



St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

The Messenger

(Monthly publication)

JUNE 2020

A Plan for Sanctuary Worship Beginning May 31st

We believe that God is fully present with us wherever we are. It is pleasing to God when we offer praise and thanks in our homes or in a church, whether we are alone or gathered together.

Things are *not* back to normal. We want everyone to be healthy and safe.

Please continue to worship on the radio as long as the virus is active.

However— if you are healthy and choose to come to St. John's for worship, there are plans for you to do so beginning on May 31st.

At St. John's, we want: **1) to continue to offer Radio Worship for the community and encourage people to stay socially distant, 2) to begin to welcome people back to sanctuary worship, and 3) continue to be able to have CIOH operate as they have done through the pandemic. (not put center operations at risk through public use of facility).** We will continue to closely monitor North Dakota and Stutsman County trends and be committed to following applicable community guidance for phased re-openings. We will be aware of guidance from the Western and Eastern North Dakota Synods, the CDC, and North Dakota Department of Health. We will make informed decisions to mitigate risk and to provide an opportunity to worship. In general: We would like to see Stutsman County confirmed cases declining for 14 days. (or holding steady at 0-1 cases per day or less than 3-4 per week). If daily or weekly cases begin or continue trending up, we would postpone or suspend Sanctuary worship even if we have restarted.

If you come to worship, expect to continue to follow strict social distancing guidelines for everyone in the building and expect to abide by the same standards that every child and employee of the Child Care Center and St. John's staff have been following since March:

- **Take temperature upon entry**
- **Answer the Daily Screening Questions**
- **Sign In to assist in contact tracing**
- **And In Addition: Wear a mask**

Only offer worship at 9 am

Follow new building traffic pattern to have all enter through Office double doors

Pews would be marked off to maintain distance

No coffee hour and fellowship will be discouraged

Initially limit to 40 household units participating each week (1st Come).



Radio worship seating

Sanctuary worship will continue to be modified as conditions change.



“I wish that we could do it over...” That is one phrase that I don’t want to make in the coming months. It is one that I don’t want the council to have to face. It is not one that I want anyone at St. John’s to have to utter. We want to return to sanctuary worship, but we know that

things are still far from normal and nobody can predict when it will be completely safe. At council this week, I shared a brief video from a congregation that held a worship service that led to two members becoming infected with COVID and dying. The words of a leader of that congregation were echoing in our sanctuary (where we were meeting), “I wish that we could do it over.”

We want to worship together. We want to make sure people are safe. Those two ideas are constantly in tension these days. So we do the best that we can with the information that we have. We know that it would be safer for everyone to not invite anyone back to sanctuary worship. We also know that worship on the radio is just not the same and that people want to gather. What is at stake is how we show love for our neighbor.

As we open the sanctuary for worship (on or after May 31st) we will show our love for our neighbors by taking some basic steps that are both common sense and simple. We will take temperatures for everyone entering the building. We know that people can be infectious without running a fever, but this will be a simple step upon entry to the building. We will record who is present in case someone shows symptoms later so that everyone can be contacted. We will ask four simple questions (the same ones that parents answer for their children everyday at drop off time at Child In Our Hands). And we will expect everyone to wear a mask in the building. The mask protects our neighbor and is a sign of our love for our neighbor.

What keeps me up at night these days is the fear that I will be infected and not show any symptoms. I already chart my contacts with others and try to set an example by wearing a mask when I am out in public. Nobody wants worship at St. John’s to be an opportunity to catch or spread this infection and nobody wants to find out that they were the connection to someone else getting infected. Together with God’s help, we will persevere and make it through this pandemic.

Pr. Erik



Being Ecumenical during a Global Pandemic. In our nation’s history, during times of national crises communities often show resilience and willingness to serve our neighbor. I remember when I was in 7th grade after September 11th 2001, the Red Cross was flooded with people willing to donate their blood and plasma,

churches were packed, and tithing to religious organizations and non-profits was a part of the norm.

