



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

## The Messenger

(a monthly publication)

January 2023

### Pastor Stephanie Gossett

Howdy! It is so exciting to join the English and St. John communities, and I am looking forward to getting to know you! You just may be curious about me as well, so this first newsletter blurb is going to be less about faith and the church, and more of an introduction to your new Associate Pastor. As we live in the age of Buzzfeed, instead of writing long wordy paragraphs I decided to write, in no particular order, a list of "25 Things About Pastor Stephanie":

1. I attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, and graduated December 2021 with my Master of Divinity with a concentration in Congregational Mission and Leadership.
2. Even though I am from Texas, this is not my first time living in the midwest. I lived in Minnesota from 2016-2021 for seminary, and actually prefer the climate up north.
3. Autumn is my favorite time of year, and Lent is my favorite church season.
4. I am a classically trained vocalist and play summer camp level guitar.
5. My favorite sports to watch are football and basketball, but I'll go see whatever event you have extra tickets for! I plan to attend all kinds of local games for hockey, baseball, dance, etc. Email me those game schedules as you get them!
6. It will take me forever to learn your name, but it's not because I don't want to. Name tags and repeated...



Bishop Tessa came for Pr. Stephanie's installation on December 11th.

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### Annual Meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church

February 5th after worship  
(@10:15 am)

Annual reports will be available in the Narthex when printed.

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## I'm a Lutheran: Helen Gushwa

*Helen is the oldest living St. John's member. She expects to celebrate her 101st birthday this spring.*

I was baptized at St. John's and have been a part of that congregation my whole life, except I was married in Texas. I taught school and took a vacation to Texas in June. Shorty and I had been engaged for about a year. He was in the service and I visited him in San Antonio. One thing led to another and we decided to get married

before I went back home. I had met a woman there who agreed to be my maid of honor. I ordered some flowers and took some clothes to the cleaners. The day of the wedding, she was supposed to pick them up. It was time to leave for the chapel, but she wasn't there yet. It had started to rain, and I thought that she would maybe just meet us there. I got to the chapel and saw Shorty and two of his friends, but that woman was nowhere to be seen. So one of the men with Shorty was my maid of honor. The next day I went back to the florist and the cleaners, and both said that my "friend" had picked up my things the day before. I never saw her again. People are surprised that I got married without telling anyone (back home). I guess that trip taught me not to trust everyone. I've never traveled much, but I think I visited the Bahamas once way back.

My favorite bible story is about the birth of Jesus. Having had a child myself, I can relate to how Mary felt about it. I also think that you appreciate it more as you get older. It must have been tough times without a doctor or anything. I think about what they had to do, and that helps me see that I can't complain too much.

I believe that sauerkraut will make you sick. I also believe that I can get better with God's help, but sometimes a little doubt creeps in. I pray for God to help me. I struggle with not having any goals in my life anymore. I can't use my hands and I can't walk. I am safe here (*at Eventide*) and I don't really know why I want to get out of here. The girls in activities are wonderful and are so good at making everyone feel important. I am fighting for simple things for people here to do. I learned so much by quilting with the church. I learned things all the time. I liked gardening. I do believe that most people are honest. I like to find ways to make fun stuff out of things people take very seriously. My grandma would take strings and tie them to presents at parties, you would pull a string and that was the present that you got. They were simple things like a piece of candy.

I'm a Lutheran because my parents brought me up that way and I believe in it. That's just the way it is.



**Pr. Stephanie helps lead the zero rehearsal Christmas Program on Dec. 18th**



**Happy New Year from the St. John's Staff  
Pr. Stephanie, Gem, Robin, and Pr. Erik  
Hope for the Hopeless members participate in worship**



## PNEUMONIA: CAN BE PREVENTED

### What is pneumonia?

It is a respiratory infection affecting lungs, caused by virus, bacteria and fungus.



### Know the symptoms:

Fever, cough, chills, chest pain, and difficulty breathing.

