

# St. John Lutheran Church

CONNECTING PEOPLE IN THE HEART OF JESUS

*Christ  
is  
Risen!*

*He is Risen*



*Indeed!  
Alleluia!*



## *The Pastor Letter*

### Mission and Vision

Go and Make Disciples of All Nations, Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20

This so-called Great Commission appears in many church mission statements either in whole or in part. We as Christians love to quote this text, reference it and cite it as the Biblical Foundation of our mission. But how many of us can say that we are actively participating in this mission?

Our first defense is usually to point to the church. Look at the mission of our church, the school, the Early Learning Center, the youth work, the scholarships, the missionaries we support, etc. As if to say that the evangelism efforts of our church qualify as our own individual response to God's call to make disciples.

GO & TELL  
**HIS**ORY

Two questions. First, who discipled you? While the church may have played a significant role, when you start thinking of individuals there is probably a parent or a Sunday school teacher or someone who comes to mind. There was a disciple of Jesus who either knowingly or unknowingly discipled you.

The second question: who are you discipling? Here is where we may get a little sheepish. For many our discipling is done through the offering plate (at best). We have been misled by the "business" of the church to think that it is satisfactory for us to pay someone else to do the Great Commission on our behalf. We have bought into the Satanic lie that we are ill-equipped and unable to tell people about Jesus and that it is better to have a staff member, a teacher or a pastor, or someone else, anyone else do it besides us.

(continued pg. 2)

### Worship with Us

Chapel- Wednesday 8:30 am

Traditional Worship:

Saturday 6:00 pm

Blended Worship:

Sunday 9:00 am

### What We Believe

God accomplishes this mission in us and through us in weekly worship, Bible Study and other fellowship opportunities. God comes to us in the Word and the Sacraments to show us the love and new life he has for us in Jesus Christ. He gives us the opportunity to serve others and reach out with his love.

### Contact Us:

St. John Lutheran Church

308 S. 2nd St.

Battle Creek NE 68715

Church- 402-675-3155

School -402-675-3605

Early Learning Center- 402-675-4039

Email: churchsecretary@stjohnbc.net

Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church

Web Page: stjohnbc.net



### Who We Are:

Senior Pastor :

Rev. B.J. Fouts

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Joseph Leech

Director of Music & Worship:

Mr. Steven Whitney

Business & HR Manager:

Katie Schnitzler

Administrative Assistant :

Diane Stoural



(Continued from pg. 1)

It is not a matter of "who is best equipped" or even "who is most likely to reach someone." In the latter case, statistics have shown time and again that staff, and especially pastors are less likely to bring someone to Christ than the average lay person, and if the former were true, no one would be truly equipped to do the task.

The lie we believe is that disciple-making is a "results-oriented" business. It is not. Truly, it is a process-oriented work. Whether or not there are results is not our concern or even our work, the Holy Spirit alone accomplishes conversion.

Have you ever considered that God's command for you to go and make disciples is for your benefit? There is an expression, "you will really learn something when you have to teach it to others." There is amazing personal value in sharing faith and telling people about Jesus. If we take seriously our faith in God and the end-results of that faith, eternal life in paradise and a present life filled with hope, how can we not be passionate, maybe even fanatical about sharing this good-news.

As March ends with the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus and my chapter of pastoral ministry at St. John also comes to a close, I hope that the next chapter begins, long before the next pastor arrives with our congregation taking ownership of their faith and personally becoming active in it.



## **Baptism**

### **Genesis Diamond Kelley**

Child of Darby & Deisy  
Kelley was baptized into the  
Lord's family on  
Saturday, February 10.  
Sponsors are Crisobal  
Montejano & Cristy Cerda.

## **Funerals**

### **Randy C. Praeuner**

Randy was called to his  
heavenly home on January  
31. His funeral was at St. John  
on February 9.

### **Mason Frederick Tiedgen**

Child of Joshua & Erin Tiedgen  
was called to his heavenly  
home on February 11.  
His funeral was at St. John on  
February 16.

*"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Romans 6:4*



Salvation is free. You are saved by the selfless sacrifice of Christ on the cross without any merit or worthiness on your part. Discipleship is expensive. Jesus says we must leave everything we have to follow Him. Discipleship is a third use of the law work that we as Christians are called, and empowered to accomplish.

One of the best illustrations I have learned in my time at St. John comes from Pastor Dave Kipp who assisted us during a vacancy for all too short of a time. He reminded us that the church is not a cruise ship where most people sit back and relax while a few do all the work. No, the church is a battleship, it is ALL HANDS ON DECK because the enemy is on the prowl and the church is under attack.

Who are you discipling? What does it look like for your friends to practice discipleship? It is not your job to make anyone a believer, and it's not even your job to evaluate whether or not your neighbor is a believer. Your job is to go and make disciples. Your job doesn't have any other limitations. Your job is to go...to everyone...always.

*Sanctified to Serve, ~ Rev. B.J. Fouts*

## **Pastor Farewell~**

Easter Sunday, March 31, will mark Pastor B.J. Fouts' final services at St. John Lutheran Church. On that day you may express your gratitude and bestow blessings upon Pastor Fouts for his dedicated 7 1/2 years of service to St. John Ministries. A basket will be available for cards and letters and there will be an opportunity to share well wishes with Pastor & Jessica during the Easter Sunrise Breakfast hosted by LIGHT at 7:30 am. Not an early riser? Treats and coffee will be provided for those who would prefer to share their appreciation following the 9:00 am service. Let us give thanks for all the ways Pastor & Jessica have blessed St. John Ministries in their service here.