Twenty years later, we are in the face of a global crises and anxiety over our nation’s economy. We are once again called to show an overflowing amount of love to our communities. However, we are called to show love in different ways. The most commonly viewed way is by wearing a mask. The mask you wear is not meant to protect yourself, but to protect the people around you. Wearing a mask decreases the chance to spread your own germs. Yes, wearing a mask might be uncomfortable, obnoxious and sometimes hard to remember. We must continue to wear a mask to keep our community as healthy as possible, though we might not think how helpful it really is, it is necessary.

We have many different churches in the community that have very different theological beliefs and traditions. Many of the church’s leaders are connected through a Jamestown Ministerial Association, where we come together and provide ministry across different religious denominations.

Even though the pandemic has produced its own challenges, we have been able to practice churches partnering in ecumenical leadership in the community. Ecumenical means an acknowledgment that even if we come from different faith backgrounds; we are all a part of the body of Christ. We can share in worship or ministry opportunities and show unity as Christians.

We have seen this in a few ways at St Johns, first by the radio, where we have invited the United Presbyterian and First Congregational Church on the radio. Not only are they participating in our 9:00 am radio service, but we sometimes change different points of the service to fit their worship traditions like the Presbyterian version of the Lord’s Prayer.

It is easy for different traditions to get stuck on certain theological beliefs, but one thing that we can get behind is feeding our community. For the past month, St Johns has offered their space to the community for dinners on Tuesday nights between 5:00 pm – 6:15 pm. Churches in the community are able to host a to-go dinner. So far, the community event launch has been successful and has drawn up excitement in the congregations that have already participated.

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As a preamble to this month's letter, I would like to acknowledge that it is a little bit rambling. I blame that somewhat on the fact that I am tired. Not physically tired, I am getting plenty of rest. But emotionally tired. I find myself wishing that I could help everyone who is struggling with the current situation and the knowledge

that there are limits to my abilities. I take comfort in knowing that collectively we are strong. I ask each of you to reach out to others and share your strength. You will be amazed at how that will rejuvenate your body and soul. - Gary

Dear friends in Christ,

How are you dealing with the pandemic? My observations show such a wide range of reactions that it is difficult to determine what is right and what is wrong. Some people follow the advice of the politicians, others put their faith in the advice of the medical professionals and scientists. This is further complicated by the internet. Too many people are convinced that if it was posted on Facebook it must be true.

Many of you are afraid. This is certainly a reasonable reaction to anything that we perceive may do us harm. Rational fear, to a degree, can be beneficial. For example, it keeps us from doing dumb things like picking up a snake or putting your hand on a hot stove. Conversely, irrational fear can cause irrational behavior, such as hoarding three years' worth of toilet paper.

Some folks seem to be in denial. I was in Menard's the other day and I could not help but notice how few customers were wearing any type of face mask despite all the advice that we've received from medical professionals around the world. Across the country, including North Dakota, we are seeing protests from groups demanding that the restrictions be lifted. These folks seem to believe that they are somehow immune from what is going on,

Like most everyone, I am becoming tired of the new rules. I am tired of not being able to do the things that I once considered normal. I am tired of wearing face masks whenever I go out in public. I am tired of Zoom meetings and not being able to greet people with a handshake. I miss not being able to travel to see my children and grandchildren. Even though they were not scheduled until summer, I miss the future events that have already been canceled.

We are ready to return to "normal". But we may not be ready to return to what "new normal" will look like. Recently, St. John's Council approved opening our Sunday services to all beginning May 31st. This may sound

like a return to normal, but it may not feel like it. There will be screening as you enter, face masks will be required, social distancing guidelines will be in place, and, perhaps the most disturbing to true Lutherans, no coffee hour.

I have lived most of my adult life with the philosophy that I will do my best to control that which I am able to control, all else I will put my trust in God. It is much easier to give up than to give your all. But I believe that God expects us to do our part. God expects us to make good choices. God expects us to apply our intellect and common sense. Last month I wrote about the book of Job. Through all his trials and tribulations Job never gave up, and his faith in God never faltered. In the end, he was rewarded.

Yes, I am afraid. Yes, I am tired. But I will continue to do my best to control all those things within my ability to control and I will not falter in my faith in God. Because I know that out of the darkness and chaos of this pandemic, good will surely follow.

