



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



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

Journal September 2023



A September 2023 Message from your Pastor ...

Greetings to you in the powerful name of Jesus Christ!

It is so hard to believe that summer is almost over, and another school year has begun. Please keep our students, teachers, and staff in your prayers.

The Sandwich Fair is September 6th – 10th. St. John's is participating in the ecumenical worship service on Sunday the 10th. Join us for worship at 8:30 a.m. at the fairgrounds. *Please Note: there will **not** be a worship service at St. John's that day. See you on Sunday, September 10th at the fair!*

Sunday School will begin with Rally Day, on Sunday, September 17th at 8:30 a.m. Adult Forum also begins September 17th; we will be studying Genesis. **Worship** follows at **9:45 a.m.** (*Please note the worship service time change on September 17th.*) Sunday School teachers and helpers will be installed during the worship service.

Following worship on September 17th, there will be a picnic lunch of hot dogs, chips, and desserts. There will be games, prizes, and crafts during/after the meal. Help is needed in the kitchen and for the games & crafts. If you can assist in any way, please contact Nancy Miller. It will be a fun time for fellowship. Our time together will be a time for Sunday School students to get to know their teachers and all of us get to meet and greet each other.

Thursday Morning Bible Studies will resume on September 21st at 9:00 a.m. We will be studying the Book of Revelation. Join us!

There will be a Confirmation orientation session for 7th & 8th Grade students, parents and mentors at St. John's on Wednesday, September 13th at 6:30 p.m. Confirmation classes will begin on September 20th at St. John's beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m.

Steve and I will be away September 17th (after worship) - 20th (will be back for Confirmation) for a brief time away.

Also of note, the Congregational Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for October 1st.

*And [Jesus] took [the children] in his arms, laid his hands on them,
and blessed them. Mark 10:16 NRSV*

God's Blessings & Peace,
Pastor Chris

It's time for *Rebekah* Circle!

Date: Thursday, Sept. 21st

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Ellie Kulton's home

Lesson: Gathering Lesson #1, "Act Boldly"

Joe Denault 09/01

Ward Hearn 09/03

Jennifer Reuter 09/04

Chuck Lee 09/04

Bob Fraley 09/06

Wayne Karp 09/08

Ron Merkel 09/09

Fran Parkison 09/11

Charles Vermeland 09/13

Madison Vermeland 09/13

Karie Misener 09/18

Homer Hulon Sr 09/19

Dan Lundeen 09/21

Benjamin Stahl 09/24

Susan Keenan 9/27

Merlyn Milligan 09/28

Angie Shoener 09/30



Dale & Joanne Robinson 09/03

Christine & Steve Schoon 09/16

Don & Rose Rubis 09/17

Dan & Kelly Denault 09/19

Ward & Cheryl Hearn 09/20

Blair & Paul Lindstrom 09/26

Bob & Anita Reis Sr. 09/30

God's work. Our hands.



Packing over
480 Lutheran World Relief School Backpacks
Final total: Well over 500



The basement gets a fresh look!



News from St. John's Committees

STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 8-3-23

The Stewardship meeting began at 8:49 am. Those in attendance were Karol Grandgeorge, Mark Lee, Lynn Skrzypiec, Pastor Chris Schoon, Mike Hamer, and Connie Hamer. Karol suggested we pray the Stewardship Prayer as our opening devotion.

The July minutes were approved.

Michael's July offering report was as follows: General Fund - \$22,316.23; Capital Fund - \$1096.13; Worship/Altar Guild Committee - \$1020.74; LWR - \$15; MSHV - \$150.

Michael reports that he currently has enough offering counters and thanks all who volunteered.

August is the month for LWR school kits. As of this date, over 500 school bags have been sewn. A sincere thank you to Joanne Robinson who has sewn the majority of the bags. After checking our supplies for 400 bags, we realized we were short on pencil sharpeners and pens. Michael ordered them and they should be in this Thursday. Baby Care Kits are doing well; 9 month T-shirts and 18-24 month jackets are still needed. August 20th is the date for filling the school bags; pizza will be served afterwards. Pastor Chris has notified the confirmation students. Mark will be assigning drivers for November's Meals-on-Wheels.

Connie will make a sign for the August emphasis which is the local Good Samaritan Fund. LWR shipping is the September emphasis. In November, we do the LSSI Giving Tree and Heidi Eaton and family will continue to organize and complete that project. We decided to retain Safe Passage as our December emphasis, but may change our January emphasis. As stated in previous minutes, Mark and Michael will be our representatives for CROP. CROP is scheduled for Oct. 1st in Hinckley. The informational meeting will be Sunday, August 13th at 2:00 pm at St. Paul's in Hinckley. Michael and Mark's article for CROP must be written by August 15th for our September Journal.

