



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

## The Messenger

(Monthly publication)

February/March 2021



Dear friends in Christ,

Recently, I read an article that discussed an increase in prayer and religious beliefs in the United States after nearly three decades of decreases. It theorized that this has been spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, racial and political unrest,

and economic concerns. I did some research and found that 100 years, 1920, looked very similar to 2020. A resurgence in religious beliefs was brought about by the recently ended world war, a devastating pandemic, a revival of the Ku Klux Klan, and the red scare (fear that the US was also on the verge of revolution). As I continued to read, I was struck by just how similar we are to 100 years ago.

**In November 1920** Warren G. Harding was elected the 29th President of the United States. Interestingly, President Harding ran most of his campaign on the theme of "Return to Normalcy"

**In November 2020** Joseph R. Biden was elected the 46th President of the United States. Much of the Biden campaign was centered around the premise of "Return to Normalcy".

**In 1920** the country and world was still reeling from the effects of the worst pandemic of the modern age. The Spanish Flu claimed an estimated 675,000 lives in the United States and at least 50 million worldwide.

**In 2020** the country and world was reeling from the effects of the worst pandemic of the modern age. By early 2021 it had claimed nearly 380,000 lives in the United States and nearly 2 million worldwide.

**In 1920** there was a great deal of unrest by citizens over the steps taken to minimize the spread of the Spanish Flu including such mandates as isolation, quarantine, good

personal hygiene, use of disinfectants, and limitations of public gatherings, which were applied unevenly.

**In 2020** there was a great deal of unrest by citizens over the steps taken to minimize the spread of COVID-19 including such mandates as isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants, and limitations of public gatherings, which were applied unevenly.

**In 1920**, peaceful protests led by the NAACP to call attention to "the never-ending wrong" erupted into race riots in Tulsa Oklahoma that claimed the lives of 250 Americans and caused \$1.5 million in damaged

**In 2020** the peaceful protests led by the BLM and others erupted into race riots around the country claiming lives and injuring many in addition to causing millions of dollars in damage to public and private property.

I could continue but I think I made my point. We have not learned from the mistakes of our past. Will the next century be different? Will our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren be the generations to bring us out of this cycle of history repeating itself? It would be interesting to see what the year 2120 would be like...Or maybe not.

A PEW research study shows that in 1990 approximately 7% of those surveyed did not identify with any organized religion. By 2018 that had grown to 27%. The research pointed to changes in social norms such as marriage and divorce as well government policies that discourage religious beliefs. Why does it take a crisis of epic proportions to bring us back to God?

God's Peace to All,

Gary Staab  
Congregation President



Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota announced on January 14th that they are suspending programs and beginning a controlled liquidation plan.

This announcement completely surprised me and has created questions, some of which will never be answered completely. Make no mistake, this is a huge loss for our state and is a loss for shared ministry across the Eastern and Western North Dakota Synods. LSS was our ministry partner and this liquidation will ripple to every corner of North Dakota. The presenting issue lifted up in the press release is the financial difficulties faced by LSS Housing. People far more connected than I am might know more specifics, but this much is clear: no organization or institution is immune to sudden shifts in demand, changes in the financial health of ministry partners, and debt repayment schedules.

Another stark reality is that just because you've been around for a long time and do good work, doesn't mean that you can't stumble or even fall. I am much more familiar with congregations closing and liquidating assets. This is much bigger and just as painful.

About 20 years ago a group of congregations on the north side of Chicago sold all of their buildings and joined together in a new congregation in a renovated two story office building. They continued in ministry for another decade or so before closing. The people in the congregation were sad that the time had come to end their ministry, but they reflected a sense of hope and gratitude that the ministry had not been in vain. They celebrated the decade of vital ministry that came out of three congregations that were too tired and underfunded to continue alone.

101 years ago, a group of Lutherans organized a society to care for orphans and at-risk children. That organization grew into Lutheran Social Services and expanded to meet the needs of people across the state. We can look back and celebrate all of the lives that have been impacted by the work of Lutherans in North Dakota. There will continue to be Lutherans in North Dakota for generations and we will continue to serve and be the hands of Christ at work in the world, but our reach has been clipped. Expertise, coordination, and statewide vision are being lost.