God's Peace to All,
Gary Staab
Congregation President

Continue Pr. Lucas Article (page 2)

Which makes me think, how can we practice being ecumenical in other ministries, worship, or educational opportunities? Are we able to be welcoming of other traditions in order to be more affective in loving our neighbor? The truth is that with all the decades of traditions and "the way we do things around here" it sometimes is difficult to work together. Yet, in our worship services and community dinner we can be a great example showing what ecumenical can look like in Jamestown. Through the same baptismal waters, we are all called to be disciples of Christ, which means that we do need to make sacrifices even if it is uncomfortable. We are reminded that this isn't "our church" but rather God's Church. God is at work through all our ministries, for one purpose, to shine love throughout His creation even if that means we have to wear a mask to do it.



Pr. Lucas

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

June 2020

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

Tuesday

10:00 am Staff Meeting

June 2020

6/4 5:30 pm Executive Meeting

6/9 5:00 pm Evangelism Meeting

6:30 pm Council Meeting

7/6 **CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED Independence Day**

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

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has reviewed and returned the computer database update sheets that were mailed out in April. Anyone who works with databases knows that errors can creep in and, once in place, can go unnoticed or unchecked for a long time. It takes you a minute, it helps St. John's to stay up to date with contact information and important dates in life.

Congratulation 2020 Seniors



**Cody Burkle, Jaden Christ,
Malik Krahler, Mason McIlonie,
Braidy Otterson, Charlotte Reimers,
Mikah Striefel**

Due to the CDC restrictions we are not able to celebrate your graduation in person. Please call the church office 252-1198, Monday—Thursday 8:00 - 3:30 and pick your Bible, and visit with one of the pastors, share your plans, update your address, phone number.

Council Recap

Review of April Financials- Income and expense nearly identical based on expenses being held below normal due to cancelations and postponements.

Update on Paycheck Protection Program: St. John's was funded April 16th. Our program runs until June 15th. We are carrying the deposit as a loan on our books for the time being and transferring funds that are expected to be eligible for conversion to a grant. Still awaiting information on conversion process.

Our insurance agent came to the Executive meeting and gave us an update and our renewal information. Premiums increasing less than \$10 per month. Received a Loss Control report with items needing attention. Will be fully reviewed at next Exec meeting. Our building is now covered at @ \$5,000,000 if there was a total loss.

St. John's has applied for an ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant. Grant awards are made in the fall. The grant is to support the weekly feeding program with equipment and supplies.

The Council authorized paying our musicians as scheduled (even though we are currently only offering one worship service per week.)

The Council designated a team to begin leadership level conversations with First Congregational Church UCC about cooperative ministry opportunities.

The Council discussed at length how and when to reopen the sanctuary for worship. A draft plan aiming for May 31st was presented. All plans continue to be driven by changing local COVID rates.

The Executive committee authorized gathering bids for a new stove for the kitchen.





Pianist: Rachel Williams, Connie Wells, and Mark Wolf

Acolyte: Bennett Goehner, Anya Bostan, Jackson Seckerson, Chloe and Maddie Holstad, Braxton Perkins, Ty Kapp, Maddie Ede, McKenna Miller, Jaeger Roemmich, Nate Walz, Marissa Molten

Readers: Jim Ritter, Tonya Perkins, Shelly Moltzen, Sandy Franke, Joan Enderle

Communion Assistant: Joan Enderle, Jim and Paulette Ritter, Carl and Sandy Franke, Char Freeberg, Cindy Wolff, Ann Ede,

Ushers: Bill Ebele, Jolene Baltrusch, Tom and Gale Scherbenske, Joyce Wilkinson, Jerry and Darlene Michel, Gary Lauf, Lloyd Landscoot, John Mayer, Arlene Bitterman

Communion Prep: Altar Guild, John and Cindy Kleven, Cindy Wolff, Joan Enderle, Mary Klundt and DeLanda Kollman, Jim and Paulette Ritter

Projector: Lynn Krueger, Char Perleberg, Connor Ede, Bobby Landscoot, Hannah Sjostrom, Aaron Kleven, Andrew Walz, Jaxon Miller

Van Drivers: Dan Dockter, Tom Enderle, John Kleven, Don Walz, Howard Weispenning Jr.