*wishing  
you*   
ALL THE BEST

Wednesday  
**Lenten**  
SERVICES



A fellowship meal will be held every Wednesday through Lent beginning at 6:00 pm. This is a time to relax with friends and family before we gather for Worship at 7:00 pm. Thank you to our Ministry Board Members, WINGS, LIGHT Youth & Parents for providing the meals:

**Lent Meals -Scheduled to Serve:**

**-February 28**

Served by Stewardship & Trustees  
Brat/Hotdogs & Chips

**-March 6**

Served by Parish Ed & Evangelism  
Hot Ham & Cheese & Chips

**-March 13**

Served by Parochial Ed & Childcare  
TBA

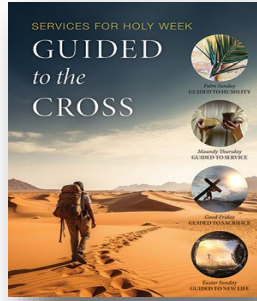
**-March 20**

Served by LIGHT-Chicken Nuggets & Mac & Cheese

*All meals served with a choice of desserts or bars and drinks- Free Will Offering*

**Easter Worship Schedule & Times:**

- March 28 - Maundy Thursday: 7:00 pm
- March 29 - Good Friday: 7:00 pm
- No Saturday Worship
- March 31-Easter Worship: 6:30 am  
Easter Fellowship Breakfast: 7:30 am  
Easter Worship: 9:00 am



# Guided to the Cross

Lent is a season when we are guided to the cross. Throughout this holy time, we are drawn to Calvary to live in forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust and perseverance. Each week, the services in this series reveal how Christ and his cross serve as examples for us of how to live our lives for and through our crucified Lord and Savior.

**Week 2 • Guided to Love (1 Timothy 1:13-14):** When we are separated from others and from God by our sin, the cross brings us together through its love.

**Week 3 • Guided to Peace (Colossians 1:19-20):** With wars waging within and without, the cross settles them all with peace to body, mind and soul.

**Week 4 • Guided to Trust (1 Timothy 1:15):** Plagued by doubt and competing voices, we turn to the cross to put our trust fully in the salvation won for us there.

**Week 5 • Guided to Perseverance (Ephesians 6:18):** When we are faced with hardship, we look to Christ on the cross who endured to the end so that we might carry on.

If you would like to help us decorate our Chancel with Easter Lilies, place \$11.00 in a marked envelope. If in memory of a loved one, include the name and drop off at the church office or the collection plate.

Make checks payable to the Altar Guild.

Deadline is March 18



**Quarterly Voters' Meeting**

Monday, February 26, at 7:00 pm.

Due to the IGNITE Auction there will be NO Worship Service on Saturday March 2.



## Don't Give Up Witnessing For Lent!

*Invite a friend to experience it with you.*

### SEEK GOD:

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the heart of your friend.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless all interactions with your friends and family.

### BE CREATIVE:

- Exchange stories of family Easter traditions. You'll learn about others' current spiritual situations and be able to share what Jesus means to you.
- Invite your friends to make new traditions this year, especially if the Easter season is stressful or depressing. Invite them to read the devotions with you, go to Lent services, or participate in a servant event.
- Bring your friend or family member to help work at a church activity before Easter. Getting to know people in a nonthreatening way makes them more likely to attend future worship.

### FOLLOW UP:

Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries can help keep your faith conversations going. Read, listen, e-mail, or print at [lhm.org/lent](http://lhm.org/lent).



DAILY LENT  
DEVOTIONS CAN BE  
FOUND AT LHM.ORG



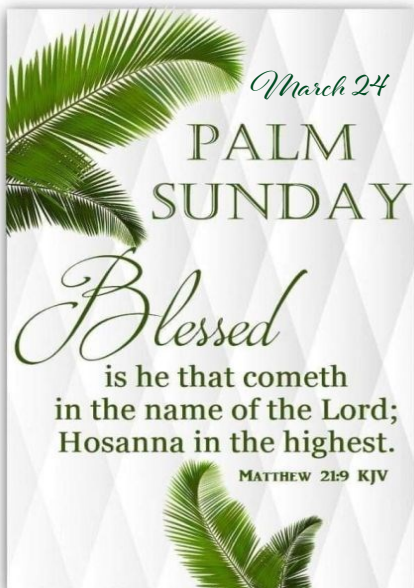
### LUTHERAN HOUR HOLY WEEK

A LHM Lenten/Holy Thursday and Good Friday resource is hosted by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of The Lutheran Hour. These half-hour specials feature multi-voice character portrayals, re-enacting the tragic events of Jesus' betrayal, death, and resurrection as recorded in Matthew 26-28.

The specials invite the listener into the Passion of Jesus' and prompts the listeners to consider the questions: Who is this Jesus? And why does He matter?

<https://www.lutheranhour.org/holyweek/>

"When Christ entered into Jerusalem the people spread garments in the way: when He enters into our hearts, we pull off our own righteousness, and not only lay it under Christ's feet but even trample upon it ourselves." ~ Augustus Toplady



2024  
**CONFIRMATION**  
MARCH 3- 9:00 AM  
Celebrate with us!

Ava Baumgartel  
Elisabeth Fouts  
Carlee Knull  
Adam Wysocki

ST. JOHN Ministries  
Connecting People in the Heart of Jesus

Pastor B.J. Fouts, has accepted a new position and will be relocating to Michigan by the end of March. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class has requested Confirmation be held earlier this year. This change allows Pastor B.J. to confirm the class he has been teaching since 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Worship with us in celebration on March 3 at 9:00 am.

**No Bible Class or Education hour on Confirmation Sunday**





# DOUBLE YOUR GIVING UP TO \$10,000

Through the month of February every dollar you give above your regular offering will be matched up to \$10,000.00. Proceeds towards debt reduction.



Mark your check for "match" or go to [stjohnbc.net](http://stjohnbc.net) "Give Now" on the church page.



