



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

## The Messenger

(a monthly publication)

May 2023



Creative Fellowship meets regularly (more photos on page 4)

Mary shares some scrapbooking from the time in Arizona.

### Holy Humor Sunday

Invite family and friends to worship on Sunday May 7th as we gather for Holy Humor Sunday.

Part of life in community is laughter. We can hear God's voice in the unexpected and lighter moments of life.

If you know a joke, or are willing to share a joke, check in with Pastor Erik. Wide participation is encouraged!

It will definitely be a service to remember.

Confirmation class for 6th and 7th graders is winding down for the year. Pastor Stephanie leads a class on Joseph in late April.



## I'm a Lutheran: Rhonda Ferguson



Throughout my life I have been part of four Lutheran congregations: Concordia when I was a young child, Pingree when I was in second grade through high school, St. John's for about five years, and Trinity for about the past forty years.

I found my faith when I was young. My faith became stronger in the last two plus years since my son's near fatal accident. He has had to relearn so many skills such as walking and talking and has made miraculous progress during this time. I have appreciated being able to usher with him and set up for communion at worship services. We have even helped with the projection of the slides during worship so people can see the words of the prayers and the hymns. These may seem like small things, but they are big signs of his recovery.

I retired from traffic sign sales for forty years. I retired just before my son's accident. I enjoy spending time with family and doing things with friends.

My favorite Bible story is Noah's Ark because of the promise that after the rain there's not going to be flooding again that covers the whole world and God has stuck with that promise. To have faith like Noah when he built that ark is amazing. Everyone must have thought he was crazy but he kept at it, doing what God told him to do.

I'm a Lutheran because my parents and grandparents were Lutheran. I never had a desire to change to a different religion.

Serving on the Church Council opened my eyes to how much money is needed to make the organization run. It also opened my eyes to how great things are when people work together.

I was part of the team that worked on a photo directory for Trinity. It was wonderful to connect with people as they made appointments for their pictures and as we called to make sure their contact information was up to date. There are so many people in the congregation that I might not get to know well but talking with them about the photo directory gave us a reason to connect.

### ***Carpenter Needed: Help build some more Faith Chests***

If you have carpentry experience

Or would like to learn- St. John's Lutheran Church would like you to share your talent and help build more faith chests.

Help continue with the tradition of giving a special gift on behalf on the congregation for each baptism

## Synod Connections

On Sunday, April 2, all the area ELCA congregations were invited to join Dakotah Oyate Lutheran Church on the Spirit Lake Reservation for a special Celebration of Ministry service to bless their new worship space! Bishop Tessa and Deacon Erin from were present from the synod office along with a representative from the Churchwide staff. Festivities included a Palm Sunday celebration, new worship space dedication, and a meal.



This was a very special gathering for the community! They have been worshipping together in the same building for many years, and have been anticipating and praying for additional space for their ministry. After the project was delayed by significant roof damage to the church building, the space was finally complete and ready to use.

Tokio Lutheran Mission began as a Baptist ministry for unwed mothers, but was taken over by the Lutheran church in 1956. Over the following decades, the church has helped inspire joy, hope, and healing to oppressed people who often felt worthless. Though he started his relationship with the ministry over a decade ago, through the TEEM program, Pastor Larry Theile went to seminary and was ordained to serve with Dakotah Oyate. Under his leadership, the congregation continues to flourish.



On Palm Sunday, Pastor Stephanie and Char Freeberg drove up from Jamestown to join the worship space dedication and celebration. The service began in the old sanctuary where Pastor Thiele shared a brief history of the congregation. Then the sounds of the drum circle filled the air as the Dakotah Oyate members and guests joyously processed with our palms down the hall to the new worship space.



The presence of the drum circle was very special as they have not always been welcome in worship by former leaders of the congregation who refused to acknowledge native expressions of faith. Pastor Larry explained a bit about how the Dakota culture influences and enhances their worship time and life together. Everything down to the paint colors holds special significance.

Bishop Tessa led the dedication service, which included blessing the altar, pulpit, and font; and a celebration of both our Lutheran sacraments: Holy Communion and Baptism! After the service, tables were brought in, and a celebratory meal was shared. It was a beautiful service and meal, and I am thankful that Char and I made the trip.



## CREATIVE FELLOWSHIP IN ACTION



Each month a group of crafters take over the St. John's Fellowship Hall for a weekend of crafting, visiting, and sharing. Scrapbooking, Card Making, Quilting, and Hand Knitting were all taking place in April. Beginners to Experts are welcome. Bring your own supplies, or just drop by to see what might be needed for a project you have in mind. This is great bunch of people coming together for a time of working next to other people.



Angie, Joy and Maggie are hand knitting Chunky Blankets— It takes about 3 hours to do a 3x4 blanket for those who are experienced. There is a basic pattern, but some can be combined in different ways including a chevron patten and a cable knit pattern. People can do it while visiting, or sitting on the couch at home. They can be made in any size you want.

