



AUGUST 2025

## *An August Message from Your Pastor ...*

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,  
plans for your welfare and not for harm,  
to give you a future with hope." ... Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)*

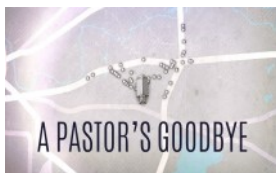
2025 is quickly flying by and my time serving you as your pastor is drawing to a close. In this time of transition, do you wonder what God may have in store for St. John's Lutheran Church? Dear Friends in Christ, hear God's promise, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."* Soon, you will be welcoming a new pastor. God will guide you in this time of change.

The Church Picnic will take place at the Somonauk Park on Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pastor Nancy Fraley and members of Union Congregational Church will be joining us. Worship will be at 9:00 am followed by fellowship time and games. We'll eat around 11:00 am. Please bring a dish to share and your lawn chairs.

Pastor Jennifer Beamsley, Assistant to the Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod, will be here on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> to visit with Church Council about St. John's transition time. My last week-end preaching and presiding at St. John's will be August 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. The moving truck will be at the parsonage on Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. ...so if you're not doing anything, come on over to help load up. 😊 We're moving back to Clifton into the house Steve grew up in.

As the year continues, public school will start mid-August, our Council and committees will continue with their respective responsibilities of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through activities and projects; our Bible Studies will resume in September, Sunday School will gather again on September 14<sup>th</sup>, and Confirmation classes will resume as well.

On a personal note, thank-you for all the cards, Steve & I received at the passing of our sister-in-law Lynn. As we take leave of St. John's, both Steve & I have fond memories of all of you. We have been so blessed to be here!



*May each of you enjoy God's Blessings & Peace,*

*Pastor Chris Schoon*

# **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!!!**

# LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

August 19th

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

August 20th

**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 rubber-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!

Yes, August is School Back Pack month at St. John's. We will be packing them on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August, so shopping needs to be done soon. The school supplies are out so here is the list:

- 4- 70-sheet spiral notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper, 8" x 10 ½"
- 1-30-centimeter ruler or ruler with centimeters and inches
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 pair of **blunt** scissors (not pointed scissors)
- 5 **unsharpened** #2 pencils with erasers
- 5 black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1-2 ½ " eraser

If you are unable to shop, please place your donation in a blue envelope or with your regular offering and mark School Backpack. We will shop for you! All Backpacks will be completed by the 31<sup>st</sup> of August.

Regular work days will be used to make quilts and baby care kits. Some Piecemaker packets to be sewn at home will be made as well as any work that needs to be done on the remainder of backpacks. Come help on the regular work days and the special days so we can have a lot of backpacks done again

**GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!**

## St. John's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - July 6, 2025

- ◇ Members present: Pastor Chris Schoon, Bob Fraley, Connie Hamer, Scott Horsch, Cindy Karp, Wayne Karp
- ◇ Cindy gave devotions based on Psalm 131. Worry less, pray more, and trust God by putting all things in his hands.
- ◇ Wayne called the meeting to order at 9:56.
- ◇ Connie made the motion to approve the April and May minutes and the April, May, and June check details. Cindy seconded. Consent agenda was approved.
- ◇ Scott presented the Treasurer's report.
  - ◆ As of June 30<sup>th</sup> our envelope contributions are at 46.23% of our budget.
  - ◆ We spent \$2100 more than what we took in this past month.
  - ◆ Our June income was \$13,660.17 which was lower than our target of \$18,000/month.
  - ◆ Scott pointed out possibly reviewing our insurance coverage to try and lower costs.
  - ◆ Our total assets at this point compared to last year stand at \$35,570 more.
  - ◆ Scott noted we have \$32,584 in building fund contributions.
- ◇ Committee reports
  - ◆ Fellowship/Hospitality: Picnic is August 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a Sunday social in the Fall.
  - ◆ Outreach: None
  - ◆ Finance: None
  - ◆ Missions/Stewardship: See report
  - ◆ MOG: Two people from Resource Bank came and talked about investments. They review it regularly and recommended keeping it the same. Two new communion tables were purchased.
  - ◆ Parish Education: Pastor asked about how adult forum will move forward after she leaves. There are 14 kids signed up for Vacation Bible School.
  - ◆ Property:
    - Pastor presented a job list presented by Ward which included...
      - ✕ Stone cleaning
      - ✕ Parking lot resurfacing and striping
      - ✕ East awning needing maintenance
      - ✕ Repair balcony walls
      - ✕ Replace carpet
      - ✕ Upgrade light clusters in sanctuary to LED
      - ✕ Repair floor tile in kitchen and bathroom
      - ✕ Wooden entrance doors need repair
    - Pastor recommended painting the parsonage when they leave. There is some storm door weatherstripping needing repair.
    - Bob painted outside metal doors and front railings. Sharing pantry has purchased new signage.
    - Connie asked if there are Sunday School rooms available to use as LWR storage.
    - The cemetery purchased a five-year supply of flags and hired a contractor to spray for weeds and fertilize.
  - ◆ Worship: See report
  - ◆ Tech: None

- ◇ Pastor's report: See report. Pastor asked if she and Steve could purchase her office's PC when they leave. It was taken under consideration.
- ◇ Wayne presented an estimate for repairing cracks, sealcoating, and striping the parking lot for \$3230. Connie made a motion to accept it. Cindy seconded. Motion carried.
- ◇ Wayne said that the executive committee and Pastor met with Jennifer Beamsley on Wednesday July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jennifer said that she currently has an interim in mind who is discerning the decision. She said we are living in a math problem with 400 pastors retiring last year and only 180 students graduating from seminary. Connie asked about the possibility of sharing a pastor and Wayne expressed many options are open. Jennifer will meet with the council on August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ◇ A call committee needs to be established. Names were presented as possible candidates.
- ◇ Cindy made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Connie seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 and closed with the Lord's prayer.

In God's service,

Bob Fraley

## August Emphasis: Children's Charities



Dear congregation,

As you are aware, every month we choose one or two charitable groups for monetary or in-kind donations. In addition to LWR school kits (which you can read about in the LWR article), we have chosen to split monetary donations in August between two groups which assist children:

**Somonauk #432 Elementary and Lutheran Social Services of IL (LSSI).**

Specifically, we are asking that the funds be used for supplies or food for children.

LSSI is one of the largest nonprofit, statewide social providers and has been serving IL since 1867. Their mission statement is: *Responding to the Gospel, LSSI brings healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities.* They placed 2,647 children with foster families last year.

Somonauk Elementary often finds itself supporting students with basic needs. Their social workers often have this sensitive information.

If you would like to donate to this emphasis, simply write Children's Charities on your envelope or in the memo line of your check. Thank you ever so much!



## **STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 7-2-25**

The July Stewardship meeting was called to order at 8:46 a.m. with Pastor Chris Schoon, Karol Grandgeorge, Mike Hamer, and Connie Hamer present. We prayed asking that God's Spirit work within us.

The May minutes were approved as read.

Michael's offering report was as follows: General Fund - \$13,656.91; Capital Fund - \$1,029.41; Kitchen Fund - \$1,196.30; MSHV - \$482.50; Baby Care Kits - \$574.90 (YTD); Sharing Pantry - \$167.52.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) updates: Karol and Connie took 2 van loads of completed quilts, personal care kits (372), and baby care kits to Elgin on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Church of the Brethren, whom we have depended on to transfer completed projects to Maryland, will be closing that program by the end of the year. We will be noting any news for that concern as the year progresses. One of our two emphases in August is LWR school kits. We will have 2 work-days for school kits on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-3:00. We especially need folks to string the bags with cord. On Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, we will actually fill the bags with school supplies starting at 4:00 p.m. Michael will order enough supplies to fill 450 bags.

