



St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

The Messenger

September 2021

(Monthly publication)



Dear friends in Christ,

UNEXPECTED STRENGTH

Have you ever felt like; "God, I don't know what You are doing? I don't know what to feel and I don't know what to do." Well, I certainly have. And to be completely honest, I was angry. I was angry with God, but I was even angrier with myself for being angry with God. Because I knew that none of what was happening was His fault.

It is easy to become discouraged when you look at what's happening to the world around us.

Since it was first detected, the Covid-19 pandemic has caused over 36.5 million infections in the US alone, of those more than 633 thousand have died. Now we are seeing a resurgence in cases threatening to undermine the progress we've made.

Nearly 26% of the United States is categorized as being in "extreme drought" conditions. This is having serious consequences on crops and livestock as well as adding to my next bullet point.

As of early August, there were more that 1400 wildfires burning in the lower US, mostly in the Western states. One of them, The Dixie fire NE of San Francisco is poised to become the largest wildfire in California history. It has burned nearly 500,000 acres. To put that into perspective, that's more than 60 times the area of Jamestown. Similar cataclysms are hitting Canada and elsewhere around the world.

I could continue, but I think I've made my point.

I would like to share a little of what I have learned on my walk of faith. God gives unexpected strength when unusual trials come upon us. All the while I have been worrying, the Lord has given me comfort, encouragement, motivation. He has been working behind the scenes to provide his people with the strength, wisdom, and tools to solve their problems. If, as believers we feel burdened when our brothers and sisters suffer, imagine how God feels. Always remember that He loves you and He reminds us repeatedly in His Word that He will never forsake us.

Sometimes we must admit we just don't know and instead of going crazy and trying to find out why, we must trust in the Lord that He knows best. I have often referred to the book of Job because this is made so abundantly clear in the story. One simply needs to read the book of Job to understand my point. Our tribulations are miniscule compared to Job's. The ending, however, puts the power of belief and trust into perspective.

I leave you with the words of Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."

God's Peace to All,

Gary Staab
Congregation President

Partnerships for a Season



At the August council meeting, the council acted to extend St. John's participation in the partnership with English Lutheran in Medina and Trinity Lutheran. This agreement, our 3rd this year, extends the agreement to the end of February 2022. This partnership takes place within wider conversations about how to engage in wider ministry in Stutsman, Logan, Lamoure and Dickey counties. This South Central North Dakota area is our mission field. Lay and Rostered leaders are exploring how to be church together through Atonement, Immanuel, St. John's, and Trinity (all Jamestown), Pingree Lutheran, Woodworth Lutheran, English Lutheran, Medina, St. Luke's, Streeter, Emmanuel, Gackle, Montpelier, Kulm, and Christ the King, Ellendale.

A hard reality in 2021, is that there are not enough pastors to serve congregations the way that they have been served in the recent past. It is expensive to call full time pastors and many of our neighbors are open to partnerships for ministry in a new way. The next few years will be a time of experimentation and trial and error. Our partnership with Trinity and English is structured to provide about 12 hours per week of leadership in Medina this fall. I am taking the role of Confirmation teacher on Wednesday nights. Pr. Kristi is coordinating office hours mid week and council leadership, and all four pastors take turns leading worship at 11 am in Medina. St. John's and Trinity are compensated for the time and travel for this partnership.

Working in partnership with others means that everyone is open to something new. Over the summer, Pr. Lucas led worship in Medina seven times. It is a change for St. John's to have the pastor need to be on the road by 10:10 am to make it to the next service. This fall, with four pastors in the rotation, it will be less noticeable on a Sunday morning. Another adjustment, for the short term, is to have Trinity, St. John's, and English all use the same readings and hymns on a Sunday morning and possibly share some prep work for bulletins and projection. This will be particularly helpful for us at St. John's in the wake of Gem's departure.

Other ideas include a shared position to help all the congregations plan registrations and coordinate travel for the Youth Gathering next summer. We are floating the idea of a shared newsletter for common information with congregation specific pages for each participating congregation. This would help in prep time and would save the smaller congregations some postage (those that don't qualify for bulk mail rates). The paid leaders of the congregations are also looking to take a common continuing education seminar to learn together.