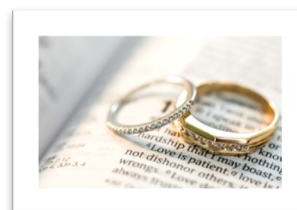
## March Birthdays

- |                       |                      |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Reagan Lewis        | 11 Dan Preusker      | 19 Janet Ernst        | 24 Michaela Brauer    |
| 1 Stephanie Kollbaum  | 11 Jeff Tiedtke      | 19 Karla French       | 25 Kally Praeuner     |
| 2 Brad Prauner        | 11 Mya Zohner        | 19 Barry Ponton       | 25 Jolynn Macklin     |
| 2 Jeanne Prauner      | 11 Janelle Ehrisman  | 19 Deon Praeuner      | 25 Hazel Lyon         |
| 2 Adelinn Lyon        | 12 Don Bauermeister  | 19 Erin Wragge        | 25 Warren Bernhardt   |
| 3 Griffen Freudenburg | 12 Jeremiah Houlden  | 20 A.J Hawthorne      | 26 Suzanne Buckendahl |
| 3 Rowyn Ruge          | 12 Olivia Anderson   | 20 Laura Haase        | 26 Norah Schurman     |
| 3 Ryder Ruge          | 13 Neal Acklie       | 20 Brian Unkel        | 27 Kirbi Alberts      |
| 4 Nikki Houlden       | 13 Jordan Eckert     | 21 Kendra Praeuner    | 27 Gary Borgelt       |
| 5 Bart Fouts          | 14 David McNeal      | 21 Diane Stoural      | 28 Sharon Bierman     |
| 5 Landon Bierman      | 14 Emma Trowbridge   | 21 Karley Freudenburg | 28 Karon Jansen       |
| 6 Tammi Barry         | 15 Brian Anderson    | 22 Natasha Dahlberg   | 29 Boston Reeves      |
| 6 Justin Uecker       | 15 Jane Brandstetter | 22 Patty Renner       | 29 Hannah Uecker      |
| 7 Nic Schott          | 15 Marcia Brockmann  | 22 Sara Harbottle     | 29 Paul Hrabanek      |
| 8 Emma Grant          | 15 Anthony Preusker  | 22 Megan Lutt         | 29 Gabriel Sovereign  |
| 8 Presley Bierman     | 16 Ty Hitz           | 22 Roger Nicolay      | 29 Marian Whitney     |
| 8 Nichole Lauritsen   | 16 Conner Kramer     | 22 Alexandra Schmidt  | 30 Jessica Anderson   |
| 8 Dominick Haack      | 16 Lori Smith        | 22 Jaylinn Schmidt    | 30 Dave Hrabanek      |
| 9 Jeanie Barry        | 16 Britlee Wragge    | 22 Sarah Harbottle    | 30 Marvin Praeuner    |
| 9 Ginger Howser       | 17 Abigail Eckert    | 23 Gracie Hitz        | 30 Coleman Vavra      |
| 9 Jessica Fouts       | 17 Jackson Heller    | 23 Wayne Praeuner     | 31 Rich Otjen         |
| 10 Russ Tiedtke       | 18 Randy Howser      | 24 Marisa Brauer      |                       |



## Celebrating March Wedding Anniversaries

- |                                    |                                  |                             |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| MARCH 6-MARK & JOHANNA PETERSON    | MARCH 21 -JOHN & VICKIE HRABANEK | MARCH 29 -BOB & TAMMY BARRY |
| MARCH 6- RANDY & DEBORAH SUNDERMAN | MARCH 21 -ROBERT & LAURA LOFTIS  | MARCH 30 -BOB & MARY BAKER  |
| MARCH 9-DALC & DEBBI SCHULTE       | MARCH 25 -JIM & SHARON BIERMAN   |                             |
| MARCH 11- BILL & KAREN THOMAS      | MARCH 26 -DAVE & PEG ROKER       |                             |
| MARCH 12- LYNDON & SUSAN BIERMAN   | MARCH 27 -JOEL & AMY KUCHAR      |                             |
| MARCH 14- TERRY & DONNA BAYNE      | MARCH 28 -REX & SUSAN VOLK       |                             |



May God bless you on your special day!

## WINGS ~ Women in God's Service

*Mission Statement: WINGS exists to honor and worship God, encourage and support women, grow in our faith together as we share the gospel, and use the gifts He has given us to serve Him and others.*



WINGS is partnering with Mrs. Onnen and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>-grade class in the Pen Pal program for St. John members who are residents of local care centers or who are homebound. Students write letters each month to the residents. The residents enjoy receiving letters in the mail. What a blessing to have these students sharing Christ's love with their letters.

Proceeds from the 2023 Christmas Craft and Vendor Show luncheon were disbursed as follows: tithe to St. John Church, Arvid and Jane Warneke fundraiser, and St. John School library for accreditation requirements.

Our list of Donor Recipients for 2024 was reviewed during the January WINGS meeting. The list includes Lutheran Bible Translators, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Lutherans for Life, Orphan Grain Train, Camp Luther, SMILE, Mission Central, and WJAG Lutheran Hour Sponsor for LWML Sunday. Free will offerings received throughout the year and proceeds from the annual bake sale and Christmas Craft and Vendor show luncheon, are used to support local ministry and community needs.

On February 1, two WINGS members (Carma Anderson and Gladys Juhlin), spent time at Community Pride Care Center, helping with BINGO. It's always great fun and a good opportunity to visit with the residents.

WINGS served mexi burgers, potato salad, and homemade treats for the February 21 Lenten meal. Our next meeting is March 28, 1:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall Classroom, and don't forget Orphan Grain Train Volunteer Day for St. John is Friday, March 1, we would love to have you join us.

### Disaster Response Training Offered

Do you remember the Pilger tornado or the floods of 2019? Proper training is required for volunteers to assist the District LCMS in responding to these types of disasters.

Basic LERT (Lutheran Early Response Teams) training is provided for people interested in assisting churches and communities impacted by such natural disasters. Training will be held on **March 23, 2024**, at **Christ Lutheran Church in Norfolk**.

If interested in being certified by the LCMS to respond to disasters as the hands and feet of Jesus, this is a great opportunity. **Class registration must be made at [www.lcms-lert.org](http://www.lcms-lert.org)**. The cost is \$30 and will cover training materials, lunch and snacks, and a LERT t-shirt. Questions? Contact Mick Onnen at [DisasterResponse@ndlcms.org](mailto:DisasterResponse@ndlcms.org) or 402 364-3370.

### Prayer, Praise & Thanksgiving

St. John Ministries Prayer Group meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 5:00 pm in the parish hall classroom.

Join us as we lift up our ministry and each other in specific prayer requests on March 16.

#### Can we pray for you?

Are you looking to pray with someone privately? Call Cherie Werner to set up a time of prayer or share a prayer concern you may have.

Please leave your name and number at 402-675-1265.

Look for the prayer box and prayer cards located in the Narthex. All prayer requests are confidential.



## **St. John Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, NE**

### **Council Meeting Monday, February 12, 2024**

In attendance: Mike Anderson, Mark Baumgartel, Christy Schmidt, Reid Ehrisman, Kevin Wedekind, Colby Kolm, Vince Hoehne, Karen Grant, Pastor Joseph Leech, Todd Roberts, Pastor B.J. Fouts, Steven Whitney, Katie Schnitzler, Brett Freudenburg, and Nick Onnen

Call to Order/Opening Devotion and Prayer: Reid called the meeting to order at 8:07 pm with a devotion and prayer.

