\$62,404.48	\$61,787.64	-\$616.84
VAIPX	922031737	VANGUARD INFLATION-PROTECTED SECS ADM	654.959	\$15,601.12	\$15,457.03	-\$144.09
VFDIX	922031810	VANGUARD INTERM-TERM INVESTMENT-GRADE	1846.287	\$15,601.12	\$15,564.20	-\$36.92
IICIX	92913L684	VOYA INTERMEDIATE BOND FUND CLASS I	7172.93	\$62,404.49	\$61,902.39	-\$502.10
		TOTAL FOR ALL ASSETS		\$436,999.62	\$454,630.28	\$17,630.66
		Money Market				
		<u>Designated funds inside of Money Market</u>				
		Audio/Visual		\$100.00		
		Lexan Window Covers		\$415.00		
		Parsonage		\$3,666.00		
		Pew Fund		\$2,350.28		
		Unspecified Memorials		\$5,710.00		
		Total designated funds		\$12,241.28		
		Money Market		\$85,974.40		
		less designated funds		\$12,241.28		
				\$73,733.12		

5/1/23	Dividend Payment			\$331.97	\$85,198.18
5/1/23	Dividend Payment			\$200.48	\$85,398.66
5/1/23	Dividend Payment			\$189.53	\$85,588.19
5/1/23	Dividend Payment			\$50.25	\$85,638.44
5/8/23	Fee to Resource		\$301.21		\$85,337.23
5/19/23	Fee to Resource		\$121.29		\$85,215.94
6/1/23	Dividend Payment			\$361.28	\$85,577.22
6/1/23	Dividend Payment			\$206.30	\$85,783.52
6/1/23	Dividend Payment			\$207.02	\$85,990.54
6/1/23	Dividend Payment			\$52.00	\$86,042.54
6/7/23	Fee to Resource		\$298.18		\$85,744.36
6/20/23	Dividend Payment			\$230.04	\$85,974.40

Gone Fishing Vacation Bible School



Wow! What a week we have had!

16 children from several area churches, including St. John's, attended Bible School. The theme for the week was *Gone Fishing*. Each day had a theme with a matching bible story.

Monday- God Provides. The loaves and fishes.

Tuesday-Obey God. Jonah and the Whale

Wednesday- Trust God. Noah's Ark

Thursday-Believe in God

The children fished in our fish pond, played games, watched skits, did crafts, ate yummy snacks, Wally (our inflate whale) and had Bible Study. There was a ton of laughter and giggles. Most importantly learn about God.

The children were broken down into 4 groups. I would like to say a very special thank you to the group leaders, Kherington Killey, Reagan Hallman, Junia Johnson and Ellie Wiegman. You were awesome!

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and Aunts and Uncles who brought their children to Bible School!

And thank you to the children who made us laugh, and who amazed us with their knowledge and creativity.

Finally Last, but not least, THANK YOU to all the helpers. You played a vital role in making Bible School a success. I could not have done this without you!!

Nancy Miller

Bible School director





MEETING

Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday August 2



Esther Circle Meeting

9am Wednesday August 2



Property Committee

10am Wednesday August 2



Worship Committee

1:30pm Wednesday August 2



Endowment Committee

6:30 pm Tuesday August 8



LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

AUGUST 1st 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch Backpack work day

AUGUST 2nd 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch Backpack work day

AUGUST 15th 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Bring a Lunch

AUGUST 16th 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch

August 1st and 2nd have been set aside for BACKPACK WORK DAYS. We will be sewing bags, stringing bags, banding pencils and pens and taking scissors, pencil sharpeners etc. out of their packaging. There will be plenty of jobs for everyone, so come for the amount of time you have and we will be happy to see you!

The regular work days in August will be the usual tying of quilts, cutting backpacks and sewing around the quilts. We probably will have some taking apart and sorting to do as things keep coming in. We work hard at getting more quilt kits made for the next month and we always need people to sew backpacks.

Speaking of BACKPACKS for SCHOOL. It is time to go shopping to fill these bags. Here is the list of supplies each bag needs:

- 4-70 sheet spiral note books
- 1-box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1-pencil sharpener
- 1-30 centimeter ruler(may also have inches on it)
- 1-pair of BLUNT scissors
- 5-UNSHARPENED #2 pencils with eraser
- 5-black or blue ballpoint stick pens(no gel pens)
- 1-2 ½" eraser

The bags will be in the Welcome Center by July 30th so you can take some and fill them. School supplies are out in the stores, so shop soon. If you can not go shopping, you may help by putting your contribution in a blue envelope and marking it School Bags. We thank you in advance for any help you can give. Last year we did over 520! What will we get done this year?

On Sunday, August 20th at 5:00 pm, we will be filling the remaining backpacks and packing them all in boxes for transport to Elgin, so they can go to the LWR center in Maryland. After we pack all the boxes, we will then enjoy pizza. As you can see, there are many opportunities to help, so come as often and as much as you can! We Lutherans like to eat, so there is a strong possibility of treats!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	
<p><i>August 2023</i></p>		<p>1</p> <p>LWR Sewing backpacks 9am-3pm</p>	<p>2 8:45am Stewardship 9:00am Esther Circle 10am Property 1:30 pm worship comm.</p> <p>LWR Sewing backpacks 9am-3pm</p>	
<p>6</p> <p>9:00am Worship</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 pm Endowment Committee</p>	<p>9</p>	
<p>13</p> <p>9:00am Worship</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>LWR Workday 9am-3pm 7pm-9pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>LWR Workday 9am-3pm</p>	
<p>20</p> <p>9:00am Worship</p> <p>5:00 pm Fill LWR backpacks Pizza afterward</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	
<p>27</p> <p>9:00am Worship</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Feed My Starving Children</p>	

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	3	4	5 5:00pm Worship
	10 6:30pm Council Meeting	11	12 5:00pm Worship
	17	18	19 5:00pm Worship
	24	25	26 5:00pm Worship
	31		

The Parents Corner

Our Bible tells us that we must not only know God's Word, we must also understand it. One purpose is of the mind, the other is of the heart and soul.

As a small child, I learned that God Created every creature above, on or under the Earth. At the time, I did not truly appreciate what that meant. My world was small and cozy. Then, one day when I was older and glorying in a beautiful day, I suddenly realized that **ALL** meant everything. Our world was God's idea spoken into existence. Every plant and tree, every animal and insect, every person was God's idea. I was more impressed by the awe-inspiring imagination than the power used. A whale, a mouse, a platypus?

The world that God spoke into being can give us more understanding of God, who gave his creation to his people to use and to care for. God gives us what we need. God asks that we be kind and caring and joyful.

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

Church Council

President: Wayne Karp

Vice-President:

Secretary: Bob Fraley

Congregation Council

Jim Beal

Andrew (Drew) Hallman

Michael Hamer

Jeanette Pfeifer

Lynn Skrzypiec

Lutherdale Bible Camp Representatives-2021

Karol Grandgeorge, Nancy Miller

Synod Assembly Representatives-2021

Pastor Mike & Connie Hamer

Cemetery Ministry Team

Bob Fraley, Glen Reuter, Doug Stahl

Endowment Ministry Team

Mike Hamer, Wendy Merkel, Jeanette Pfeifer, Dale Robinson &

Finance Ministry Team

Tom Harmon, Chuck Hoepe, , Dave McKenzie,

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:

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: Heidi Eaton

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: Doris Miller

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: Linda Johnson

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: Jim Beal

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: Lois Spizzirri

Striving to provide Spirit filled worship opportunities in an atmosphere of hospitality.

Newsletter of St. John's Lutheran Church April 2023

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