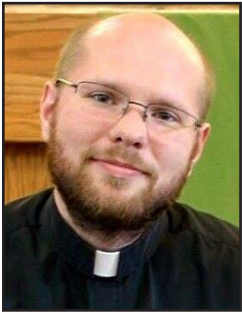


THE MESSENGER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, STERLING, IL
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PASTOR'S POINTS

Pastor's Bible Study returns this month



With September arriving, opportunities for ongoing learning are starting up once again. This is not

only the return of Sunday school and Confirmation class; we're also welcoming the return of Pastor's Bible Study.

Starting September 12th after worship, we'll once again have an opportunity to gather for an exploration of scripture. To start

off, we'll be jumping into the Acts of the Apostles. Acts truly is a unique book as it is the direct continuation of the Gospel of Luke, building upon the story of Jesus' ministry and the development of the first Christian communities nurtured by the Apostles.

Each week we'll take on a new chapter in the story and dive deep into the formation of the early church. We may even get to spot some threads that parallel the journey of the faithful in our world today. So make sure to mark your calendars and even invite a friend to come along.

Also be sure to consider the possibility of Thursday Lunch/Dinner with Pastor. (More on that below.) It's been so nice getting to reconnect with various folks over meal and conversation during July and August. I can't wait to see who will be interested as we enter into September.

If you'd like to know more about either Pastor's Bible Study or Lunch/Dinner with Pastor, please feel free to call the office.

Peace to you on the Journey,

Rev. Jacob M. Lawlik

Lunch/dinner invitation remains open

Throughout July and August, I've been offering the opportunity for Thursday Lunch/Dinner with Pastor. I have to say I've been enjoying the conversations that these events have been generating. It's so nice to get to reconnect with folks in the community, hear a little bit more of their story, and even talk a little bit about what we've brought with in our bags.

If you have not done so yet, I

strongly encourage you to call and pick a Thursday you'd like for meal and conversation. It is my intention to continue offering this opportunity for any who are interested.

In a really neat way, this time is also becoming a bit of a spiritual discipline. After all, so many of the stories in the New Testament revolve around meals Jesus was having with the disciples. Even

our Sunday Worship is structured around the Eucharistic meal. It's as if conversation and prayer around food is built into who we are.

I hope that if you have not yet come out, that you please do call and set up a time. And if you already have, I'd love to eat and chat with you again.

Until then, I'll be keeping you in prayer.

In peace, Pastor Jacob

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BRANCHES BRIEFS

Youth & Family Ministries news

PRE-K TO 6TH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are returning to in-person Sunday school this month. Fall Kick-off/Rally Day is Sunday, September 19th beginning with outdoor worship at 9:30 am and fun activities and refreshments to follow.

Classes will begin the following Sunday, September 26th, from 10:45 to 11:30am. As we begin this new school year, we plan to meet outside under pop-up tents and in shaded areas on the church lawn as the weather permits. Masks are required for all teachers and students indoors during faith formation time.

We have two classrooms this year: preschool through second grade and third through sixth grade). One Sunday per month we'll have an all music Sunday school class with all preschool through sixth-grade students. This year we will have snacks for students at the end of class time (or to take home). Please see the snack signup sheet on Rally Day.

Please know that safety and health for our children, youth and volunteer leaders is our greatest priority. The same guidelines that your child's school is using should be followed when attending faith formation classes at St. John's. For the full St. John's Sunday school COVID-19 safety protocol, visit the St. John's Sunday school Facebook page and check your email.

TRI-CHURCH CONFIRMATION

Confirmation for seventh- and eighth-grade students begins Wednesday, September 8th with parent/guardian/student night from 7-8pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sterling. The first class will begin the following Wednesday, September 15th, from 7 to 8:15pm at St. Paul. We will rotate our meeting locations: a third of the year at St. Paul, then Immanuel and finally meeting at St. John's. This year we will be covering Luther's Small Catechism, Luther and the Reformation, and other faith topics. Ninth-grade students preparing for Affirmation of Baptism will also begin Wednesday, September 15th at St. Paul at 7pm. Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) Sunday at St. John's will be Sunday, October 24th during worship.

