



Connecting People in the Heart of Jesus

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.

**Join Us ~ Service times:**

- Chapel: Wednesday: 8:30 am
- Traditional Worship: Saturday 6:00pm
- Contemporary Worship: Sunday 9:00 am

**Education Hour~ Sunday 10:30 am**

- My Child & Me– Infant to 3 years
- Sunday School– 3 years –4 Grade
- Confirmation-5 –8 Grade
- High School Youth 9-12
- Adult Bible Study

**About Us: St John Ministries**

St. John Lutheran Church  
Battle Creek NE 68715  
308 S. 2nd St.  
Church 402-675-3155  
School 402-675-3605  
Childcare 402-675-4039  
Email: churchsecretary@stjohnbc.net  
Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church  
Web Page: stjohNBC.net

**Staff:**

- 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 Stourdl



# October 30, 2022 Confirmation Reformation



October 2022

## Pastor Letter

### Inflation and the Church

If you are anything like me, you have had some rough trips to the gas station, grocery store, and just about anywhere else you need to spend money in the past few months. Those back-to-school supplies cost more this year than in years before and so has everything else. Groceries and electricity up 11% from a year ago, while a used car is about 23% higher and the gas to run that car is close to 40% more than it was. It's a reality, the inflation rate is over 8%. As one economist put it, "Your 2021 dollar is now only worth about 92 cents."

Of course, a dollar is a dollar, but that dollar buys less than it used to. The church faces the same problems. Everything the church needs costs more too. The paper this newsletter is printed on has gone from .8 cents/piece of paper in 2020 to 1.8 cents/paper in 2022. The same increase in expenses felt in your home are felt in your church; a general 8% increase in expenses should be expected.

Fiscal year 2021-2022 saw an increase of 2.8% in giving at St. John Lutheran Church. Praise the Lord! Thanks be to God for His generosity and thank you for your willingness to extend that generosity to your congregation. At that amazing level of generosity, God was still providing us more opportunities for ministry than the resources to meet those needs. You will see in the financial reports from this month's council meeting, both an operating debt and a capital debt totaling almost half a million dollars, an unfortunate reality.

8% > 2.8%

While, I am not in charge of the numbers and I don't teach math classes at St. John (well one day as a sub), status quo is a no-go. Expenses are increasing faster than income, so what can we do about it?

Well, financial advisors would tell you to review your budget, to stock up when things are on sale, to reduce your travel expenses, and store less in savings when interest rates are less than half of inflation (depending on your own fiscal situation, consult your own advisors). The church has done some of these things as well: we are good at frugality, saving where we can, limiting expenses and trying to maximize the value of each and every dollar.

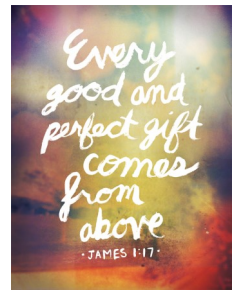
The other thing your advisor might tell you to do is, increase your income. That is the challenge for us. Since we cannot sell salvation to our patrons at a higher profit-margin, we must rely on that previously mentioned generosity.

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continued from pg. 1

In Malachi chapter 3 the Lord speaks through one of His prophets to address a question of generosity. While we easily recall Jesus being tempted in the wilderness and the reminder against testing the Lord's provision, we are much less quick to remember God's invitation to test him. Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." I dream of a day when our treasurer's report reads, "we had to find another missionary to send money to because we were dangerously close to turning a profit last quarter." Bring the tithe. Test the Lord! See if he opens heaven for you.

Perhaps the most important thing for us to remember in these times of inflation and economic uncertainty is this basic belief: God is still in charge. Speaking of testing... James chapter 1, the Lord speaking through James to address the question of testing our faith. James 1:17 gives us this reminder, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." In the midst of the changes we see every day around us, this truth remains. Everything: every breath, every loaf of bread, every dime and every dollar come from God, who DOES NOT CHANGE. Just as His promise of salvation never waivers; His promise of PROVISION does not change either. God cares for you.



Sanctified to Serve,  
Rev. B.J. Fouts



**Baptism**

**Maesyn Claire  
Dredla**

Child of  
Trevor & Kacie  
Dredla

was baptized into  
the Lord's family  
on September 11  
Sponsors are  
Jim & Erin Wolf.

*We were buried  
therefore with him by  
baptism into death, so that  
as Christ was raised from  
the dead by the glory of  
the Father, we too  
might walk in newness  
of life.*

*Romans 6:4*

# Confirmation

Confirmation 2022 is set for Sunday, October 30, at 9:00 am.

*Come celebrate with us!*

**Congratulation Confirmands:**

Cejay Dahlberg, Karley Freudenburg,  
Nikki Haack, Jacey Hassler,  
Trevor Hintz, Marissa Hitz,  
Xander Larson, Jaidyn Smutny,  
Trenton Volk, Presley Wolf,  
Britlee Wragge



Connect.Equip.Engage

## What is worship?

*In this short piece each month we will pause to learn a little about Christian worship.*

### Worship is a part of the “Therefore”

Do I have to go to church?

