



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

## The Messenger

*(a monthly publication)*

October 2023

### TURNING THE CORNER

At the Special Congregational Meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup>, two criteria were lifted up to proceed with the Kitchen Remodel project. The first, and we thought the most difficult, was to have the down payment in hand of \$100,000. Which we do!

The second was to secure an intention of ongoing support to meet the expected loan payments. We are turning the corner from a down-payment appeal to an ongoing intention to support the project.

We are asking if you are able to provide ongoing support for the first 3 years of this project. We expect that it will cost the congregation about \$2,600 per month to service the debt. Broad participation makes this a very manageable payment.

Please prayerfully consider an annual, quarterly, or monthly amount of support that we can count on over the next three years. Your indication of participation moves St. John's and the Council one step closer to signing construction contracts and ordering equipment.

Please return the enclosed Repayment Participation Sheet to the offering plate or Church Office at your earliest convenience. Thank you again for your contribution to the down payment and for your consideration of ongoing support.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Erik Weber



As of September 18th over \$61,000 new dollars have been contributed to the Kitchen Fund since August 6th.

Down Payment gifts are still welcome.

The Church Council appreciates the show of support in the Down Payment appeal and now shifts to indications of ongoing support.

The inserted Repayment Participation sheet can be returned to the offering plate or church office.



## ***I'm a Lutheran: Tena Lawrence***

Trinity Lutheran has always been my church. As a child, I attended Sunday School at Trinity, took sermon notes in the balcony with my long-time friend, and was confirmed at Trinity. My girls were confirmed at Trinity, and now my great-nephews are in confirmation classes at Trinity. I was baptized with my cousin in a Lutheran church in Minot, and interestingly, Pastor Norm Anderson (who later officiated my wedding) was the minister that baptized me!

Currently I am the Executive Vice President at the University of Jamestown but soon to be a retiree! I have been blessed with two long-term and rewarding careers where coworkers often became close friends. I don't really feel I "found" my faith. I feel I learned my faith. Though the faith I know now is certainly different than the faith I had as a Sunday School or confirmation student. I think our faith grows in different ways as we go through various stages of our lives. One thing that does not change is what we learned as 3-year-olds – Jesus loves us.

As a true conflict avoider, I don't think I would say I am "fighting" for anything. And I am lucky that I live in a place where I am not forced to fight for what I believe in. I will always work to support what and who I believe in and am not afraid to communicate my opinion.

Picking one as a favorite Bible Story is hard! I know it would be one from the New Testament. Since I have been participating in the Christians in Action lay ministry, I have learned so much about Jesus. The stories I find most meaningful are those where he is telling us or showing us how to treat one another and how to share our faith. He set a great example as to how we should live our lives as Christians, knowing that we would fail and knowing that what he would sacrifice for us.

I believe that we are loved. I believe that having faith in God does not mean that we will not have difficulties in our lives but through prayer, God will provide us what we need to get through our difficulties. I believe that God is in our lives everyday – and most of the time we fail to recognize it! I believe that Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us in heaven, and through his sacrifice our sins are forgiven.

I pray daily – and then some. I am a worrier so my prayer list is often long! I believe God hears our prayers and will answer them according to His plan for us. We are so lucky to live in a world where devotions and daily prayers are at our fingertips! Recently, I have become aware that I often forget that our prayers are to include praise as well, I am working on it!  
I struggle with: 3 things: Control - If you ask anyone that knows me, you will hear that I am an avid planner. I love spreadsheets, calendars and lists! Yet, as I have gotten older, it has become very clear to me that we are not in control, God is. So, I need to let go of thinking I can plan everything that happens in my life and lean on my faith for what is ahead. After all, we are all works in progress – right?!?

Patience – we live in a world where we expect immediate satisfaction, and sometimes it is hard to be patient. I struggle daily with my lack of patience. Jesus demonstrated we are to be patient with each other. We also need to be patient in expecting answers to our prayers (remember we are not in control). And honestly, I struggle with understanding Old Testament scripture – thank goodness for study Bibles!

## Promises



*“You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?” ELW page 234 - Affirmation of Baptism Service*

Over the course of each school year I meet with the 9th Grade Confirmation students and we think about the promises they will make as 10th Graders during the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) service . We review the promises, one each month. Then in the fall of their 10th Grade year they turn in an essay with their thoughts about these promises. All of this conversation and writing is meant to help them consider the importance of these promises, think deeply about their faith, and prepare them to claim their faith.

