



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

## The Messenger

(a monthly publication)

March 2022



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## Robert "Bob" Toso

I was baptized and confirmed at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Devils Lake. As a high schooler, my family joined a mission start in town. In my early working years we moved often and I was a part of 3 different congregations in

five years before settling in New Rockford for **five years. Another move took me to Valley City**, where I worshiped at Our Savior's Lutheran and for the past two decades or so, I have been a member at Trinity Lutheran. I really found my faith in High School at the mission start with Pastor Bob Weber (not related to the current pastors Weber). Pastor Bob is near the top the list of people who have most influenced my life.

By profession, I am an educator. After five years in a classroom, I moved to administration. I was a High School principal for 20 years and then served as an assistant Superintendent and then Superintendent of Jamestown Public Schools. I retired, and stayed retired for seven years before answering a call two years ago to be the Superintendent of the Pingree-Buchanan school district.

Throughout my life I have been an advocate for education and educators. One of my favorite sayings is, "when you teach you touch the future." More recently I have been fighting for how we treat immigrants and minorities. Three of my grandparents were born in Norway, and I remember lots of Norwegian spoken at home and at family gatherings. It bothers me that people look down at new immigrants who continue to speak their native language and expect that they will speak English right away. People in my family came and received free or very inexpensive land and settled in places near others from their home country. People today are over concerned that immigrants come for hand-outs. Different types of support has been available for different people over the years.

My favorite bible verse is 1 Corinthians 13:13  
"And now faith, hope, and love abide, these

three; and the greatest of these is love." This was a reading at my wedding and a reading at the weddings of my daughters. I pray for peace. I see what goes on in the world and it is often not pretty. A reference once said of me, "Mr. Toso doesn't like conflict." And that is true, but I also know that once I'm in a conflict, I work hard to identify my own bottom line. Now that my grandkids are starting to finish high school, I realize that I'm praying for them often.

I struggle with our current political environment; especially how negative it is. I also worry about what is happening with institutions including the church. People are surprised that I was pretty motivated politically throughout college including chairing the college Republicans at VCSU and running for the state legislature years ago.

I'm a Lutheran because my parents were Lutherans and it is a family tradition. I do believe that Martin Luther hit the nail on the head when he lifted up Justification by Faith. Good works are not an end in themselves, but an outgrowth of Faith.

For me, music is relaxing and uplifting. I enjoy concerts and am active in the church choir. I am not a particularly gifted singer, and don't play any other instrument or even read music well, but so far, every music director has put up with me. During the summer between my junior and senior year of college, a group of churches in Devils Lake started a youth singing group. My brother and a friend joined right away, but I was busy playing golf and did not join for a while. When I did join, I enjoyed it. We sang in various churches on Sundays or at homes for the elderly. One of the other singers was a cute blonde. We started dating in November and were engaged by January. The next August, we were married. We will celebrate 49 years of marriage next August. One more reason music has been important. I never would have met Lainie without it.

Serving on the church council and numerous community boards opened my eyes to the need to prioritize. There are always more needs than there is money to go around. Prioritization makes sure that resources are going to the right destination and that is not possible if you don't see the big picture.

## Ministerial Acts

### Baptisms

- 1/9/22 Eden Bernice Hanson Trinity  
daughter of Logan and Kayla
- 1/9/22 Kenley Grace Stangeland Trinity  
daughter of Bryant and Courtney Stangeland

### Funerals

- 1/7/22 Russell "Dennis" Trautman Trinity
- 1/8/22 Judith Eichhorst St. John's  
Wife of former St. John's Pastor Jack Eichhorst Judy  
died December 23rd. A memorial service was held at  
Abounding Joy Lutheran in St. Cloud



Photos of the Dec. 15th food distribution.

(at left) St. John's member Tom Enderle shown with Deb Lee.

## Commodity Supplemental Food Program Assists those who are Hungry

Anyone who has stepped foot in a grocery store knows that food prices have been going up.

