



St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

The Messenger

(a monthly publication)

February 2024



Annual Meeting

St. John's Lutheran
Church

February 4th after
worship (@10:15 am)

Altered by the Spirit

Lent 2024

February 14th

Ash Wednesday Worship

5:30 pm at St. John's

—Lenten Wednesdays—
beginning Feb. 21st

-4 pm at St. John's Pr.
Erik's Bible Study of Total
Awesomeness

-6:30 pm at Trinity
Mid-week worship

Original artwork by Sister Michelle Walka for Lent 2024

I Am A Lutheran Leader- What is in a Name?

What is a Vicar? What are some of the other church titles? Let's look at who is leading worship in your neighborhood!

Vicar - The term vicar is much more common in the Episcopal or Catholic Churches. Vicars often serve when a priest isn't available, as a sort of deputy. The word "vicar" comes from the latin for vicarious. The idea is that a vicar is one who works under the authority of another or as a substitute.

In the Lutheran church we use vicar as a title for those serving their Internship. Those who are earning a Masters of Divinity (the four year degree pastors have) spend a year learning the work of a pastor, usually in a congregational setting. The title vicar is a nod to the work they have already done towards ordination. A vicar works with a supervising pastor and so they borrow their authority from their supervisor. You might see Vicar Andrew at various times in the coming year.

Synod Lay Minister - A person who serves a congregation or congregations but has not been ordained (as pastors or deacons have). Synod Lay Ministers have been through a process of discernment, application, and education (provided by the Synod and the Seminaries). They are equipped to lead and serve in a congregation.

Synod Authorized Minister (SAM): When a congregation is without a Minister of Word and Sacrament (pastor) and the Bishop authorizes someone to preside at Holy Communion for specific times and locations. This is often a Synod Lay Minister who has met the additional requirements to serve in synod authorized ministry. Shar Gumke and Joel Zenker fits here.

Local Lay Preacher / Worship Leader - Someone serving their congregation as an occasional preacher or worship leader. This is a less formal role than a Synod Lay Minister. Lay preachers work with local pastors to prepare sermons. Worship leaders learn the mechanics of worship so they can lead worship when needed.

Rostered Minister - A person who is on the roster of leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. There are two categories of rostered ministers:

Minister of Word and Sacrament (Ordained Pastors) - serve the church and offer the hope of the sacraments and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in congregations and other ministry settings. Some pastors are called to specialized ministries such as chaplaincy and campus ministry. Pastor Erik and Pastor Stephanie fit here.

Minister of Word and Service (Ordained Deacons) - serve in congregations and other ministries, including family ministries, youth, administration, volunteer ministry, social services, music or parish nursing. Deacons connect the church with the needs of the world and work to equip others to lead a living, active and caring Christian life. Deacon Tara fits here.

2024 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the narthex. Please recycle all old envelopes and only use the new color for the year.

If you don't see a box pre-labeled please put your name on a slip and one will be issued.



If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
(ELW, Confession p. 239)

Many, if not most, worship services offer a chance for us to confess our sins. Whether it is at the beginning of the service or near the middle we have the chance to speak words that are difficult for all of us to face: we have sinned. We speak these words to God in our confession and we trust in God's mercy to offer forgiveness.

At the heart of February this year, Ash Wednesday arrives and signals the beginning of Lent. More than any other day of our church year, Ash Wednesday marks the time when we come face to face with our own humanity. Through the symbol of ash we are marked as created beings. "Remember you are dust..." and we are reminded of our frailty "...and to dust you will return." As we enter a time of turning back to God, I encourage you to spend some time in reflection and preparation for Lent. The following self-examination questions may help you.

