



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

## The Messenger

(Monthly publication)

JULY 2020



Dear friends in Christ,

We are well into the summer season. The sunshine, green grass, bright flowers, and warm breezes are a welcome respite from the long dark months of winter. Being able to spend time outside has a positive impact on my life. Tending my flower beds, weeding my garden, and taking care of my lawn have a very therapeutic effect for me.

It is my sincere hope that this letter finds all of you in good health and high spirits. If you are at all like me, you miss the interaction with others. Sure, we have a myriad of communication options, but virtual conversations will never replace a face to face conversation. Although St. John's has returned to in-person worship services, it doesn't feel quite the same. The sanctuary is still nearly empty and social distancing is encouraged while social interaction is discouraged. But it does feel good to worship in God's house again. Forgoing coffee hour is a tough one for me. For true Lutherans, that is second only to no communion.

If you have been reading my letters over the past several months, you know that I've been encouraging peace, patience and calm. God has reassured us through multiple passages with "do not be afraid". Consider how Job, through all his trials and tribulations, kept his faith and was delivered from his troubles in the end. Amid this Covid-19 pandemic and the recent social unrest, I urge you to keep your faith. These trials, just as all the trials that have befallen mankind before us, will pass. We can always count on God to deliver us from our distress.

As I was standing in my back yard this afternoon with the warm summer sun shining on my face and the gentle breeze bringing the sweet smell of summers' new life to me. I could not help but recall the words of Psalm 118:24;" ***This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it***".

Let us all rejoice and be glad in every day.

God's Peace to All,  
Gary Staab  
Congregation President



**Whither Goes Worship?**  
 Whither is a great old word that simply means “to what place.” You know that you are among language lovers if the Thither, Thence, Whither, Whence group can be explained. (to that place, from that place, to what place?, from what place?). So to ask the question whither goes worship is to wonder what will worship look

like in the future. Where are we going? And what could it look like when we get there?

We are moving out a reactive phase of worship where we were suddenly jolted into shutting down sanctuary worship and focusing all our energy on supporting the radio broadcast for the community. We simplified our liturgy and welcomed neighboring congregation leaders to lend their voices to the airwaves. Now the Presbyterians and the Congregationalists are resuming worship in their own sanctuaries and St. John’s is again able to accommodate a limited number of people at worship. We are back to wondering what makes for authentic, faithful worship for St. John’s in the months ahead. Where are we going?

It is important to note a few items- We evaluated offering live streams for worship but quickly recognized that we do not have the infrastructure to do it well. Our internet speed is woefully inadequate and we lack quality cameras and a way to tie into our current sound system easily. We have not given up on the idea, we are just trying to make sure that we do things right. We are contacting companies to see how higher speed internet can be brought to the facility (it is harder (more expensive) than you think because of the sea of concrete around the building). We are imagining how to produce a worship service for broadcast, rather than just film a wide angle of the room. We are wondering about the timeline for implementing changes.

We currently have a 9 am worship service on Sunday that is broadcast live on the radio. We have space for about 40 household units including worship leaders. When we get to a point of having more people wanting to come to the sanctuary, we are seriously considering a Wednesday service as the second service to be added back into the mix. Logistically that would be easier than trying to disinfect the building between two Sunday morning options. Right now, Pr. Lucas and I are considering a regular Wednesday worship service as an integral part of confirmation programming on Wednesdays. One thought is that we would video that service for rebroadcast on Sunday mornings, with some supplemental material.

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**Living Water for Justice**

This has been a chaotic five months and I am ready for this to be over. There has been much loss, unknowing, and shifting outside of any comfort zone. In the last five months, I lost all of you. All the groups and events in which we can connect...put on hold. Unknowing what our communities will look like after Covid-

19 and social injustices staring you in the face and unveiling your own deep brokenness.

What is happening in the Twin Cities in these last couple of weeks once again reminds me of the uncomfortable truth that in our society, we have the “haves” and “have nots” and that even though I have suffered and been disappointed many times, there is no doubt that I received many advantages. It seems like we know and need Jesus more than ever. Throughout Jesus’ time they faced a social system that comprised of the “have” and “have nots” that is still here to this day.

In the story of Jesus and the Samaritan women, where a Jew (Jesus) is not supposed to associate themselves with a Samaritan, Jesus says to her in John 4:13-14, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

When we are baptized in the baptismal waters of the living God, we are reminded that we are all a part of the body of Christ. When a part of the body is suffering, we too suffer. We all have purpose and a calling to be the light and life to the world.

Overall, we have a long way to go for us to heal the deep wounds that generational racism has caused. Through all of the mixture of emotions of shame and guilt, I am reminded that even though Jesus was in the middle of social unrest, he was still able to show us the love we need to know we are enough and the grace to keep moving forward.

