



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

## The Messenger

*(a monthly publication)*

March 2023

### First Communion Class

All 5th graders or older youth who have not yet had 1st Communion are invited to join Pr. Stephanie for a class on March 26, 2023 at 10:30 am (following the service)

Faith ready children who are not yet in 5th grade are welcome to ask to participate as well. Visit with one of the pastors.



## First Communion

### New Member Round-Up

If you are new to St. John's since 2019, we would like to formally welcome you to this community of Faith. Join Pr. Erik on Sunday March 19th at 10:15 for a conversation and orientation.

This could include people who wish to transfer from another congregation, people who have been regularly worshipping at St. John's but are now ready to join, and those who used to be active, but are now returning to this community.





## I'm a Lutheran: Alice Opp

I grew up at the UCC church in Medina. It was a German congregation. I got married young, at 18. My husband Art was teased for marrying someone my age and he said, "I'm marrying a young one, so I can train her." Yeah, right!. I'm a Lutheran because I married a Lutheran. My mother just about had a fit. She grew up Baptist. Well, I met Art at a dance, and later he asked me to a movie. He said that from the first time he saw me he knew, "That's the girl I'm going to marry." I sure didn't think that. It was a good marriage. We spent a year in Jamestown after we got married. In 1953, we attended St. John's where I went through W.W.A. Keller's adult confirmation class.

After that we moved to the farm and I did the milking and field work. I spent 5 years working at the school as a teacher's aid. We started attending English Lutheran and I can tell you that I never thought that I'd be an organist there. I was teaching piano and at one time had 24 students. I don't have any idea how I did it. When we arrived the music teacher at the school was the organist, and he asked me 3 times to come and be the accompanist for the choir before I said yes. He said he would help me out if needed. That was in 1957. Well, he left Medina in 1958 and that's when I started to play. I took 4 months off to have a baby and we had an organ student for a year, but other than that I kept at it (until I fell last year). I struggle with walking now, but I'm not a complainer. I accept the way it is and go from there.

God has always been important to me. My faith grew when Art got bone cancer at age 41 and we dealt with his changing health. We were both able to live with the idea that whatever happens...happens. My number one priority continues to be my family. I believe that Jesus Christ came to save me even though I am a sinner. He always forgives us if we ask for it. I pray every day. I have a long list. It's in a notebook. In the morning I give thanks for protection through the night. I pray for my congregation, family, the pastors, for people I know and people I don't- like refugees and people in Ukraine. I wonder if our churches will ever be the same- since COVID so many people have left. My favorite bible story is the birth of Jesus- and the crucifixion. If it weren't for that, we wouldn't have and hope.

If I could change anything, I would be more active again with the church ladies. I'd love to play the organ again. For me music is relaxing. I love to just sit and play/hear the music. I love music and have for my whole life. When I was 8 or 9 I remember playing the piano. I like it all, except for hard rock. I'm not a traveler, after 2 days on the road, I'm ready to return home. I've visited California and Washington, and Texas when Art was in the service. And I've been as far east as Minneapolis.

## Stories of Impact

Every week at Trinity Lutheran you will find small, colorful, buckets set out along the railing and floor of the Tech Deck. As worshipers enter the sanctuary they reach into purses and change purses and drop coins into the buckets on their way to their seats. Later in the service the children will be invited to “bring the noisy offering forward”. That’s when the excitement begins!

Kids from 2-10 head to the back of the sanctuary. There’s usually an usher trying to monitor how many kids are coming back. There’s a shifting of coins from bucket to bucket. Sometimes there’s only a few kids in worship and everything gets consolidated. Sometimes there’s a lot of kids and coins need to be distributed into more buckets so everyone has a bucket to carry. Sometimes when there’s not enough buckets there’s a mad dash to get a couple of clean coffee cups. Eventually though the parade of kids and coins begins.

At the front of the sanctuary the BIG bucket waits! Some kids quickly dump their coins. Some take the coins out of their bucket and transfer a bit at a time. When all the buckets are collected the pastor carries it to the altar with the offering plates. Sometimes a late comer doesn’t get a bucket and gets invited to carry the big bucket up to the altar.

The noisy offering supports the ministries of the Eastern North Dakota Synod. These ministries include Red Willow Bible Camp, Park River Bible Camp, Christus Rex campus ministry at UND, Crossroads campus ministry at NDSU, Dacotah O’Yate Lutheran Church on the Spirit Lake Reservation, The Way (Native American Christian Ministry), South Sudan Lutheran Church in Fargo, and our partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In 2022 all those coins added up to \$1389.68. All from pocket change and little hands eager to bring it forward. These colorful buckets and small gifts teach generosity to our children.