Approval of Minutes: The January 15, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed. Mike Anderson motioned to approve the January minutes. Christy Schmidt seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Board Reports**

**Treasurer's Report** by Katie Schnitzler. As per usual, giving and other budgeted income continues to increase from this same time last year and the expenses we can control are kept at the bare minimum. There was a generous gift of stock received the first part of February, so there is a cushion of \$133,223.10 currently sitting in the general fund. Praise God! There is, however, about \$110,000 worth of operating costs to be paid in the coming week. The current operating debt balance is \$267,000. Mike Anderson motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. Second by Karen Grant. Motion carried.

**Trustees' Report** by Todd Roberts. The trustees re-visited Pastor Fouts' family request about staying in the parsonage until the end of the school year. It was decided that there would be no utility cost for the family during their stay. Scott Miller visited to discuss installing gutter guards at the school/ELC to alleviate clogging issues. Scott also discussed options for installing a ladder system for easier access to the roof at school/ELC. Scott will get quotes to the trustees and a decision will be made from there. Trevor Hintz and Trent Scheer with T&T Lawn Care visited to answer questions about potentially taking over the mowing duties on the St. John Ministries' campus this year. The trustees are looking into all options before making a final decision. Trustees set the spring clean-up date for Saturday, April 20 at 9:00 am with a rain date of May 4. The trustees are providing the treats after worship for the month of February and will be partnering with the Stewardship board serving the Lenten meal on February 28.

**Elders' Report** by Mike Anderson. No transfers in or out. The elders will be serving soup this Wednesday (February 14). A Thrivent Action Team was used to purchase some of the supplies for the meal. They will start serving at 5:30 pm. There will be a variety of soups, some gluten free, and crackers provided. An anonymous donor will match up to \$10,000 for debt reduction for all donations at the meal and then through the end of February. St. John will have four confirmands this year. Confirmation has been scheduled for March 3 so the class may be confirmed by Pastor Fouts.

**Evangelism Report** by Tia Eriksen. Evangelism hopes to take the LIGHT group to pack boxes for Orphan Grain Train one day this summer. They will be serving the lent meal with parish ed. This past Sunday they set up supplies in the parish hall for making Valentine's Day cards. There were enough cards created for each shut-in, with multiple cards for many of them. The evangelism collection for April will be for Stephen Ministries. There are a few people interested in being trained Stephen Ministers, so the funds raised in April will help subsidize the cost of training for these people.

**Parish Education Report** by Christy Schmidt. There is no report at this time as they aren't meeting until next week.

**Parochial Education Report** by Brett Freudenberg. The boys and girls basketball teams are almost done with their seasons. The gym floor investigator visited last week. He made further inspections and took more measurements of numerous things. He will follow-up with an official report in the next two weeks. The Parochial Ed board is brainstorming a few more names to submit for nominations. The board approved the proposed pre-k and K-8 tuition rates and will be seeking approval from the Council. The board reviewed and approved the 2024-2025 school year calendar. Upcoming school events include the auction fundraiser, IGNITE, on March 2, the school musical on March 10, and Kindergarten round-up to take place on March 12.

**Early Learning Center (ELC) Report** by Ann Grant (email read by Reid). At their last meeting Katie visited to discuss budget updates. The board is working on finalizing proposed budget items. There will be a servant event on February 15 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm for the Briggs & Barrett project.

**Stewardship Report** by Karen Grant. Stewardship will meet next Monday (02/19). Karen noted that the last meal the Stewardship Board took leftover plates of food to some of the local shut-ins. These shut-ins were very appreciative of that gesture and Karen asked that all boards please remember those folks in the future.

**Old Business** Reid gave a reminder that all should continue to share their names for nominations to him or Katie.

### **New Business**

1. 2024-2025 Budget – In an effort to be more conscientious about the budgeting process, the Council will be approving proposed budget items for the 2024-2025 fiscal year PRIOR to those numbers being advertised publicly. The council was presented with a proposed income number for church contributions (\$1,099,277), school tuition (\$426,085), and the payroll expense number recommended by the Wellness Committee (\$2,309,621). Mike Anderson made a motion to accept all three of these numbers as presented. Brett Freudenberg seconded. Motion carried. These numbers are to be included in the budget to be approved by the voters in June.
2. Endowment Distribution – The council reviewed the requests for the 2024 endowment distribution as proposed by the Endowment Committee. The total distribution amount is \$18,057.42 and will be used as follows: \$1,000 for high school senior scholarships, \$1,000 for LHNE student scholarships, \$5,000 for parsonage updates, \$3,000 for St. John school scholarships, \$6,711.84 for St. John school textbooks, \$1,000 for ELC tuition assistance, and \$345.58 was reinvested back in the ELC endowment fund. Todd Roberts made a motion to approve the 2024 endowment distribution as recommended. Mike Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

### **Next Meetings**

Voters Meeting Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7:00 pm.  
Council Meeting Monday, March 18, 2024 at 8:00 pm.

Adjourn: Christy Schmidt motioned to adjourn. Brett Freudenberg seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the prayer by Pastor Fouts at 8:42pm.

Minutes submitted by Katie Schnitzler.

**YOU'RE INVITED**

# IGNITE 2024

Investing Generationally Now & InTo Eternity

Enjoy a Fun Night with Family and Friends!

## Saturday, March 2nd

at **NORFOLK LODGE AND SUITES**

Be Entertained by "The Midwest Mentalist"  
David Fox will knock your socks off!!

**- Silent Auction - Live Auction  
- Divots Catered Dinner**

**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW**

IGNITE is a fundraising event benefitting St. John Lutheran School, Battle Creek!

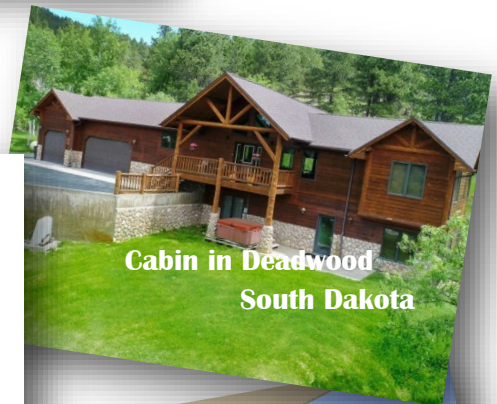
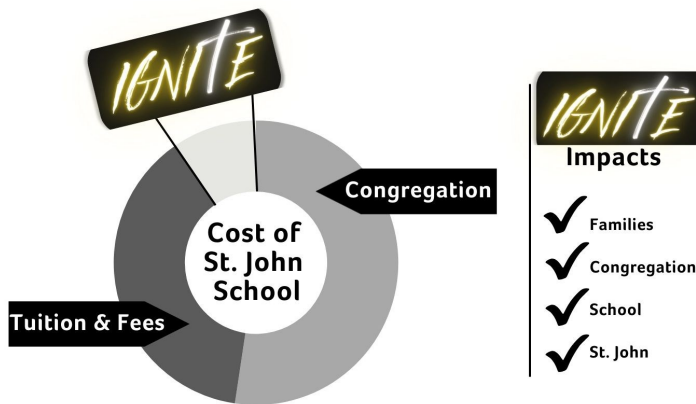


Your support helps sustain our Christian school by offsetting tuition costs, making education affordable for families and easing the church's financial burden.