What has been going on in the world IS NOT a movement that “as a predominantly white denomination” we are put in a category of Nazism, KKK or slave owners. Yet, this is a movement of humility and recognition that people have not received the same love and grace from our communities based on the simple distinction of the color of their skin. This is the point where many of us struggle (including myself) and is where our defensive mechanisms kick in. However, I would like to challenge you to pause, take a breath, and listen to why the African American community feels as marginalized from our society decades after the Civil Rights Movement. We will not be able to heal our world overnight. However, recognizing our brokenness, receiving God’s grace, listening with each other as Christ’s disciples and living out sacrificial love to our neighbor we can strive for justice at peace.

Pr. Lucas

### *Continue Pr. Erik Article*

As a pastor who likes to look down the road, I am genuinely concerned about how sanctuary worship will return and what worship in the future will look like. Rhythms and habits are hard to change. For generations people came to worship every week. In past decades, many people consider active worship as showing up once or twice per month. We have now had three months of worship from home either by appointment with the radio broadcast or as needed through webcasts. How will the next generation of worshipers sing praise to God? I don't know. But I look forward to following where the Spirit leads. Whither goes worship? To the glory of God.

Pr. Erik



Storm Damage from June 7th Winds

### **Financial Check In**

Member giving to support our ministry at St. John's has been steady through the first five months of 2020. We are slightly behind last year in total dollars contributed, but our expenses are significantly lower because of canceled program activities during the pandemic. We are entering the summer with enough cash on hand to not repeat the reduced hours for staff that we implemented last year. Our ability to access the Paycheck Protection Program and to use the funds as they are intended has made many things easier for the council this year.

In mid-March, we had no idea how the congregation would respond. Thank you to everyone who has found a way to continue to share God's abundance with the congregation. We also acknowledge and reach out to those who have seen their household incomes fall because of closed businesses and layoffs over the past few months. Let one of the pastors know if there are ways that St. John's can help you.

### **COVID-19 Casualties**

Thankfully, we have not had any local deaths so far due to the pandemic, but people we know have been seriously affected. We have also had to suspend more than a quarter of the years programming to date. We just look back at some of the things that we have missed.

- Annual Palm Sunday Breakfast fundraiser for the youth
- Holy week and Easter Worship
- Annual Women of the Church Rummage Sale Fundraiser
- Annual Mother's Day appreciation by Sunday School
- First Call Theological Event for Pr. Lucas
- Confirmation Sunday (now rescheduled for Sunday Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, Reformation)
- Graduate Recognition Sunday
- Preschool Promotion party for Child in Our Hands
- Weddings postponed, rescheduled, or modified
- Pr. Erik's sabbatical
- Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly (postponed to Aug. 14 -16).
- Evangelism Team summer Music on the Lawn
- Elementary week at Camp Metigoshe
- Jr. High week at Camp Metigoshe
- September Jr. High Castaway retreat
- September Sr. High Castaway retreat

When these are set alongside all of the cancelations in our personal lives, it is no wonder that we feel a persistent sense of loss. God gives us resilience to continue to face each day. In the midst of all of these losses there have also been signs of new life and ministry.

Child in Our Hands battled through as an essential service provider in the midst of health and economic uncertainty. St. John's served sack lunches for seven weeks during the depths of the shutdown. We have, with the support of neighboring congregations and organizations, begun to offer hot meals every Tuesday for anyone in the community that is hungry. We are in conversation about sharing resources with a neighboring congregation in need for the good of the community. Even as things we know and love have stopped, signs of new life are all around us.





## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

### June 2020

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

#### Tuesday

10:00 am Staff Meeting  
5:00 pm Churches that Care Meal to go

#### JULY 2020

7/1 6:30pm Dialogues on Race  
7/6 Church Offices Closed  
7/8 6:30 pm Dialogues on Race  
7/9 5:30 pm Executive Meeting  
7/10 Thomas Bruns and Jenna Van Ray Wedding Rehearsal  
7/11 Thomas Bruns and Jenna Van Ray Wedding  
7/12 12:00 pm Dear Church Book Discussion  
7/14 6:30 pm Council Meeting  
7/15 News Letter Deadline  
6:30 pm Dialogues on Race  
8:00 pm Dear Church Book Discussion  
7/19 12:00 pm 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat - St. John's Lutheran Church –Centennial Hall  
7/22 6:30 pm Dialogues on Race  
7/29 6:30 pm Dialogues on Race

**Call the church office for more updates 252-1198**

## Council Recap

The council reviewed our current financial life, including modifications to the Paycheck Protection Program that increased the covered period from 8 weeks to 24 weeks. This should allow all of the funds received by St. John's to be eligible for the conversion to a grant.