Already, even in asking that question, we have missed the point of going to church in the first place. You see that question is rooted in the assumption that going to worship is a requirement that God expects of us, moreover, in answering that question it becomes a law that we could keep and thereby earn, even if in some small way, a favor from God because we have kept at least this portion of his law. The question is almost inviting us to pat ourselves on the back for attending church.

Is there a command to worship? Of course. “Do this” (eat and drink the Lord’s body and blood in the Sacrament of the altar) “often.” The author of Hebrews is inspired by God the Holy Spirit to remind us not to give up meeting together as some have previously done (Hebrews 10:25) Prayer, praise, hearing the Word of God, gathering in fellowship, receiving the Sacrament, all of these things come with the command to do them regularly. Do we have to? Luther kind of explained the third commandment with a yes, “we should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.”

Nevertheless the question itself reveals the nature of our hearts. I’m either asking because I don’t want to go, or I’m asking to get a congratulations. I imagine it is as painful to God as when the kids say, “Do we have to go to grandma’s house for Christmas?” Our response is usually, “Don’t you want to go?”

Because God has done all of this for you, don’t you want to go? Don’t you want to hear the story? Don’t you want to receive forgiveness? Don’t you want to sing His praises? Don’t you want to pray? Don’t you want to be with the family of faith?

Go back to Hebrews 10, and start at the beginning of that paragraph: Hebrews 10:19, “Therefore brothers...” Whenever we see a “therefore” in Scripture let’s figure out what it is there for! What we see here is our reason for meeting together, our reason for “going to church.”

The apostle Paul, inspired by God to write the book of Romans systematically lays out the entire process. He teaches about our condemnation under the law, and then about the completeness of Christ’s atoning sacrifice. After 11 chapters of detailing the salvation story, Paul writes in Romans 12:1, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” Despite the possibility of commanding worship, and commanding holy living, the Lord chooses instead to appeal, or invite us to respond to His presence in our lives, with our presence for Him.

Why do you go to church? Pray that God might bring you to church with the Gospel, and repent of those times you have come to church only out of compulsion.



## Voters Meeting Notice:

St. John Church Quarterly Voters Meeting will be held **Sunday, October 23** following Education Hour at 11:45 am.

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There will be no Church Council Meeting the month of October. Individual boards will still meet on their regular schedule.



In an effort to keep you informed on our Building Foundations of Faith Capital Campaign the numbers will be posted monthly in the newsletters and bulletins.

**As of September 21, 2022**

Campaign Debt Remaining: \$248,976.88

Operating Debt Incurred: \$200,000.00

Total Financial Obligations: \$448,976.88

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH



**Save the Date:** The IGNITE auction will be held March 4, 2023 at Divots Event Center to help offset remaining building project debt.

**Snow Crews**

Trustees are preparing for the winter snow by organizing several snow crews to rotate removing the snow throughout the season. Please feel welcome to join a crew by calling Trustee chair Todd Roberts 402-841-1539 or see any St. John Trustee to help out.



**Pastor & Church Worker Appreciation**

Join us for cookies & bars following the Saturday service on **October 15**. On **Sunday, October 16**, bring your favorite dish to share at the church potluck in the parish hall from 11:30 am –12:30 pm. Stop by the Early Learning Center's Open House from 10-1:00 pm.

We thank the pastors, church workers and their families for all they do for St. John Ministries.

If you want to show your appreciation through a gift, suggestions are cards with a handwritten message, food items, gas cards, or gift cards.

A basket for card drop-off will be available.



*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith (Hebrews 13:7 ESV).*

**JOIN US FOR CHURCH CAMPUS**  
**FALL CLEAN UP**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 @ 9:00 AM**  
RAIN DATE OCTOBER 22 @ 9:00 AM

Bring gloves, rakes, and pruning shears if you have them  
Also in need of trucks and/or trailers for hauling out the debris.

*Choir Returns to St. John*

The choir rehearsal each Wednesday, in the church sanctuary from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

*Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join!*



## WiNGS—Women in Gods Service

### LWML Celebration Sunday, October 2



Lutheran Women in Mission praise the Lord for opportunities to share His message and love with people in all walks of life throughout our community and the world. The LWML invites you to join us in celebrating the joy of serving the Lord with gladness in this congregation. Together we offer our praise using the theme, “For Us and With Us”, based on Romans 8:31-39. We invite you to learn more about the mission and ministry of the LWML by asking an LWML (WiNGS) member or going online to the LWML website, [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org). Thank you for supporting the LWML through your mites and prayers.