Rebecca and Sheree spend time quilting- using up all the scraps, given a pattern and it will be quilt at the end. Quilts made by Rebecca are donated to Roger Maris in Fargo. She says, "I can be as creative as I want, do any size that I want." She adds, when there is something that I can't figure out, or am struggling, sometime I think Aha. Jordan was present for the very first time and was being shown some basic quilting techniques.



## Disciples AND Apostles

*After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Acts 1:3-5*

In the days after Easter we encounter the risen Christ. He returns from the grave, triumphantly, and then he spends 40 days with his disciples (those who follow) teaching them how to be apostles (those sent out). At the end of the season, on Ascension Day (May 18th this year) he ascends into heaven. The Disciples return to Jerusalem and wait to become the Apostles. On Pentecost (May 28th this year) they are baptized with the Holy Spirit and are empowered to go out and spread the Good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

This month we are invited to remember that, we too, are disciples, followers of Jesus. We are called, like Peter, James, John, and all the rest to follow Jesus. We are invited to learn from Jesus about how the Kingdom of God has come near. We are commanded, like those who gathered with Jesus at the Last Supper, to love one another like Jesus loved.

Yet, we are also apostles, those who have been baptized by the Holy Spirit and sent out to share the Gospel. Like the women at the tomb, we are sent to "go quickly" and tell everyone that, "Jesus has been raised from the dead!" We know the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. We know many who need to hear this good news! Many who struggle to see joy or hope or love in their daily life. We are the ones sent out to be God's messengers about God's love for all the world. Having encountered the risen Christ, having been baptized by the Holy Spirit, we must be apostles, sent to offer a word of hope and resurrection for a world in need of Good News!

Blessings,  
Pr. Susan Haukaas



## Red Willow Ministries presents: "Holy Trinity, Wholly Love" VBS for all Elementary Age Kids

(Those who have completed grades K-5)

**June 19-23, 2023**

Great news, Red Willow Bible Camp Counselors will be coming back to Jamestown in June to lead Vacation Bible School! Come join all the fun including; camp songs, games, arts & crafts, Bible studies, & so much more!

This summer our theme will be, "Holy Trinity, Wholly Love" VBS is open to all Elementary Age Kids (those who've completed grades K-5) and we will gather at Atonement Lutheran Church **JUNE 19-23 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM daily**

**REGISTER BY May 31<sup>st</sup> - Cost \$10 at**  
<http://www.trinityjamestown.com/vbs>

# Upcoming

**Services for people who have died  
this winter.**

**May 12th– Service for Lois Knudson  
at 11 am**

**May 26th– Service for Avis Halverson**

**June 19th Service for Vera Dominick**

## 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 May

5/7 Gladys Lay  
5/14 Creative Fellowship  
5/21 Curtis & Darlene Goehner  
5/28 Available

### Flowers May

5/7 Gladys Lay  
5/14 Altar Guild  
5/21 Gem Saied  
5/28 Lynn Krueger

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



**In Memory of:**

Lyle Perleberg  
Lois Peplinski  
LaVerne Hunt

**Given by:**

Larry & Julie Perleberg  
Russ & Gwen Geiszler  
Gem Saied

**In Honor of the Perkins Families**

**Gem Saied**

## ATTENDANCE

	In Person	YouTube Live	YouTube recorded
3/28 Wed	27	2	30
4/2	142	21	87
4/6 Maundy Th	26	3	57
4/7 Good Fri	60	3	27
4/9 Easter	180	25	66
4/16	155	22	56

March income: \$ 25,379  
March expenses: \$ 32,943

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

# Ministerial Acts



- + Gideon Samuel Williams 4/16/2023
- + Lucy Jayme Walleen 4/16/2023



None



- + Lois Peplinski died 3/24/2023
- + Ray Herr died 4/3/2023



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Legacy Planning Seminar**  
**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**523 4th Ave SE**  
**Jamestown**  
**Sunday, May 1**  
**4:00-5:00 pm**

There Comes a Time: Planning to Let Go  
You've worked hard all your life to build a home, a family, a career, a business, a nest egg for retirement, some security for the future. And it's not just a collection of stuff or a sum of money. What you've built reflects who you are and what is most important to you. But, there comes a time when you no longer need all that you've accumulated. When that time comes, what will happen next?

On Sunday, May 1 Pastor Keith Pearson, Regional Gift Planner with the ELCA Foundation will be in our area to talk about planning for that inevitable time. You'll learn about the shortcomings of many traditional plans, some strategies to help avoid taxes, and ways to leave a meaningful legacy that reflects your faith and values.  
Legacy Planning Seminar  
Trinity Lutheran Church, 523 4th Ave SE, Jamestown

Sunday, May 1  
4:00-5:00 pm

This event is sponsored by Trinity's Foundation and RENEW Campaign Team.