LENTEN SELF-EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

- Does my manner of life truly reflect what I say I believe?
- Am I allowing time for God and also for myself not only during Lent but also throughout the year?
 - Am I loving the people I am supposed to be loving? Am I showing them this love on a regular basis?
 - Am I walking gently on the earth? Am I making efforts to live simply and less wastefully?
 - Where is my life out of balance? What do I need to do to get it back in balance again?
 - Is my life consistent? Are what I believe, what I do, even how I vote and how I give my money, consistent with the Gospel teachings of Jesus?
- Will this Lent make any difference? Will my life after this Lent be any different from how it is now? How?
 - Am I listening to God?

Week in and week out, we come to the place where we confess our sin and hear words of forgiveness. As we enter the 40 days of Lent this year we are invited to turn back to God. We believe that God forgives us when we turn to God. This promise is sure.

But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ELW, Confession).

Pastor Erik

Christians in Action Ministry

In January, Vicar Andrew Stephens arrived to begin a year of learning and serving in our communities. His schedule for the first three months will typically include:

Preaching or Leading Worship

at Montpelier and Emmanuel, Gackle on the first and second Sundays of the month
at Trinity on the third and fourth Sundays of the month

Serving and learning

with the people of Emmanuel on Wednesdays and Fridays
with the people of Montpelier on Thursday mornings
with the people of Trinity on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons

Monday will usually be a day of rest and renewal

But what will Vicar Andrew actually be doing?

During the first month, he will focus on learning how worship is similar and different in the three congregations where he primarily serves.

He will also focus on meeting people and hearing your stories.

Please help Vicar Andrew get to know you and more about your community.

Lent will come quickly, so another focus of the first three months will be how to prepare for and lead Lenten worship services. Each congregation has a different set of Lent traditions. This will be the third year our congregations are sharing a theme and resources for Lent. Vicar Andrew will gain experience with this model of shared ministry.

He will also attend Council meetings at Emmanuel and Montpelier to learn about congregational leadership and ways congregation members lead the local ministries and make decisions that are for the good of the congregation and community as we serve together in Jesus' name.

Who is on the Internship Committee?

These members accompany Vicar Andrew throughout the year and help him to reflect on what he is learning so that he grows in his pastoral identity and relationships. Members are: Alannah Valenta (Chair) and Mark Metz from Montpelier, Nathan Denning and Jane Schoonover from Emmanuel, and Leslee Larson and Dennis Mansavage from Trinity.

Congregations participating in Christians in Action Ministry:

Atonement, Jamestown Christ the King, Ellendale Emmanuel, Gackle English, Medina Montpelier, Montpelier St. John's, Jamestown Trinity, Jamestown Zion, Kulm

Ministerial Acts



Baptisms

† none



Weddings

† none



Funerals

- † Darlene Weixel 12/31/2023 died
- † Richard Carlson 1/8/2024 died
- † Robert Fennern 1/14/2024 died

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Thank you to all who volunteer and make my job a little bit easier. I might not remember to thank you in person, but this is my chance to say thank you for everything you do, for stopping by to say hi and check how I am doing. I am sure Pr. Erik and Pr. Stephine share the same feeling.



A kitchen field trip to Peace Lutheran in Fargo inspired our team.

Council Highlight

The proposed consent agenda (December meeting minutes, pastor reports, financial report, proposed 2024 budgets, and agreement with English Lutheran for pastoral services) was approved.

Jim reported a good month of giving in December. At year-end, the congregation spent 6% more than was budgeted. (He said a 10% budget deviation is generally the norm when income is unknown.) Even though revenue fell short, the congregation gave very generously to the kitchen project. Of special note, \$4,962 in revenue was generated through Wells Fargo investments and total expenses for the year were under budget. Jim will urge continued support for the general fund at the annual meeting.

Child In Our Hands Preschool and Childcare experienced a loss in revenue close to \$65,000 at fiscal year-end, largely due to staff turnover and inability to increase child numbers as a result of the turnover. This was also the first fiscal year CIOH operated without pandemic subsidies.

The agreement to provide pastoral services to English Lutheran in Medina will be renewed; new payment amount will be \$2,615/month including mileage.