Join us in worship at St. John Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 1 at 6:00pm or Sunday, October 2 at 9:00am to learn more as we celebrate LWML Sunday. Women of all ages in the Lutheran church are a part of LWML. Here at St. John, our women’s ministry group, WINGS, is active in LWML. WiNGS (Women in God’s Service) 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. We invite you to join us in fellowship at our monthly meetings held on the last Thursday of each month. Our next meeting will be October 27, at 1:30pm, in the Fellowship Hall classroom.



*Save the date: December 3 is the WiNGS Annual Christmas Craft and Vendor Show. Contact Deborah Sunderman for information on how to reserve a table for your crafts at 402-750-2447*



- |                    |                    |                       |                     |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Katey Huntley    | 12 Kari Hamer      | 21 Sherridan Kirby    | 29 Helen Baumgartel |
| 1 Wendell Lewis    | 12 Vickie Hrabanek | 21 Kade Larson        | 30 Amanda Acklie    |
| 1 Levi Stueve      | 12 Steve Obst      | 21 Reagan Praeuner    | 30 Deb Schott       |
| 1 Rowan Wolf       | 12 Verona Tegeler  | 21 Josh Tiedgen       | 30 Lindsay Unkel    |
| 2 Casey Heller     | 13 Sage Kraft      | 21 E. John Werner     | 31 Ryan Brauer      |
| 2 Sally Dahlberg   | 13 Karen Oldehoeft | 22 Brandi Bernhardt   | 31 Dan Kerber       |
| 2 Rod Nelson       | 13 Karen Thomas    | 22 Sherri Kirby       | 31 Mitchell Smith   |
| 2 Tim Oldehoeft    | 14 Tresa Prauner   | 22 Cael Pflueger      | 31 Meldean Ziehmer  |
| 4 Ken Bierman      | 15 Chanda Zohner   | 23 Janice Aldag       |                     |
| 4 Michael Long     | 16 Kelsey Schnoor  | 23 Leah Sunderman     |                     |
| 5 John Flanagan    | 16 Alice Meyer     | 24 Molly Carlson      |                     |
| 7 Melinda Hassler  | 16 Jordan Otjen    | 24 Hadley Volquardsen |                     |
| 8 Chad Tegeler     | 16 Kaleb Rath      | 25 Jason Anderson     |                     |
| 9 Deb Borgelt      | 16 John Rodekohr   | 25 Lisa Kramer        |                     |
| 9 Alisha Dahlberg  | 17 Avery Onnen     | 25 Kaitlin Young      |                     |
| 9 Trenten Volk     | 18 Randy Sunderman | 25 Brett Freundenburg |                     |
| 10 Lyndon Klug     | 18 Michael Tiedtke | 27 Jessi Gauer        |                     |
| 10 John Bomar      | 19 Jeannie Tiedtke | 27 Heather Hitz       |                     |
| 11 Blakely Aldag   | 20 Bria Stusse     | 27 Amy Volk           |                     |
| 11 Paisley Aldag   | 20 Carissa Frank   | 27 Casey Peterson     |                     |
| 11 Parker Anderson | 20 Peg Roker       | 28 Pastor Joe Leech   |                     |
| 11 Jason Voelker   | 20 Erin Wolf       | 29 Emery Frank        |                     |
| 11 Cael Stusse     | 21 Justin Haack    | 29 Casey Schnebel     |                     |



## October Birthdays



## **St. John Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, NE- Council Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, September 19, 2022**

**In Attendance:** Colby Kolm, Nick Onnen, Bryan Wysocki, Randy Howser, Gary Volk, Katie Schnitzler, Casey Heller, Steven Whitney, Heather Whitney, Reid Ehrisman, and Pastor B.J. Fouts.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Colby Kolm at 8:08 pm. Colby opened with a devotion and prayer.

Gary Volk made a motion to approve the August 24, 2022 council meeting minutes. Second by Randy Howser. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** by Katie Schnitzler. Overall budgeted income is up 2.2% and total budgeted expenses are down 10% from where we were at this time last year. All staff persons are conscientious of the current financial situation and are doing their best to be good stewards of what funds we have available. They are doing everything they can to find grants and/or cut costs wherever possible. The remaining balance due on the building project and church operating debt total to \$448,976.88. Randy Howser made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Second by Gary Volk. Motion carried.

**Trustees' Report** by Colby Kolm for Todd Roberts. The roofing project is 95% complete. They are still waiting on a few pieces of flashing. Once received, they will install them and do a final walk through to correct any issues. Fall clean-up day will be October 15 at 9:00 am with a rain date of October 22 at 9:00 am. Trustees performed some maintenance on the school gym bleachers and worked on some of the classroom doors that were not staying open properly. They are still looking for volunteers to help with snow removal. If you are willing and able to help please contact Todd Roberts. Trustees discussed upcoming projects for the ministry facilities, one of the major projects of discussion is replacing the church landscaping.