We thank and offer support to the 283 employees of LSS who are losing their jobs in positions in which they dedicated years of their lives in service to others. We recognize the uncertainty and potential loss of programs that we know and depend on, even if we didn't know they were connected to LSS- such as Child Care Aware (that provided high quality training materials used by Child in Our Hands), the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Legacy Center, and Abound Counseling, to name just a few of the local connections. When you come across someone with a LSS connection, be sure to offer words of encouragement, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Pr. Erik.



***Lenten Coin Collection for World Hunger:  
Your find the can and the coins, pick up a  
can wrap at the church.***



Fiends,

As we are in the middle of winter we are experiencing shorter day light. Yet, our long nights are getting shorter. As I am writing this, our COVID-19 infections have been steadily decreasing, our political leadership will experience stability, and more people are getting or will have access to the vaccine. Thinking back to last year, I remembered that St Johns had a fire in January which seems like ages ago. A lot has happened this past year and it shows one central thing, how resilient our congregation is. Through this pandemic time, we have learned the importance of

face to face interactions which can never be substituted. As a church, however, we have adjusted and improvement to reach people and extend our reach for the good news of the gospel.

As I am reminded of the amount of discipleship our church has enacted I think about the story from Matthew 4:18-22, Jesus calling the first disciples:

“As he [Jesus] walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.”

To be a disciple of Jesus, we need to continually adjust and reach the needs of the community even if COVID-19 never existed. The time of “we have always done it this way” is past us and not coming back. Peter had been a fisherman his whole life, but then Jesus shows up and changes his call and it changes into a profession in ministry and a life of discipleship.

Even though it seems like things are slowly starting to return “to normal,” our ministry will not be like what it was before March 2020. After all, we have created a food program, Come to The Table, that we hope will be a long-term act of service to our community that started as a result of COVID-19. We can imagine and find our ways in our community where we can “fish for people.” This calling isn’t an easy one as you need to be willing to find the time to serve someone you may not know. However, God gives us the fishing pole of grace and the nets of faith to help us reach our neighbor and beyond as we travel together in the newness of each day.

Pr. Lucas Holsten  
Associate Pastor



## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS – January

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 Worship

### February 2021

2/4 5:30 pm Executive Meeting  
2/7 9:00 am Installation of Council Members during  
worship  
2/9 6:30 pm Council Meeting  
2/16 6:00 pm CIOH Board Meeting  
2/17 12:10 pm Ash Wednesday short service  
4:00 pm Confirmation  
5:15 pm Ash Wednesday Worship  
2/24 4:00 pm Confirmation  
5:15 pm Lent Worship

### March 2021

3/3 4:00 pm Confirmation  
5:15 pm Lent Worship  
3/4 5:30 pm Executive Meeting  
3/9 6:30 pm Council Meeting  
3/10 4:00 pm Confirmation  
5:15 pm Lent Worship  
3/17 4:00 pm Confirmation  
5:15 pm Lent Worship  
3/24 4:00 pm Confirmation  
5:15 pm Lent Worship  
3/31 4:00 pm Confirmation  
5:15 pm Lent Worship

### April 2021

4/1 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday  
4/2 7:00 pm Good Friday  
4/4 6:30 am Sunrise Worship  
9:00 am Worship  
4/5 Church Offices Closed

## Radio Broadcast and Altar Flowers Available days

Please contact the church office 252-1198.

### Radio:

4/4, 4/11  
5/2, 5/16, 5/23  
7/11  
10/10, 10/31

### Altar Flowers

2/28  
4/4, 4/25  
5/2, 5/16, 5/23  
9/26  
10/31





**Pianist:** Rachel Williams, and Connie Wells

**Readers:** Jim Ritter, Gavin Kutz, Sandy Franke, Joan Enderle, Tonya Perkins,

**Ushers:** Bill Ebele, Walter and Mary Klundt, Gary Staab, John Mayer, and Lloyd Landscoot.

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

**Projector/Streaming:** Lynn Krueger, Char Perleberg, John, and Cindy Kleven.

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.