There already are lay leaders taking responsibility for local worship as Synod Authorized Ministers, but there are many areas where experienced, trusted pastors are needed. There is no way that the current pastors in this area can do it all. It is also true that the lay leaders will be vital to the ongoing ministry in towns without a pastor in residence. One hundred years ago, pastors from St. John's supported neighboring congregations by traveling out to lead worship locally in Millarton, Pingree, and Eldridge, among others. St. John's has the resources and stability to be a vital partner with our neighbors.

Nobody is merging. Nobody is taking over, or being taken over. We are all exploring how to be in ministry together to serve the Gospel of Jesus in the area in which we live. We all want to hear the promise that God's work is being done among us with our hands. St. John's knows what it is like to have a long period of waiting to call a new pastor, but the ministry does not stop. Whatever the future holds for staffing within partnerships, we trust that God will lead us and that we do not walk this path alone.

Pr. Erik



As the first month of school is on our way, my Facebook wall is covered with all the parents taking pictures of their grade school child holding a particular board. This board says their name, age, grade and most importantly what they want to be when they grow up. When I see these pictures, I am reminded of all the career phases I went through when I was a child and I have to say, they were much cooler than being a pastor!

When talking about our future careers, the church often is taken out of the equation. We often ask until we are 25 years old is, what do you want to be or do? Which can be a sensitive question to ask because in our culture, what we do, identifies on who we are perceived in our community and can be loaded with guilt or shame. We often think of shaping our identity as particularly a young adult problem, yet everyone faces it at every changing point in our lives. Both trying to meet our personal, social and societal goals is a vital aspect of being human and we perceive that it is the difference in order to be happy.

When I think back on my life, much of my energy was spent on worrying and obsessing what my perceived identity by putting so much weight on what career I was going to choose. Though I still have my mid-life crises to look forward to, I continue asking myself why is it so important to meet every high expectation I have for myself? I think most of us have similar answers to my question, but truth be told, I don't think I have ever been completely satisfied with any expectation I have.

For me my expectations and my faith are in a complicated relationship. Whenever I am in an overwhelming situation or I know my expectations aren't being met, my faith tends not to be in the forefront of my mind. However, when that overwhelming situation passes, I think back, I realize that I didn't need to invest the amount of energy I did worrying about meeting my expectations. More importantly, God is there with me, being present in my life.

When I reflect on where I have been and where I will go, I remind myself that God has given me a particular variety of talents and skills, for me to be enough. I don't have the skills to be a mechanic to work on a vehicle, or do anybody's taxes, but I do have the skills in public speaking and loving a community of believers and leading them in discipleship. I can organize, teach and serve our communities in Christ's love and forgiveness. That is what God has called me to do: use my gifts and remember before I ever wrote any prospective career on a board on my first day of school, I am first a beloved child of God.

Pr. Lucas

CALLED TO REMEMBER INVITATION

St. John's Touched by an Angel team invites you to a special meal and time of remembrance of your loved one.

Thursday September 23rd at 5:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Whether it has been a few months or a few years since the death of your loved one, you are invited to come to this special meal.

Please **RSVP** by September Sept. 20th to the

Church office 252-1198



Pianist: Rachel Williams, Connie Wells, and Rebekah Werner

Readers: Jim Ritter, Gavin Kutz, Sandy Franke, Pauline Roeske, Tonya Perkins, Ann Ede, Meghan Ford, 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, Robert Walton.