Meals-on-Wheels was completed for June.

Connie will take the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Vets supplies to Wheaton on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The June blood drive collected 7 units + the several that were donated and credited to St. John's drive on other dates. We have not received a total at this time.

The May Community Feast at Salem Lutheran in Sandwich served 75-80 people. United Church of Sandwich will host the August 26<sup>th</sup> meal. At that time, St. John's will be responsible for 4-potato dishes, 4-dinner casseroles, and 4-veggie dishes. We will host the November 23<sup>rd</sup> feast. The decision will then be made whether to continue with the project.

Besides the LWR school kits, our other August emphasis will be monetary donations for James R. Wood Elementary (Somonauk) and LSSI. The donations will be for food or supplies for children. Connie will write the article. Look for the July emphasis article in our newsletter for Worship and Altar Guild Committee.

We adjourned by praying The Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting is Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 a.m.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 7-2-25

Present: Pastor Schoon, Lois Spizzirri, Julie Horsch and Cindy Karp.

We began our meeting with prayer at 1:00 pm.

Worship Committee did not meet in June.

You might have noticed the two new communion tables. They are much more sturdy and nicer looking. Glenda Andrew's ordered them for us and the MOG committee has given approval to pay for them.

With Brian and Ann from the Flower Peddler retired now we discussed our other options for flowers. Ivy Oaks in Somonauk was brought up. I know Nancy Miller knows the lady there quite well and she said she would be glad to talk to her and see if that might be an option for us.

Hymns and organists are all scheduled through August. Thank you to Julie for always doing that for our committee!

Upcoming events for this summer into fall:

Vacation Bible School is 7-21-25 through 7-24-25 from 9am to 11:30am each day.

Church picnic is 8-3-25.

Church service at the fair will be Sunday 9-7-25.

On 9-14-25 we will go back to our fall schedule: Sunday school 8:30am Church service 9:45am

We closed our meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 1:13pm.

In God's Service, Cindy Karp



# AUGUST

## Birthdays

Raeghan Vidito	08/01	Marion Gaffney	08/18
Blair Lindstrom	08/02	Julie Christopher	08/19
John Shoener	08/02	Amy Eighner	08/21
Nancy Maroscia	08/02	Mandi Grandgeorge	08/22
Don Loux	08/03	Gina Skofich	08/23
Brynn Hallman	08/05	Karol Grandgeorge	08/23
Ellie Kulton	08/10	Brad Eade	08/25
Grayson Denault	08/12	Roger Guehler	08/25
Roger Hallman	08/13	Lois Spizzirri	08/26
Adam Killey	08/13	Steve Schoon	08/27
Brooklynn Misener	08/14	Scott Horsch	08/29
Linda Johnson	08/14	Brad Rogers	08/29
Alex Barnes	08/16	Glen Reuter	08/29
Joanne Robinson	08/17	Sue Weber	08/30
Rosemary Underwood	08/17	Glenda Andrews	08/30