### Who's at risk?



Children under 5



People with compromised immune systems



People with chronic disease conditions



Older adults

### Prevention:

- ✓ WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY.
- ✓ AVOID TOBACCO.
- ✓ OVER AGE 65? **GET VACCINATED.**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Central Valley Health District

Pneumococcal (*pneumonia*) vaccinations available at CVHD. Call today (252-8130) to schedule!

# Ministerial Acts



Baptisms

† none



Weddings

† none



Funerals

† 12/10/22 Robert Steele St. John's

## Gideon Samuel Williams



St Johns Family,

Thank you all so much for your continued prayers and words of encouragement and support over these past few months. Our little miracle, Gideon, is home and thriving! Missing you all terribly!

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season!

love, Rachel Williams

## January 2023 Public Events

### Chamber Ag & Energy Committee Panel Discussion 10:30AM - 12:00PM January 12th

The Jamestown Ag & Energy Committee will be hosting an expert panel discussion surrounding carbon capture and its future in North Dakota. Moderated by Mick Kjar with i3G Media. The panel is free and open to the public with a free lunch to follow as part of the North Dakota Winter Ag & Construction Expo.

### Jamestown Choralaires Dinner Concert 6:30PM - 9:30PM January 27th & 28th

The Jamestown Choralaires will perform between serving courses of a 3-course meal in the atrium of the Reiland Fine Arts Center on the University of Jamestown campus. Reserved-seating tickets only available for purchase in advance at Looyesen I Care, 821 1 Ave. S, Jamestown, ND. (701) 252-3937. Ticket price is \$40.

### Winter Wheels Car Show 9:00AM - 6:00PM January 28th

Join the Jamestown Classic Car Club for the annual Winter Wheels Car Show! at the Civic Center! Cars can sign up for the Early Bird Drawing before January 10th and Win! Door fees are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids. Each kid gets a Hot Wheels car and there are door prizes for all! There will be 6 lane Hot wheels track and valve cover racing where you can build your own! Races start at 10:30 AM. Email [scso@daktel.com](mailto:scso@daktel.com) for rules.

**Art Exhibit: Art Center - Museum Inspiration** 9 am to 5 pm – cost \$ 10.00

### Trinity and St. John's Event

Church offices closed – January 2, 2022

Every Wednesday worship at 6:30 pm – Trinity

Every Wednesday Choir rehearsal 7:15 pm Trinity

Every Wednesday 6 & 7 Grade confirmation at St. John's at 4:00 pm and 7:15 pm 8<sup>th</sup> Grade at Trinity

Pr. Stephanie continued from p. 1

7. ...introductions are both extremely helpful.
7. I love theatre and really all performing arts performances! Support the arts!
8. I'm a foodie! My favorite foods are potatoes, cheese, sushi, and Blue Bell ice cream. I do not enjoy raw tomatoes or onions, olives, or most pickled things.
9. My kitchen is the best equipped room in my house; I am an excellent cook and okay baker.
10. I am an only child, and have a relatively small family.
11. My auditory processing is slow, so speak loud and clear, but also give me time to think before expecting a response.
12. I love camp and camping, and look forward to summer camp and retreat opportunities at Park River and Red Willow, and exploring the parks in ND!
13. I enjoy crafting and creating, especially with other people! My most recent project is a mandala afghan from Annie's Crochet Club.
14. All the colors are my favorite! If I had to choose, it would be a jewel tone.
15. I absolutely love both cats and dogs, but I am (mildly) allergic to pet dander. Hopefully I will be getting an allergy-friendly schnauzer or doodle next year!
16. I was a high school teacher in the Houston area from 2007- 2015 before starting seminary; and taught American Literature (11th grade), AP Language and Composition, Spanish 1, and 9th grade English.
17. I am not good at, nor do I enjoy improvisational speaking, or most things impromptu or added last minute. To do well, I need time to prepare.
18. Wanderlust is real, and I always have a trip in the works. Coming up is two trips to Canada (Banff and Montreal/Prince Edward Island) this summer with friends from Texas! Holy Land spring 2025, anyone?
19. I'm a social introvert, which means I enjoy being around people, and I also need time alone to recharge when my social battery is depleted.
20. I love stories- yours, movies, novels, TV, ... tell me a story! My top fandoms include, but are not limited to: Harry Potter, Marvel, Outlander, Lord of the Rings, and Disney
21. Language and culture both fascinate me! My Duolingo streak is over 600 days; I am studying German and reviewing Spanish.
22. I value experiences much more than things; my top love languages are Quality Time and Acts of Service.
23. My brain does not remember verbal instructions or requests, so please write them down and kindly remind me of meetings/plans.
24. My music taste shifts with my mood and is rather eclectic; most EDM, metal, or anything that's more noise than melody and lyric makes me anxious.
25. I embody the phrase, 'jack of all trades, but master of none'; I'm a nerd with many and varied interests and a 'don't knock it 'til you try it' attitude, so chances are we have something in common. Let's get together!