**Elders' Report** by Randy Howser. BBQ & Bible Study was held at the park on September 18 at 6:00 pm. Transfers in: Tia Eriksen from Zion in Wellington, SD. Transfers out: Terry & Kris Smith, Larry & Julie Moenning, and Jim & Margaret McCart to Our Savior – Norfolk. Randy Howser made a motion to approve the transfers out. Brian Wysocki seconded. Motion carried.

**Evangelism Report** by Heather Whitney. Evangelism is still taking mug pre-orders and donations for directories. They are asking for a \$10 donation for the directories to offset some of the costs. They have collected a little over half of their goal for the directories. For pastor appreciation month they will do an open potluck from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm on October 16. Evangelism will partner with Parish Ed for Operation Christmas Child event to be held on Wednesday, October 26 starting at 6:00 pm.

**Parish Ed Report** by Casey Heller. Parish Ed had a successful Sunday school kick-off scavenger hunt at the end of August. They helped with Bible Arrival. There were a few families that didn't attend the bible activities at school following the church service. They will make a change to help avoid that next year. Parish Ed is working with Evangelism on the Operation Christmas Child project.

**Parochial Ed** by Bryan Wysocki. The IGNITE auction will be held March 4, 2023 at Divots Event Center to help offset remaining building project debt. Mashaela Wolken was hired as head girls' basketball coach. Board members will set up times with teachers to observe them in the classroom. Accreditation committees are moving along. They have had some meetings and rough draft reviews.

**Stewardship Report** by Gary Volk. The board performed the regular monthly financial audit with the business manager. The Day of Giving will be November 29 with all funds raised to go towards the building project debt. Stewardship board also discussed other ideas for fundraising and ways to increase the awareness of the financial state of the church.

**Childcare Report** by Pastor B.J. Fouts for Skye Schott. Childcare requested a meeting of the personnel wellness committee to discuss an increase in pay for all hourly staff. The committee passed the pay increase. Due to the savings in actual payroll expenses and extra funding from the stabilization grant, there will be no impact to this fiscal year's budget. To sustain this increase in the future, the childcare will look at changing parent pay rates to a standard weekly rate regardless of child attendance. The ministry of childcare board will hold informational meetings to discuss the increase in rates with parents soon. The Early Learning Center will be holding an open house/family event on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Election of Pastoral and Lay Representatives to Circuit Forum – The lay representative must be a non-rostered person. The circuit forum will be held October 6 at Christ Lutheran – Norfolk at 7:00 pm. Colby Kolm made a motion to nominate Reid Ehrisman as the lay delegate for the circuit forum. Katie Schnitzler made a motion to nominate Pastor B.J. Fouts as the pastoral delegate for the circuit forum. Heather Whitney seconded the motions for Reid Ehrisman as lay delegate and Pastor B.J. Fouts as the pastoral delegate. Motion carried.

Reid Ehrisman made a motion to nominate Colby Kolm to be named as the circuit's lay-delegate for St. John Lutheran Church – Battle Creek with the possibility of being appointed to attend the national synod convention in Milwaukee in July 30 – August 3, 2023 by the circuit forum. Heather Whitney seconded. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting will be a Voters Meeting held October 23, 2022 at 11:45 am.**

Gary Volk made a motion to adjourn. Second by Reid Ehrisman. Motion carried.

Closing prayer by Pastor B.J. Fouts.

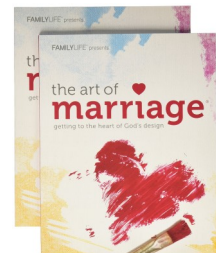
Minutes submitted by Katie Schnitzler.

## Christian Basic Bible Study

The teachings of the Bible direct everything we do as a body of Christ and sometimes it is nice to review the basics of our beliefs. This class will spend 6 weeks covering the basics of Christian teachings. This class will be a blessing to life-long Lutherans and those who are just beginning to investigate their faith, and it is a great opportunity for you to invite friends, neighbors or even coworkers to share in a light-hearted time of spiritual growth and renewal.

Join Pastor Fouts for this class beginning November 1 at 7:00pm. (For those wishing to become members of St. John Lutheran Church, this class will serve as a "New Member Class.")

The Art of Marriage Class has been postponed until next Spring. Watch for more information to come in January.



Due to Confirmation on Sunday, October 30 there will be no Education Hour that day.