Don't miss this fun with a purpose!



Master of Ceremonies for IGNITE this year is District President Richard Snow. Helping us get the bidding on its way is Auctioneer Curt Wragge.



**Cabin in Deadwood  
South Dakota**



**Florida Beach House**

IGNITE helps alleviate the financial burden from the congregation and school families by providing a 3rd funding source. It helps ALL involved with St. John.



**Monthly Baked Goods**



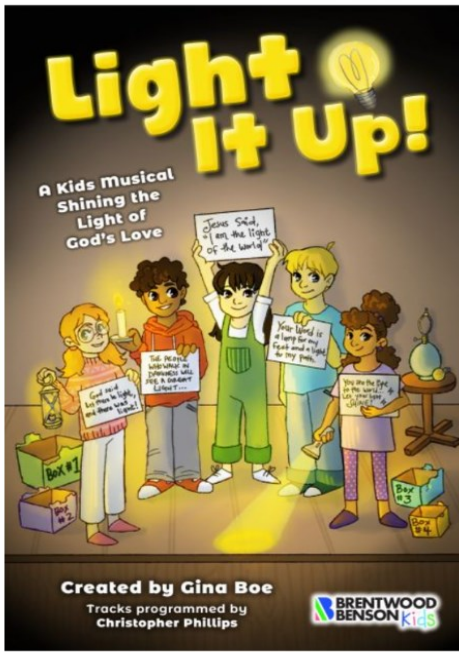
**Meat Packages**



**Husker Tickets**

- Staycations-
- Spa Experiences-
- Him & Her Gift Packages-
- Farm fresh eggs for a year!
- Utah Vacation Destination-
- And much more!





# ST. JOHN K-8 SPRING MUSICAL SUNDAY, MARCH 10 5:00 P.M. SCHOOL GYM

STUDENTS SHOULD WEAR THEIR  
GO & TELL HISTORY SHIRTS  
TO THE MUSICAL

## OPEN DRESS REHEARSAL THURSDAY, MARCH 7 AT 10:00 AM

### Pre-Enrollment for the 2024-2025 School year is now open!

It is again time for pre-enrollment for next school year. Why so early? It helps our school be good stewards by planning and budgeting appropriately. We pass along a discount to those pre-enrolling because it helps us be responsible with our resources. Deadline is March 31.




**St. John Lutheran School**  
**Battle Creek**

**March 12**  
**6:30-7:30 PM**

*Join us!*  
**Kindergarten**  
*Round-Up*

'If you look at the teachers that are here, and the students that are here; when you're not with your kids, those are the people you want your kids to be with.'  
 - Travis Humphrey, St. John Parent

[StJohnBC.net/School](https://StJohnBC.net/School)  
 /StJohnBCSchool



## Muffins With Mom or a Special Friend!

Wednesday, March 6  
at 7:30 am.

Stay for Chapel  
following the treats at  
8:10 am



# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



If you would like to contribute to any of our scholarship providers, contact the school office to find out how to best support St. John Lutheran School.

## *Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska*

Awarded to incoming Kindergarten students, and transfer students from public schools.

**Donors: Dollar for dollar tax credit for donations up to 50% of tax liability on 2024 taxes. Can specify school preference**

**Brand new scholarship for 2024-25**

## *Children Scholarship Fund of Omaha*

**Income-based scholarships**

**\$27,100 awarded to St. John families since 2022-23.**

## *St. John / Lawson Walz Memorial Scholarship*

**Income-based scholarships from St. John's own scholarship fund.**

**Donors: All funds go to St. John School students. Donations qualify as a charitable donation.**

**\$33,650 awarded to St. John families since 2022-23.**



Access all scholarships and apply @  
[StJohnBC.net/Scholarship](https://StJohnBC.net/Scholarship)

## *Referral Incentive*

**Open to all K-8 students.**

**Parents of K-8 students enrolled at St. John Lutheran School are eligible to receive a \$500 tuition credit for each new K-8 student they refer to our program. Discounts may continue to apply until the tuition balance is cleared.**

I think a young family, that is like, "can we really make this work financially?"  
It pays for itself in many ways, and then some!  
-Travis Humphrey, Former St. John Parent





FORMS AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE OR SPEAK TO YOUR TAX ACCOUNTANT.

# "GIVE KIDS HOPE. TAKE THE CREDIT."

## Who can participate?

Individuals, businesses, estates and trusts with state income tax liability.

## Why should I participate?

Provide tuition assistance for Nebraska families in need and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit, up to \$100k (\$1m for estates and trusts) or 50% of your state income tax liability.

## How do I contribute?

Email [givehope@nebraskaopportunity.org](mailto:givehope@nebraskaopportunity.org) or visit [nebraskaopportunity.org/giving](http://nebraskaopportunity.org/giving) to apply for a tax credit contribution.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Nebraska taxpayers can claim a

# 1:1 STATE TAX CREDIT

for contributions to fund private school scholarships for Nebraska kids.



[www.nebraskaopportunity.org](http://www.nebraskaopportunity.org)

## EARN A \$500 DISCOUNT OFF TUITION

REFER A NEW STUDENT WHO GOES ON TO ENROLL IN OUR K-8 PROGRAM, AND RECEIVE A \$500 DEDUCTION FROM TUITION FEES!



REFER 2 NEW STUDENTS, DOUBLE THE DISCOUNT!

ADDITIONAL STUDENTS ALSO MEANS MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE JESUS.



What a blessing to have this opportunity to "Go and make disciples" by pointing families to St. John Lutheran School for a Christ Centered Education.