The council reviewed the first two weeks of sanctuary worship and are satisfied that we are taking appropriate precautions and are safest in continuing to encourage people to worship on the radio.

The council received the Synod Nominating Committee report that named the seven identified candidates for the August Bishop's election (including Rev. Kristina Weber). The council authorized the renewal of the faith formation specialist's position for the coming year. Jennifer Allmer held the position last year and is eligible to continue if she chooses.

The council heard updates on the leadership team conversations with First Congregational United Church of Christ in Jamestown. Our conversations are leaning toward a partnership in ministry through subcontracted pastoral support for worship, administration, and pastoral care.

The Loss Mitigation Report from our insurer was reviewed. The council will evaluate options to make the required safety upgrades to the van or look to replace the van with something new(er). Our current van is 22 years old with 110,000 miles. Additional Loss Mitigation items were turned over to staff to develop and implement. Pr. Erik shared that the annual membership review is underway and will continue through the summer.



Pr. Erik, Pr. Kristi, celebrate Oscar's graduation from St. Olaf.



A new Urn Pall for use at funerals



Refreshing the Restrooms off of the lounge



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

**Readers:** Jim Ritter, Ann Ede, Shelly Moltzen, Tara Kapp

**Ushers:** Rick and Tara Kapp, Tonya, Braxton, and Kyler Perkins, Terri Bostan, Char Freeberg.

**Messenger:** Tom Enderle and Walter Klundt

Special thanks to those who decorate the church, insure the children bags have books and activities, 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.



**Fit for the Journey**

**FROM**

**FOR**

Russ and Gwen Geiszler	Fred Guthmiller Jr.
Curtis & Darlene Goehner	Fred Guthmiller Jr.
Mary O'Meara	Fred Guthmiller Jr.

**Congratulation**

**Pr. Lucinda and Dustin**

Prosper Wallace Lien (boy)  
 Born 6/15/2020 @ 3:38 am  
 Weighing 6 lbs 11 oz and 19.5 inches long.  
 Mom, Dad, and baby are doing fine.



**BAPTISM CLASS**

*please contact one of the pastors*



**Sponsorships**

**Radio July**

July 5	Walter Perleberg Family
July 12	St. John's Endowment Media Legacy Fund
July 19	Bob and Pat Fennern
July 26	Lynette Kriedeman



**If you would like to sponsor a Radio Broadcast or Altar Flowers please contact the church 252-1198**

**Flowers July**

July 5	Carl and Sandy Franke
July 12	Brian and Erin Paulson
July 19	Bob and Pat Fennern
July 26	Lynette Kriedeman



**May - June 2020**

May	30	25
June	7	24
	14	22
	21	

May giving: \$26,358

May Expenses \$27,415

**CHURCH MINISTRY**

**Deaths**

Fred Guthmiller - died 6/1  
 Douglas Schlager - died 6/6

**BAPTISM**

None





Greetings and god bless all,

Instead of talking about each classroom individually this month I am going to talk about the center as a whole. This last school year was without a doubt a test of our strength as a staff and as a family. We have been through so many changes since January and it has just been a bit of a roller coaster ride.

This year started out like any other year: preschool was in full swing, staff was in their normal classrooms and all was well. During the month of January, we had a fire that shut us down for a few days. Staff had to spend three days cleaning and we had to restructure all of our emergency plans. Enter COVID-19 during the month of February and a full-fledged world panic. During the month of March CIOH nearly operated without a director for a month as I was pulled away to Washington state for a family emergency, and was required to quarantine for 14 days when I got back. In the month of April while I was still in quarantine the state shutdown schools switched to online and preschool was cancelled for the year. Mrs. Ford had to put together a preschool packet to help parents with preschool at home. Then comes May we drove to houses to celebrate our preschoolers who are graduating and moving onto kindergarten, and our center was operating with a total of 13 kids of essential families.

Fast forward to today and with the help of the state emergency grant, and new protocol CIOH is thriving! We are financially stable, our center is full, and everyone is happy and healthy. That is more than I could ever ask for. Things were without a doubt different this year, and I believe we can all pray that next year will be so much better, but we are prepared if they are not. If it wasn't for the staff, their creativity, their flexibility, and their willingness to put our family's needs before their own. We would have never of made it through this disaster of a year.

With all that being said our summer is in full swing, our summer program has started, we had our first water day, we were able to attend kite fest, and we've already eaten tons of popsicles. We are ready to make this summer one for the books.

Our preschool registration is open for the 2020 school year and we are running our 2-day, 3-day, and 5-day programs as usual. If you or someone you know is in need of part-time preschool please send them my way for more information.

We hope everyone has an amazing summer and we will talk to you next month about more of our summer fun!