# Reading / Prayer Calendar - October 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>September 26, 2022</b>	<b>September 27, 2022</b>	<b>September 28, 2022</b>	<b>September 29, 2022</b>	<b>September 30, 2022</b>
Joshua 4	Joshua 5	Joshua 6	Joshua 7	Joshua 8
Pray for Schools	Pray for the Armed Forces	Pray for your children or nieces/nephews	Pray for your Pastor	Pray for blessings in worship
<b>October 3, 2022</b>	<b>October 4, 2022</b>	<b>October 5, 2022</b>	<b>October 6, 2022</b>	<b>October 7, 2022</b>
Joshua 9	Joshua 10	Joshua 11	Joshua 12	Joshua 13
Pray for Teachers	Pray for the Government	Pray for your friends	Pray for Church staff	Pray for outreach in our community
<b>October 10, 2022</b>	<b>October 11, 2022</b>	<b>October 12, 2022</b>	<b>October 13, 2022</b>	<b>October 14, 2022</b>
Joshua 14	Joshua 15	Joshua 16	Joshua 17	Joshua 18
Pray for School Administrators	Pray for the President	Pray for the Family	Pray for the lay leaders of the church	Pray for missionaries
<b>October 17, 2022</b>	<b>October 18, 2022</b>	<b>October 19, 2022</b>	<b>October 20, 2022</b>	<b>October 21, 2022</b>
Joshua 19	Joshua 20	Joshua 21	Joshua 22	Joshua 23
Pray for Students	Pray for Congress	Pray for your spouse or parent	Pray for the Church	Pray for the lost
<b>October 24, 2022</b>	<b>October 25, 2022</b>	<b>October 26, 2022</b>	<b>October 27, 2022</b>	<b>October 28, 2022</b>
Joshua 24	Judges 1	Judges 2	Judges 3	Judges 4
Pay for School Support Staff	Pray for Gov't Employees	Pray for yourself	Pray for Confirmands	Pray for inactive Christians

Facebook @ Snactified to Serve

Deadline for submitting recipes for the St. John 150th Cookbook is September 30.

See the table in the parish hall entryway to pre-order a cookbook for \$20.00 or stop in the church office during the week throughout September.



Help us celebrate our 150 Anniversary! Now taking pre-orders on celebration mugs. Stop in the parish hall or church office to get yours! Cost is \$20.00



Recipes can be brought into the church office and copied to be submitted. They can also be emailed to churchsecretary@stjohnbc.net

Church photo directories are available for a suggested donation of \$10.00. Stop at the table in the parish hall entryway or the church office.





God has blessed our congregation with abundant opportunities for ministry, and with those opportunities come responsibility to ensure that those who we are ministering to are safe on our campus and in our facilities. We want to ensure the physical safety of our guests, members and staff at all times. Managing the physical safety of our facilities enables us to better meet spiritual needs as they arise. To this end, a task force has begun examining policies and practices at St. John Ministries to minimize risks around our campus and in a variety of programs.

One of the first identified safety risks was the accessibility of our church facilities during the week. The task force identified that the risk of an individual with malicious intent might have entered the building with the staff in the building unaware. To address this, it was recommended to limit access to the building to the door by the office during most of our business hours. While this may be an inconvenience to some of our members who are used to accessing other entries into our facility, once we are used to this new procedure, the long-term advantages to our facility safety plan outweigh the temporary inconveniences.

What is next? The Church Safety Task Force is in the process of working with church safety experts to conduct risk assessments around our facility and our programs, and will work to propose and review policies and procedures to enhance safety as needed. We will keep the congregation updated on changes as needed. If you have any concerns or if you are aware of an area which needs to be reviewed by the task force please contact the congregation chairman, Colby Kolm, Senior Pastor, B.J. Fouts, or Business Manager, Katie Schnitzler.

**Connecting people in the heart of Jesus.** Serving the Lord's House in October 2022

Date	Time	Elders	Ushers	Sound Booth
Sat. Oct 1	6:00	Howser/Anderson	Acklie & Volk	Volk
Sun Oct 2	9:00	Sunderman/Freudenburg	Borchers/Werner	Borchers/Kirby
Sat. Oct 8	6:00	M Baumgartel/Kossmann	Acklie & Volk	Volk
Sun Oct 9	9:00	J Baumgartel/Prauner	Fleer/ D. Werner	Tillmans
Sat Oct 15	6:00	Anderson/Sunderman	Acklie & Volk	Ryan Zohner
Sun Oct 16	9:00	Howser/ Wedekind	Fleer/ D. Werner	Brauers
Sat Oct 22	6:00	Wedekind/Prauner	Acklie & Volk	Volk
Sun Oct 23	9:00	Howser/J Baumgartel/	Ridder/ Zohner	Wragges
Sat Oct 29	6:00	M Baumgartel/Kossmann	Acklie & Volk	Volk
Sun Oct 30	9:00	Sunderman/Freudenburg	Werner	M. Zohner/ L. Lutt

October  
Acolytes  
Saturday:  
TBA ~  
Sunday-  
Bella & Katas  
Huntley





## From the Principal



He was stranded. My middle child was on a ropes course and found himself alone on an obstacle 35 feet away from me, and 30 feet above the ground. He had braved a swing across a zip line, but his carabiners remained clipped to that swing after he had dismounted. This meant he couldn't get off unless he could successfully tiptoe onto a stool and maintain balance as he leaned out over the expanse to unhook. He was stranded.