## "Called to Serve" Stories

How is YOUR ministry living out their call to serve? This year, we the Eastern North Dakota Synod are highlighting the ways in which ministries across the Eastern North Dakota Synod are serving in their local community. These stories are shared in "Connections" our E-Newsletter and on our Facebook page. All that is needed is 1-3 sentences and 1-3 photos. If you know of a ministry in the congregation that could be highlighted, write a few sentences and snap a few photos and contact one of your pastors.

### Faithful Conversations: Discovering Common Language

The EaND Synod Advocacy & Action Team invite you to their next Faithful Conversation on LGBTQIA+. This will take place on Sunday, January 8th at 7:00pm on zoom and livestreamed to our synod Facebook page. There will be speakers and a chance for Q&A. Previous Faithful conversation have been held on Hunger and Poverty and Homelessness.



**FAITHFUL CONVERSATIONS:**  
Discovering Common Language

2nd Sundays at 7:00pm

November 13th: Hunger & Poverty  
December 11th: Homelessness  
January 8th: LGBTQIA+  
February 12th: Immigration  
March 12th: Anti-Racism  
April 16: Climate Change (3rd Sunday)



## By the Leading of a Star

"O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen." Prayer of the Day for Epiphany of Our Lord ELW page 21.

Each year, 13 days after Christmas Day, Epiphany comes on January 6th. On this day we remember the journey of wise men from the east who came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." At the beginning of the Season of Epiphany these travelers come to show us that the birth of this child is not just a local matter. The coming of the Messiah to Bethlehem is not just news for the people of Israel. This baby, recognized by foreign dignitaries and heralded by the very stars in the heavens will be a savior for the whole world.

All through the season after Epiphany more and more is revealed about Jesus. Who is he? How will his coming change the World? How will his coming change our relationship with one another? How will his coming change our relationship with God? How will his coming fulfill the prophecies of old and fulfill the promise made to Abraham and his descendants? Epiphany invites us to ponder these age old questions.

Epiphany and the season after invite us to let our faith lead us. We are invited to "come and see" who Jesus is and be changed by what we find. We are invited to be overwhelmed with joy, as the wise men were, when we encounter Jesus. We are invited to discover the great gift of love, forgiveness, and redemption that Christ's coming brings. We are invited to let God reveal his Son to us and let him change our lives. Then we are invited to go out into the world and share this good news with everyone we meet!

Epiphany Blessings,  
Pr. Susan Haukaas

## Christians in Action - Year in Review

Christians in Action is a partnership of eight ELCA congregations working toward a first set of common goals. Highlights from 2022 include:

November 2022 - Welcoming Pastor Stephanie Gossett as Associate Pastor of English and St. John's. Pastor Stephanie was ordained November 13, 2022.

Posting of a position description for a Director of Youth and Family Ministries. Applications are being accepted through January 15, 2023. The position is posted at [NDChristiansAct.org](http://NDChristiansAct.org) and on the ELCA Youth Ministry Network.

October 2022 - Discussing the possibility of inviting a pastoral intern to learn and serve in the partnership for the 2023-24 academic year. The application to host an intern is due at the end of January so each congregation council has time to consider how they would like to be part of the internship process.