CONFIRMATION FALL RETREAT

Stay tuned seventh-and eighth-grade families. At the time of printing this month's newsletter, a date had not

YOUTH & FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

Last month we celebrated the beginning of a new school year with the Blessing of the Backpacks. We pray for an enriching and safe school year for all students, teachers and school workers! God bless you!



Tri-Church junior high/Confirmation and senior high students gathered Sunday, August 15th at Sinnissippi Park in Sterling for food, fun, games, to hear God's Word and time for fellowship. We plan to meet again September 19th. (More details to come.)

yet been selected. We will be doing a one-day retreat at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) in Oregon in late September or in October. Information will be sent to Confirmation households soon.

UPDATES COMING FOR VOLUNTEER YOUTH WORKERS

ATTENTION SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, VBS VOLUNTEERS, AND ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS: Over the course of the next few months we will be updating our volunteer applications for anyone who works closely with children and youth. This also includes updating background checks for volunteers who have not had a background check completed within the past three years. Thank you in advance for your patience as we work through this process together. And thank you for partnering with St. John's to ensure the safety of our young people.



2022 YOUTH GATHERING NEWS

Current 8th through 12th grade students: You are invited to the next ELCA Youth Gathering, July 24-28, 2022 in Minneapolis. **Please email, text or message Gerad or the church office if you are interested in participating.** We need to know soon who will be attending and how many so we can begin planning.

Early registration for the gathering begins September 22nd and ends November 21st. Based on the early registration rate, we anticipate the gathering will cost around \$1,000 per participant. We will continue to fundraise to offset the cost of this trip.

Scholarships applications through the ELCA have been open since July 22nd and will remain open until funding runs out.

Beginning early this fall we will meet once a month for our "Getting Ready" meetings.

Sign up for the Gathering e-newsletter, G-News, and get the latest updates at elca.org/gathering, facebook.com/youthgathering, instagram.com/elcagathering and twitter.com/elcagathering.

YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED; APPS OPEN NOW

If you are a senior in high

school this year, or older, and will be at least 19 years old by July 22, 2022, applications for servant companions open November 22nd. Please contact Gerad if you are interested in sharing a week of your time to help at the Youth Gathering. Your travel, room and board expenses will be covered. This is a great opportunity to serve, and to learn and grow in your faith. Our young adults who have volunteered for the gathering in the past have had life-giving experiences. For full details and to apply go to: <https://elca.org/YouthGathering/Attend/Volunteer>.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST MEETING REPORT OF THE PASTOR

Pastor Jacob thanked everyone involved for the help, preparation and organization of the memorial service for Carla Haubrich. A thank-you note from Pastor Gary Erickson was forwarded. He will tentatively join us again on October 3rd.

Prayer is needed for Freedom

Lutheran Church. With only a few members in the congregation, they are going through the process of what is going to happen going forward. Prayers are also requested for Pastor Tammy Anderson of Morrison who had a house fire, a total loss. They are currently staying in a hotel.

Andrew Stutzke and Pastor Jacob will be a part of a season-long

workshop regarding fundraising and stewardship. Volunteers are sought to attend the meetings.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

No transfers were made during the month of July, and no money was borrowed from any accounts. Memorial money has not been touched.

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YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Teen Movie Night on July 26th went well as did the August Blessing of the Backpacks, and junior high and high school summer gatherings.

Sunday school planning is under way, and masks will be required indoors. Surfaces will be sanitized and disinfected. During warmer months, Sunday school will meet outside under pop-up tents or in shaded areas in the grass. Rally Day will be September 19th after outdoor worship.

A Confirmation meeting was held in August, and the first class will be the third Wednesday of September. Jersey, Martin and Brynna will be confirmed on October 24th.

Earlybird registration for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering opens soon, and Gerad is waiting on a final decision regarding whether the event will happen since COVID numbers are on the rise. A Butcher Shop fundraiser is being planned.