Mark will ask Julie, church secretary, if any Time and Talent brochures have been returned by the committees.

In October, we will prepare commitment mailing information.

Pastor reported that Pastor Malindabigwe will be coming to the area for a short stay and wondered if we should host him for a meeting if it can be scheduled. We advised her to look for some possible dates.

Just a reminder from last month's meeting that we are not meeting in September. Our next scheduled meeting will be Wed., Oct. 4th at 8:45 am. We adjourned by praying The Lord's Prayer at 9:23 am.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 8-9-23

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm with Toni Lundeen, Pastor Chris Schoon, Julie Horsch and Lois Spizziri present. Pastor Chris opened with prayer.

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

No report from Pastor Chris.

Old Business:

Church picnic review: it went well; the games were fun; plenty of food. A higher attendance was hoped for.

Reformation Weekend - October 28 & 29

Worship Time Change to 9:45 am starting September 17.

Growing Hope Globally Harvest Celebration - October 21, 10:30 am start time @ Sandwich Fairgrounds;

Pastor Ted will be doing the liturgy for the worship service.

New Business:

Blessing of the Backpacks - Sunday, August 13 @ 9am; 1st day of school is August 16

Hymns for September were chosen.

Worship will be at the fairgrounds on Sunday, September 10th. No service at St. John's.

November 19 - ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

We adjourned at 2:30 pm by reciting The Lord's Prayer.

St. John's Lutheran Church minutes for August 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 with all members and Pastor present.

Drew gave devotions on Stop - Look — Listen.

Mike made the motion to approve the consent agenda items. Drew seconded. Motion carried. Mike reported that Grace Place at NIU campus is no longer operating and will no longer need a payout.

Treasurer Scott Horsch reported that bills are being paid on time and that the money coming in is about even with payments going out. Rhonda from Complete Tax Solutions has been doing our payroll for two months now. Currently checks are being paid manually but eventually we will get back to electronic spending with two signatures being required. There is a negative \$16,000 difference between assets and liabilities which means we are slowly beginning to make progress on our money loss. Scott suggested the amount we give to the Synod may need to be looked at depending on the financial health of our church.

Committee reports

Fellowship/Hospitality — See report.

Outreach — Jeanette welcomed two visitors recently and gave them a mug.

Finance — Wayne reported he has held off scheduling a meeting until the finances were in order. He will schedule one soon. Next year's budget will need to be started.

Mission/Stewardship — Mark Lee and Mike Hamer are the new Crop Walk representatives. Mike is looking into undated envelopes. August emphasis is the Good Samaritan Fund. School kits are around 500. Cindy Karp is finishing up baby care kits.

MOG — It was determined that Connie Hamer goes off the board this year. The board agreed there will be a \$10,000 spending limit/year.

Parish ed. — Bible school went well with many compliments. Sunday School Rally Day is set for September 17th.

Property — Preparations are underway to paint the downstairs hallway. Waiting for a lift to do the outside. Pastor reported some flashing which came off the parsonage.

Worship — See report. Pastor is recommending going with a new copier company. Bids will need to be gathered. Talk with Lincoln about possible companies. Diane is still doing the power points which she has completed into September.

Tech Committee — Jim said we could remove the line item for internet and web hosting. Scott recommended MOG and endowment for any tech fund needs.

See Pastor's report. Additional information - Church will be held at the fairgrounds September 10th. Growing Hope will be October 21st.

Council accepted the recommendation of one Christmas Eve service this year at 4:00.

We are looking for Council reps for Worship and Fellowship/Hospitality.

The church received \$10,000 from the insurance company for the cyber scam incident. Total loss from St. John's is \$28,000.

Pat Haugen from Lutherdale would like to attend an upcoming council meeting regarding the 80th anniversary. Karol Grandgeorge and Nancy Miller will also be invited.

Mike will be back on September 16th. Money will continue to be deposited in the bank as normal but no written bulletin amounts will be available until he returns.

Jeanette moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded it. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40.

In God's service,

Bob Fraley



Orientation: Wednesday, September 13th at 6:30pm

Class starts the following Wednesday, September 20th

6:30 – 8:30 @ St. John's.



September 17th, 2023

Don't miss the start to our 2023-2024 Sunday School year!

There will be activities and fun starting at 8:30 am.

Worship time changes to 9:45 am on this day and there will be a hot dog picnic lunch with games and crafts after worship.

Sunday School classes will be held at 8:30 am every Sunday.