As household budgets get stretched, there is help available. Every other month a big truck comes to Jamestown with shelf-stable food that is available for free to those who are 60+ years of age and meet certain requirements. A dedicated group of volunteers breaks down the pallets of boxes for pick-up or home delivery. This program has been available in the region for over five years and consistently provides 55-65 people with food. There is room to grow.

If you could use the food, or know a neighbor or friend who could benefit, you can contact Rhonda at the Senior Center in Jamestown for an application. (252-2882)

If you are interested in volunteering to help deliver food, Deacon Tom Geffre or Deb Lee can help you get on the volunteer list. (952-9684)

In a state and in a nation that produces an abundance of food, there is no reason for people to be hungry. This free food for seniors helps provide nutritious food for those who need it.



## Music Opportunities

**Sunday, February 6** 2:00 p.m.

University of Jamestown  
Black-Schlossman Organ Concert Series  
Vorhees Chapel  
Featuring Dick Morris,  
Organist at Trinity Lutheran Church

Dr. Jason Kihle will join Dick on a major work written for marimba and organ

In addition to standard organ literature the concert will include one very unique piece describing the explosion of a star.

The concert is free but a free will offering will be received.

Feb. 10, 11, 12: UJ Theatre presents "Lost Girl," 7:30 p.m., DeNault

Feb. 20: Wind Ensemble Pops Concert – DeNault – 2:00 PM

Feb. 25-26: Intercollegiate Band hosted by the University of Jamestown (concert TBA on the 26<sup>th</sup> in DeNault)

**Come to the Table:  
A free meal for  
anyone in the  
community**

Every Tuesday

5:00-6:15 pm hosted  
at St. John's Lutheran  
Church

Sign Up to cook or  
serve through St.  
John's website

[www. st-  
johnslutheran.org](http://www.st-johnslutheran.org)



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**Thrivent Choice Dollars need to be directed to churches and charities by March 31, 2022.**

Want to make an even bigger impact? Make a personal donation at [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice). Thrivent pays the processing fees so 100% of your donation goes to help.

Click Make a personal donation and search the Thrivent Choice Catalog. Once you locate the organization to which you wish to donate, click Make a Personal Donation. You'll then be sent to Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing™ to make the donation.

## Community Notices

February 5<sup>th</sup> – Cookie and Cocoa Walk – 9:00 am to 5:00 pm – Free hot cocoa and cookie at each participating business while you shop.

February 19 – 9 am to 4 pm JRFD 14th annual Rural Fire Department & Knights of Columbus Ice Fishing Derby

February 19 – 5 pm to 11 pm After Party JRFD 14th annual Rural Fire Department & Knights of Columbus Ice Fishing Derby – Civic Center

# Eastern North Dakota Synod News

## Ministry Partner: Crossroads Campus Ministry at NDSU

Through worship, study, fellowship and service, members of the academic community taste the fullness of God's grace. As expansive as Christ's love, campus ministry reaches out to all who teach and learn, inviting them to experience the challenge of following Jesus.

In 2018, the students and advisors chose to rebrand our ministry to: Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry at NDSU. Crossroads = connecting faith + life. For years our ministry was known as ULC/ University Lutheran Center.

Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry is located on campus at NDSU. At the center of our ministry is radical hospitality and inclusion; love rooted in God's gift of faith as we follow Jesus together. We strive to help people of all backgrounds shine with the light of Jesus Christ in every aspect of life.

### Lutheran Disaster Response

On December 30, the Marshall Fire ignited in Boulder County, Colorado. Over 6,200 acres burned quickly, forcing the evacuations of 35,000 people. The fire destroyed close to 1000 homes. Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Rocky Mountain Synod and Lutheran Social Services of the Rocky Mountains to respond to the needs in these communities.