The church will use Church Mutual, our insurance company, at \$5 per person to provide basic background checks on youth program volunteers.

St. John's will be offered as a shared space for Lenten services for Tri-Church.

COMMUNICATIONS

Michelle Gawlik offered some great ideas for outreach and advertising for the church. Andrew Stutzke will do a Temple Talk about the recent meeting with Pastor Gary Erickson.

OLD BUSINESS

Council discussed how to continue the idea of creating a Prayer Garden. A committee will be formed to gather ideas. Seed money will need to come from memorials or gifts from the congregation.

JULY MEETING

Editor's Note: In the August newsletter, in the absence of the full minutes of the meeting, we published only highlights. Below are more details.

REPORT OF THE PASTOR

VBS went well. Many volunteered and attended. More than 35 people participated in God's Work Our Hands Saturday at LOMC and did more than they committed to do. There was also a great turnout for the most recent junior high and high school gatherings.

UNITE Camp houses will be finished by the end of the week.

Synod Assembly was on Zoom this year, and the Synod plans a more traditional assembly for 2022 at Augustana College in Rock Island. Bishop Jeff Clements will only serve one term, so he is not putting his name forward for next year.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

No transfers were made during the month of June. Balance in the checking account as of June 30th was \$24,425.81.

The Betty Huntley Memorial provided \$210 in unrestricted funds.

St. John's was one of 10 recipients of \$100,000 from the Charles D. Morris estate. Charles' wife,

Patricia's (Meenen) father was a member of St. John's in the 1950s.

Recommendations:

- \$100,000 from Charles D. Morris estate — \$15,000 to the contingency account
- \$85,000 recommend placed in ELCA 2-3 percent interest; two-week turnover to access funds if needed.
- Above and Beyond — \$11,745.00 with match of \$8,000; total is \$19,745
- Going forward asking for a current total in account instead of from a few weeks before.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nancy Davis has been moved to assisted living at Morningside and can have visitors.

OLD BUSINESS

The Prayer Garden award was not granted to our church. There was an overwhelming response with 1,000 entries and only 123 randomly drawn. It is worth investing time and energy into completing it.

Congregation members present at the meeting had a handful of questions and comments:

- What are we doing to cut expenses?
- Has anything been done to reach out to members who have left? A suggestion was made for a personal visit from Pastor Jacob, and to keep trying to reach out, possibly even sending a letter to say we miss them.
- A few members questioned why they were not contacted by Pastor Jacob and only Pastor Leo.
- What does the Synod think of us?
- Do we need a full-time secretary?

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2

- Diana Smith
- Bradley and Erika Smith

3

- Bob Kuba*
- Alexis Miniell
- Trudy Tupper

4

- Lori Campos
- Nathan and Janel Stahr

5

- Aron Gomer
- Larry and Lisa Judd

6

- Korinna Ramirez
- Greg and Joan Moran

7

- Martin Breed
- Randy Johnson
- Asa LeFevre
- Bradley McFalls
- Orrie Peterson

9

- Frans Rechkemmer

10

- Kelli Vilmont

11

- Molly Klocke

13

- Sarah Gierhart
- Mary Ann Heppel*
- Britney Perrine

14

- Don and Andra Bielema

15

- Victoria Wolfe

16

- Don Bielema
- Rhonda Stutzke
- Michelle Torres

17

- Reese Kramer

18

- Leola Casey*
- Mary Kay McCune
- Emma Puckett
- Jaclyn Strehlow

19

- Jane Nie*

21

- Rick Rucker

22

- Margery Spooner*

23

- Braylon Briggs

24

- Edward and Mary Kay McCune

25

- Tara Bragg
- Joan Moran
- Logan and Margaret Wolfe

26

- Katrina Fancher
- Kimberly Kleckler
- Quinn Stahr

27

- Joyce Baer
- Matt and Christine Murphy

28

- Diane Bollman
- Lennan Reaver

29

- Miriam Duffin
- Karen Kleckler
- Grace Stahr

30

- Sarah Benson
- Sue Wolf

**Indicates 80-plus-year birthdays and 50-plus-year anniversaries.*

NURSE NOTES

Dealing with depression

Once you understand that depression isn't something your loved one can easily manage without help, it may be more possible for you to offer support and care. Here are some ways you can help:

Express your concern. Acknowledge the person's pain without implying that you know how he or she feels. Listen if he or she wants to talk, but don't try to draw the person out and don't ask intrusive questions. Being withdrawn is often part of the illness. Don't take it personally.

