



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

## The Messenger

(Monthly publication)

October 2021



Dear people of God at St. Johns,

This past seventeen months have taught me a great deal about myself and the world around me. One of the greatest lessons I have come to realize is the need to have family close by. While you have been like a huge extended family to me, the reality is my wife and I need to be nearer to our parents, brothers, sisters, and nieces. I have spent the last summer in discernment about my gifts in ministry and how God might use them to serve God's kingdom.

I have accepted a call position near Hudson, WI, 30 minutes away from both of our families.

At the same time, I am grieving the end of my ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church and serving the people of God here. St. Johns was my first call. You have taught me how to be a pastor and for that I will always be grateful. I have come to love each of you and I will miss my "family" here in Jamestown.

**My last Sunday will be October 24<sup>th</sup>** and my last day in the office will be the following day, October 25<sup>th</sup> 2021. It has been my privilege to serve as your pastor for the past three years.

Following the Holy Spirit is not easy! Change is challenging but it creates opportunities to grow and find new ways in which we experience Jesus Christ. You will be in my prayers through this transition and excited to think of the amazing opportunities that will be created through the season of shared gifts and talents in the new partnerships of Medina, Trinity, and with various churches in the surrounding community of Jamestown.

When I first started at St Johns, many people asked me why I came here. I gave them the vague answer of being placed here as a new pastor would. I would answer in this way now, St Johns knows how to feed people and feed people well. Through you I was fed by the Holy Spirit, given the grace of God to nurture my gifts, and found this as a safe place to make mistakes. For these reasons and many more I will forever be thankful. You all have the ability to change others people's lives, the same way you have changed mine. "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as (you have done for me.)" 1 Thessalonians 3:12.

Blessings,

Pr

Pastor Lucas and Rachel Holsten

**Farewell and Godspeed for Pr. Lucas and Rachel** will be held on Sunday October 24th after worship. St. John's has been blessed by over three years of ministry with Pr. Lucas and we are grateful for all that God has done for him during this time. As he has been a blessing to us, we send him off to be a blessing to others.



Dear friends in Christ,

This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

**Psalm 118:24**

As I was preparing to write my monthly letter for the messenger, I spent some time looking back at some of my past letters. In doing so it dawned on me that I have spent entirely too much time lamenting on the ills of this world while we are surrounded by so much good. Not to lessen the plights of humanity but its time to rejoice in joys that are so abundant in our lives.

As I'm writing this it's raining outside. What a life-giving gift from God! Did you know that water is mentioned a total of 722 times in the Bible, more often than faith, hope, prayer, and worship. My lawn was brown and seemingly dead most of the summer. The rains that we've received over the past several weeks have returned it to lush green again. I've mowed more in the last couple weeks than I did in the last several months. **Thanks be to God!**

My garden has been doing quite well this summer despite the lack of rain. The deer have taken notice as well and freely partake of its bounty. I must admit I have uttered some disparaging words when I have found stalks where my pepper plants had been or green stubs where my carrots had been growing. But I still have a bountiful harvest of potatoes, onions, squash, and pumpkins. At the same time, I've had the joy of watching beautiful creatures in my back yard and seeing their twin fawns grow to maturity. **Thanks be to God!**

We returned from a trip to Wisconsin at Easter with a new furry family member. Abby, a rescue cat, had been through a very rough time in her life; losing her home, illness, and surgery. She was being fostered by our daughter who gave her love but at the same time had three dogs and a baby in the house. She seemed to find comfort and safety in our laps and ultimately made the journey back to North Dakota with us. Abby has laid claim to our sunroom where she has six windows to watch the birds and squirrels. She has been a blessing to us as we have been to her. **Thanks be to God!**

Fall is the season to reap the bounties that God has bestowed upon us. Crops are being harvested. Many of us are gathering the fruits and vegetables that we carefully tended all summer. Autumn flowers and foliage are at vibrant best, and we get to watch the creatures in our yards and fields begin to make preparations for the winter season that will follow in just a few short months. All is well in the circle of life. **Thanks be to God!**

The lesson that I have learned from this epiphany is that we should not let the woes of the world overshadow the glory of God's work around us. It is good to pray for those less fortunate. It is good to pray for those victims of natural disasters and social injustice. But it is equally important to offer prayers of praise and rejoicing for all of blessings that surround us every day.