The situation was, as the name alluded, a challenge. I recognized the situation and began to shout out instructions to guide him... as did his grandma, and support staff from below. Unfortunately, having three different voices clamoring instructions only elevated the intensity and anxiety. After a few tense minutes, he was able to drown out the noise and focus on just one voice giving him insight and overcame the obstacle. We are constantly being bombarded with the voices around us. The radio, internet, television, co-workers, friends... with so much noise, how can you hear that "still small voice?" (1 Kings 19-11-13).



In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus invites us to "**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

I pray that amid the myriad of voices and the bustle of your day that you would be intentional to make time to hear the one who provides the peace that passes understanding.

Growing Together in Christ,

Mr. Onnen

## ST. JOHN PTL HARVEST CARNIVAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 @ POPPY'S PUMPKIN PATCH

6:00 - 8:00 PM

DISCOUNTED  
ADMISSION  
&  
FOOD VOUCHERS



6:15  
MUSIC  
&  
DEVOTIONS

### BAND APP

St. John Lutheran School is excited to announce that this year we will be using the app called **BAND** to communicate.

You will receive all school information and updates through this app. It is important that you download the app and join the group by using the link or QR code

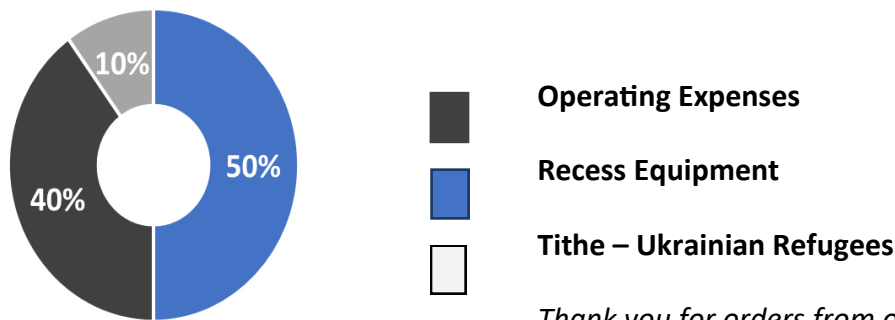
<https://band.us/naca7758bK1k5H>



## Fundraising Focus Shift

St. John has a LOT of the extras. Earmarked Covid funding from the last few years has equipped St. John with unbelievable access to technology, furnishings, and resources. From the outside looking in, it may appear as though St. John is financially very well-off. What you may not see is that 70% of our school funding comes from donations. **This translates to needing roughly \$570,000 in donations to operate our school this year!**

**Why do we need so much in donations?** We want everyone to have access to a Christ-centered education. We try to keep tuition as low as possible without breaking our parents' pocketbooks. However, we also must balance what we can ask from individuals in our congregation, who also support a church and an Early Learning Center. Currently, St. John owes \$250,000 on our building project, and has an operating budget debt of \$200,000. If we want to continue to operate our exceptional school, we must ensure we're sustainable across the whole St. John Ministry. Due to these challenges the teachers moved to allocate the "Fundraising Works" profit in the manner displayed in the graph below.



Operating Expenses

Recess Equipment

Tithe - Ukrainian Refugees

*Thank you for orders from our students through Fundraising Works!*

## Box Top for Education:



St. John School has received well over \$1000 per year in Box Tops for Education funds. In recent years, BoxTops has moved to a digital app, and we have seen that number diminished to a few dollars. Please consider downloading the "Box Tops for Education" App or drop grocery receipts off at the school office to be scanned for BoxTop rewards. Thanks for your support!



Scan the QR code using your smart phone camera to be taken to a "How To Use Box Tops" video.

Next PTL meeting is Thursday, October 13 at 6:30 pm at St. John Early Learning Center. Join us in supporting our Ministry Staff



**SUIT UP  
STAND FIRM**  
*Ephesians 6:13*

**Join us for Chapel  
Worship every  
Wednesday at  
8:30am**



# STJ ELC CONNECTION

St. John Early Learning Center Monthly Newsletter

## Come and See

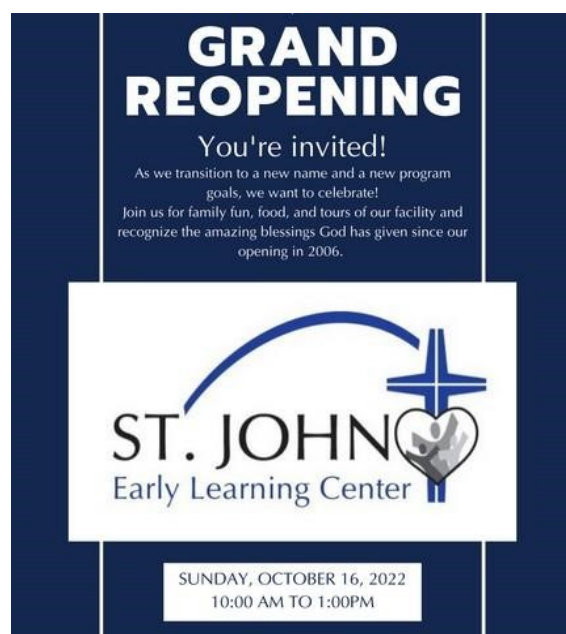
Kelsey Schnoor– Director of Early Childhood Ministry