In other business, the council brainstormed on potential Audit Committee members.

Christians in Action articles of incorporation, bylaws and proposed 2024 budget were reviewed and will be presented to the congregation for a vote at the annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee is still looking for a council president nominee, youth representative, and member at large.

A draft of the Feb. 4 annual meeting agenda was reviewed. The voting ballot at the annual meeting will list council positions and CIA local coordinator. A "Souper Bowl of Caring" event will be held after the annual meeting.

A council training will be held in Gackle on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. that will include CIA leaders, local coordinators and as many church council members from the various congregations as possible. The training will focus on goal setting.

Discussion was held on communion. No decisions have been made to alter the current every Sunday tradition. The need to find another pianist to tag team with Connie Wells was also emphasized.



Youth Ministry

Pastor Stephanie and I will be attending the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza January 17-22nd in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Extravaganza is a ministry of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network and is always held in the host city the year of a youth gathering. The Extravaganza is the Network's annual conference, drawing together over 1000 leaders in children, youth and family ministry, along with teachers, resource providers and leaders from the ELCA, for four days of renewal, education and networking.

This will be the tenth Extravaganza I have attended. The Extravaganza is a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow as a youth ministry leader. There are always amazing workshops that focus on today's issues; everything from social justice to inclusion to camp ministry and so much more. In addition, the general session speakers inspire, challenge and equip youth leaders for the ministry ahead.

This year's theme is DREAM. The theme verse is from Acts 2:17 "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your children shall prophesy, and your young shall see visions, and your old shall dream dreams." The thesis is as follows: In a broken and hurting world, we are called to discern God's dreams and visions; as we seek to follow Jesus, we will be equipped by the Holy Spirit to make those dreams a reality for the children, youth and families we serve.

It is my hope that in future years we will be able to bring along other youth leaders from throughout the Christians in Action Partnership so they too can grow as youth leaders. I have been incredibly blessed by attending this gathering and wish I would have begun attending earlier in my ministry.

I look forward to sharing more of what we learned at the Extravaganza after we return from New Orleans.

Synod Connections - February 2024



Two things I know about this community are that you are generous and you will do just about anything to support the places and spaces that mean the most to you! That is why I am sure Giving Hearts Day is already on your radar and likely on your calendars. Just in case you are unfamiliar, Giving Hearts Day is a statewide day of giving to your favorite non-profits, charities, and businesses. According to their website,

"As part of a continual improvement program at Fargo, North Dakota-based Dakota Medical Foundation (DMF), Giving Hearts Day arose in 2008 as a simple but unique fundraising concept: Around Valentine's Day, ask people to show affection to not only people they love but charities, too.

This year the official **Giving Hearts Day is Thursday, Feb 8, 2024**. However, early giving has already begun on the website: app.givingheartsday.org

We hope that as you plan out your gifts this year, you will keep the Eastern North Dakota Synod, Red Willow Bible Camp, Park River Bible Camp, Crossroads Campus Ministry, and Christus Rex campus ministry, as well as the other local charities. Donations are accepted both online and via check with the reminder of "Giving Hearts Day". Thank you for your ongoing generosity!



Sunday February 4th following the Annual Meeting

Even though the 'big game' isn't played until Feb. 11th, The St. John's Souper Bowl will kick off this week with the opportunity to make an offering or bring a canned good to support local programs to stop hunger. Canned goods will be delivered to the Salvation Army. Cash donations will help fund the Come to the Table program here at St. John's.

Bring some coin, bring some cash, contribute electronically, it is all going to a good cause. Soup will be available for a light meal following the annual meeting,

Just a little note to say thank you to St. John's Lutheran Church Endowment for the gift of \$1,500 to the New Truck Fundraiser. Thank you for your donation and joining in the mission of the North Dakota Orphan Grain Train Branch!

