



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

## The Messenger

*(a monthly publication)*

March 2024

### St. John's hosts the University of Jamestown Choir

The first performance of the Spring 2024 Choir Tour is at St. John's on Sunday March 3rd during worship at 9 am.

All are invited to come hear the choir as they offer selections of their full concert. A free will offering to support the choir on their tour will be received.



Photo credit UJ website accessed 2/24/24

### LENT 2024 Altered by the Spirit

Every Wednesday in March

4 PM at St. John's

Pr. Erik's Bible Study of Total Awesomeness

6:30 PM at Trinity

Lenten Worship

### Holy Week

March 24th– Palm Sunday

March 28th Maundy Thursday  
worship 5:30 pm

March 29th Good Friday Worship  
5:30 pm

March 31st Easter Sunday  
Worship 9 am

## I Am A Lutheran

I was baptized and confirmed at St. John's. When I went to college in Grand Forks I participated in Chi Alpha, a Christian campus ministry program. Now that I'm back in Jamestown, I'm reconnected with St. John's. I'm still a student, taking classes at UJ and I work at Plantation Coffee House and at TRAC.

I found my faith after I left Jamestown and went to college. I felt lonely after moving and got connected with a faith community. It was there that I truly claimed my faith for myself. I made it through confirmation and finished High School with no real sense of belief in God or connection to religion.

I'm studying physical therapy and I am learning so much about the health care system and insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies. I'm fighting for health care and as I train to be a physical therapist. I've become more aware of how systems are set up. I expect to be fighting for affordable access to care in the years to come. My favorite bible stories are those that highlight aspects of God's love. I especially like stories about those acts of caring like healing stories and stories about people encountering God in hard times.

I believe that everybody deserves to feel love and happiness in this life. People should feel fulfilled in what they are doing. I pray that everyone in my life will find happiness and also that I get good grades this semester. I struggle with self doubt and questions about where my life will lead me, and sometimes school. I feel that I really shouldn't have the power to change anything that I want to. That is too big of a decision. But if I could think really big, it would be to end world hunger and give peace.

I'm a Lutheran for no particular reason. I was born into it.

For me music is everything. I listen all of the time. I especially like early 2000's pop and rap. I love traveling and appreciate seeing the different ways that people live and different cultures. It is really interesting to see the unique aspects of people's lives. I like to see new things, things that I don't really see in North Dakota.

Serving regularly at Come to the Table on Tuesday nights has opened my eyes to every different type of person in Jamestown. It has helped me appreciate the things that I have. I see people with disabilities, who can't easily get into or out of cars, people with addictions, and people who are homeless.

People are surprised that I don't like pizza or candy or pop (but chocolate doesn't count).

Kaylee Erickson



## ***Story of Impact- Community Support and Hospitality***

A collapsed roof is never something we want to face. This is especially true when that roof covers a building used daily to provide a place of respite and learning for over 50 individuals.

Unfortunately, at the end of January, this was the situation the people of Triumph Inc. had to face. There was no way they could continue business as usual in their building until the roof was fixed. When the roof collapsed, the director of Triumph reached out to St John's Lutheran Church requesting space, and St John's was happy to offer their fellowship hall.



Triumph Inc. is a local organization in Jamestown that works with people with a variety of disabilities. Their mission is to assist individuals in achieving their personal goals through career development, residential and day development. Most individuals come to Triumph during the morning to get ready for their work day. Then they return in the afternoon to hang out until it is time to head home for the day. Many of the members have found good friends at Triumph, and enjoy having a safe place to spend time together during the week.

The arrangement has worked out nicely. It is unusual to have so many people coming in and out of the church building on a regular basis, but definitely a welcome change of pace. We pray that their roof repairs go smoothly, so their life can return to its normal rhythm soon, but are thrilled to host the people of Triumph until that time. Current repair estimates are for mid-March, or longer.



### **-Souper Bowl of Caring Offerings-**

\$246 was raised for Come to the Table at this year's Souper Bowl offering after the annual meeting. Thank You.



## **Giving Hearts Day**

### **-Giving Hearts Day-**

The Eastern North Dakota Synod received \$76,158 this year on Giving Hearts Day. Thank You.

# Christians in Action Ministry

## What is happening in the background?

Now that all 8 congregations have approved the incorporation of Christians in Action Ministry as a separate non-profit corporation, our congregations are entering a time of filing the appropriate paperwork.

1) Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are being filed with the Secretary of State of North Dakota. These are the documents approved by the congregations at annual meetings.

2) Applying for a Tax ID number with the IRS. This number will allow Christians in Action Ministry to open financial accounts in its own name and have an identity that is separate from individual member congregations.