Adult Forum will also be held at 8:30 and resumes on September 17th

BIBLE
STUDY

COME

BIBLE
STUDY

BIBLE
STUDY

JOIN!

THURSDAYS

BIBLE
STUDY

BIBLE
STUDY

9:00 AM

BIBLE
STUDY

BIBLE
STUDY

BIBLE
STUDY

STARTING SEPT. 21ST

BIBLE
STUDY



**AUTUMN LEAVES
JESUS DOESN'T**



MEETING

Fellowship & Hospitality

2pm Tuesday, September 5



Property Committee

10am Wednesday, September 6



Worship Committee

1:30pm Wednesday, September 6



Rebekah Circle Meeting

1:00pm Thursday, September 21
Ellie Kulton's home



Quarterly Congregational Meeting

October 1st after worship



Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, October 4



MOG Committee

7:00 pm Tuesday, October 3



Endowment Committee

6:30 pm Tuesday, November 7



LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

SEPTEMBER 19th 9:00 am - 3:00 pm & 7:00 pm - 9:00pm
Bring a Lunch

SEPTEMBER 20th 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch

September at St. John's has traditionally been the month we collect money for the Lutheran World Relief Shipping Fund. This money is used to get the LWR items in the warehouses in Minnesota and Maryland to the people who need them. The cost of shipping each LWR items is as follows:

Quilt \$2.25

School Backpack \$1.40

Personal Care Kit \$2.65 which includes cost of toothpaste

Baby Care Kit \$1.30

Fabric Kit \$1.00

We will have over 200 Quilts, over 500 Backpacks, 234 personal Care Kits, over 200 Baby Care Kits and over 12 Fabric Kits. If you add this up, it will cost over \$2000.00 to send what St. John's has done since last October. Let's support this important mission!

The regular work days in September will be used to do the usual tying of quilts, checking the backpacks that have come in, making quilt packs and sewing around the quilts. We usually have some taking apart and sorting to do as things keep coming in. We all work hard at getting more quilt kits made for people to sew at home. If you can sew and are looking for something rewarding to do, consider sewing a quilt top from the basket in the hallway by the kitchen.

Please consider spending some time with us at work days in September. The Fair will be over and the leaves won't need to be raked, so come on into the Fellowship Hall and see what there is for you to do. There is always good fellowship and a strong possibility of treats. Remember: **GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>September 2023</p>				
<p>3 9:00am Worship</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 2:00pm Fellowship & Hospitality Meeting</p>	<p>6 10am Property 1:30pm Worship comm. Sandwich Fair</p>	
<p>10 8:30 am Ecumencial Worship service @ the Fairgrounds No Sunday service at St. John's Sandwich Fair</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 6:30pm Confirmation Orientation</p>	
<p>17 8:30 Rally Day 8:30 Adult Forum 9:45am Worship Picnic lunch after worship</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 LWR Workday 9am-3pm 7pm-9pm</p>	<p>20 LWR Workday 9am-3pm 6:30-8:00pm Confirmation @ St. John's</p>	
<p>24 8:30 Sunday School 8:30 Adult Forum 9:45am Worship</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 6:30-8:00pm Confirmation @ St. John's</p>	

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 5:00pm Worship
	7 Sandwich Fair	8 Sandwich Fair	9 5:00pm Worship Sandwich Fair
	14 6:30pm Council Meeting	15	16 5:00pm Worship
	21 9:00am Bible Study	22	23 5:00pm Worship
	28 9:00am Bible Study	29	30

The Parents Corner

One of God's most complicated gifts to us is the ability to reason. It takes us from what we see and know to discover what is unseen and unknowable. It sets us apart and gives us dominion on earth but does not make us gods. We can use it for good or ill, so God gives guidance in word and spirit. This gift must be developed with time and experience to come to complete fruition.

This summer, four of my great-grandchildren definitely entered the age of reason. The girls are seven years old and both boys will be nine by fall. For the last three summers, they have vacationed at their grandparents' property in Montana for an action-filled week. The first summer, they camped in the yard under Montana's big sky while coyotes sang in the hills. They held a rodeo complete with a big blow-up bull to ride and lasso. They panned for "gold" and had a sectioned archeological dig resulting in the discovery of "dinosaur bones" and "skulls". The second summer there was fishing and hiking and more digging for bones.

This year, they had bicycles to walk up the mountain foothills and ride down lickety-split. And, yes, more digging, which found raptor claws and fossilized dinosaur eggs. Then Ole, the spokesperson for the four, said to his grandpa, "We've been talking and we wonder why we always find four of everything." Their wily grandpa replied, "Isn't that an amazing coincidence?!"

Submitted by Lois Spizziri

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: 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: 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 September
2023

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