Orphan Grain Train--
Jamestown

Dear St. John's Endowment Fund,

We are so very grateful for your most generous gift of \$1,000. This money will help us in so many ways to provide support to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

The Jamestown Area Grief Support Team.



Confirmation Class on
January 17th.

38 youth from St. John's, Atonement, and Trinity were present for confirmation on a cold winter day to learn about the parables of Jesus.

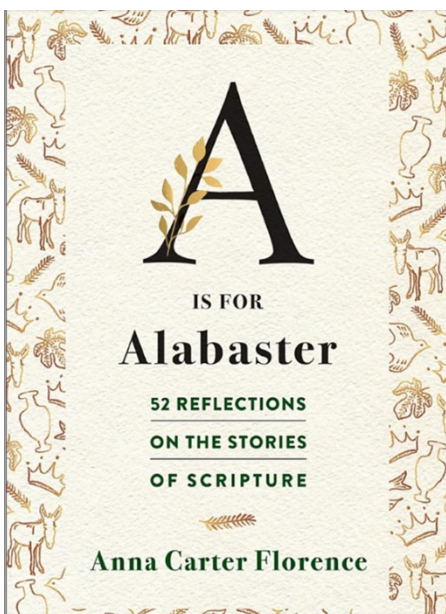
Deacon Tara and Pastor Stephanie are the regular leaders of this group.

Youth Gathering Information February 2024

February 4th - Youth Gathering Meeting for Parents, Youth and Adult Leaders at English Lutheran Medina- 3 pm

Coffee and Conversation

Monday February 19th
Babb's Coffee House 2-4 pm



2024 Monthly Book Study

First Tuesdays at 5:00PM (start Feb. 3)
OR First Wednesdays at 11:15AM (start Feb.5)

Each month we will read and discuss 5 reflections from Anna Carter Florence's new offering, *A is for Alabaster*.

Register on STJ SignUp Genius or in the church office.

Sign up by January 15 if you want us to order you a book (\$20)!



| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| In Memory of: | Given by: |
| Carol Weber | Curtis & Darlene Goehner |
| Sandy Franke | Don & Gail Coople |

Giving Matters

ATTENDANCE

In Person

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| December 17 | 97 |
| December 24 (9 am) | 57 |
| December 24 (2:30 pm) | 52 |
| December 24 (4:30 pm) | 161 |
| December 25 | 27 |
| December 31 | 68 |
| January 7 | 89 |
| January 14 | 39 |
| January 21 | 73 |

December income \$ 67199.44
 December expenses: \$ 31,651.63

Special thank you From the funeral and co-op leaders

Thank you to all who provided baked goods and helped serve when there is a funeral. They are still looking for volunteers to serve and bake. If this is something you like to do, please contact the office 252-1198

2023 SPONSORSHIP UPDATES

Radio broadcast and Altar flower sponsorships for 2023 will cost \$40 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 2024

Radio February

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| February 4 | Gerald and Marjorie Lippert |
| February 11 | Gerhardt and Gayl Lange |
| February 18 | Jim & Paulette Ritter |
| February 25 | Denise Steele |

Flowers January

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| February 4 | Darwin & Pauline Roeske |
| February 11 | Gerhardt and Gayl Lange |
| February 18 | Darwin & Pauline Roeske |
| February 25 | Denise Steele |

For Dates available for Altar Flowers and Radio, please contact the church office 252-1198