**BAPTISM CLASS**

**Contact the church office  
252-1198**



**Sponsorships**

**Radio February and March**

February 7	Gerald and Marjorie Lippert
February 14	Pauline Roemmich
February 21	Denise Steel
February 28	Available

March 7	Lynnette Kriedeman
March 14	JoAnn Deede
March 21	Jerry and Darlene Michel
March 28	Alden and DeLanda Kollman



**Flowers February and March**

February 7	Darwin and Pauline Roeske
February 14	Darwin and Pauline Roeske
February 21	Denise Steel
February 28	Available

March 7	Lynnette Kriedeman
March 14	Darwin and Pauline Roeske
March 21	Denise Steele
March 28	Alden and DeLanda Kollman



**CHURCH MINISTRY**

**Funerals**

**Church Members**

James Andres - d 1/5  
Carol Randall - d 1/12

**Wedding**

None

***NEWS RELEASE Jan. 15, 2021***  
***For immediate release FARGO, N.D.***

Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota — a non-profit agency with predecessor organizations dating to 1919 — has suspended programs and issued layoffs as part of a controlled liquidation plan.

The agency's Board of Directors, after accepting reports from staff leadership, external advisers and legal counsel, passed a resolution that confirms actions leading to a liquidation, including a bankruptcy filing, if necessary.

The decision was driven in large part by continued struggles of Lutheran Social Services Housing, an affiliated program. LSS Housing, which started in 2009, impacted agency reserves and resulted in negative cash flow projections, according to Bob Otterson, who started Dec. 1, 2020, as the agency's president and chief executive officer. "LSS Housing in recent years has been draining the reserves of the affiliated agency," Otterson said. "This financial pressure has hampered the ability of an essential, faith-based organization to serve its clients, specifically those in primary mission areas such as services to children, families, seniors and others."

The action affects employment of 283 full-time and part-time staff and several long-term contractors. LSS North Dakota leaders have informed employees about what they can expect in the coming days. Similarly, professionals in mental health and behavioral health programs are working with their clients on options for referrals and other services, Otterson said.

The issues came to a head early this week, Otterson said. "While developing a systematic exit from the housing market, agency leaders and external advisers determined over the past six weeks that the agency's financial health had been compromised to the point where a positive cash flow has become unachievable in the next six months," Otterson said. The board's directors, in their deliberations, acknowledged that decisions made two, four, even 10 years ago, created the financial crisis that has forced a bankruptcy resolution, according to Murray Sagsveen, the board's chairman.

"Obvious economic realities — such as the downturn in oil production and a global pandemic — have been factors in this outcome," Sagsveen said. "However, the primary factors remain the LSS Housing business model, its accumulated debt, its inability to cover its expenses and other agency-level decisions made in previous years."

"The agency has lived up to its mission of bringing healing, help and hope to neighbors," Otterson said. "Unfortunately some chronic financial issues have forced the actions of this very difficult day."

LSS Housing was created to address the need for affordable housing in communities across the state, particularly as demand was driving up housing costs in oil-producing areas of western North Dakota. Further study noted the housing needs of people on fixed incomes across the state. LSSND invested more about \$16 million in cash and secured additional funding that provided safe sustaining housing for hundreds of families, seniors and individuals. LSS Housing owns and operates 22 properties in 14 communities and manages another 14 residential properties in 10 communities.

Dear Lutheran siblings of North Dakota,

As Bishops of our Eastern and Western North Dakota Synods, it grieves us to share with you the difficult news of the closure of a key Lutheran partner in ministry. Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, after 101 years of important ministry, has reached the end of its life as a faith-based service organization in our midst.

Lutheran Social Services has extended caring ministries that have often grown from congregational input and support. They have provided healing, help, and hope across the state, especially among vulnerable populations such as children, families, seniors, and New Americans.