## Council Recap

The council met April 17th. In the first order of business— Pam Musland was appointed to the office of Secretary until the next congregational meeting. Our insurance agent, Jason Bitz gave an update on the upcoming change in our insurance provider. One proposal is in hand, and more are being sought before June 1st. Problems with ice-dams on the Centennial Hall roof this winter were discussed as well as recognition of Tom Enderle and crew for their snow removal efforts this year. The council agreed with the proposal to open two new money market accounts to seek some interest income from our bank deposits. The Christians in Action update included clarification about an Intern that has been assigned to Gackle and Trinity, starting in January. The Youth Ministry Director candidate is a Deacon and a Call Vote is scheduled at Trinity for May 7th, with a possible start date of July 1st. The Youth Ministry Associate position needs additional congregations to commit funds to make an offer. St. John's has committed our share of funds for both youth ministry positions out of our existing operating budget. Lawn care for the summer was discussed and the first plan will be to schedule congregation youth who want to earn credit toward future youth trips. The volunteer appreciation lunch will be on May 24th, with Pr. Stephanie coordinating a meal.



Child In Our Hands Preschool Registration is now open for the 2023-2024 school year!

We offer two sessions:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 8:30-11:30 AM

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday from 12:30-3:30 PM

Preschool is open for any 3 to 5 year old that is potty trained. Students will experience hands on learning activities, chapel, field trips, and outdoor exploration.

Contact Valerie Ford at 252-1903 or [Valerie.Ford@st-johnspreschool.org](mailto:Valerie.Ford@st-johnspreschool.org) to get more information.



### ***Donation***

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

Mark Your Calendar  
May 14, 2023  
During Coffee Hour  
Celebrate our Graduated  
And Mothers' Day

Our graduate this year  
Carlson Dewald  
Sydney Fisher  
Tamika Holte  
Landyn Kutz  
Mason Lunzman  
Hannah Sjostrom  
Macey Steele  
Robert Walton  
Andrew Walz

Join us and Make this a special day for all  
the mothers and graduates

**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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL  
JOINING THE FUN OF  
THE SURPRISE BREAKFAST





Eastern North Dakota Synod

# Holy Land Trip

with Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth

**February 16-25, 2024**

**Cost: \$3990\***

\*based on double occupancy

- Single room supplement: \$790
- Land only (if booking your own flights) - \$2,840.00 (airfare credit \$1,150.00)

Space is limited.  
**REGISTER SOON!**



## Itinerary

**Day 1, Feb 16:** Departure from USA

**Day 2, Feb 17:** Arrival - Tel Aviv, Galilee

**Day 3, Feb 18:** Mt. Carmel - Nazareth - Cana- Tiberius

**Day 4, Feb 19:** Caesarea Philippi - Golan Heights - Mt.

Arbel - Valley of Doves - Sea of Galilee

**Day 5, Feb 20:** Sea of Galilee - Magdala- Capernaum -

Mount of Beattitudes

**Day 6, Feb 21:** Jordan Valley - Jacob's Well -

Shepherds Field - Bethlehem (ELCJHL)

**Day 7, Feb 22:** Augusta Victoria Hospital - LWF -

Mt. of Olives - Living Stones (ELCJHL) Bishop Azar

**Day 8, Feb 23:** Wadi Qelt - St. George Monastery -

Baptismal Site - Jericho - Dead Sea

**Day 9, Feb 24:** Temple Mount - Pools of Bethesda -

Via Dolorosa - Holy Sepulcher - Jerusalem - ELCJHL

**Day 10, Feb 25:** Departure Tel Aviv to USA

## Payment Plan

**\$300** per person deposit

**\$1000** of the total amount due

on or before October 1, 2023

**Balance** due on or before

December 1, 2023

**For more information visit:**

<https://www.eliastours.com/tours/eastern-north-dakota-synod-holy-land-trip-with-bishop-tessa-moon-leiseth>



# Christians in Action

## Hot Dogs, Nachos, Snow Cones, and Fun at the Circus

April 11, youth and adults from English Lutheran and Trinity were part of the Christians in Action group volunteering at the El Zagal Shrine Circus at the Jamestown Civic Center.

Our group worked in two teams. One team sold hot dogs and nachos to circus attendees in the stands throughout the show. Did you know that people of all ages like to eat hot dogs, but Dads seemed to make the most hot dog purchases?

Darryl sold more than 100 hot dogs during the evening.

The other team made and sold snow cones. Did you know that blue snow cones are more popular than red snow cones? By the end of the evening, the snow cone makers had expanded their talents into red/blue combinations. With the white ice, these were a very patriotic option for snow cone fans.



In addition to having fun and bringing joy to children and adults attending the circus, each youth and adult volunteer earned \$30 toward future Christians in Action partnership events. This is one way to make big events such as the Synod Castaway Youth Retreat in September or next year's ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans more affordable. In total, our group earned \$330 in one evening.

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





St. John's Lutheran Church  
424 1st Ave S  
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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

Mark Your Calendar  
May 14, 2023  
During Coffee Hour  
Celebrate our Graduated  
And Mothers' Day