Thanks be to God!

God's Peace to All,  
Gary Staab  
Congregation President



## TRANSITIONS



By the time the newsletter is posted, the announcement of Pr. Lucas' departure will be public. I have walked alongside Pr. Lucas during the time of his discernment and have been aware of his call process since I returned from Sabbatical. He is a good pastor and a good colleague, and we are all sorry to see him go. We can all testify to how much he has grown since his arrival in 2018.

I continue to feel called to St. John's and the ministry that we share. I am not looking to go anywhere. We have been through this type of transition before and done just fine. We will do so again.

As of this day, the St. John's Council has not had a chance to meet together to discuss what comes next. We are a different congregation now than when we began the search process that led to Pr. Lucas' arrival. At this moment, we will be taking a deep breath and listening to what God may be up to for future staffing at St. John's.

It is also worth noting that we welcomed back Gem Saied to our staff team in September. Gem had resigned in August and taken another job in the community, but a variety of reasons led her to apply for her old position. During the weeks that the position was posted, we received four resumes, and each person was invited to complete our application to continue in the process. Gem was the only person who spent the time to complete the application. The position that Gem returns to has been modified from her previous duties to take advantage of her extensive skills and knowledge of St. John's systems. Gem is now being asked to take on the member-giving/Contributions areas of our record keeping. She will also continue to be the primary streaming and worship media specialist. To create time for her to fulfill these high priority, highly skilled, tasks, we needed to take some items off her plate. One of those areas is modifying her work week to be from Sunday to Thursday. She needs time without phone calls and walk ins to focus on these duties effectively. That leaves Friday without a person in the office. We are continuing to extend an invitation for volunteers to be present on Friday mornings, so that we can keep the office doors open.

Sabbatical Writings– Kristi and I have finally finished our writing and editing and have published our sabbatical essays online. You are welcome to explore them on the St. John's website. As we move forward with our online worship and community, you will find some of the background to why we are trying to do some of the things that we are doing. The tension will always be how we welcome and recognize the people we can see in the sanctuary and the people who are worshipping online. Take a look at the numbers that we can see in our worship attendance reports as we are trying to convey the scope of our worshipping community.

Pr. Erik







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

**Readers:** Jim Ritter, Gavin Kutz, Sandy Franke, Pauline Roeske, Tonya Perkins, Ann Ede, Tara Kapp

**Ushers:** Bill Ebele, Lloyd Landscoot, Walter Klundt, and John Mayer.

**Communion:** Altar Guild, Pauline Roeske, Jim Ritter, Char Freeberg, Gavin Kutz, Sandy Franke, Tonya Perkins

**Projector/Streaming:** Lynn Krueger, Char Perleberg, John, Cindy, and Aaron Kleven, Camden Kutz.

**Cleaning:** Dan Dockter, Tom Enderle, Glenn Johnson, Lloyd Landscoot, Dan Dockter, Lynn Krueger, Cindy Kleven, and Denise Walton.

**Messenger:** Tom Enderle and Walter Klundt

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



**CHURCH MINISTRY**

**Baptisms**

Naima and Maisha  
Scherbenske Sorey - 9/2

**No Weddings**

**Funerals**

June Batsch –d 8/27  
Floyd Curtis—9/14

**Sponsorships**

**Radio November**

- November 7 Grant and Dona Schmidt
- November 14 Walter Perleberg Family
- November 21 LaDona Tarno
- November 28 Gerald and Marjorie Lippert



**Flowers October**

- November 7 Gem Saied
- November 14 Walter Perleberg Family
- November 21 Burkle Family
- November 28 Charles and Connie Wells



**Radio Available Dates:**

- October 31st
- December 5th





**Fit for the Journey**

<b>FROM</b>	<b>FOR</b>
Grace Walz	Margret McBride
Grace Walz	Matt Weber

**ATTENDANCE**

	<i>In person</i>	<i>YouTube Live</i>	<i>YouTube recorded</i>
<i>August 15</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>August 22</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>78</i>
<i>August 29</i>	<i>69</i>		<i>42</i>
<i>September 5</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>67</i>
<i>September 12</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>September 19</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>48</i>	