On the night of Dec. 10, a devastating outbreak of more than 30 tornadoes swept through six states. Kentucky was impacted the most, with more than 70 people reported dead. Homes and businesses were destroyed, including a candle factory in Mayfield, Kentucky. Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with partners in the affected areas, including the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, to respond to immediate needs.

Your gifts to support these response efforts will empower our partners to meet the immediate and long-term needs.

Give online at [elca.org](http://elca.org)



## Giving Hearts Day

Help someone.

**It's Coming: Giving Hearts Day 2022 on February 10<sup>th</sup>**

Look for Eastern North Dakota Synod

Red Willow Bible Camp and other charities you support.

### Area Youth Event

Sunday February 27th at  
Emmanuel Lutheran Gackle  
Depart Jamestown 1 pm,  
back by 6 pm

No cost.

Open to Jr. High and High  
School youth.

Sign up online by Feb. 24th

(This event was rescheduled  
from January 9th.)

## **Discernment Process among South Central North Dakota ELCA Congregations**

### **Overview**

At its second meeting, the Area Ministry Planning Team worked toward coming to an agreement on where to focus their energies and where to begin. Their work on developing this focus was rooted in what they had already talked about at the first meeting and in an honest assessment of the current realities facing them.

### **Current Realities**

It is worth noting that the strength of the team is seen in the variety and diversity of experience amongst its members. It also is found in a willingness to work together and a commitment to the church. At the same time, the team is limited and challenged by time constraints, the reality of burn-out, and the hesitancy to speak without first consulting the congregation.

The team expects that together our congregations will be stronger, spark participation, reduce stress, and be more stable. However, going forward and being successful could result in some members leaving, stretching pastors thin, and confusion (in particular around technology).

### **Focus Questions**

The team began to work on identifying the questions they need to address. The questions they came up with fall into six general areas:

The role of the pastor

What is available for pastoral services and the needs of congregations

A vision for success - what it looks like, how much time is needed, and what is church?

The options for change - understanding what can and can not and what should and should not change

6. Alignment – how can we work with varying congregations depending upon our needs

### **Next Meeting**

The team expressed their interest in seeing and understanding the pastor situation in the area. They would like to review the current pool of pastoral leaders, where they are located, how they are committed or called. With this, there will also be a review of the current pastoral and staffing needs across all of the congregations. This would include needs related to worship, pastoral care, education, and general leadership. Pastor Soli will gather this data in preparation for the next meeting which is January 18th.

### **Video Project**

Representatives will be making a short video about what they and their congregation hope and pray for in regards to the discernment process. This video will be available to show at annual meetings.

### **Planning Team Members:**

Phillip Hoffman and Bryan Behm – English Lutheran, Medina

Brett Thielges and Char Freeberg – St. John's Lutheran, Jamestown

Joni Zink and Bob Toso – Trinity Lutheran, Jamestown

Deb Elhard and Jodi Bruns — Christ the King, Ellendale

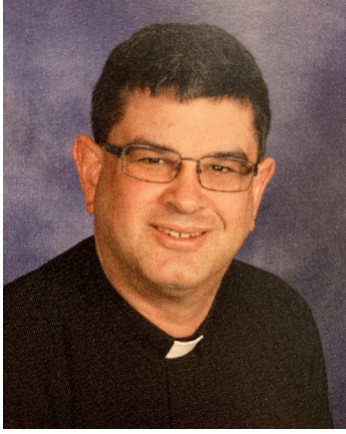
Ben Pesek and Lucinda Malm — Zion, Kulm

Derek Hust and Bonnie Denning — Emmanuel, Gackle

Teagan Thompson and Deb Hatlewick — Immanuel, Jamestown

LeAnn Fuchs and Tory Hart — Atonement, Jamestown

Pastors and Pastoral Leaders from these congregations participate as advisory members. They are Nathan Wicks, Linda Schauer, Mary Jo Kinzler, Lucinda Lien, Susan Haukaas, Erik Weber, Kristi Weber



## NRSVue

Every week I read the bible. I read in preparation of a sermon. I read in public worship. I read in devotional moments. I care deeply about God's word and pay attention to the Bibles that I use. Yes, Bibles. Not all translations of the Bible are the same. All translations convey a part of the theology and world view of the ones making the translation. So, I use different bibles at different times. Sometimes I even read different translations side by side to listen to the different ways that God's word is brought to life.

