



St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

The Messenger

(Monthly publication)

April 2021



A few weeks ago, Pastor Lucas began his sermon with the question "Why are we here?" My immediate response was that God has entrusted us to be stewards of his creation and I did not think we were doing a particularly good job of it. Since then, I have thought about that question a lot. So far, the best

answers I've come up with have only led to more questions. I would like to think that I have made some positive impact during my life. But where and how? My life has not had any noteworthy accomplishments; I've never found the solution to ending world hunger or led the nations to peace and harmony.

Then it dawned on me; perhaps my purpose is not something epic, but a series of small seemingly insignificant events. For example, I enjoy writing these letters each month for the Messenger. I suppose there is a chance that at some point I may have touched someone's heart or provided hope and encouragement when it was needed. But then, I am reminded of the words that Abraham Lincoln spoke on November 19th 1863, "the world will little note, nor long remember what I say here".

Maybe it's actions. Every winter I put out food for the birds, squirrels and other wildlife that reside in my back yard. I know that my efforts have certainly helped some of God's creatures survive the winter when they might otherwise have perished. I am not convinced that is why I am here. After all, creatures have been surviving the elements for eons without the aid of Gary's help.

Perhaps our purpose is more subtle. When I first moved to Jamestown, I lived in an apartment on the NE side of town. Separated from my family and knowing very few people here resulted in some lonely times. There was a family who lived across the hall from me who had a couple of little girls who were always playing and

laughing. Whenever they saw me in the hallway, they would show me their toys or school art projects. Their father apologized, thinking that they were being pests, but I will never forget the joy that those girls would bring to my days. That may be why they were there at that time of my life.

At the end of the movie "Saving Private Ryan" we see an older adult Private Ryan standing before the grave of Captain John Miller in Normandy, France. Ryan is saying that every day he has thought about the last words the Captain spoke to him just before he died. Ryan tells him that he has tried to live his life in a way worthy of the sacrifice that Captain Miller and others had made so that he could live. Private Ryan knew why he was there.

In just a few weeks we will be celebrating Easter. The glorious resurrection of our lord after he suffered and died so that we can continue living. I hope that I will be able to stand before the cross and say that I have done my best to live my life in a way worthy of the sacrifice that Jesus made on my behalf.

On a closing note. On the wall at the local Pizza Ranch is a plaque with their vision statement "To glorify God by positively impacting the world". These are great words that I think comes close to why we are here. We should at all time strive to, whether it be silent or loud, small or large, glorify God by the way we impact the world.

God's Peace to All,

Gary Staab
Congregation President



I always look back a year or two at the newsletters from the month at hand when I sit down to begin to write. I look for reminders and annual events that we might forget. I read what I wrote so that I don't repeat myself, or at least I know that the message is similar. I check in on the finances, council actions and ministry activities that are shared in our print medium. A year ago, in the April newsletter, we had just passed the first lockdowns and COVID deaths. There was uncertainty- all the Holy Week services had "Tentative" placed prominently next to the admission that we would be trying to follow CDC guidelines for public gatherings. We have all been down that road together, I don't need to retell what we all know.

This year we find ourselves in a new place. This past week in worship I spoke before the service with a person who asked, "I've had my second shot, do I really need to wear a mask?" We are definitely entering an uncharted in between time. Some people have been vaccinated. Some people have not. Everyone wants things to return to normal, but even normal has changed. We are livestreaming nearly all worship services now, that will not change, as long as we continue to have volunteers supporting the tech side of our worship life. We want to resume fellowship activities like coffee hour, but we still want to be safe.

Easter is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. God grants life in the midst of death. Our joy is in the promise that we, too, will share in Christ's new life. That resurrected life is a changed life. Without the fear of death and condemnation, we are free to live and serve as followers of Jesus. What will the future look like? There will definitely be familiar things that return. But we are also asking intentional questions about what will we choose to not bring back in the same way. For about a decade- Remembrance of baptismal anniversaries took place on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Even before the pandemic, we saw a significant decline in participation and responsiveness to that ministry. Worship has changed as we have transitioned to a single Sunday service. Committees and ministry teams are just beginning to ask the questions about the next steps as we work together as a congregation to help fill the hungry with good things.

Our Easter celebration this year truly feels like step toward new life. We all have our eyes to the coming months and the wish that we will see more and more areas of life return to a familiar rhythm. The days after the resurrection were hesitant and tentative. The disciples remained socially distant in the upper room and were reluctant to venture out into a changed world. The story of Jesus after Easter is a story of Jesus' followers reentering a world that scared them, but they stepped out with the promise of the risen Christ that "I will be with you." That same promise holds true for us today. Whatever the coming months hold, we trust that Jesus is with us on the journey.