# EARLY LEARNING CONNECTION



## CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS AT HOME

Managing children's challenging or defiant behavior poses a significant challenge for parents. Whether it's reluctance to put on shoes or tantrums, finding effective strategies can be puzzling. For parents seeking guidance, treatment strategies offer a roadmap for calmer, more consistent behavior management, nurturing children's developmental skills to handle their behaviors independently.

### ABC's of Behavior Management at Home:

- **Antecedents:** Factors preceding a behavior that increase its likelihood, also known as triggers. Identifying and anticipating antecedents can help prevent misbehavior.
- **Behaviors:** Specific actions to encourage or discourage.
- **Consequences:** Outcomes following a behavior that influence its recurrence, positive or negative. Immediate consequences hold more influence.

### Defining Behaviors:

Identifying specific, observable, and measurable target behaviors is crucial for an effective behavior management plan. Clear expectations help all parties understand what is required.

### Antecedents – The Good and the Bad:

Antecedents can either fuel misbehavior or aid in managing it effectively before it escalates, reinforcing positive behavior.

### Antecedents to Avoid:

- **Making assumptions** Clearly communicate expectations to avoid misunderstandings.
- **Giving instructions from a distance:** Ensure important directions are given face-to-face for better retention.
- **Abrupt transitions:** Provide advance notice for smoother transitions.
- **Bombarding with questions or instructions:** Presenting a series of tasks limits comprehension and compliance.

### Antecedents to Embrace:

- **Environmental awareness:** Consider and manage factors like hunger, fatigue, or distractions affecting behavior.
- **Adjusting the environment:** Create a conducive environment for tasks by minimizing distractions and providing structure.
- **Clarifying expectations:** Establish clear expectations verbally to prevent misunderstandings.
- **Countdowns for transitions:** Prepare children for upcoming changes to ease transitions.
- **Offering choices:** Encouraging children to make decisions enhances their autonomy and sense of control.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- March 2 - IGNITE Auction (More info on next page)
- March 8 - 3:30 pm early closure for staff development
- March 14 - PTL at 6:30 pm at ELC
- March 29 - ELC closed for Good Friday

## BEHAVIORS (CONT.)

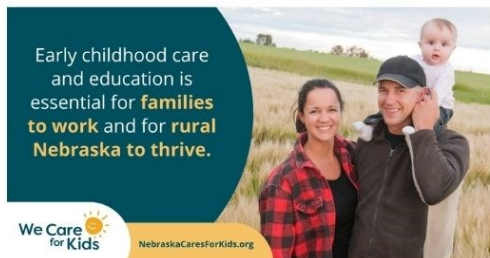
### Effective Consequences:

- Avoid negative attention: Negative attention can reinforce misbehavior, impacting self-esteem.
- Immediate consequences: Prompt consequences help children connect their behavior to outcomes.
- Consistent consequences: Maintain consistency in consequences to reinforce the relationship between behavior and results.
- Positive Reinforcement: Acknowledging positive behaviors: Providing positive feedback for good behavior encourages continued positive actions.
- Active ignoring: Intentionally withdrawing attention for minor misbehavior can reinforce positive behavior.
- Reward systems: Offering rewards for desired behaviors motivates children and maintains engagement.
- Time-outs: Implementing breaks effectively requires clarity, consistency, and adherence to rules.



By implementing behavior management techniques at home, parents can create a more peaceful environment for everyone.

## WE CARE FOR KIDS



Early childhood care and education is essential for **families to work** and for **rural Nebraska to thrive**.

We Care for Kids  
NebraskaCaresForKids.org

One in four jobs in Nebraska is linked to agriculture, supporting rural communities. However, many rural Nebraska families lack early childhood care options, with 36% residing in child care "deserts," Madison County being part of that. Quality child care is crucial for family work and community growth. The 2023 Nebraska Rural Poll highlights the importance of affordable child care, with 81% valuing it for community development and nearly 60% supporting public investment in child care availability.

Get involved!

To read more about the We Care for Kids campaign, visit:

<https://nebraskacaresforkids.org>.



IGNITE is a fundraising auction for St. John Lutheran School in Battle Creek, supporting Christian education through tuition offset, scholarships, and ensuring access to a Christ-Centered education.

### Event schedule:

- 5:00 PM: Doors Open, silent auction browsing, cash bar
- 6:00 PM: Dinner
- 6:15 PM: Entertainment by The Midwest Mentalist, David Fox
- 7:15 PM: Live Auction commences for bidding on larger items.

[www.stjohnbc.net/IGNITE](http://www.stjohnbc.net/IGNITE)

## MINISTRY CORNER

- Church Services:
  - Saturday, 6:00 pm
  - Sunday, 9:00 am
  - Education Hour, 10:30 am
- Meals will be held at 6:00 pm before all Lent Services
  - Feb. 28 - Brats/Hot Dogs & Chips
  - Mar. 6 - Hot Ham & Cheese & Chips
  - Mar. 13 - TBD
  - Mar. 20 - TBD

## SUMMER DAY CAMP

Summer camp alert! Calling all future scientists, artists, and adventurers entering kindergarten through 7th grade! Head over to [stjohnbc.net/elc](http://stjohnbc.net/elc) to sign up for the coolest summer fun ever!

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Christine Brown, Infant Lead Teachers



Christine joined STJ ELC in January 2023. She and her husband, Roderick, have four children, two of whom attend our ELC.

Christine has more than 10 years of experience in early childhood education, specializing in caring for infants and toddlers. She actively participates in professional development programs to enhance her expertise in providing exceptional care for infants.



# Youth and Family Ministry

—LIGHT (9th-12th Grade)



OUR JANUARY MEAL & DEVOTION WAS PROVIDED BY PARISH EDUCATION. MS. WERNER GAVE A DEVOTION ABOUT WHAT WE FILL OUR BRAINS WITH. HOW WE CAN BE A ROLE MODEL AND HELP FILL EVERYONE WITH THE LOVE OF JESUS. BE THE "SEED" OF GOD. LUKE 8. THEY DISCUSSED HOW IMPORTANT THEIR ROLES AS MENTORS ARE TO THE YOUNGER KIDS. THE LIGHT YOUTH HELPED MAKE GOODIE BAGS AND A BANNER FOR ST. JOHN'S 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL CELEBRATION.