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 **Volunteers are the** one is
HEART
of our church

Sponsorships

Radio October

October 3	Gerald and Marjorie Lippert
October 10	JoAnn Deede
October 17	Car and Sandy Franke
October 24	Richard and Jen Kapp
October 31	Available



Flowers October

October 3	Elroy and Marlys Wiest
October 10	Tom and Joan Enderle
October 24	Darwin and Pauline Roeske
October 31	Available



Radio Available Dates:

October	31
December	5

CHURCH MINISTRY

No Baptisms
No Weddings
No funerals



Fit for the Journey

FROM **FOR**

Eldridge Cemetery

Carol Kaiser Eldridge Cemetery

ATTENDANCE

	<i>In person</i>	<i>YouTube Live</i>	<i>YouTube recorded</i>
July 25	84	12	53
August 1	71	17	18
August 8	70	26	13*
August 15	51	19	*
August 22	62	20	

**setting problem delayed posting*

Income for July: \$24,663
Expenses for July: \$25,833

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS – September

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

September 2021

9/5 Church Office Closed (Labor Day)
9/8 5:30 pm Confirmation Orientation
9/12 10:00 am Sunday School Kickoff
9/15 1:30 pm Quilters appreciation Luncheon
9/22 4:00 pm Confirmation Starts
9/23 5:30 pm Meal of Remembrance
9/24 - 9/26 Synod Middle School Retreat

Mid-Year budget review

In January the congregation approved a F/Y 2021 budget that anticipated \$331,523 in income and \$346,421 in expenses. With the financial data available through July, I would predict that we are on a path to a negative cash flow for the year of somewhere between \$10,000 and \$14,000, or about in line with the deficit budget we passed. Thank you to everyone who has maintained their participation in our shared ministry during the first half of the year.

Not included in these numbers are some unexpected maintenance expenses that will need to be paid over the next several months. These include...

Elevator Repairs	\$4,488
Water cooler replacement and plumbing	<u>\$6,000</u>
Total	\$10,488

Our general fund will be able to absorb this deficit this year due to the payroll protection fund grant that we received in 2020. As of the end of July our undesignated general funds available total a moderately healthy \$49,000. (We have enough money in the bank to cover months with lower than expected contributions or when an entire line item in our budget is paid out at one time, like Synod Assembly registrations).

Our budget committee has trimmed our expenses as much as we possible. As the year continues, I will keep you apprised on our progress. In the interim, I urge you give prayerful consideration to how you can help.

Thank-you and God’s Peace.

Gary Staab
 Congregation President

Church Activities during the month of August

Women of the Church

COVID came and we could not have our annual Rummage Sale!

We were fired up and ready this year!

Thank you to everyone that helped with the sale. We were amazed with all the items that people donated.

We wish we could name everyone but we would probably forget someone. You know who you are and we are so thankful for all the time and energy you gave for our sale. We had 12 men and 16 women working together and laughing and having a lot of fun. It was hard work, but the fellowship was well worth it.

Our total for the Sale was: \$ 3, 251.90 this includes the meals. The majority of the money will be given to our Mission Projects.

There is a possibility that there will be a Church Bazaar at the Mall in October.

MUSIC INTERN

Fall is the time for change. As the summer draws to a close, unfortunately so does my music internship. I have learned so much and I have grown in ways I would have never expected. I have played at three different churches, each with their own style and personality. It has been such an awesome way to learn how to adapt and broaden my horizons in church leadership. I also have truly treasured the experience of directing the St. John's Choir. While I may not have always known exactly what I was doing, they have been so patient and willing to work with me. It has been such a blessing for me to be able to expand my choral experience in this new way. This internship has not only let me grow in my skills, but also in my faith. God has certainly blessed me this summer!

The leadership of each church has been so supportive and this internship would have not functioned without them. Pastors Kristi, Erik, Susan, and Lucas have all been so wonderful. And Dick especially, has been invaluable during my time here. He has helped me learn and grow every step of the way. Thank you so much.

I am so grateful for this opportunity and the experiences I have had here. You have all been so welcoming and I have felt right at home with all of you. It has been my honor to play for and work with you all. Thank you for your encouragement and hospitality!

Rebekah Werner

Col. 3:16-17



Pr. Lucas, Gary and Laurie, and Ken attended the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly in Fargo on August 14 and 15. It was good to be together for worship, speakers, and the business of the assembly.