In my first meeting with the 9th Grade class this fall we were reviewing the promises their parents, sponsors (Godparents), and the whole congregation made when they were baptized. We talked about how the adults in our life promise to raise us in the faith and promise to support us so that we may grow into our faith. We talked about the important adults in their lives who have been willing to share their faith with us. A metaphor I use to help them understand the passing of faith goes like this; the adults in your life built you a house of faith and now you get to decide for yourself if you want to live in that house.

As we prepare to celebrate with those who are affirming their faith in October it is an excellent time to remember. Remember the covenant God made with you in holy baptism. Remember that you are God’s beloved child, adopted into God’s family, a brother or sister of the beloved Son, Jesus. Remember that you belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Remember that you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Remember that through baptism you are forgiven, redeemed from death and the devil, and given eternal salvation (Luther’s Small Catechism).

Then remember the promises you made when you affirmed your baptism. You promised to live among God’s faithful people - to surround yourself with people of faith who will help you to live out your faith in God. You promised to hear the word of God - to seek God’s voice and to find faithful preachers and teachers to speak God’s word to you. You promised to share in the Lord’s supper - to gather around the Communion table and receive the body and blood of Christ, to receive God’s grace, and to gather with other Christians in community. You promised to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed - to show your faith to the world through the things you say and do, to let your life proclaim God’s love. You promised to serve all people, following the example of Jesus - to care for neighbors and strangers, enemies and friends. You promised to strive for justice and peace in all the earth - to work towards the world we pray for, a world where God’s will is done. As I remind the 9th grade class you will never keep these promises perfectly, but they are promises we make with ourselves, one another, and God. Daily we strive to do our best and we ask God for forgiveness when we fall short.

Faith is a group project! Each generation works together to pass on their faith to the next. Each child brought to the waters of baptism is given the promise of a community of faith that will pray for them, support them, and share stories of God’s faithfulness with them. Let us rejoice with this year’s Confirmands and re-commit ourselves to the work of the Gospel - sharing the story of God’s love.

Blessings,  
Rev. Susan Haukaas

This month, St. John's Lutheran Church is excited to revive a popular pre-pandemic event: the German Supper! Whether German food is part of your heritage or you just appreciate some good knoephla and sausage, we hope you will come join us for a delicious, locally sourced, home cooked meal.

We hope you will come down to the Fellowship Hall and visit while you enjoy your meal, but also understand that evenings are busy times, so to-go meals will be available by request.

The St. John's 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands are helping sell tickets, and will each have a few on hand until Wednesday, 10/4. Tickets are also available by calling or stopping by the STJ church office: 252-1198

Help is still needed to prepare the meal the weekend before the event. Come show off your knoephla soup making and cabbage rolling skills! There is a Sign-up Genius for volunteers, or please call the STJ Office. Thank you!

This year, proceeds benefit the St. John's youth. They are working hard to raise funds to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering next summer and other local events. Thank you for your continued support!



**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**German Supper**  
**October 9 @ 5:00 – 7:00 pm**  
**\$ 20/adult (12+)**  
**\$5/ youth ages 3-11**

*You get Sausage, Cabbage Roll, Knoephla Bake, Knoephla Soup, Kuchen  
If you have other plans,  
takeout can be arranged  
Tickets are available at the church office  
252-1198 or any of the confirmation youth*

## Council Highlights

The St. John's council met on Sept. 19th. Minutes and pastor reports were reviewed. The council selected the Health Care plan for pastors for 2024 (Portico Silver + B, no change from past few years). Confirmation date of October 22 and the names of the confirmands were reviewed.

The council reviewed the current financials of operations and the progress of the Kitchen Down Payment Appeal. Based on new contributions and the existing building fund, St. John's has reached \$100,000 in hand. The focus now shifts to indications of ongoing support for loan repayment. We are getting close and expect that another month will be needed to get all of the indications of support received and tabulated.

Conversation was held around the need to keep the operating giving on an equal footing with the excitement of the Kitchen Project. This is especially important as we move into next year. Pastor Erik reported that staff annual reviews should be completed by late September.



Lillian Gunsch turned 100 in August. She lives in Bismarck now and loves to visit.



## Christians in Action – Summer Events

In September, the Christians in Action Partnership celebrated one year of working together in new ways. One of the Goals for Christians in Action was common Marketing for the congregations.

**NDChristiansAct.org** has been established as the Christians in Action website.

This website includes:

**A home page** with links to the individual website of each congregation (and links to the Facebook pages of two congregations that are still developing web pages.)

**A resource page** that lists items that can be accessed by the person from each congregation who prepares bulletins and newsletters. This is called the Treasure Chest.

**A donate page** that helps facilitate electronic giving to each congregation. Some congregations, such as Trinity and St. John's, have had electronic giving options for many years. Other congregations, such as English, have found this to be a cost effective way to begin receiving electronic donations.