We cannot at this time fully imagine the loss that this closure represents. Important ministries and services will be discontinued. Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota will no longer be able to live out their faith-based mission to offer healing, help, and hope. For all of this, we express deep lament and sadness.

At this time, we hold those directly impacted in prayer – especially LSSND clients and staff. We look to all of us as Lutherans across North Dakota to consider what this means for our call to love our neighbor. We ask God to lead us in extending the love of Christ in our communities in new ways that will now be even more needed.

As people of faith, Jesus Christ is ever our comforter and our hope. The empty tomb proclaims that death will not have the final say. As we experience this collective loss, we give thanks for the 101 years of impact of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota in so many lives and we invite you to join us in prayer:

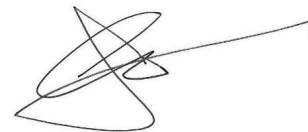
*Dear God, in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus agonized in prayer about the difficult path that lay before him and asked you to “take this cup from me.” We, too, as the community of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, wish for different circumstances, times that could have spared us from needing to make this decision. Our hearts are heavy. Be with us as we travel this path, guide those who accompany us, and give us peace. With watchful hope, we lean on your mercy and grace. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.*

(adapted from “All Creation Sings”, pg. 54, Augsburg Fortress Publishers.)

In Christ,



Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth  
Eastern North Dakota Synod



Bishop Craig Schweitzer  
Western North Dakota Synod





**Fit for the Journey**

<b>FROM</b>	<b>FOR</b>
Margie Schrenk	Melvin Roemmich
Russ and Gwen Geiszler	Melvin Roemmich
Marvis Truax	Richard Truax
Arlene Meszaros	Mary Trautman
Curtiss and Darlene Goehner	Mary Trautman
Carl and Sandy Franke	Melvin Roemmich

**In honor of**  
*Don and Amy Walz      Grace Walz 85th birthday*

**Council Recap**

The council reviewed preliminary year end financial reports and approved the draft agenda for the Annual Meeting. There were no old or new business items for the Annual Meeting that were added to the agenda. The Council decided to offer a live stream of the meeting, but to not pursue remote participation options. Voting members will need to be present on January 31st to have voice and vote. The council approved a new Child Protection policy which includes background checks on staff and volunteers working with youth and vulnerable adults as well as setting expectations for education for Safe Conduct for St. John's.

Financials

2020 Total General Fund Income (including PPP):  
 \$377,569  
 2020 Total General Fund Expenses  
 \$362,761

**ATTENDANCE**

**November 2020**

Sunday November      29      29

**December 2020**

Christmas Eve (3 services)  
 December      24      135  
 Christmas Day December      25      30  
 Sunday December      27      14  
 Sunday January      3      29  
 Sunday January      10      52  
 Sunday January      17      58

GENERAL GIVING:  
 December Income:      \$42,407  
 December Expenses:      \$33,946

**Lent 2021**

In-Person and Live Streamed worship on Wednesdays at 5:15 pm (no meals planned)

Weekly Wednesday Jamestown Ministerial participation during Chapel of the Air radio broadcast at 9am on Wednesdays beginning February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Weekly family Devotionals: Reflections on the Heart. Available to all congregation members by request. Includes weekly scripture, refection questions, and coloring activities suitable for individuals and families.

Weekly ELCA 40 Days of Giving devotional and study guide available by request. Will be highlighted each week as part of the mid-week email.

Lenten Coin Collection for World Hunger: Your find the can and the coins, pick up a can wrap at the church.



Greetings from Child In Our Hands,

It is hard to believe that another month has gone by here at our center. We have definitely enjoyed the above normal temperatures of this past month. We still bundle our kids up to go outside but it's amazing what the slightly warmer temperatures do to raise the spirits of everyone outside.