In worship, we most often use the New Revised Standard Version translation of the Bible which was first published in 1989. Over the decades, small changes have been made to the text, a tweak here, a revision there. But after over 30 years, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. (NCC) commissioned the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) to review and update the NRSV. The October 14 press release from the NCC says that the update "follows in the tradition of the King James Bible, making changes that were warranted on the basis of accuracy, clarity, euphony, and current English usage."

The new updated edition is so significantly different that it calls for a new name. And because the *New New Revised Standard Version* seems a bit silly, we now have the NRSVue (updated edition). The NRSVue is available today as an ebook and we will soon see printed translations become available. It will take time for the new translation to work its way into our worship and devotional lives, but it is coming.

Translations change because language changes. Translations change because our awareness of how language reflects and shapes attitudes change. I watch some of the old shows on MeTV and often cringe at the jokes or portrayal of women, people with disabilities, or people of color. I try to speak with and to people as I would want them to speak to me. Updated translations offer us a new way to hear God speaking to us in the language of our day.

You can easily search online for some examples of specific changes if you are interested. Or like me, you could wait and encounter God's word as it comes, possibly in an unexpected way, when you least expect it. There is nothing wrong with our existing NRSV's and they will be around on shelves for years to come (as evidenced by the remnant of the RSV's on various shelves around St. John's). As you encounter some of the language that is familiar, but maybe a little different, ask yourself, is God's voice entering the world in a new way for the next generation to hear it? How is God's Word heard anew this day?

Listening for God's Word,

Pastor Erik Weber

## New Member Gathering

If you are new or returning to St. John's and would like to visit with Pr. Erik and get an update on Congregational Life, please contact the church office. A meeting is being planned for **Tuesday February 22nd at 5:30 pm** to visit with Pr. Erik and a council member. Even if you have been around for awhile, this would be a great opportunity to check in.

Dear friends in Christ,

At St. John's annual meeting held in January 2019, I was elected to the one-year position of Congregation President. I Never would have anticipated that the one-year position would last three years. My first letter to the congregation began with this paragraph...

*As I begin my term as your congregational President, I would like to thank you for your vote of confidence. You have my pledge that I will represent our congregation to the best of my abilities and will always represent St. John's Lutheran Church with the level of respect and dignity that you expect and deserve.*

I can say with complete confidence that over the previous three years I have never lost sight of that pledge and it has been my guide through all my deliberations and decisions. As I was looking through old council papers, I came across a handwritten prayer on the back of the March 2019 council packet. It reads...

*God, I need you today! I need your direction, I need your counsel, I need your wisdom. Open my eyes to your truth and guide me today in your will. Amen.*

As I reflect on the past several years, I can't begin to describe how thankful I am to everyone who celebrated the good times with me, who provided encouragement and solace in the difficult times. Those who lifted me up when natural disasters and a devastating pandemic challenged my faith. Those who gave me a pat on the back when I needed it most. For all of you I would like to offer the following prayer.

*Lord, thank you for putting people in my life who speak your words of truth, love, and wisdom. Thank you for the gift of discernment to know when someone is speaking your instructions into my heart. Thank you for giving me the courage to follow your instructions even when it is hard. Thank you for the peace of knowing that even when I take a wrong turn, your purpose will prevail. Amen.*

As I write my final letter to the congregation I sincerely hope that my monthly musings have been as much an inspiration and motivation to others as they've been to me as I write them. I would like to leave you with the words to one of my favorite songs.