Payments for youth events such as the Castaway Synod retreat and the ELCA Youth Gathering can also be made electronically through the donate page.

**A youth ministries section** with additional pages for Upcoming Events, Castaway Synod retreat information, and ELCA Youth Gathering information. Registration forms are also found in these pages.

As you browse NDChristiansAct.org take time to learn about the partner congregations and to pray for these partners in ministry.

You are always welcome to participate in the events of partner congregations.

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





**In Memory of**

JoAnn Deede  
 JoAnn Deede  
 JoAnn Deede  
 Lucille Kennedy  
 Betty Schaible

**Given By**

Gayl Lange  
 Marlys Perleberg  
 Ken & Pam Daugs  
 Florence Goehner  
 Lucile Morlock

**Volunteering Opportunities**

Please consider signing up to volunteer

- We need
- Lay Sacramentarian
- Readers
- Acolyte
- Altar Guild
- Streaming and Projector
- Tuesday Meal cooks

These tasks are small and they make many people happy. Consider volunteering



**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.

**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 October**

- 10/1 Gerald & Marjorie Lippert
- 10/8 Elroy & Marlys Wiest
- 10/15 Carl Franke
- 10/22 Randy & Sandy Perkins
- 10/29 Dan & Jen Kapp

**Flowers October**

- 10/1 Pr. Erik & Pr. Kristi Weber
- 10/8 Elroy & Marlys Wiest
- 10/15 Pauline Roemmich
- 10/22 Darwin & Pauline Roeske
- 10/29 CIOH

**For Dates available for Radio 12/17 is the only date left. Please contact the church office 252-1198. Still a few flower opening.**

**ATTENDANCE**

	In Person	YouTube Live	YouTube recorded
8/27	87	21	51
9/3	67	20	46
9/10	113	19	46
9/17	102	20	44
9/24	68	18	

August income: \$ 21,217.88  
 August expenses: \$ 34,394.55

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

# Ministerial Acts

## Baptisms

† Aella Emma Ann Erdahl 9/10/2023  
 Daughter of Theodore Erdahl & Amanda Schulz

## Weddings

## Funerals

† Jeanne Ziegelman 8/24/2023 Died  
 † Lucille Kennedy 9/3/2023 Died  
 † Deloris Mosher 9/12/2023 Died  
 † Betty Schaible 9/13/2023 Died  
 † Thomas Lindsay 9/17/2023 Died  
 † Jeffery Reimers 9/20/2023 Died



**Aella Emma Ann Erdahl**

**Baptized Sept. 10th**

# JUST MOVE IN CONCERT

WORSHIP  
 POETRY  
 MUSIC  
 DANCING

Trinity Lutheran  
 Jamestown, ND  
 Sat Oct 21, 7pm



JUSTMOVECULTURE.COM

Joe Davis and Agape (David Scherer) will be holding a concert at Trinity Lutheran on Saturday evening October 21st at 7 pm. This concert will include worship, poetry, music and dancing. This concert is specifically for those in grades 6-12th grade but please know all are welcome to attend. Tickets are \$10. If interested in purchasing tickets for yourself or your church group, please contact Deacon Tara





**CIOH**  
**What a fun place**  
**To learn, play, and make**  
**friends**  
**Daycare providers enjoy**  
**their job**



# Synod News – Jamestown Conference

## EaND Fall Gathering

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth invites all members of the Eastern North Dakota Synod to participate in this year's Fall Gatherings! Join others from around the synod for an afternoon of connection, conversation, and prayer.

**Wahpeton and Jamestown Conferences will gather  
Sunday October 8th from 3-5 pm  
At St. John's Lutheran in Verona.**

### Note– St. John's in Verona

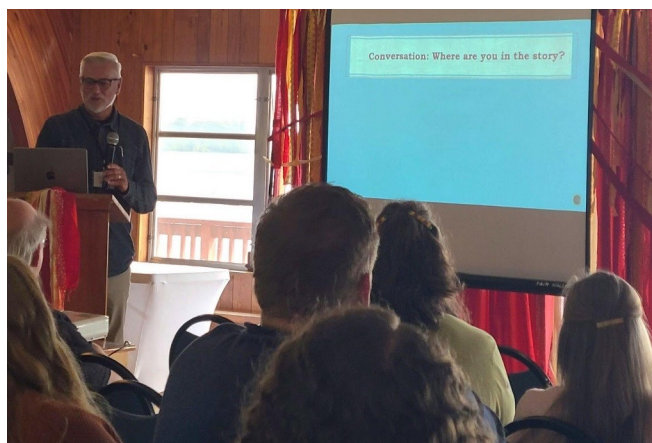
A van will leave from Trinity Lutheran for those who would like to ride together.