Synod Assembly 2021-

314 Lutherans gathered together in Fargo August 14-15 for the annual Synod Assembly. For COVID-19 protection, Pr. Lucas and I put on masks for the entire time (or perhaps to create fun challenges of ‘Guess who I am?’ for entertainment.) Despite the minimal discomfort of mask wearing, business was taken care of including updates of the annual budgets and mission program stability and growth. It was uplifting to be part of the working plans to keep our churches reaching out to support each other as well as provide program support and spiritual support for hungry people. We gathered together to ask the Lords blessing and then shared that blessing with others in need of physical sustenance and the even more important purpose of sharing God’s Word and love.

Laurie Staab, St. John’s Voting Member 2021 Synod Assembly.



CIOH SUMMER ACTIVITIES



Child in Our Hands



PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

Greetings from Child In Our Hands,

Another month has come and gone here at the center. We have been busy with relicensing, deep cleaning, and preparing for the start of the school year. This will include saying goodbye to some of our kids who will moving on to

Kindergarten. We will miss them, but we also feel so fortunate to have been a part of their beginning years.

Our classrooms had a few favorite activities the last month. The infant room got to do some painting, and they loved it! Our toddlers worked on coloring a large piece of paper together that they then used to decorate their door. The child care room switched out some toys. They have a play kitchen and food in their room now, and they are enjoying cooking up food for the teachers. Preschool will be in full swing at the end of August. We hope to be able to do field trips this year and utilize the new church van which we are very excited about! If you are doing any back to school shopping and would like to contribute to the center, the following are some items that we would use.

- Ziploc bags – any and all sizes
- Paper Towels
- Glue sticks and glue bottles
- Play- doh
- Construction Paper
- Playground Balls
- Band-aids in a variety of sizes

Thank you for your support and prayers for the ministry of Child In Our Hands. God's blessings continue to surround us in our daily interactions with the children in our care. We pray each one of them feels God's everlasting love for them.

Sincerely,

Valerie Ford
Interim Director
Child In Our Hands



***Can't get enough
Colors to play with***



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



Sunday School Kick-off

Sunday September 12th

Sundae Bar after worship in the Fellowship Hall!

Everyone is welcome!



Confirmation Starts September 22nd

Student and Parent Orientation is September 8th

Registration on the Church Website

Employment Opportunity Administrative Secretary

St. John's Administrative Secretary Gem Saied tendered her resignation effective August 15th. We miss Gem in her regular place in the corner office.

The position for Administrative Secretary is posted and the position description is available on the Church Website.



**Pizza Party for
Triumph
Volunteers.**

Did you know that volunteers from Triumph come and vacuum and clean in the sanctuary almost every week?

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 10:30 AM Church Party at McElroy Park	30 7:00 PM JAGST MEETING	31 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	1	2 5:30 PM Executive Meeting	3	4
5 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 10:30 AM Rock of Ages 11:00 AM English Lutheran Worship	6 Labor Day - Church Offices Closed	7 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal 6:30 PM Council Meeting	8 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Confirmation Orientation	9	10	11
12 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 11:00 AM Medina Festival Community Worship	13 Pastors at Fall Theological Conference 7:00 PM JAGST MEETING	14 Pastors at Fall Theological Conference 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	15 Pastors at Fall Theological Conference 1:30 PM Quilter's Appreciation Luncheon	16	17	18
19 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 11:00 AM English Lutheran Worship	20 7:00 PM JAGST MEETING	21 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	22 4:00 PM Confirmation	23 5:30 PM Meal of Remembrance	24 Castaway Middle School Retreat	25 Castaway Middle School Retreat
26 Castaway Middle School Retreat 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's	27	28 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	29 4:00 PM Confirmation	30	1	2



St. John's Lutheran Church
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 Jamestown, ND 58401
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 Organization
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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
 Email: 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
 -

Custodian
 Frank Perleberg

Child In Our Hands Interim Director
 Val Ford

Choir Accompanist/Pianist
 Rachel Williams
 Connie Wells



September 12th, 2021
10 am
St. John's Lutheran Church

**Sunday School Registration and kick-off
 with a sundae bar!**