# PREVENT SHINGLES

## WHAT IS SHINGLES?

Shingles is a painful, blistering rash that can take 2 to 4 weeks to clear up. Most people that get shingles experience acute pain, and may describe the pain as aching, burning, stabbing, or shock-like.

**99.5% of people 50 years and older already have the virus that causes shingles inside of them.** 1 in 3 people will develop shingles in their lifetime.

Shingles may lead to long-term complications such as debilitating pain that lasts for months or even years. In rare cases, serious, long-term eye or hearing issues can occur.

## HOW CAN I PREVENT SHINGLES?

### Get Vaccinated.

SHINGRIX (Zoster Vaccine, Recombinant, Adjuvanted) is an FDA-approved vaccine for the prevention of shingles in adults 50 years and older.



**CALL CVHD (252.8130) TODAY TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT**



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**SHINGRIX is \$0 for almost everyone.**

**NEW!** \$0 with Medicare Part D, \$0 for 95% of privately insured

## We are Half Way There!

St. John's and English are recipients of a mini-grant from Central Valley Health to provide monthly Public Health awareness posters, inserts, and comments. Each month we report how many copies of the provided material were shared. You have probably seen things in the newsletter, on bulletins and pre-worship announcements. Grant payments will be distributed this summer.



Easter Lilies are available at a cost of \$15.00 each. If you would like to share a lily with the congregation to decorate the church for Easter Sunday April 9, please fill out the form below and drop in the offering plate or turn into church office. The plant(s) may be taken home after worship service on Easter Sunday.

I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lily(s) at a cost of \$15.00 each

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

would like the plant in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

would like the plant in honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

WILL PICK UP ----- DONATE -----

ORDER DUE DATE APRIL 2

## Thanks to Our Volunteers

Gem says 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. Pr. Erik and Pr. Stephine share the same feeling.

## Christians in Action – Youth and Family Ministries

Among the 8 congregations of the Christians in Action Partnership, there are approximately 220-240 youth in middle and high school. Upcoming events for youth include a Bowling Event on March 5<sup>th</sup> in Jamestown. So far, approximately 40 youth from 6 congregations plan to participate.

Looking farther ahead, a summer mission trip for up to 25 high school youth and 5 adult chaperones is being planned as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration of Lutheran ministry in the Central African Republic and Cameroon. Two days of service work in Minneapolis and a celebration with international guests and participants from around the country are planned for early July.

Even farther ahead, middle school youth will participate in the Synod CastAway retreat in September 2023. High school youth will travel to New Orleans in July 2024 for the ELCA Youth Gathering.

All these events take coordination.

In November 2022, a position description was posted for a Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. Applications were due in February.

The anticipated timeline for the search process to unfold looks like this:

**February 2023** – The search team will review applications.

**March 2023** – Initial interviews will be conducted via Zoom.

**Late March or April 2023** – In person interviews with finalists will be held.

**Spring 2023** – Once an offer is made to a candidate and they accept, then a start date can be determined.

**Summer 2023** – The Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries will begin serving in our communities to coordinate large group events such as those named above as well as coordinating local events for youth from our congregations.

Thank you to Carson Bayer, Julie Fischer, and Dana Kolden from Atonement and Brent Berry, Addison Mansavage, and Jay Oettle from Trinity for serving with Pastor Kristi Weber on the search team.

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

### Christians in Action Youth

Games and Tye-Dye

Sunday, April 2, 1-3PM - English Lutheran Church- Medina, ND

Cost \$10 (covers shirt, supplies, and food)

Look for a Registration link on Realm or contact Pastor Stephanie!

## What Do You Notice?

*“Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become Jesus’ disciples?” John 9:27*

When you read the Bible, what do you notice?

When you hear part of the Bible read to you, what do you notice?

When you see an image of a story from the Bible, what do you notice?

Jesus often used stories to teach and to help people remember what they heard. Some of these stories are called parables. Parables can be long or short. They often have a way of getting into your head with something unexpected. You notice the unexpected and it stays in your memory. The respected people who walk by the injured traveler in contrast to the outsider who stops to help. [Luke 10:25-37] Or the person who scatters seeds in places where they are unlikely to thrive (a path, rocky ground, among thorns, and then in good soil.) [Matthew 13:1-9]

John’s Gospel also uses stories to teach and to help people remember what they heard. These stories tell details about people who encounter Jesus and whose lives are changed by their experiences. A woman who meets Jesus at a well and tells her whole community that Jesus is the Messiah. [John 4:5-42] Or a man born blind whose sight is restored by Jesus and then tells his story again and again to people who don’t seem to believe him. [John 9:1-41]

During Lent, on Sundays listen to the gospel stories from John. Hear the different people who encounter Jesus. What do you notice about the people? How are they like you? How are they different from you? How does Jesus change their lives? How does Jesus change your life?