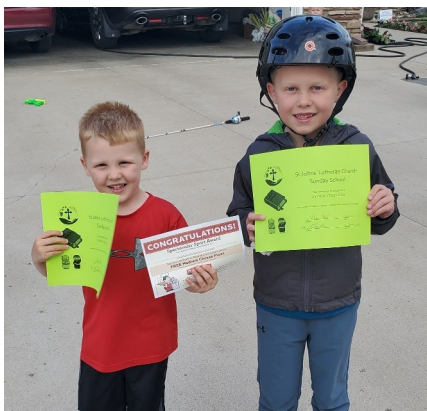
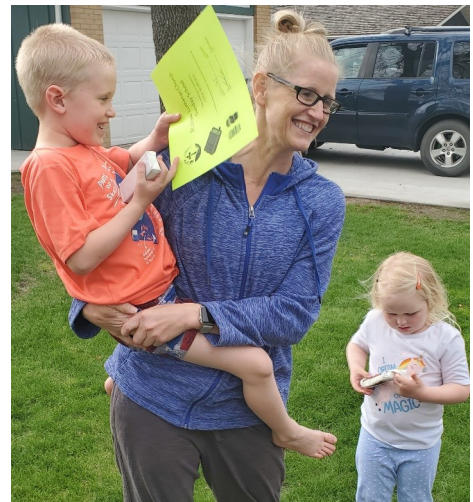
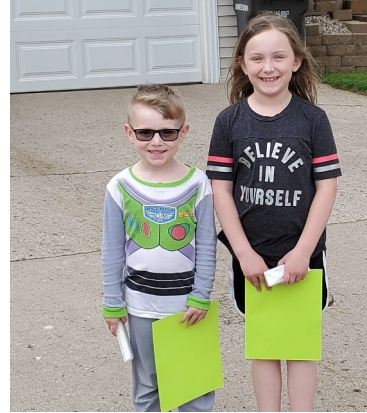
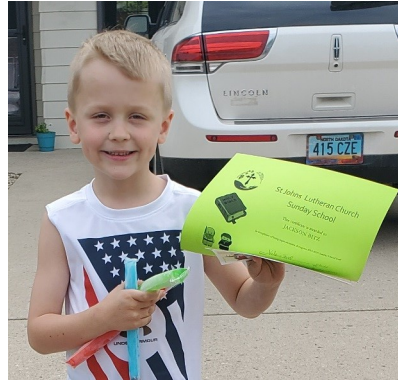
Sincerely,

Torrey Herrington,  
CIOH Director.





# ***END OF SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION***



***Great Idea for  
Social Distancing  
And Celebration***

***Sunday School Year End***



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Dialogues on Race	29	30 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Churches that Care Meal	1 6:30 PM Dialogues on Race	2	3	4 Independence Day - Offices closed 7/6
5 9:00 AM Worship	6 Church offices closed - Independence Day	7 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Churches that Care Meal	8 6:30 PM Dialogues on Race	9 5:30 PM Executive Meeting	10 Thomas Bruns and Jenna VanRay Wedding Rehearsal	11 Thomas Bruns and Jenna VanRay Wedding
12 9:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Dear Church Book Discussion	13	14 5:00 PM Churches that Care Meal 6:30 PM Council Meeting	15 News Letter Deadline 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Dialogues on Race 8:00 PM Dear Church Book Discussion	16	17	18 10:00 AM Jamestown Community Prayer - First Assembly
19 9:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat	20	21 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Churches that Care Meal	22 6:30 PM Dialogues on Race	23	24	25
26 9:00 AM Worship	27	28 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Churches that Care Meal	29 6:30 PM Dialogues on Race	30	31	1





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  
 10:45 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)

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

**Senior Pastor**  
 Erik Weber  
 701-320-3151

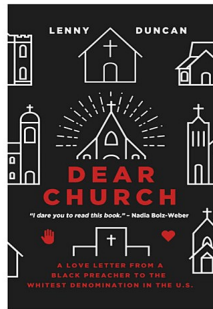
**Associate Pastor**  
 Lucas Holsten  
 651-334-4494

**Admin Secretary**  
 Gem Saied

**Custodian**  
 Frank Perleberg

**Child In Our Hands Director**  
 Torrey Herrington

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



**Dear Church Book**

Discussion  
 A Love Letter from a Black  
 Preacher to the Whitest  
 Denomination in the US

Discussions on:  
 July 12th at Noon

**OR**

July 15th at 7:30 pm

**Dialogues on Race**

One Weekend Option  
 Saturday June 27,  
 8 am - 1pm  
 Sunday June 28,  
 Noon—4 pm  
**OR**  
 Wednesday at 6:30 pm  
 Beginning July 1 for 7 weeks