**A Parting Blessing**  
**by J. Jerome Williams...**

*May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face  
The rains fall soft upon your fields*

*And until we meet again, until we meet again  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand  
And until we meet again, until we meet again  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand*

*May the sun make your days bright  
May the stars illuminate your nights  
May the flowers bloom along your path  
Your house stand firm against the storm*

*And until we meet again, until we meet again  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand  
And until we meet again, until we meet again  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand*

God's peace to All.

*Gary Staab*  
Congregation President



## Thanks to Our Volunteers

Readers: Joan Enderle, Tonya Perkins, Gavin Kutz, Jim Ritter, Pauline Roeske, Sandy Franke, Hannah and Ian Sjostrom, Braxton Perkins, Bennett Goehner, Tara and Ty Kapp

Communion Assistants: Carl and Sandy Franke, Jim and Pauline Ritter, Char Freeberg, Joanne Rosemore, Hannah and Ian Sjostrom, Braxton Perkins, Bennett Goehner

Special thank you to those who usher: Walter and Mary Klundt and Bill Ebele, John Meyer, Rick Krapp, Dan Dockter, Darwin Roeske, Tom Enderle

Projection Screen Operators: Char Perleberg, Cindy Kleven, Gary Staab, and Camden Kutz,

Streaming: John Kleven, Lynn Krueger, and Aaron Kleven,

Organist/Pianist: Connie Wells, and Rachael Williams.

Mailing: Tom Enderle, Walter Klundt, Alice Bietz, Deloris Lux, Russ Geiszler, Helen Grenz, Carol Weispenning.

Special thank you to Triumph team who comes faithfully every Friday, to vacuum, stock the pews, sanitize and make sure everything in place.

We apologize to anyone who have served but not mentioned. We appreciate all who volunteer their time and talents to support our community worship.

## Shining Stars

Each month we will nominate a group of volunteers for a special thank you for all of us for the extra work that you do.

This month our shining stars are the new congregation council and Executive time.

Lynn Krueger  
Char Freeberg  
Amy Walz  
Jim Ritter  
Cindy Kleven  
David Gasal  
Shilo Ford  
Ken Gumke  
Pam Golde  
Charles Wells

Endowment:  
Shane Ede  
Sandy Franke  
Gavin Kutz  
Cindy Wolff

Nominating Committee  
Cindy Kleven  
David Gasal

Thank you for accepting the challenge of serving and representing the congregation.



### 2022 SPONSORSHIP - UPDATES

Radio broadcast and Altar flower sponsorships for 2022 will cost \$30 for altar flowers and \$190 for the radio broadcast. It is a nice way to honor or memorialize a loved one. Contact the church office at 252-1198 to check on availability.

February 2022

Radio

February 6 Gerald and Marjoire Lippert

February 13 *Pauline Roemmich*

February 20 Denise Steele

February 27 Jeanne Rosemore

Flowers

February 6 Darwin and Pauline Roeske

February 13 Darwin and Pauline Roeske

February 20 Denise Steele

February 27 **available**

### Council Highlights

The council reviewed the year end financials of St. John's and amended the proposed 2022 Mission and ministry Plan.

2021 General Fund Income: \$337,731

2021 General Fund Expenses: \$335,089

2022 Proposed Income: \$345,000

2022 Proposed Expenses: \$316,000

Very strong December giving surpassed expectations. The generosity of members continues, even as the frequency and type of gifts evolves. More people are using direct distributions from retirement plans, which arrive in one large check. This makes our monthly income numbers lower in months when those distributions don't happen.

The council reviewed the Nominating committee ballot, and drafted an agenda for the annual meeting on Feb. 6th.

The council is waiting for the Discernment Process report before making staff configuration recommendations.

The council reviewed identified volunteer and/or paid positions to cover gaps that affect ministry including: a coordinator of volunteers, Friday The Council agreed to end our status as a Chartering Organization for Pack 135 of Scouts BSA (Boy Scouts). The pack is not currently meeting and has not had a St. John's participant for years.