3) Applying to be part of the Group Non-profit Exemption of the ELCA. Each of the individual member congregations is already part of this group exemption. The founding documents have been set up in a way that should make this step less complicated.

## What is happening in the foreground?

1) A leadership retreat is being planned for members of the councils, board, and existing call committees (Atonement and South: Zion, Montpelier, Christ the King, and Emmanuel) along with the ministers serving these congregations. The retreat seeks to build relationships among the lay leaders and to help increase the number of people who have an updated working knowledge of the goals we share. More than half of the current council members are new in their roles since the discernment process began in November 2021. Three new staff members (Pastor Stephanie Gossett, Deacon Tara Longden, and Vicar Andrew Stephens) have also joined Christians in Action Ministry.

2) Worship during Lent explores the theme: Altered by the Spirit. Each congregation has an approach to this theme on Sundays and/or Wednesdays that is appropriate for their setting. Daily devotion resources are available at [NDChristiansAct.org](http://NDChristiansAct.org) so people can explore this theme more deeply on their own.

3) Monthly events for youth are planned for March 10 and April 26. Deacon Tara Longden (who got married January 26<sup>th</sup>!) is working with the seniors from Jamestown High School who are planning their Baccalaureate service for May 15<sup>th</sup>. Youth who are attending the ELCA Youth Gathering also meet monthly to prepare for this experience together.

Congregations participating in Christians in Action Ministry:

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

## Small Changes



When I was on Sabbatical in 2022 I read the book “Tiny Habits” by BJ Fogg called. It was all about making small changes to improve your life. The argument was that people make their goals too big, too demanding, and too strict. The key to success when you’re making changes is to set small, easy goals. Instead of saying, “I will floss twice a day everyday from now on” a better goal is, “I will floss one tooth once every day.” That goal is so possible that it’s easy to succeed (and hard to fail).

In the season of Lent we often set goals for ourselves. As a part of our Lenten discipline we choose to give something up or start doing something beneficial. This tradition comes from our understanding that Lent, as the invitation to Lent from the ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) states, “is a time for self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love”. Somehow that often translated to giving up chocolate or caffeine or watching less TV. Yet the action without connection to our faith can make the action meaningless.

By the time this article is published we will be roughly 2 weeks into the season of Lent. Two weeks in, many of us have given up our Lenten disciplines. Maybe they were too difficult, too broad, or too easy to forget. Some of us never started anything. The good news is that it’s not too late to do something during this season that helps you to connect with God, helps you to deepen your faith, or to show your love for your neighbor. You could read one chapter of the book of Acts (or another book of the Bible) each day to better connect with our Lenten theme of being Altered by the Spirit (to make it easier you can listen using the free audio Bibles on Bible Gateway.com). You could calculate the total of all your coffee (or other guilty pleasure) purchases in Lent and give that same sum to a food bank or favorite charity. You could pray every time you stop at a stoplight or every time you hear a siren. You could find small ways to show your love each day to the people in your life (a small note in a lunchbox or on the mirror for example). Choose to act or speak kindly to a stranger each day. You could give up some small convenience in order to benefit the earth (take a reusable shopping bag into the store or use a reusable straw instead of plastic).

Choose something small and easy to do. Choose to act with intention. Find ways to connect what you do to your faith. Then when the season is over, look back and reflect on how this new habit has changed you for the better. Perhaps you will choose to carry on! These small actions can help us to live out our gratitude for God’s grace. They can help us to live out our discipleship. Small changes can make us feel empowered to grow and change into the people God has called us to be. The invitation for “self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love” can extend beyond this Lenten season and into our daily lives. May you feel inspired to change in small ways that make a big difference in your life and in the world.

Blessings,

Pr. Susan Haukaas

## Ministerial Acts



† none



† none



## Council Highlight

The St. John's council met on Feb. 13th. The January minutes and financials were reviewed, along with the minutes of the February 4th annual meeting. The council adopted an annual agenda to remind and guide activities for each month of the year. Both pastors gave their reports.

The council assessed the annual meeting and discussed how to fill the vacant positions on council. John Kleven agreed to step into the vice-president role and was elected by the council to serve in that position. Three council members at large remain to be filled. The decision was made to wait to install the council members at worship until the positions are filled.

The council appointed Ronn Fuchs, Shelley Mack, and Connor Ede to the financial review (audit) team.

The council discussed the current state of standing committees and ministry teams post-covid. Priority was given to focusing on the Faith Formation team, worship team, and a mutual ministry team at first.

The council spent time reviewing the goal for this year of communication. Preliminary work was done to fill out some specific areas that can be worked on including updating current contact info, committing to some existing distribution methods, and evaluating new ones.