## Worship:

FEBRUARY LIGHT MEETINGS ARE (UNOFFICIALLY) SUSPENDED DUE TO LENTEN SERVICES. WE CAN MEET AT THE WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP MEALS AT 6:00 PM AND WORSHIP TOGETHER AT 7:00 PM.

## DON'T FORGET HOLY WEEK WORSHIP!

MARCH 24- PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP -9:00 AM- THE KING IS COMING!

MARCH 28- MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP 7:00 PM- LAST SUPPER & BEGINNING OF SORROWS

MARCH 29- GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP-THE GREAT SACRIFICE

MARCH 31- EASTER 6:30 AM & 9:00 AM-RESURRECTION CELEBRATION!

## Serving Others:

LIGHT WILL SERVE THE LENT FELLOWSHIP MEAL ON 3/20.

-SERVING MAC AND CHEESE AND CHICKEN NUGGETS.

EASTER BREAKFAST MARCH 31.

WATCH FOR SIGN-UPS TO HELP OUT.

## Discipleship:

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AT 10:30AM FOR BIBLE STUDY

WATCH REMIND AND THE YOUTH FACEBOOK PAGE FOR INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS!





## The Janelle Miller Memorial Camp Luther Campership

This Campership will provide some funds to assist children who are either members of St. John Lutheran Church or who attend St. John Lutheran School to have the opportunity to attend Camp Luther in the summer.

The camperships will be awarded based on need, and with some preference for first time campers. Applications are available from the church office, or by email to the church office. Application deadline April 15, 2024. Check out the Camp Luther website for dates and camps available.

[www.campluther.org](http://www.campluther.org)

Camp Luther is Hiring High School Students!

Spring ~

- Weekend Retreat Help
- Kitchen, Maintenance & House-keeping
- Paid Positions Flexible Hours

Summer~

- Live on Site in Community  
Kitchen Assistance  
Counselors  
Media Production

Contact if interested:

Call 402-352-5655 or send an email to [programdirector@campluther.org](mailto:programdirector@campluther.org)



## Janelle Miller Camp Luther Campership

*Janelle Miller was an alumnae of St. John Lutheran School and an active camper and staff member at Camp Luther of Nebraska. She was blessed by the ministry experiences she had at Camp Luther and in her memory her family would like more students to receive these blessings.*

- Applicants must be a student at St. John Lutheran School or a member of St. John Lutheran Church – Battle Creek
- Applications can be found at [stjohnbc.net/church](http://stjohnbc.net/church) or a paper copy may be obtained upon request from the church office.
- Recipients will share their camp experience with the congregation of St. John Lutheran Church – Battle Creek in the fall following their attendance.
- Return paper applications to St. John Lutheran Church, PO Box 87, Battle Creek, NE 68715 or email to [business@stjohnbc.net](mailto:business@stjohnbc.net).
- Completed applications must be received by April 15, 2024.



The St. John Men's Retreat will take place on March 31 & April 1 at Camp Luther of Nebraska. Men of all life stages are invited to participate.

Over the course of the retreat, we will engage in opportunities for fellowship and service, while also taking time to spend in God's Word, growing as Men of God in community with one another.

**Connecting people in the heart of Jesus.** Serving the Lord's House in March 2024  
 If you are unable to serve, please find a substitute and call the church office (675-3155)  
 to correct the bulletin.

Date	Time	Elders	Ushers	Sound Booth	Acolytes
No Sat Service Sun Mar 3	xxxx 9:00 am	xxxx Zohner/Wedekind	Borchers/Fleer	xxxx Borchers	xxxx Wedekind
Wed Mar 6 Sat Mar 9 Sun Mar 10	7:00 pm 6:00 pm 9:00 am	Buckendahl M Baumgartel/ Anderson Sunderman/Howser	Fleer Schwede/Volk Tillman/Wolf	Volk Wragge	xxxx xxxx Carlee Knull
Wed Mar 13 Sat Mar 16 Sun Mar 17	7:00 pm 6:00 pm 9:00 am	Buckendahl Borgelt/Anderson Wedekind/Prauner	Fleer Schwede/Volk Borchers/J Werner	Volk Brauer/Wysocki	
Wed Mar 20 Sat Mar 23 Sun Mar 24	7:00 pm 6:00 pm 9:00 am	M Baumgartel Borgelt/KOssmann Zohner/J Baumgartel	Ridder Schwede/Volk Fleer/Zohner	Volk Kuchar/Fouts	
M. Thurs Mar 28 G. Friday Mar 29	7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Prauner/ Zohner Buckendahl	Schwede/J Werner Volk	Borchers Volk	
Sat- No Worship Sunday Mar 31	xxxx 6:30 am 9:00 am	xxxx Borgelt/Kossmann J Baumgartel/Zohner	xxxx Volk Tillman/Ridder	xxxx Wragges Fouts/Kuchar	Avery Onnen



# American Red Cross

## Battle Creek Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 5, 2024- St. John Parish Hall

12- 6:00 pm

Walk-Ins Welcome

Call Marlene at 402-992-1561 or make an appointment  
 by visiting [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

# March 2024



Join us!

**Weekly Service times:**

Saturday 6:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

**School Chapel**

Wednesday 8:30 am

**Education Hour/  
Sunday School**

Sunday 10:30 am

**Bible Studies:**

Tuesday 7:00 pm

**Wednesday**

Men 9:00 am

Parish Hall

Women 9:30 am

Parish Hall Classroom

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:00 Confirmation No Education Hour	4	5 12:00 Battle Creek Blood Drive St. John PH	6 7:30 Muffins w/Mom 6:00Meal- Parish Ed/ Evangelism 6:30 Choir 7:00 Lent Worship	7 10:00 School Spring Musical Rehearsal <i>(Public is invited)</i>	8 10:00 Orphan Grain Train Volunteer Day	9 6:00 Choir Sings
10 Daylight Savings Time 5:00 School Spring Musical	11 Pastor's Conference Kearney	12 Pastor's Conference Kearney 6:30 Kindergarten Round-up	13 4:00 Leadership Team Meeting 6:00 Meal- Parochial Ed /ELC 6:30 Choir 7:00 Lent Worship	14	15	16 5:00 Prayer Group
17 9:00 Choir Sings	18 8:00 Council Meeting	19 Spring Begins 1:00 Senior Fun Day	20 No Choir 6:00 Meal-LIGHT 7:00 Lent Worship	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday ----- 31 Easter Pastor Farewell 6:30 Worship 7:30 Breakfast 9:00 Worship	25	26	27 12:00 Leadership Staff Meeting 6:30 Choir Practice	28 1:30 WINGS Meeting 7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship	29 7:00 Good Friday Worship	30 No Worship