Pr. Erik Weber
Senior Pastor

Sabbatical Sending for Pr. Erik-

Join in worship on Sunday April 18th for the brief order of sending on Sabbatical. Pr. Erik and Pr. Kristi will be spending three months visiting other congregations and learning about best practices for online communities and how to welcome newcomers whose first experience of church is through digital media. During the Sabbatical period, Pr. Lucas will be the acting Lead Pastor and will be supported by scheduled pulpit supply preachers, the council, and key volunteers.



As I am writing this newsletter on Thursday, March 11th. Last year, March 11th was the day where everyone in our communities stopped. We stopped in person worship, stopped confirmation, quilters no longer met, preschool chapel stopped, etc. However, during our time of facing many obstacles, we relied on the one thing that St Johns has a passion for... we know how to feed people and feed people well!

Right away when the lockdown happened, St Johns started a lunch feeding ministry. With the help of congregant members; we served 20 bagged lunches per day Monday to Friday during the months of March and April. In 7 weeks, we served over 350 bag lunches. A few members, my wife Rachel, and I took the opportunity to deliver school lunches to families during the day while their child/children were home and the parents were at work. We were committed to transporting meals two or three times a week and each time we served over 120 meals in the Jamestown community.

Our ministries have reached into our community and have made great impacts. The largest impact so far in helping to feed our neighbors has been the "Come to the Table" event that started late last April. "Come to the Table" has been a community ministry that St John's has offered the building to help host, and myself to organize the logistics each week. Every Tuesday from 5:00 pm – 6:15 pm a family, group, organization or congregation has organized a to-go pick-up meal. So far, we have received support from Grace Episcopal Church, United Presbyterian Church, St James Basilica, New Life Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, Kiwanis, Key Club, amazing families who have a love for service, Professors from the University of Jamestown, and St Johns. (Women of the Church, Evangelism Committee, Faith Formation, and Council).

During the summer, we were giving out between 60-80 meals on 5th street between St Johns and the Ambulance Building. When we moved inside we have an average of 30 to 40 meals. We are looking for this to be a long-term sustainable ministry for the community.

This ministry has been a rollercoaster for me but I am excited to announce that this ministry is here to stay and I am looking forward to what this ministry can turn into. The church's mission statement that, "we fill the hungry with good things" we helped not only embody, but also helped put into action. As a church we continued understanding our role in the community and developed a ministry to fit as a need in 2020 and beyond. More importantly, we turned despair into hope and developed a way in which we can feed the stomachs and hearts of those that we consider to be known and loved by God.

Pr. Lucas Holsten
Associate Pastor





***Working on Crafts
Congregation
members and
non members***



***Installation of Council
Members***





BAPTISM CLASS
Contact the church office
252-1198



Sunday March 7, 2021
A Sunday to Remember
Baptism, Welcoming new Members,
And Sunday School activities

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS – April

For current and update calendar
<http://www.st-johnslutheran.org/#/calendar>

Sunday Worship

9:00 am Worship
9:30 am Sunday School

Monday

9:30 am Pre-school Chapel
1:30 pm Pre-school Chapel

Tuesday

9:30 am Pre-school Chapel
10:00 am Staff Meeting
5:00 pm Come to the Table meal

Wednesday

4:00 pm Confirmation—in person

April 2021

4/1 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship
4/2 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship
4/4 9:00 am Worship
 10:15 am Worship
4/5 Church Offices Closed
4/8 5:30 pm Executive Meeting
4/13 6:30 pm Council Meeting

Thank you, Camden, Char, Cindy, John, and Lynn for volunteering every Sunday to stream the service for those who could not join us for worship.

**9:00 am Worship Attendance on
Sunday March 7, 2021**

**Radio Broadcast and
Altar Flowers
Available days**

Please contact the church office 252-1198.

Radio:

4/25
5/16,
6/6
10/24 and 10/31

Altar Flowers

9/26
10/31



Streaming and Projection Team





Pianist: Rachel Williams, and Connie Wells

Readers: Jim Ritter, Gavin Kutz, Jim Ritter

Ushers: Bill Ebele, Lloyd Landscoot, and John Mayer.

Communion: Altar Guild, Pauline Roeske, Jim Ritter, Char Freeberg, Gavin Kutz, Sandy Franke, Tonya Perkins

Projector/Streaming: Lynn Krueger, Char Perleberg, John, and Cindy Kleven, Camden Kutz, Robert Walton.

Shoveling and yard work: Dan Dockter, Tom Enderle, and Glenn Johnson.

Special thanks to those who decorate the church, insure the children bags have books and activities, Sunday School Teachers, individuals that are always available to lend a hand to shovel the snow, keep the front of the church clean, help with mailing. There are many that quietly go about doing what needs to be done and get it done when no one is watching. Thank you so much to all.