The kitchen project finances were reviewed and updates given. Current estimates are for mid-May construction to begin. The next council meeting will be March 12th.

### *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 Van Ride to Church

Plans are in motion to begin running the St. John's Van on Sunday mornings for people who want to worship but don't drive. Building a volunteer driver schedule will take some time, as will getting the routes developed. This service may not be available every Sunday at first.

If you would like to ride in the van, please contact the church office at 252-1198 and discuss it with Gem.

## Youth Ministry



Hues of purple, green, and gold covered the city of New Orleans. A sure sign that Mardi Gras and Fat Tuesday are soon upon us. In fact, there were several parades taking place the weekend we were there. I attended the Krewe of Chewbacchus parade on Saturday evening which includes floats that are sci-fi related and everything in between.

During the Extravaganza, I along with some friends participated in a gathering scavenger hunt where we explored all the places we will be at this summer. We walked along the river, checked out the Hilton New Orleans Riverside where our group will be staying this summer, and went into the convention center. The youth attending the gathering will get to participate in a very similar scavenger hunt during the gathering so they can learn more about the city of New Orleans too.

At the Extravaganza, I also participated in workshops on icebreakers, writing great children's sermons and learned more about the Faith Formation Co-op. We also heard from many great speakers on the main stage. There was an excellent video explaining what the TABLE is and how youth can benefit from attending a pre-gathering event like the TABLE. One of the highlights of the event was getting to witness a screen reading of the play "Jabari's Dream of Freedom" written by Nambi E Kelley. It is a powerful story of a young Chicago boy learning about the Civil Rights Era through a dream.

The Extravaganza is also a wonderful opportunity to network and learn about partner ministries throughout the ELCA. Many of our camps, publishing houses, campus ministries, and so much more were represented at the E.

One of my favorite things about New Orleans is the music which was displayed throughout the worship at the Extravaganza. The worship band led us in such beautiful music telling the story of New Orleans and so much more. New Orleans is also known for their fantastic food and culture. We ate everything from jambalaya to red beans and rice with alligator sausage to scrumptious mouth-watering bread pudding to delicious desserts. I cannot wait for the youth to experience the beauty of this city when we head back there in July.

The Extravaganza is a terrific opportunity to learn and grow in your ministry as a youth leader. It is also a great place to connect with other youth leaders. Some of my dearest friendships were started and fostered through the Extravaganza and the ELCA Youth Ministry Network.

I hope that next year I am able to take some of our local youth leaders throughout the partnership with us to Louisville, Kentucky. The 2025 Extravaganza is to be held January 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. I am excited to announce that well-known Christian musician Jennifer Knapp will be one of the musicians for the event.



**In Memory of:** Sandy Franke  
**Given by:** Carl Franke

# Giving Matters

## ATTENDANCE

	In Person
January 28	95
February 4	98
February 11	103
February 14 (Ash Wed)	78
February 18	75
January Income	\$ 19,756
January expenses:	\$ 27,698

## Special thank you From the funeral and co-op leaders

Thank you to all who provided baked goods and helped serve when there is a funeral. They are still looking for volunteers to serve and bake. If this is something you like to do, please contact the office 252-1198

## 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.

### March 2024

#### Radio March

March 3	St John's Media Legacy Fund
March 10	Lynnette Kriedeman
March 17	Jerry and Darlene Michel
March 24	Norman & Arlene Bitterman
March 31	Aldan & DeLanda Kollman

#### Flowers March

March 3	Dorothy Walks
March 10	Lynnette Kriedeman
March 17	Darwin & Pauline Roeske
March 24	Norman & Arlene Bitterman
March 31	Aldan & DeLanda Kollman

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

## Radio Broadcast and Altar Flowers available dates 2024

Please check the list in the Narthex. More dates are available for the rest of the year.

Please contact the church office 252-1198 to check the dates and sponsor either flowers or Radio broadcast. Thank you.



# Kitchen Update

Down Payment Appeal– Thank you to the @73 households that contributed \$112,942 between August 6th and Dec. 31. These funds plus \$20,000 that had been given in past years give St. John’s enough to make the down payment on the Kitchen Project.

Loan Repayment Appeal– Since Oct 1st \$31,085 has been contributed to the Loan Appeal Fund. Thank you to the people who have stepped up and made a faith promise to support the loan repayment through monthly, annual, or one time gifts.

St. John’s has spent \$63,319 since the Kitchen Project was approved (mostly for fabrication of counters and equipment plus some loan fees). We expect to close on the loan in March. Interest will begin to accrue when funds are distributed. Our mortgage payment will begin after completion of the project and all bills are paid, (1st payment estimated in September).