Noah's Ark has two new infants in their room. Both of these friends joined in the same week which kept the staff in that room on their toes. God's Little Lambs had a friend join them that had reached the milestone of leaving the infant room. This classroom has been working hard on potty training as well as walking down the hallway with their friends. Caring Cross is our classroom that is completely full and busy. They are so busy they have a hard time settling down for rest time but once they are asleep they are difficult to wake up. If they only knew how much they will miss that rest time when they get older. Promise Land Preschool started back up after the Christmas Break with the students working on their letter writing and letter sounds. They have also enjoyed some new group games.

Our new staff has jumped right into the swing of things. We are thankful for their enthusiasm and willingness to help where needed. If you happen to run into any of the staff when you are in the church, please take a moment to visit with them and offer a word of encouragement. When you think of the amount of time that a young child spends in our care, you can just imagine the vast influence we have in their lives. By encouraging and lifting up staff, you help keep their heads up as they work to provide the best care for the children in our care.

Mrs. Ford  
Interim Director



# FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Annual Meeting in Sanctuary	1 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 1:30 PM Pre-school chapel	2 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	3 4:00 PM Worship 4:01 PM Confirmation	4 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 5:30 PM Executive Meeting	5	6
7 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's - Installation of Council Members 9:30 AM Sunday School	8 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 1:30 PM Pre-school chapel	9 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal 6:30 PM Council Meeting	10 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Worship 4:01 PM Confirmation	11 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel	12	13
14 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 9:30 AM Sunday School	15 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 1:30 PM Pre-school chapel	16 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal 6:00 PM CIOH Board Meeting	17 12:10 PM Ash Wednesday Worship - St. John's Lutheran 4:00 PM Confirmation 5:15 PM Worship	18 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel	19	20
21 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 9:30 AM Sunday School	22 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 1:30 PM Pre-school chapel	23 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	24 4:00 PM Confirmation youth group 5:15 PM Worship	25 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel	26	27
28 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 9:30 AM Sunday School	1 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 1:30 PM Pre-school chapel	2 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	3 4:00 PM Confirmation 5:15 PM Worship	4 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 5:30 PM Executive Meeting	5	6

# WADSWORTH

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 9:30 AM Sunday School	1 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 1:30 PM Pre-school chapel	2 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	3 4:00 PM Confirmation 5:15 PM Worship	4 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 5:30 PM Executive Meeting	5	6
7	First Communion Class 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 9:30 AM Sunday School	8 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 1:30 PM Pre-school chapel	9 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal 6:30 PM Council Meeting	10 4:00 PM Confirmation 5:15 PM Worship	11 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel	12	13
14	9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 9:30 AM Sunday School	15 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 1:30 PM Pre-school chapel	16 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	17 4:00 PM Confirmation 5:15 PM Worship	18 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel	19	20
21	9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 9:30 AM Sunday School	22 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 1:30 PM Pre-school chapel	23 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	24 4:00 PM Confirmation 5:15 PM Worship	25 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel	26	27
28	<b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's - 9:30 AM Sunday School	29 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 1:30 PM Pre-school chapel	30 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	31 4:00 PM Confirmation	1 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship	2 7:00 PM Good Friday Worship	3



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

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Permit No. 1  
 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](http://www.st-johnslutheran.org)  
 Email: [stjohns@st-johnslutheran.org](mailto: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

***Lent 2021***

***In-Person and Live Streamed worship  
 Wednesdays at 5:15 pm  
 (no meals planned)***

- |                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b><i>2/17</i></b> | <b><i>12:10 pm Ash Wednesday</i></b> |
|                    | <b><i>5:15 pm Ash Wednesday</i></b>  |
| <b><i>2/24</i></b> | <b><i>5:15 pm Worship</i></b>        |
| <b><i>3/3</i></b>  | <b><i>5:15 pm Worship</i></b>        |
| <b><i>3/10</i></b> | <b><i>5:15 pm Worship</i></b>        |
| <b><i>3/17</i></b> | <b><i>5:15 pm Worship</i></b>        |
| <b><i>3/24</i></b> | <b><i>5:15 pm Worship</i></b>        |
| <b><i>3/28</i></b> | <b><i>9:00 am Palm Sunday</i></b>    |