Ask how you can help. Your loved one may not have specific

suggestions of things that you can do, but he or she will know that you're willing to be supportive. Offer hope. Remind the individual that depression is treatable, and that he or she will likely get better. If your loved one is undergoing treatment, gently remind him or her that it takes time for treatment to work.

Give positive reinforcement. Depressed people often feel worthless, and they dwell on their faults and shortcomings. Remind your loved one of his or her strengths and competencies and how much he or she means to you.

Keep your sense of humor. You're likely to feel frustrated and

even angry at times. That's OK, but try not to vent in front of the person and don't take your anger out on him or her. Use humor to diffuse tension and to lighten the atmosphere, but don't make jokes at your loved one's expense.

Encourage healthy behavior and activities. Invite your loved one to join you in doing activities or visiting family or mutual friends. But don't push and don't expect too much too soon. Also, gently remind the individual of the benefits of exercise and a healthy diet.

From the Mayo Clinic Health Letter. Submitted by Nancy Rasmussen, Parish Nurse.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to continue discovering God's will for us in His kingdom through prayer, Bible study and building relationships.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Jesus is our Lord and Savior.
2. We make prayer, Bible study and dialog the center of our decision making.
3. We are willing to change as we discover God's mission for us.
4. We invite everyone. Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." ~ Matthew 28: 19a
5. We recognize and give thanks for our blessings.
6. We act for the discovery and fulfillment of God's mission.

COUNCIL AFFIRMATION STATEMENT

The Council affirms that ministry is a core tenant of our Mission and that established ministries will continue and the opportunity for expanding into additional ministries will be evaluated when presented. The Council fully understands the complex nature of ministry, but as long as God's people are willing to engage in good works, we will do everything in our power to support those ministries.

PARISH REGISTER

DEATHS

- None

WEDDINGS

- None

BAPTISMS

- None

MEMBERS RECEIVED

- None

MEMBERS REMOVED/TRANSFERRED

- None

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- None

STAFF BIRTHDAYS

- Kyle Morgan 9/13

WHO'S WHO AT ST. JOHN'S

PERSONNEL

Rev. Jacob Gawlik, Senior Pastor
Rev. Leo Patterson, On Call/Visitation Pastor
Gerad Von Holten, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Rev. Mark & Rev. Cynthia Rich, Missionaries to Tanzania
Dawn Zeigler, Minister of Music & Bell Choir Director
Julie McCord, Praise Sunday Director
Nina Peters, Office Manager
Andrew Stutzke, Systems Administrator
Kyle Morgan, Technical Director
Mont Cessna, Facility Maintenance
Stahr Media, Newsletter & Website
Nancy Rasmussen, Parish Nurse
Jan Klocke, council rep to Tri-Church

CONG. COUNCIL

- Andrew Stutzke, president*
- Dave Geil, vice president*
- Kandra Cook, secretary*
- Teri Holldorf, treasurer*
- Andrew Doughty
- Jan Klocke
- John Lichner
- Chrissy Murphy
- Shawn Wolfe

**Exec Committee member*

CHRISTIAN ED

- Tammy Doughty
- Brian Luebke
- Chrissy Murphy

CONG. LIFE

- Denise Norman, chair
- Lois Anderson-Rowzee
- Michelle Gawlik
- Nancy Rasmussen
- Pat Redfield
- Jannet Taylor