Radio Broadcast and Altar Flowers available dates 2024

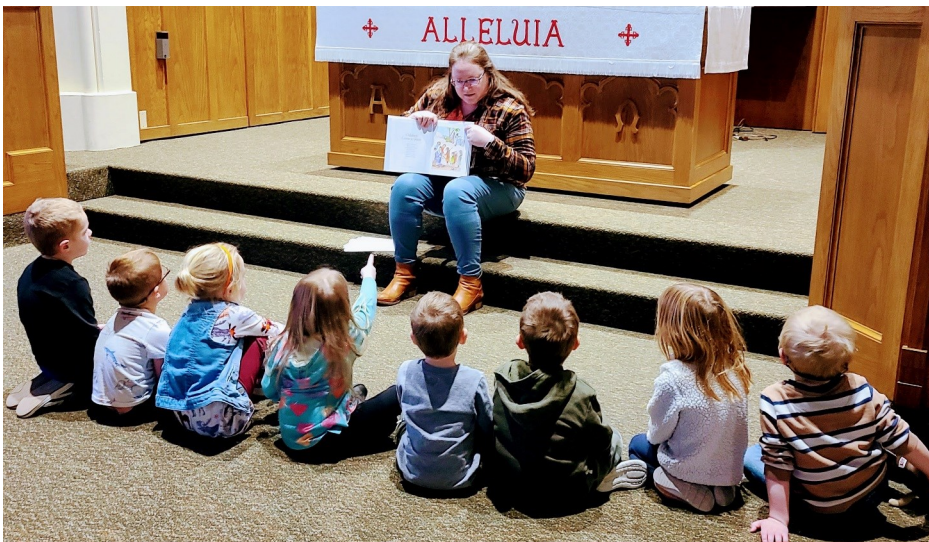
Please check the list in the Narthex. More dates are available for the rest of the year.

Please contact the church office 252-1198 to check the dates and sponsor either flowers or Radio broadcast. Thank you.

Women of the Church

The recent Thank Offering sponsored by the Women of the Church gathered \$ 825.00. This amount was all given to the kitchen remodel project.

Our Christmas Boutique gathered \$ 530.00. This will be used for our mission projects. Thank you for your support with these projects





| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|--|--------------------------|---|
| 28 English Lutheran Annual Meeting 9:00am Worship - St. John's 2:00pm Synod Meeting Act Study - Zoom Conversation | 29 | 30 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal | 31 10:30am Pre-School Chapel 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel 3:30pm Confirmation | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:00am Annual Meeting in Sanctuary 10:30am Rock of Ages 2:00pm Synod Meeting Act Study - Zoom Conversation | 5 12:30pm Eventide Assisted Living Communion and Bible Study | 6 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 5:30pm CIOH Board Meeting | 7 10:30am Pre-School Chapel 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel 3:30pm Confirmation | 8 9:00am Jamestown Ministerial Meeting | 9 Creative Fellowship | 10 Creative Fellowship Widows Retreat |
| 11 9:00am Worship - St. John's | 12 | 13 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 5:30pm Council Meeting | 14 Ash Wednesday 10:30am Pre-School Chapel 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel 4:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm Ash Wednesday | 15 1:00 pm Jamestown Conference | 16 | 17 |
| 18 9:00am Worship - St. John's | 19 | 20 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal | 21 10:30am Pre-School Chapel 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel 4:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Lent Worship | 22 | 23 | 24 Council Orientation - Gackle |
| 25 9:00am Worship - St. John's | 26 | 27 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal | 28 10:30am Pre-School Chapel 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel 4:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Lent Worship | 29 World Day of Prayer | 1 | 2 |



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 Jamestown, ND 58401
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Worship Services

Sunday

~ 9:00 am

Wednesday Confirmation

~ 4:00 pm

«AddressBlock»

Holy Communion

All Worship Services

Church Office 701-252-1198

Preschool/Child Care 701-252-1903

Website: www.ndchristiansact.org

email: stjohns@st-johnslutheran.org

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

Senior Pastor
 Erik Weber

Associate Pastor
 Stephanie Gossett

Admin Secretary/bookkeeper
 Gem Saied

Custodian
 Robin Vasquez

Child In Our Hands
 Valerie Ford - Interim

Choir Accompanist/Pianist
 Connie Wells

Annual Meeting
 February 4, 2023
 10:15 am

Annual Souper Bowl of Caring
 following meeting.