**Income for August: \$28,358**  
**Expenses for August: \$38,261**

**CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS – October**

For most up to date calendar visit St. John’s website

**Sunday Worship**

9:00 am          Worship in person and Online

**Tuesday**

10:00 am        Staff Meeting  
 5:00 pm          Come to the Table meal

**Wednesday**

4:00 pm          Confirmation

**October          2021**

- 10/5    6:00 pm          CIOH Board Meeting**
- 10/12 6:30 pm          Council Meeting**
- 10/13 Noon            FINAL RSVP for volunteer appreciation**
- 10/15                  News Letter Deadline**
- 10/24                  Farewell for Pr. Lucas**
- 10/27                  Confirmation banquet**
- 10/31                  Confirmation Sunday 9 am**

**No Women of the Church Bazaar this year**

**October is Endowment Awareness Month**

Did you know that every time we celebrate a baptism at St. John’s, the family receives an invitation to receive a matching gift to a special **Mission Future 4 Kids** account in the child’s name? That matching gift comes from the St. John’s Endowment Fund. Setting aside small amounts regularly adds up over time. Many grandparents and parents make special gifts to children so that they will have resources to use in the future-whether that is for education, a wedding, or starting a business. As a congregation we try and encourage financial health for our children. We can do this because people in the past set aside some resources for us today. We hold those resources in our endowment.

An endowment is nothing more than funds or property donated to an institution to produce income. St. John’s has three Endowment Fund Options that are all available to provide ongoing support to the mission and ministry of the congregation.

**IRA Required Minimum Distributions**

If you have money in an IRA or other retirement account and are required to take a distribution this year...

Did you know that you can avoid taxes on that distribution if you tell your plan provider to send your distribution directly to St. John’s?

This is a great option if you don’t need the distribution for your current living expenses. Ask your plan provider for information and consult with your tax professional for guidance.



**Women of the Church Quilters appreciation**



**Quilters Appreciation Event  
1st Day of Sunday School  
The church Picnic at McElroy Park**



**Employment Opportunity  
CIOH Director**

Child In Our Hands is currently seeking applications for a full time Center Director. Responsible for overall, day to day operation of three room child care and pre-school. Train and manage staff, set instructional objectives, create and maintain a positive work environment and develop a nurturing culture for children, staff and families. Qualifications must include one of the following: A bachelor's degree in the field of early childhood education or child development; A bachelor's degree with at least six months of experience in a child care center or similar setting; An associate's degree in the field of early childhood education or child development with at least six months of experience in a child care center or similar setting; An associate's degree with at least one year of experience in a child care center or similar setting; A current certification as a child development associate or successful completion of a department-approved diploma program with emphasis in early childhood or child care, with at least one year of experience in a child care center or similar setting. Send resumes to: Child in Our Hands Attn: CIOH Board 424 1st Ave S Jamestown ND 58401  
[ciohboard@st-johnspreschool.org](mailto:ciohboard@st-johnspreschool.org)

**Volunteers Needed**

In order to keep the church office open  
On Fridays, we need one person  
To cover from 8 am to noon.  
It is important to keep the doors open  
For those who come to pick up food,  
welcome Triumph volunteers,  
and put the Altar Flowers.  
If you can spare one Friday a month,

Please call the church office,  
or sign on the calendar outside the Gem's  
Office



**October 10<sup>th</sup> The Gathering Worship Service**

Next July, we are sending our youth to the Twin Cities to "The Gathering"

Many people have asked, how can I support our youth who are going?  
This is one great way, our special offering on October 10<sup>th</sup> will be devoted to nurturing our high school youth with this amazing experience!!!

Come to worship, support our youth and learn about what "The Gathering" is all about!



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

**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)

«*nameline*»  
 «*address*»  
 «*city*», «*state*» «*zip*»



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

**Senior Pastor**  
 Erik Weber

**Associate Pastor**  
 Lucas Holsten

**Admin Secretary**  
 Gem Saied

**Custodian**  
 Frank Perleberg

**Child In Our Hands Interim Director**  
 Val Ford

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

***Confirmation Sunday  
 October 31st***

***On this Reformation Day we welcome  
 the young adults who are affirming  
 their Baptism.***

***One Service at 9 am.***

***Confirmation Banquet Wednesday 10/27***