On Wednesdays at English Lutheran, confirmation students will present different stories from the Bible. They have made posters to tell their stories and will give two minute descriptions of each story. What do you notice when you hear these stories retold? How do the images on their posters help you see these stories in new ways? What details catch your attention?

On Wednesdays at Trinity and St. John’s, artwork from Lutheran Pastor Paul Oman will provide a focal image of different parables. Coloring sheets and art supplies will be provided for you to draw these parables for yourselves. What do you notice in the artwork that highlights a part of the parable you had not paid attention to in the past?

During this season of Lent, let the stories of the Bible make a home in your mind’s eye. Let them linger. Invite the people of these stories to have a cup of coffee with you as you ask them to share their experiences with Jesus. Pay attention to what you notice. Let these weeks of Lent be a time to connect more closely with God.

In Peace, Pastor Kristi Weber

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### Souper Bowl of Caring totals:

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Souper Bowl of Caring. The two week total was \$382

These funds were designated to support Come to the Table hosted here at St. John’s

# Ministerial Acts



† None



† none



† 2/7/2023 Alice Wolff St. John's  
† 2/16/2023 Lorraine Williams St. John's

## Council Members

Lynn Krueger, President  
Char Freeberg, Vice-President  
Jim Ritter, Treasurer  
no-election- Secretary

At Large: John Kleven, Conner Ede, Pam Golde,  
Charlie Wells, David Gasal, Ken Gumke.

### Endowment Board:

Expires 2023: Sandy Franke  
Expires 2024: Gavin Kutz and Cindy Wolff  
Expires 2025: Jennifer Thielges, and  
Brian Paulson

### Synod Assembly

Pam Daugs, Char Freeberg, Lynn Krueger

### Nominating Committee

Pam Golde, Ken Gumke

## Council Recap

In addition to reviewing the past minutes, financial, and pastoral reports the council addressed the Council Secretary position. After having no candidate for election at the Annual Meeting efforts have continued to fill the position. Pam Musland was approached and will attend a future council meeting to see what it entails. If she accepts the council's appointment, she will serve until the next congregational meeting or the next annual meeting, whichever comes first.

Most important conversation of the night: goal for the next 6 months- The council invested significant time in reflection and discernment about what is needed over the next six months before kicking off the next program year. Many ideas coalesced around reconnecting with people and lifting up worship ideas. "like the last Christmas Program" that involve families.  
Additional Items:

Char gave a Christians in Action update- weekly schedules will be added to pre-worship slides at St. John's to communicate our connections and where people are going. Summer worship plans are continuing to be formed. The St. John's Treasure Chest items are now posted. Levensen Organ proposal- No action was taken to approve repairing the chimes. Disposition of Estate Gift- The council discussed the best use for \$36,082 of unrestricted funds received from an estate. A proposal to set aside the funds as a Budget Stabilization account will be developed and brought back to the council. Our insurance renews in June and the valuation of the building has been increased \$1.6 million after our inspection based on current costs. This will translate to an expected \$800-\$1,200 increase in our annual premium. The last corrective measure is installing a GFI receptacle In the Sacristy.



Council Installation at Worship on February 12th



<b>In Memory of:</b>	<b>Given by:</b>
Alice Wolff	LaDona Tarno
Leon Boehm	Brianna Morris and Hunter Boehm
Alice Wolff	Char Perleberg

## 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.

### **Radio March**

**3/5 Lynnette Kriedeman**  
**3/12 Mike & Sherie Gaunski**  
**3/19 Jerry and Darlene Michel**  
**3/26 Alden and Delanda Kollman**

### **Flowers March**

**3/5 Lynnette Kriedeman**  
**3/12 Darwin & Pauline Roeske**  
**3/19 Available**  
**3/26 Alden and Delanda Kollman**

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

# Giving Matters

## ATTENDANCE

	In Person	YouTube Live	YouTube recorded
1/29	73	27	57
2/5	73	23	65
2/12	74	22	56
2/19	85	20	51
2/22 (Wed)	34	3	29
2/26	125	17	41

February income: \$ 34,662

February expenses: \$ 30,791

Point of Reference— If St. John's averages \$32,250 of income in a month we are on track for the year.

### Christians in Action Youth

Games and Tye-Dye

Sunday, April 2, 1-3PM - English Lutheran Church- Medina, ND

Cost \$10 (covers shirt, supplies, and food)

Look for a Registration link on Realm or contact Pastor Stephanie!

## UPDATE- 2023 Offering Envelopes

As of Feb. 21, our envelopes have been sent to the press, with a March 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.