Early childhood care and education has changed drastically since the start of the childcare ministry at St. John. Originally called In His Arms Community Childcare, 25 children were served in one classroom at it's start in 2007. Activities ranged from free play to crafts. In 2017, the Love Deeply and Widely campaign updated long neglected building code issues and space needs, adding infant care and expanding to four classrooms for an average of 57 children per day. While some classrooms focused more on state learning guidelines, there was no set curriculum or standards center wide.

In 2019, a research-based curriculum was added across all classrooms to ensure intentionality and cohesiveness in the care and education of all children. Along with the Building Foundations of Faith, which added four new classrooms in St. John Lutheran School, we added our Pre-K classroom, allowing us to shift our classroom age groups to better care for children per their developmental needs. As research continually changes and shows that children need higher quality care and early childhood experiences, we too shift and adapt our practices. In 2020, several of our teachers began taking part in a social emotional initiative to help support children in that area of growth, which will help lay a strong foundation for later learning. Our staff are committed to providing the best possible care for all children and families. Through several trainings and working through the accreditation process, we are continually seeking to better the quality we provide.

With all of the changes we've made to our practices, a name change was necessary. This past summer, a name change took place, bringing all of our changes and growth full circle. St. John Early Learning Center embodies the goals and priorities of our program.

We invite you all to join us Sunday, October 16, to *come and see* what God has done in our space. While the building hasn't seen many changes, there are so many changes with our people and goals. From 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, we plan to welcome our congregation, family, and special guests from our community, state government, and other organizations that we have been so blessed to work with. Help us show support for all the work done in our space and get to know the staff and teachers.



**GRAND REOPENING**

You're invited!

As we transition to a new name and a new program goals, we want to celebrate!  
Join us for family fun, food, and tours of our facility and recognize the amazing blessings God has given since our opening in 2006.

**ST. JOHN**  
Early Learning Center

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2022  
10:00 AM TO 1:00PM



# Youth and Family Ministry

**FROGS Youth  
(7th & 8th Grade)**  
*Fully Rely On God's Salvation*  
**LIGHT Youth Ministry  
(9th-12th Grade)**

Where we *Learn, Invite, Give of ourselves, and Honor God Together*

- Wednesday, October 5, 6-8:00 pm  
Community Youth Night at the park  
Grades 7-12 invited to attend. Fun, Food, Music & Fellowship.
- Sunday, October 2,9,16,23 at 4:00 pm  
4th Year Confirmation Class
- Sunday, October 16 at 4:00 pm St. John youth grades 7-12 meet in the school youth room.

**Setting an Example**-Worship is Critical to growth in faith for all children of God. Prioritizing worship as a family is a huge way to minister to your child. God is always at work through his word and sacraments.

Confirmation & Bible Study Confirmation classes and High School study are held on Sunday mornings, 10:30-11:15am, and are open to everyone wishing to know more about the faith. Contact Pastor Fouts to enroll your



## Festmahl is November 6

St. John Youth will be in charge of carry-outs again this year. Watch for more information to follow in October.



## Get involved in Worship!

Sound Tech, Choir, Praise Team or Ushering are all great opportunities to get involved in worship. Contact Mr. Whitney to join our team.

Volunteering counts towards high school community service hours.

## St John Ministry Trivia Night!

Get your team ready!  
Snacks provided!

### What's the incentive?

The team that scores the most points by answering the most questions correctly will WIN. Prizes are as follows:

- First Place Team: \$400
- Second Place Team: \$200
- Last Place Team: ???

\*\*Additional prizes will be awarded throughout the evening.

\*\*More great info at [stjohnbc.net/trivia](http://stjohnbc.net/trivia)

You're invited to:

# TRIVIA NIGHT

Sponsored by the PTL of St. John Lutheran School and  
St. John Early Learning Center

Friday, November 18  
St. Patrick's Parish Hall - Battle Creek

Registration Information and Details at:  
[www.stjohnbc.net/trivia](http://www.stjohnbc.net/trivia)



## Mother /Daughter Retreat

- What: For mothers and daughters 5-8th grade
- When: November 11 & 12 RSVP by October 14
- Check in Time: 4:00 pm on November 11
- Where: Divots Conference Center, Norfolk, NE
  - ◇ A block of rooms has been reserved under the name *St. John Retreat*.
  - ◇ You are responsible for the cost and booking your own room by October 14
- Cost: \$75 to help cover the cost of materials, food and a meeting room.
  - ◇ Checks may be made payable to St. John Ministries and dropped off at the school or church office no later than October 30. Mark your check *Retreat*.