Sponsorships

Radio April

April 4	Wanda Kruger
April 11	Russ and Gwen Geiszler
April 18	Gerald and Marjorie Lippert
April 25	Available

Flowers April

April 4	Wanda Krueger
April 11	Carl and Sandy Franke
April 18	Darwin and Pauline Roeske
April 25	Grace Walz

CHURCH MINISTRY

Baptism

Everett Ronnie Perleberg –3/7

Deaths

Members

Duane Knudson - d 2/8

Oswald Schultz - d 2/21

Verlyn Benson—d 3/2

Non Members

Evangeline Mittleider –d 1/14

Clarence Mittleider –d 1/26

Carol Mack - d 2/16

Joan Rich - d 3/2

Kathy Schumacher - d 3/4

Greetings from Chilly Florida

The snow storm temps from the NE have filtered down to Florida, so we are hibernating a couple days!!! Thankful we have stayed healthy and got our # 1COVID vaccine.

Really enjoying the Sunday service of streaming.
Stay Safe

Jake and Kay Miszaros



Cooling and Heating Fund

FROM	FOR
Tom & Joan Enderley (in honor of the Lay Sacramentarians)	Duane Knudson
Mary Walicki	Duane Knudson
Gail Marsoleh	Duane Knudson
Russ & Gwen Russell	Duane Knudson
LaDona Tarno	Selmer Bender
Alice Bietz	Oswald Schultz
Gene & Becky Wahl	Duane Knudson
LaDona Tarno	Verlyn Benson

Van Fund

Carl & Sandy Franke	Duane Knudson
Charles & Connie Wells	Duane Knudson
Charles & Connie Wells	Oswald Schultz
Charles & Connie Wells	Mary Trautman
Tom & Joan Enderle	Oswald Schultz

Area Congregations gather for Conversations

On February 24th 35 people from 19 congregations from five denominations in four counties gathered in Gackle. Pr. Jess Daum, the Director for Evangelical Mission of the Eastern North Dakota Synod was invited in to facilitate conversations about what is possible for ministry when neighbors collaborate around common interests and needs. Pr. Lucas and Pr. Erik participated, as did all of the ELCA pastors in Jamestown. Representatives from United Methodist, Episcopal, United Church of Christ, Presbyterian, and ELCA introduced themselves and spent time lifting up hopes, fears, and successes in their own ministry settings. A follow up meeting was held on March 7th with additional congregations participating. Some of the language that is being used is partnership for a season. There are many ways that congregations already participate together, whether that is running a unified Vacation Bible School in Kulm that is supported by all of the congregations in town, or the way that multiple congregations come together to support Come to the Table here at St. John's, or the way that Montpelier and Immanuel swap pastors when the weather is bad because Pr. Lucinda and Pr. Kerry live closer to the congregation that the other serves. It is clear that future ministry will invite all of us in South Central North Dakota to imagine new ways of being church

ATTENDANCE

January 2021

Sunday January 24	52
Sunday January 31	46

February 2021

Sunday February 7	37
Sunday February 14	27
Wednesday February 17	41
Sunday February 22	53
Wednesday February 24	42
Sunday February 28	75

March 2021

Wednesday 3	45
Sunday 7	88
Wednesday 10	12
Sunday 14	58
Wednesday 17	
Sunday 21	

Jan - Feb Income: \$51,099
 Jan - Feb Expenses: \$54,489
 Expenses \$3,390 more than Giving

Partnership for a Season

St. John's, Trinity Jamestown, and English Lutheran in Medina have been working together for a season. Beginning February 1st, pastors from Jamestown have been leading worship, teaching confirmation, and participating in Council, WELCA, and Worship planning meetings at English Lutheran. The initial agreement between the congregations runs through Easter. At their March Council meeting, English Lutheran will decide whether they want to extend the agreement for another season through the summer. If you've seen Pr. Erik leave abruptly after St. John's Lenten Wednesday services, it's because he has been driving straight to Medina for their service at 7 pm. The partnership right now is on a trial basis and is focused on building relationships and listening to the hopes and needs of each congregation. As we get to know each other, our capacity for ministry in Stutsman County will continue to grow.

New Members

Miller Family
Jonathan, Samantha,
Jaxon, and McKenna



Sheila Braun



Perleberg Family
Darren, Courtney, and Everett
(aunt, uncle and niece not yet members)



Dedication of the New Pantry

On Palm Sunday, March 28th, we will dedicate the new pantry space in the Fellowship Hall. Even if not all the work is complete, we can see the vision of what will be and dedicate the space to ministry in the congregation. Work began on February 17th (Ash Wednesday) and has been proceeding steadily throughout the weeks of Lent. Demolition, Construction, Drywalling, and rough electrical have all been completed as of the first week of March. Taping, Mudding, and texturing have begun, and counter tops are on order. Come down and pick up a To-Go Palm Sunday breakfast and see the space.