Creating a shared Google Workspace to enhance communication among congregation leaders. When this is complete, each congregation will have access to shared documents, calendars, and resources. A shared website with links to individual congregation websites is located at [NDChristiansAct.org](http://NDChristiansAct.org)

September 2022 - Season of Creation worship series. A shared preaching and worship series invited all the congregations to celebrate God as creator. A preaching schedule through February 19 is being developed to ensure that each of the congregations has appropriate worship and preaching leadership ready for each Sunday whether or not a called pastor is serving the congregation.

August 2022 - Lutheran Pastor Paul Oman visited Jamestown and Kulm to create artwork that is owned by the congregations and brings the Bible stories of the Feeding of the 5000 and Jesus Blessing the Children to life. This was an extension of the Lenten worship series *Drawn to the Word* and a painting event for confirmation youth and adults in May.

November 2021- June 2022 - Following a discernment process, our congregations chose common goals to support ministry in our communities. Goals address the areas of Core Personnel, Sharing Resources, Recruiting and Equipping Lay Leaders, Marketing, Administration and Support, and Expanding Area Outreach.

Congregations participating in Christians in Action:

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

### ***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.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:30am Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	<b>2</b> Church offices closed	<b>3</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	<b>4</b> 10:00am Preschool Chapel 1:30pm Preschool Chapel 4:00pm 6th and 7th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm CIOH Board Meeting	<b>5</b> 6:00pm Council Meeting 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	<b>6</b> 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Cen- tennial Hall	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	<b>9</b> 12:00pm JAGST MEET- ING	<b>10</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	<b>11</b> 10:00am Preschool Chapel 1:30pm Preschool Chapel 4:00pm 6th and 7th Grade Confirmation	<b>12</b> 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	<b>13</b> 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Cen- tennial Hall	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	<b>16</b> News Letter Deadline	<b>17</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	<b>18</b> 10:00am Preschool Chapel 1:30pm Preschool Chapel 4:00pm 6th and 7th Grade Confirmation	<b>19</b> 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	<b>20</b> 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Cen- tennial Hall	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	<b>25</b> 10:00am Preschool Chapel 1:30pm Preschool Chapel 4:00pm 6th and 7th Grade Confirmation	<b>26</b> 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	<b>27</b> 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Cen- tennial Hall	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	<b>1</b> 10:00am Preschool Chapel 1:30pm Preschool Chapel 4:00pm 6th and 7th Grade Confirmation	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	<b>3</b> 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Cen- tennial Hall	<b>4</b>



## Story of impact: Care Packages for College Students

Way back in August the Jamestown ELCA congregations shared a booth at the University of Jamestown Block Party. As they walked by UJ Students were flagged down and encouraged to scan a QR code. When they scanned the code they were able to enter their information in order to receive a care package during finals week. Lots of the students had questions and some were even incredulous:

*“I’m not a freshmen. Is this just for freshmen?” NOPE! All students can sign-up.*

*“What do I have to do to get the package?” Just give us your info! The package will be delivered to campus just before finals.*

*“What’s the catch?!” No catch, we just want you to feel loved during finals week!*

August was a long time ago! Some of those students probably forgot they scanned a QR code all those months ago. In the meantime the churches have been busy preparing. First there was a call for leftover Halloween Candy! Then there were tags to take and items to buy: a case of soda, a box of microwave popcorn, hot cocoa packets, goldfish crackers, cookies, and a little cash to cover extra expenses. All these donations piled up in preparation!

Then on November 30th, confirmation students from Atonement and Immanuel Lutheran gathered for the assembly. 300 boxes were assembled and filled with treats to give tired students energy as they prepared for finals. A prayer was printed on stickers and placed on the lid to give encouragement:

*“God of wisdom, be with the students of the University of Jamestown as they prepare for their final exams. Help them to focus as they study, give them confidence in their work, and reassure them when they feel anxious or frustrated. When their work for the semester is done, give them peace and good rest during the break. Grant them safe travel and bring them safely back to school. Amen”*

Thank you for your contributions to this project. Thank you for giving love and encouragement to weary students at a stressful time. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in the world!