Sunday School: Teachers, Parents, Jennifer, and teenagers.

Special Volunteer: Lynn K. for sanitizing the sanctuary.

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.



Sponsorships

Radio June

June 7	Wanda Kruger
June 14	Deloris Christy
June 21	Leah Mitchell Family
June 28	Pam Golde



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

Flowers June

June 7	Brian and Erin Paulson
June 14	Deloris Christy
June 21	Leah Mitchell Family
June 28	Steve and Deb Tompkins



May 2020

May	3	15
May	10	15
May	17	15
May	24	15

April Income \$26,325.80, expense \$26,663.14

BAPTISM CLASS

please contact one of the pastors



CHURCH MINISTRY

Deaths

None

BAPTISM

None



Greetings and God Bless all,
I hope all are well, and you are all enjoying the warm weather and taking full advantage of getting outside! I know we sure are here at the center! Noah's ark has been super quiet as we have only had two friends in this room for the past month. But that doesn't mean we have been very bored! This room got to make the cutest Mother's Day gifts. They painted a clay pot and planted a flower in it. They also made mom a potholder with their handprint as well, it read "moms' helper!" They have also enjoyed many walks outside as well as romping all over the playground.
Our toddlers have had to deal with a little bit of change in their room as we have switched up their normal teachers a bit. Ms. Sayge was moved from child care to toddlers and they are keeping her on their toes. We also welcomed Ms. Jayla back from college and she will be helping us through the summer. These young bucks have been doing a good job of keeping up with our toddlers and keeping them very busy. They have been doing tons of art projects as well as walking all around town. They have been focusing on Give me five in the room as well, which are their class rules. Eyes for watching, ears for listening, lips zipped, hands still, and feet quiet. They have done such a great job at following these, which is not an easy task for a 2-year-old!

Child Care has been missing their preschool class, and all of their friends. Many of our friends in this room have been staying home in order to help with our COVID-19 pandemic. Our friends who have still been coming cannot wait for things to get back to normal. We have still been going about our normal routine in this classroom, it just seems to be more quiet than usual. We have at least had some of our school age friends join us since school is not in session. These friends set great examples and help us keep our little ones out of trouble. They all work so well together on activities and projects, and our little friends cheer on our bigger friends to get all their school work done! We enjoy watching these two age groups merge and take care of one another. They truly are one big family, even when they argue a bit!

It has been such a weird time period for child care. Drop offs at the door, having to take temperatures before entering a classroom, and not seeing all of our friends. We really can't wait for everything to return back to normal, but until then we will keep enjoying the company we have and make memories!

As we prep for next year with the hopes that we will be able to have preschool we have opened up enrollment for the 2020/2021 preschool year. If you or anyone you know is in need of preschool please send them our way! Thank you and God bless!

Torrey Herrington, CIOH director
director@st-johnspreschool.org





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00 AM Worship - Radio	1	2 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00-6:15 PM To Go Box Meal	3	4 5:30 PM Executive Meeting	5	6
7 9:00 AM Worship - Radio	8	9 2:00 PM Rock of Ages birthday party 5:00 PM Evangelism Meeting 5:00-6:15 PM To Go Box Meal 6:30 PM Council Meeting	10 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	11	12	13
14 9:00 AM Worship - Radio	15	16 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00-6:15 PM To Go Box Meal	17	18	19	20 10:00 AM Jamestown Community Prayer - Atonement Lutheran
21 9:00 AM Worship - Radio	22	23 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00-6:15 PM To Go Box Meal	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 AM Worship - Radio	29	30 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00-6:15 PM To Go Box Meal	1	2	3	4 Independence Day - Offices closed 7/6



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

Email: 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

Coronavirus Adjustments

**Stay up to date by checking the St. John's Website
for daily updates and the most accurate
information.**

**St. John's will be following CDC guidelines
for public gatherings.**

**Please continue to Worship on the Radio
as long as the virus is active**

**Radio worship continue 9 am Sunday
on AM 600 KSJB
Bulletin available on the
Church website**