The council heard an update on design work for the kitchen. Plans are being revised and will soon be ready for releasing to contractors for bids.

The council thanked outgoing members President Gary Staab, Treasurer Shelley Mack, Denise Steele and Denise Walton,

### December and January worship attendance

#### In person at 9:00 a.m.

December 24 288

December 25 14

December 26 19

January 2 43

January 9 74

January 16 55

#### Streaming

December 24 160

December 26 136

January 2 82

January 9 151

January 16 63

### Memorials

From Yvonne Becker in memory of Arnie Becker

# February

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday                                     | Friday                    | Saturday                  |
|--|--|---|--|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 30<br>9:00 AM Worship - St. John's<br>11:00 AM ELC - Pr. Erik Medina                               | 31<br>9:30 AM Chapel   | 1<br>10:00 AM Staff Meeting<br>1:30 PM Chapel<br>5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal   | 2<br>4:00 PM Confirmation  | 3  | 4                         | 5                         |
| 6<br>9:00 AM Worship - St. John's<br>10:00 AM Annual Meeting in Sanctuary<br>10:30 AM Rock of Ages | 7<br>9:30 AM Chapel<br>12:30 PM Eventide Assisted Living Communion and Bible Study | 8<br>1:30 PM Chapel<br>5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal   | 9<br>10:00 AM Staff Meeting<br>4:00 PM Confirmation  | 10   | 11<br>Creative Fellowship | 12<br>Creative Fellowship |
| 13<br>9:00 AM Worship - St. John's<br>11:00 AM ELC - Pr. Erik Medina                               | 14<br>9:30 AM Chapel   | 15<br>10:00 AM Staff Meeting<br>1:30 PM Chapel<br>5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal<br>6:00 PM Discernment Process zoom meeting                    | 16<br>4:00 PM Confirmation<br>6:30 PM ELC - Confirmation Medina                                | 17<br>12:00 PM Jamestown Ministerial meeting | 18                        | 19                        |
| 20<br>9:00 AM Worship - St. John's   | 21<br>9:30 AM Chapel   | 22<br>10:00 AM Staff Meeting<br>1:30 PM Chapel<br>4:00 PM Altar Guild Meeting<br>5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal<br>5:30 PM New Member Gathering | 23<br>2:00 PM Ave Maria Worship<br>4:00 PM Confirmation<br>6:30 PM ELC - Confirmation Medina   | 24<br>Jamestown Conference                   | 25                        | 26                        |
| 27<br>Youth Event Gackle<br>9:00 AM Worship - St. John's<br>2:00 PM Ave Maria Worship              | 28<br>9:30 AM Chapel   | 1<br>10:00 AM Staff Meeting<br>1:30 PM Chapel<br>5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal   | 2<br>4:00 PM Confirmation<br>5:30 PM Soup and Sandwich<br>6:30 PM Lent Worship - Ash Wednesday | 3<br>5:30 PM Executive Meeting               | 4                         | 5                         |



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

## **Worship Services**

Sundays

~ 9:00 am

Wednesday Confirmation

~ 4:00 pm - Worship

«AddressBlock»

## **Holy Communion**

All Worship Services

Church Office 701-252-1198

Preschool/Child Care 701-252-1903

Website: [www.st-johnslutheran.org](http://www.st-johnslutheran.org)

email: [stjohns@st-johnslutheran.org](mailto:stjohns@st-johnslutheran.org)

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

**Senior Pastor**  
Erik Weber

**Admin Secretary/bookkeeper**  
Gem Saied

**Custodian**  
Frank Perleberg

**Child In Our Hands**  
Valerie Ford - Interim

**Choir Accompanist/Pianist**  
Rachel Williams  
Connie Wells

Annual Meeting

February 6, 2022

10:15 am

Annual Report Available

For pickup