Jamestown Conference Synod Lay Ministers Pastors spent time together at the annual Fall Theological Conference. (Pr. Erik took the photo.)

# EAND Synod Fall Theological Conference

It is a well established tradition that each September the synod's Fall Theological Conference is held at Fairhills Retreat off Pelican Lake in MN. This year was no exception, and September 10-13 leaders from throughout the synod gathered together. There was plenty of time for fellowship, food, and relaxation, but we were also gathered to worship and learn. The Whapeton Conference planned a beautiful opening worship service, where Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth preached on the story of Cornelius and Peter in Acts.



Our presenter for the conference was Raymond Pickett who serves as the Rector at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA. His presentation leaned heavily on a book on Acts by theologian Willie Jennings. Using Acts as a guide, he spoke about the importance of sharing the stories of our life journeys. We had time in small groups to explore how we're being shaped by our current journey, how ministry has transformed our lives, how we might bear witness to God's presence by giving voice to our experiences, and other questions. This time spent reflecting was meaningful and helped expand our

understanding of both the book of Acts and how God may be working in our lives.

Over the next few months there will be opportunities for congregations to participate in studies on the book of Acts. If you have not read it, or it has been awhile, you are encouraged to give it another go. In many ways where we are at as a society and the church parallels what was happening with the early church during the Roman Empire. Learning from the book of Acts may very well help us better understand life now and how we might best move forward.



## From the Family of Deloris Mosher

Thank you so much for providing a loving, comforting place to gather after the service for mom. It was so special, enjoying finding our family members in their confirmation photos. Thank you for helping us honor mom such a special way, eating her favorite treats and ice-cream bars



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:30am Redemption in Christ Ministry - Centennial Hall	<b>2</b> 10:30am Pre-School Chapel 12:30pm Eventide Assisted Living Communion and Bible Study	<b>3</b> 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal	<b>4</b> 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel 3:30pm Confirmation	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> German Supper Preparation 9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:30am Redemption in Christ Ministry - Centennial Hall 3:00pm Jamestown Conference Full Gathering	<b>9</b> 10:30am Pre-School Chapel 5:00pm German Supper	<b>10</b> 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 5:30pm CIOH Board Meeting 5:30pm Dialogue on Refugee Crisis	<b>11</b> 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel 3:30pm Confirmation	<b>12</b> 12:00pm Ministerial Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:30am Redemption in Christ Ministry - Centennial Hall	<b>16</b> 10:30am Pre-School Chapel	<b>17</b> 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 5:30pm Council	<b>18</b> 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Christian in Action Youth Concert - Trinity
<b>22</b> No Sunday School 9:00am Confirmation 9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:30am Redemption in Christ Ministry - Centennial Hall	<b>23</b> 10:30am Pre-School Chapel	<b>24</b> 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 5:30pm Dialogue on Refugee Crises	<b>25</b> 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel 3:30pm Confirmation	<b>26</b> 10:00am Jamestown Conference - Coopersstown	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Kivans Kids against Hunger food pack
<b>29</b> 9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:30am Redemption in Christ Ministry - Centennial Hall 3:00pm Edgewood communion service	<b>30</b> 10:30am Pre-School apel	<b>31</b> Medina Trunk or Treat 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal	<b>1</b> 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel 3:30pm Confirmation	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>





Kitchen & Fellowship Hall  
Ongoing Support



We intend to support the ongoing remodeling costs of the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall in the following ways:

Looking Ahead: We would like to provide ongoing support to assist with loan repayments. The initial 3 year commitment runs from 2024 to 2027. (our congregational goal is \$2600 per month)

I intend to fulfill this plan with...

A monthly gift of \_\_\_\_\_

An Annual Gift of \_\_\_\_\_

A One Time Gift for loan repayment \_\_\_\_\_

Cash/check \_\_\_\_\_, electronic giving \_\_\_\_\_,  
a direct retirement plan distribution \_\_\_\_\_, gift of stock \_\_\_\_\_, other \_\_\_\_\_

The Kitchen Remodel contributions are above and beyond my regular giving to St. John's

Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*The Coffee cup is just a memento from the display board tracking our Down payment gifts.*



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 at St. John's

11:00 am at English, Medina

**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)

Christian in Action Website:

[www.NDChristiansAct.org](http://www.NDChristiansAct.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

**German Supper  
 October 9, 2023  
 5:30 pm—Fellowship Hall  
 Tickets available at the  
 Office or any confirmation Student  
 Please support our youth**