Connecting people in the heart of Jesus

# March 2024

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1	2
						No School	IGNITE Auction No Worship
3	Worship & Confirmation 9:00 AM No Education Hour Adult Sports Fellowship 6:00 PM		Blood Drive @ Parish Hall 12:00PM - 6:00PM	Muffins with Mom 7:30 AM Mr. Stiever lead chapel 6:00 PM Hot Ham & Cheese Meal 7:00 PM Worship	Open Dress Rehearsal 10:00 AM 1:20 Dismissal End of 3rd Quarter	No School Spring Break	Worship 6:00 PM
4		Mini Corndogs	Cheeseburger	Spaghetti	Hot Ham & Cheese		
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10	Worship 9:00 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM K-8 Spring Musical 5:00 PM (School Gym)	3rd & 4th Grade Field Trip to Capitol	Kindergarten Round-Up 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	7th Grade leads chapel Circuit Spelling Bee 6:00 PM Taco Bar 7:00 PM Worship	PTL 6:30 PM	Geography Bee 2:00 PM	Worship 6:00 PM
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17	Worship 9:00 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM Adult Sports Fellowship 6:00 PM	Chicken Party	Chicken Quesadilla	Baked Potato Bar	Sub Sandwich	Fish Sticks	
18		Plant Sale Fundraiser Begins		Preschool leads chapel 6:00 PM Sloppy Joe Meal 7:00 PM Worship			
19							
20							
21							
22							
23							
24	Worship 9:00 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM Adult Sports Fellowship 6:00 PM	Hamm	Hot Dog	Pancakes	Pizza	Fish Burger	Worship 6:00 PM
25							
26							
27							
28							
29							
30							
31	Happy Easter! 6:30 AM Sunrise Worship 7:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Worship	Creamed Chicken	Chill	Chicken Fried Steak	No School Easter Break 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship	No School Easter Break 7:00 PM Good Friday Worship	

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever  
(Hebrews 13:8)



St. John  
Lutheran School  
102 W Martin St  
P.O. Box 67  
Battle Creek, NE 68715  
Phone: 402-675-3605  
Fax: 402-675-1303  
Principal@stjohnbc.net



# LHNE NEWS

MARCH 2024



2010 N. 37TH STREET  
NORFOLK, NE 68701  
(402) 379-3040  
[www.LHNE.org](http://www.LHNE.org)



@LHNEagles



lhneagles

## LHNE GRADE SCHOOL SPORTS

Lutheran High has June grade school sports leagues that are open to ALL students grades 3rd-8th. They have a boys and girls 3-on-3 basketball league and a girls volleyball league. For league information and registration forms, visit our website [lhne.org](http://lhne.org) and click on the LHNE sports leagues banner. All registrations are due by May 1st. If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Osten at [elizabeth.osten.vb@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.osten.vb@gmail.com) or text her at 402-750-7464.

## REGISTRATION

2024-2025 registration is open! Go to the LHNE website ([lhne.org](http://lhne.org)) to find our registration form and financial aid instructions. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the office at 402-379-3040 or [dsievert@lhne.org](mailto:dsievert@lhne.org). Join now to get a free Class of 2028 t-shirt! We can't wait for you to join the Eagle family!

## NEBRASKA TAX OPPORTUNITY

This new year brings a wonderful opportunity for you to benefit students who attend private schools and receive a dollar-for-dollar income tax credit for up to 50% of your Nebraska income tax liability for 2024. For more information, please visit the LHNE website and click on the Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska link.

## THE WIZARD OF OZ

The LHNE theatre department will be performing The Wizard of Oz on March 22-24. The performances will be at 7:00 PM on March 22nd and 23rd and 3:00 PM on March 24th. We hope to see you there!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 1 - Booster Club Trivia
- March 2 - Farm Auction
- March 4 - FBLA Auction
- March 6-9 - State Boys Basketball
- March 7 - End of Quarter 3
- March 8 - No School/Teacher In-Service
- March 10 - LHSANN Delegate Assembly
- March 10 - LHNE Music Concert
- March 12 - FFA Mtg
- March 13 - Circuit Spelling Bee
- March 15-16 - Girls Soccer Tournament
- March 17 - Booster Club Mtg
- March 17 - LHNE Scholarship Dinner
- March 18 - Spring ACT
- March 18 - Blood Drive
- March 20 - Career Fair
- March 22-24 - Spring Musical
- March 22 - FFA Farm Day
- March 23 - Trap Shooting
- March 25 - Golf at David City
- March 28-31 - No School/EASTER BREAK
- March 28 - Track at Plainview

~Educating for Life

Proclaiming the Faith~





**CONCORD**  
*theatricals*

**LHNE Presents**

# THE WIZARD

# OF OZ

## SPRING MUSICAL

**Performance Dates:**

**Friday, March 22nd at 7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 24th at 3:00 p.m.**

***Children are invited to register their attendance to Oz Fest, a party at 2:00 p.m. prior to Sunday's matinee!***



Questions? Contact:  
steven.b.whitney@gmail.com or  
whitney.heatherj@gmail.com



We're off to see the Wizard!

You are invited to

# Oz Fest!



Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024

Time: 2:00 p.m. (show at 3:00 p.m.)

Location: Lutheran High Northeast

Prior to the Sunday matinee of LHNE's musical production *The Wizard of Oz*, the Wizard and citizens of Oz are inviting boys and girls ages 12 and under to attend Oz Fest!

This registration package grants early admission into the show. Feel free to wear Wizard of Oz gear (dress as a character from the show!) and prepare yourselves for activities, snacks, and a photo opportunity with members of the cast! Then watch the performance - the registration fee covers the cost of the party AND show!

\*\*When registering, the ticket cost is \$20 per attendee and one chaperone (adult). If the chaperone is bringing more than one attendee, each additional child is \$10. (Example: One adult and two children would equal \$30, one adult and three children would equal \$40, and so on...). Pay with cash or check at the door.

\*\*\*All attendees must attend with an adult - please no unsupervised children! The Wicked Witch's monkeys and Winkies will be after you!

Reserve your seats by Wednesday, March 20!

Scan QR Code to Register:

Further questions? Contact Heather Whitney at (402) 883-0083.