Assembly



Delivery

## **Church Members in Care Centers**

*If you know of others, please let the office know.*

### **Rock of Ages – Nursing Home – 252-9292**

Erna Duvall

### **Roseadele – Memory Care**

Beverly Lawler

### **Eventide Nursing Home**

Leroy Barnick (memory unit)

Rinalde Diede\* 2070 (temporary)

Helen Gushwa

Gloria Mueller- (memory unit)

Jean Nording

Deloris Sam

Bonnie Weatherly

### **Eventide Senior Living**

Shirley Olsvig

Gertrude Pryor

Erika Schultz

### **Ave Maria**

Lila Hennings

Lillian Meyer

Marva Miska

Lois Peplinski

Elsie Robyt

Lucille Kennedy

Grace Walz

Carol Weispheening

Albert Wolf

### **Heritage Center**

Gladys Ley

Vera Dominick

Herb Meyer

Doren Zinke

### **Edgewood Nursing Home**

Alice Wolf

Alleen Buetow

Sharon Greensteiin

### **Eventide on 8th Care Center Fargo, ND**

Avis Halverson

Joy Thede (Linden Tree)

### **Bismarck**

Lillian Gunsch

Jeanne Ziegelman

### **East Grand Forks**

Doris Orr

### **Eldridge Nursing Home**

Betty Frigen

### **In their Homes**

Margie Gilbertson

Deloris Moser

Norman and Catherine Roemmick – Fargo

## **Council Highlights**

The Church Council met on December 20th, one week after the scheduled meeting due to the weather. In addition to approving the minutes and financial reports, several year end administrative items were passed including the housing allowance/furnishing allowance for the pastors, the renewal of a CD with Dacotah Bank, and setting the withdrawal percentage of the Tax Credit Endowment Fund. The CIOH budget was received for the annual meeting and the council received the draft of the St. John's Mission and Ministry plan for 2023 from the Budget Team. The proposal was discussed and will be brought back to the Jan. meeting. There was a brief Christians in Action update given by our local coordinator Char Freeberg. The council also heard a verbal report from Pr. Weber about the status of Child In Our Hands since the Director Jane Lin stepped down and requested a leave of absence. Staffing remains critically short and two rooms have been closed. The Infant Room and the Preschool continue to operate. Next Meeting Jan. 5th



Thank you to everyone who participated in the reverse advent calendars in November. Items were delivered to the Salvation Army and State Hospital in early December.



**In Memory of:**

Leon Boehm  
 Sheila Braun  
 Robert Steele  
 Robert Steele  
 Clyde Christy  
 Orville Franke  
 Robert Steele  
 Robert Steele

**Given by:**

Charles & Connie Wells  
 Charles & Connie Wells  
 Charles & Connie Wells  
 David Morlock  
 Deloris Christy  
 Carl & Sandy Franke  
 Carl & Sandy Franke  
 Darwin & Pauline Roeske

# Giving Matters

**ATTENDANCE**

	In Person	YouTube Live	YouTube recorded
December 4	100	17	85
December 11	81	22	64
December 18	118	27	90
December 24	69	Not on Line	
December 24	116	50	108
December 25	27	17	59

November income: \$ 21,839  
 November expenses: \$ 24,336

**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.

**January 2023**

**Radio January**

January 1 Pam Golde and Linda Misemer  
 January 8 (AVAILABLE)  
 January 15 Gail Falck  
 January 22 Steve Hallberg  
 January 29 Pauline Roemmich

**Flowers January**

January 1 Pam Golde and Linda Misemer  
 January 8 Erin Paulson  
 January 15 Gail Falck  
 January 22 Steve Hallberg  
 January 29 Pauline Roemmich

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

**2023 Offering Envelopes**

As of Dec. 27th, our envelopes are still in production, with a February estimated arrival.

Please be patient– We will get them out just as soon as they arrive.

If possible, please consider signing up for electronic giving. If you give regularly and give the same amount, it is a great time saver for the church and cuts down on human error.

It is quick and easy to sign up and can be changed by contacting the church office.



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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 Permit No. 1  
 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

**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 5, 2023  
 10:15 am  
 Annual Report Available  
 For pickup after  
 January 23rd, 2023