There is still time to make sustaining gifts to the loan payments or a gift to increase the down payment which reduces the final amount we borrow. Please be sure to specify gifts to reduce principal.

Work is expected to begin in May with a four month construction period.

## New Member Round-Up

If you are new or returning to St. John’s we would like to formally welcome you to this community of Faith. Join Pr. Erik on Sunday March 17th 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.



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 March 31st, 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:

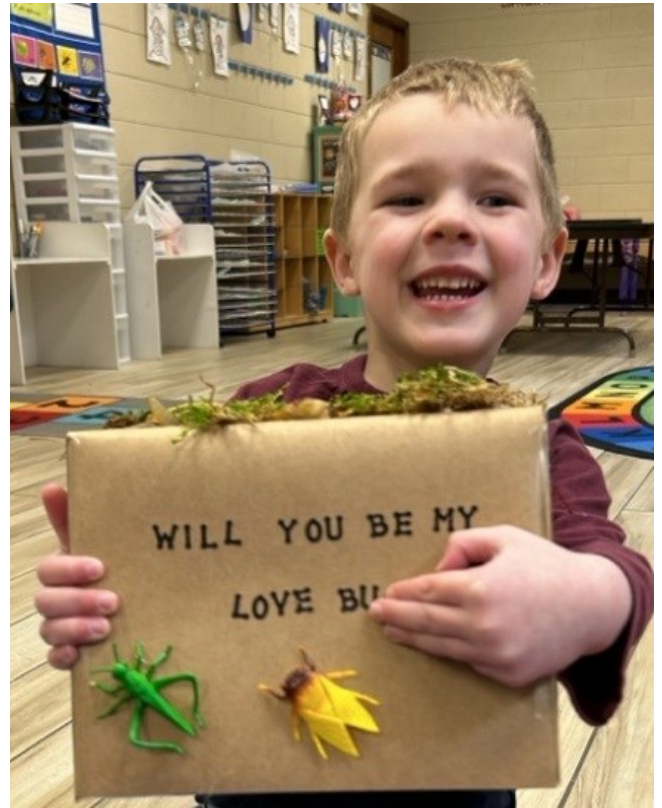
\_\_\_\_\_

would like the plant in honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

**ORDER DUE DATE March 20**



Direct your  
Thrivent Choice  
Dollars  
Today!



If you are a Thrivent Member— please take advantage of designating any Choice Dollars that you have. Both St. John's and Child In Our Hands are able to receive your directed gift. Thank you to everyone who has taken advantage of this program so far this year.



Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
25	9:00am Worship - St. John's	26	10:30am Pre-School Chapel 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel	27	10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal	28	4:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Lent Worship	29		1		2	
3	9:00am Worship - St. John's and UJ Choir 10:30am Rock of Ages	4	10:30am Pre-School Chapel 12:30pm Eventide Assisted Living Communion and Bible Study 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel	5	10:00am Staff Meeting 4:00pm Alar Guild Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal	6	4:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Lent Worship	7		8		9	Christian in Action Retreat - Using STJ van
10	9:00am Worship - St. John's	11	10:30am Pre-School Chapel 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel	12	10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 5:30pm Council Meeting	13	2:00pm Ave Maria Worship 4:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Lent Worship	14		15	Creative Fellowship	16	Creative Fellowship 10:00am Community Prayer Meeting 10:00am Running of the Green
17	9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:15am New Members Roundup 2:00pm Ave Maria Worship	18	10:30am Pre-School Chapel 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel	19	10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal	20	4:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Lent Worship	21	9:00am Jamestown Conference	22		23	
24	Palm Sunday 9:00am Worship - St. John's	25	10:30am Pre-School Chapel 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel	26	10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal	27		28	5:30pm Maundy Thursday	29	5:30pm Good Friday Worship	30	
31	Easter Sunday 9:00am Worship - St. John's	1	Church Offices Closed 10:30am Pre-School Chapel 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel	2	10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal	3	3:30pm Confirmation	4		5		6	



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

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 Organization  
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 58401

**Worship Services**

Sunday

~ 9:00 am

Wednesday Confirmation

~ 4:00 pm

«AddressBlock»

**Holy Communion**

All Worship Services

Church Office 701-252-1198

Preschool/Child Care 701-252-1903

Website: [www.ndchristiansact.org](http://www.ndchristiansact.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

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday March 25 @ 9 am

Followed by Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

Maundy Thursday March 28th 5:30 pm

Good Friday March 29 5:30 pm

Easter Sunday March 31 9:00 am