LENTEN COIN COLLECTION

Please bring in your Lenten coin cans beginning on Palm Sunday. We will be gathering the coins together to deposit and send to ELCA world Hunger.

Jamestown Area Grief Support Team is offering a Grief Support Group. The group will meet once a week on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. at the United Presbyterian Church, 302 2 nd Ave SE, Jamestown, beginning April 13 th and will run for six weeks. Anyone who has experience the death of someone important to them is encouraged to attend. The group is free of charge, but registration is required. Participants should plan to attend all six sessions. CDC guidelines will be followed. To register or for more information, call Diane at 701-320-4915 or Eileen at 701-269-4521.

Keep It Cool

A fund appeal letter went out in mid-March seeking to raise \$30,000 to support the Air Conditioner replacement for the Sanctuary, fellowship Hall, and 1950's education wing. St. John's needs your help to keep it cool in 2021!. The Church Council has authorized repairs totaling \$48,125. We already have over \$20,000 in hand for this repair thanks to a generous contribution from Child In Our Hands and our Building Contingency Funds remaining from Fit for the Journey. Track our progress on the giant picture board in the Sanctuary as we complete our journey to Keep It Cool. All funds donated above the needs for the Air Conditioners will be applied to replenishing the Building Contingency Fund.



Greetings from Child In Our Hands, We have truly been blessed this past month at Child In Our Hands. Our center is buzzing with activity these days. Our kids sure know how to keep us on our toes around here. The kids along with the staff are anxiously awaiting some warm spring days to enjoy long stretch of time outside in the fresh air.

Noah's Ark had a new infant join their room this month. A new infant always has a way of reminding us of the miracle of birth and our infant room teachers do a wonderful job of taking care of these little miracles. We know they are in the best hands each day.

God's Little Lambs have settled into a routine in their classroom and you can just see the difference. These kids know what they need to do and will get right to it. They have the sweetest teachers in their room. Their teachers are there each day for the kids and it shows in their interactions.

Caring Cross is our classroom that is always on the go. This room has been working hard on manners and using kind words in a variety of situations. This group definitely reminds me of siblings as one moment they are best friends and the next minute they are arguing over the smallest of things. Their teacher has been working hard at coming up with a variety of activity breaks for them to help them regroup and get back in the swing of things. We hope you have a blessed Easter!

Valerie Ford
Child In Our Hands Interim Director



Employment Opportunity

CIOH - Director

Child In Our Hands is currently seeking applications for a full time Center Director. Responsible for overall, day to day operation of three room child care and preschool. Train and manage staff, set instructional objectives, create and maintain a positive work environment and develop a nurturing culture for children, staff and families. Qualifications must include one of the following: A bachelor's degree in the field of early childhood education or child development; A bachelor's degree with at least six months of experience in a child care center or similar setting; An associate's degree in the field of early childhood education or child development with at least six months of experience in a child care center or similar setting; An associate's degree with at least one year of experience in a child care center or similar setting; A current certification as a child development associate or successful completion of a department-approved diploma program with emphasis in early childhood or child care, with at least one year of experience in a child care center or similar setting. Send resumes to: Child in Our Hands Attn: CIOH Board 424 1st Ave S Jamestown ND 58401 ciohboard@st-johnspreschool.org



First Communion Gathering

First Communion: Our growing children learned that we are weighed down by our brokenness but through God's grace, we are freed to shine our beacon of light in our community. They are making enchiladas for a family that is investing all their time and energy in taking care of their father that is in hospice.

Women of the Church Gathering





St. John's Lutheran Church
 424 1st Ave S
 Jamestown, ND 58401
Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE
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 Jamestown, ND
 58401

Worship Services

Sundays
 9:00 am

Holy Communion
All Worship Services

Church Office 701-252-1198

Preschool/Child Care 701-252-1903

Website: www.st-johnslutheran.org
 Email: stjohns@st-johnslutheran.org

«AddressBlock»



**STAFF OF
 ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN**

Senior Pastor
 Erik Weber

Associate Pastor
 Lucas Holsten

Admin Secretary
 Gem Saied

Custodian
 Frank Perleberg

Child In Our Hands Director
 Val Ford

Choir Accompanist/Pianist
 Rachel Williams
 Connie Wells

Holly Week Services
Maundy Thursday—7:00 pm
Good Friday—7:00 pm
9:00 am Easter Service
10:15 am Easter Service