# AUGUST

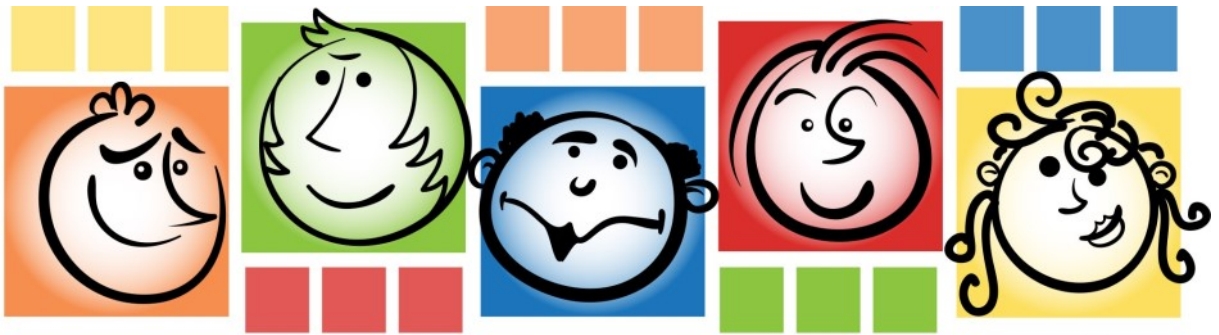
## Anniversaries

Heidi & Patrick Eaton	08/05	Glenda & Dick Andrews	08/21
Steven & Becky Vermeland	08/08	Keith & Marian Larson	08/22
Tom & Linda Martin	08/10		





After worship on Saturday and Sunday,  
August 23rd and 24th, please join us for a  
retirement celebration for Pastor Chris and Steve.  
Cake and refreshments will be provided.



# MEETING

## **Property Committee**

10am Wednesday, August 6

## **Stewardship Committee**

8:45am Wednesday, August 6

## **Fellowship & Hospitality**

2:00pm Wednesday, August 6

## **Worship Committee**

1:00pm Wednesday, August 6

## **Church Council**

10:00am Sunday, August 10

## **Endowment Committee**

6:30 pm Thursday, August 7


## **Altar Guild**

6:30pm Tuesday, August 19

**BACK<sup>2</sup>  
SCHOOL**

Pray for our  
**Teachers & Students**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
August 2025				
3 9:00am Worship  <b>Church Picnic</b> <b>9:00 am</b> <b>Somonauk Comm. Park</b>	4	5 9am-3pm LWR School Kit Workday	6 9am-3pm LWR School Kit Workday  10:00am Property Mtg. 1:00pm Worship Mtg. 2:00pm Fellowship & Hospitality 4:00 Outreach	
10 9:00 Worship   10:00am Church Council Meeting	11	12	13	
17 9:00 Worship  4:00 pm Fill LWR Backpacks	18	19 6:30pm Altar Guild Mtg.  <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9:30am-3pm</i> <i>7pm-9pm</i>	20  <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9am-3pm</i>	
24 9:00 Worship Pastor Chris' last day  9:00 Worship 31	25	26  COMMUNITY FEAST AT UNITED CHURCH OF SANDWICH 4:30-6:00 PM	27	

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2  5:00pm Worship
	7  6:30 pm Endowment Committee Meeting	8	9  5:00pm Worship
	14	15	16  5:00pm Worship
	21	22	23 5:00pm Worship
	28	29	30  5:00pm Worship





# The Parents Corner

While visiting my apartment, my daughter, Anita, asked her grandson, Woodland, if G.G. (that's me) knew what was on the front of his shirt. I looked and said, "That's Mickey Mouse!" Woodland replied "That's right, G.G.!" I thought he was not only experiencing positive enforcement in his life, he was learning to give it.

Then I silently laughed at myself, thinking such a modern and dry phrase instead of more descriptive and old-fashioned words like "approval" and encouragement." My mom almost always gave me approval, even though she was my disciplinarian, but my dad's approval was hard to win. The highest grade given in my school was "S" for Superior. When I brought my report card home with "S" for every single subject, dad asked why I didn't get "S-plus". I felt crushed... Until I discovered dad's high school course book tucked between two books in our library, and I realized he had to be kidding me. Sometimes that was hard to tell with his dry humor.

Mom always encouraged me to try new things. I was no athlete, but I could run fast and joined a YMCA track team. The first event I participated in was a relay race and I was the anchor leg. By the time I got the baton, all the other teams had crossed the finish line, which was where my coach was jumping up and down shouting "Run, Lois, Run!" There have been times in my life when that memory has spurred me to not give up and not give in.

The Holy Spirit that Jesus sent to us gives us constant love and encouragement when we falter. I listen to it because the Bible tells me so.

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