Greetings from Child In Our Hands, Another month has passed here at the center, and we have thoroughly enjoyed our time with the children. We celebrated Valentine's day with treats, valentines and games. It is fun to watch the joy the children show when they hand out their valentines. They remind us that sometimes the simplest acts can be some of the best displays of love.

Staff brought the tunnels down to the ballroom and the kids have been enjoying crawling through them and building forts. We are so thankful for this space that the church lets us utilize. It provides a much-needed area for our kids to practice their gross motor skills. We especially love it on the cold days we experience in North Dakota when we cannot take the kids outside.

We have also done a variety of messy projects this month. Children have painted, frosted, and played in shaving cream. These projects are always enjoyed tremendously by children. We as staff are always amazed at the mess little ones can make in a short time. But we love watching them experience the different textures.

Please add Child In Our Hands to your list of prayers as we continue to look for full time staff so that we can one day build back up to full capacity. Please pray for child care in general as there is a shortage of workers throughout the state. This is leading to a shortage of child care for families. There are many bills being proposed in the legislature to help address some of these issues. Please pray for guidance and wisdom as many people in the state work together to address and support child care.

Sincerely,

Valerie Ford  
Interim Director



### ***Donation***

***As we are entering cold season, Child In Our will gladly take any donations of Kleenex or paper towels. Thank you.***

## Synod connections page

Giving Hearts Day Thank you- Our collective giving to the Eastern North Dakota Synod on Giving Hearts Day 2023 totaled: \$83,924. Thank you for your generosity.

### COMPANION SYNOD

Companion synod relationships of the ELCA connect Lutheran churches throughout the world with ELCA synods and congregations. These relationships are concrete expressions of the communion and fellowship with the more than 140 Lutheran member churches of The Lutheran World Federation. Each of the 65 synods has at least one international church companion and many have additional relationships, resulting in more than 120 companion synod relationships. The Eastern North Dakota Synod's Companion synod is the Central African Republic (CAR) (Easter North Dakota Synod website)

### Centennial Celebrations

2023 will mark 100 years since the first Lutherans arrived from the US to what is now Cameroon. 100 years later there are two Lutheran churches that we, the ELCA, relate to here: the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon (ELCC) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic (ELCCAR). Representatives of these churches are expected to be present at the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly June 3-4 and to participate in a Synodwide worship service held here in Jamestown at St. John's on Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>. Many additional activities are being planned to commemorate the past 100 years and to look forward to the future. God is good!

### Ordination of Rev. Sally Azar

On January 22, Bishop Tessa joined hundreds of clergy from around the world to participate in the ordination of Rev. Sally Azar, the first Palestinian woman to be ordained in the Holy Land. Azar will be serving the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) English-speaking congregation in Jerusalem.



We are grateful for how you walk alongside us as we seek to do God's work in this place. Thanks for your prayers, support and assistance. Peace, Willie, Anne and Micah Langdji ELCA Regional Representatives for West and Central Africa

# MARCH

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday		
26	9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	27		28	10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	1	10:30am Preschool Chapel 1:30pm Preschool Chapel 4:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm Lent Worship and meal	2	6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	3	6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	4	Red Willow Family Fun Day	
5	9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall 1:00pm Youth Bowling Event	6		7	9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	8	10:30am Preschool Chapel 1:30pm Preschool Chapel 4:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm Lent Worship and meal	9	6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	10	6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	11		
12	9:00am Worship - St. John's and 3 baptism 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	13	10:15am Staff Meeting 12:00pm JACST MEETING 6:00pm Council Meeting	14	5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	15	10:30am Preschool Chapel 1:30pm Preschool Chapel 4:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm Lent Worship and meal	16	6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	17	Creative Fellowship 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	18	Creative Fellowship	
19	9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:00am No Sunday School 10:00am Sunday School 10:15am New Members Roundup 10:30am Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	20		21	9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	22	10:30am Preschool Chapel 1:30pm Preschool Chapel 4:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm Lent Worship and meal	23	6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	24	6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	25		
26	9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	27		28	9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	29	10:30am Preschool Chapel 1:30pm Preschool Chapel 4:00 PM Bible Study 5:30pm Lent Worship	30	6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	31	6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall	1		



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

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Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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Permit No. 1  
Jamestown, ND  
58401

## **Worship Services**

Sundays

~ 9:00 am

«AddressBlock»

Wednesday Confirmation

~ 4:00 pm - Worship

## **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

### **Lent Schedule**

Wednesdays at St. John's

4 pm- Bible Study with Pr. Stephanie in the  
Lounge

5:30 pm- Worship in the Sanctuary: Parables  
of Jesus using the artwork of Paul Oman

6:10 pm- Meal following worship

Palm Sunday is April 2nd

Easter Sunday worship will be at 9 am