ENDOWMENT

- Mike Doughty, chair
- Art Frey
- John Lichner
- Rhonda Stutzke
- Shawn Wolfe

FINANCE

- Teri Holldorf, chair
- Nancy Breed
- Druann Bushman
- Mike Doughty
- John Lichner

MEMORIAL

- Dave Geil, chair
- Brian Luebke
- Nancy Rasmussen
- Jannet Taylor

PERSONNEL TEAM

- Denise Norman, chair
- Lois Anderson-Rowzee
- Dave Geil

PROPERTY

- Dave Geil, chair
- Art Frey
- Tom Leesman
- Ken Smith

SOCIAL MINISTRY

- Karen Goss
- Barbara Johnson
- Vivian Johnson
- Jill Leesman
- Joyce Preston
- Sandy Wolfe

STEWARDSHIP

- Jan Klocke, chair
- Nancy Rasmussen

WORSHIP ARTS

- Dawn Zeigler, chair
- Denise Carl
- Shawn Wolfe

WORSHIP TECH

- Anita Carl
- Dan Eads
- Charlene O'Connell

SJLC Activities ~ Sept. 2021

September Open/Close:
Andrew Stutzke

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
During the August Tri-Church meeting, it was decided that the Community Memorial Service that had been planed for September 11th has been cancelled and may be rescheduled for a later date. No other information is available at this time.			1 6:00-Worship	2 Lunch/Dinner with Pastor Jacob 7:00-Al-Anon	3	4
5 FISH collection 9:30-Worship	6 Labor Day Office closed	7	8 6:00-Worship 7:00-Confirmation Parent-Student Night (St. Paul)	9 Lunch/Dinner with Pastor Jacob 7:00-Al-Anon	10	11 9:30-Prayer Shawl Coffee Hour
12 9:30-Worship Acolyte: Sarah D. 10:45-Pastor's Bible Study	13	14	15 1:30-Parkway communion 2:30-Heritage Woods communion 3:30-Morningside communion 6:00-Worship 7:00-Confirmation (St. Paul)	16 Lunch/Dinner with Pastor Jacob 2:30-Regency communion 3:30-Citadel communion 4:15-Exec mtg 7:00-Al-Anon	17	18
19 9:30-Outdoor Worship 10:45-Pastor's Bible Study 10:45-Rally Day	20 Newsletter due	21 6:00-Council mtg	22 Youth Gathering early reg opens 6:00-Worship 7:00-Confirmation (St. Paul)	23 Lunch/Dinner with Pastor Jacob 7:00-Al-Anon	24	25
26 9:30-Worship Acolyte: Brynna 10:45-Pastor's Bible Study 10:45-Sunday School	27	28 9:00-Newsletter assembly 6:30-NAMI Group	29 6:00-Worship 7:00-Confirmation (St. Paul)	30 Lunch/Dinner with Pastor Jacob 7:00-Al-Anon		

PADS needs year-round volunteers

The PADS shelter has transitioned to year-round access for clients in need of shelter due to homelessness. In the past, Twin Cities PADS has operated from October through May.

In order to provide daily services in our community, many volunteers will be needed. The hours needed at this time

are from 6-11pm seven days of the week, every day of the year. This timeframe includes client mealtime.

PADS continues to follow all CDC and state guidelines in order to maintain safe practices. Keeping everyone's health safety in mind, volunteers who may have established some immunity for

themselves through vaccination are a priority.

Please consider sharing some of your valued time with PADS.

Please contact Twin Cities PADS Administrative Director Myles Newberry with any questions and to volunteer. The shelter phone number is (815) 626-2210, or email mylesnewberry.PADS@gmail.com.

GIVING MADE EASY

3 SECURE WAYS TO MAKE YOUR DONATION



ONLINE
StJohnsOnThird.org



MOBILE
Tithe.ly app



IN PERSON
Check or cash

All donations will be included on your yearly contribution statement.

The Messenger is a monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church, a church of the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Join us for worship at 9:30am Sundays and 6:00pm Wednesdays. If you would prefer to receive The Messenger via email, contact the church office at office@stjohnsonthird.org.

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