**Registration is open to the first 20 mother/daughter families.** For more information contact Deanna Anderson, 402-217-6092-Jessica Fouts 402-768-1471 or Shelley Borchers. 402-640-6083

- \* Use the QR code or go to [stjohnbc.net-church/page-events](http://stjohnbc.net-church/page-events) to register



HOW TO  
RAISE  
A STRONG  
*daughter*  
GOD'S WAY



## St. John Ministries & Operation Christmas Child

Evangelism, Parish Education, and PTL are working together to fill shoeboxes to be shipped in time for a child to receive them for Christmas.

Family pizza night will be held **on Wednesday, October 26, at 6:00 p.m.** At 6:30, we will watch a short presentation about packing a shoebox (physically or online) and who will be receiving these special boxes. Individuals and families are then invited to take a box home to fill and return. We plan on having a special blessing on the boxes in worship before shipping.

If you would like to donate to help fill a box or pay shipping fee of \$10 for each package, place your donation in the offering plate marked for Operation Christmas Child.

Last year we packed 75 boxes and this year we would like to fill 100 or more boxes! So please help us to reach more children and help them to learn about Jesus!



**And Jesus will answer them,**

**"Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my children, ye have done it unto me."**

**Matthew 25:40**

## Lutheran High Northeast – October 2022



@LHNEagles

2010 N. 37<sup>th</sup> Street  
Norfolk, NE 68701



(402) 379-3040 [www.LHNE.org](http://www.LHNE.org) @LHNEagles



### HOMEcoming WEEK FUN

Lutheran High's Homecoming theme for this year was Board Games! Each class picked different board games to decorate their hallways and made some interesting lip-syns. The board game picks were Monopoly, Candyland, Jumanji, and the western game Oregon Trail. It was a week full of fun and friendly competition. The dance was held on September 24th where the students spent the night dancing the night away!

### ONE ACT – The Mane Boss

Beautician student Judy Fischer is thrilled at the chance to start her career working at the most established salon in the Bronx, *Antonella's Hair Couture*, run by the Maldonado family in the 1960s. But does everyone approve of the outsider? Not only is she *not* related, but the salon's owner, Louisa Maldonado, has a husband, Leon, with much to hide - he's a head mob boss running his underground casino in the back of her shop at night! Will Judy be able to survive the two businesses or be seen as a threat? Spray down your stray hairs as Judy encounters a ditzzy receptionist pining for the owner's flirty son, a mobster associate's secret past with Leon's sister Theresa who believes the salon should be hers, and gossipy customers who are oblivious or turn a blind eye to all the money filtering in and out from haircuts (or is it the card games?). Who will be accepted and who will find themselves 'swimming with the fishes'? Place your bets and find out in this fall's one act production of *The Mane Boss*, written by Mrs. Heather Whitney. The play is co-directed by Mr. Steven Whitney and Mrs. Heather Whitney.

### LHNE OPEN HOUSE – October 30<sup>th</sup>

LHNE will be holding a Fall Open House on October 30<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the Booster Club Pancake Feed. This event will give future students and their parents as well as LHNE supporters an opportunity to tour our facilities, visit with our faculty and staff, and get any questions answered about what it is like to be a Lutheran High Northeast Eagle. All are Welcome!

### Upcoming Events

Oct 2 – LHNE Music Concert  
Oct 3 – Jr. High & JV FB at HOME  
Oct 4 – VB Triangular at Plainview  
Oct 6 – VB Triangular at HOME  
Oct 7 – X-Country at Bloomfield  
Oct 7 – FB at HOME vs EV  
Oct 10 – JH & JV FB at HOME  
Oct 10 – FFA Mtg at 6:30pm  
Oct 11 – VB Lakeview at HOME  
Oct 12 – FFA District Land Judging  
Oct 13 – District X-Country  
Oct 13 – Varsity FB at Neligh  
Oct 15 – VB Tournament Away  
Oct 16 – Booster Club Mtg  
Oct 17 – C/JV VB at Wisner  
Oct 18 – VB vs Stanton at HOME  
Oct 20 – LHNE Service Day  
Oct 21 – No School  
Oct 24-25 – VB Districts  
Oct 25-29 – FFA National Conv.  
Oct 29 – VB District Finals  
Oct 30 – Booster Club Pancake Feed  
Oct 30 – LHNE Open House  
Nov 2 – State VB begins

### Pancake Feed

Please come to support the LHNE Booster club at the annual Lutheran High Northeast Pancake Feed. This year's Pancake Feed will be held on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Several students will be providing entertainment while you eat.



~Educating for Life † Proclaiming the Faith~



# October 2022

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 Night Bible study with Ms. Werner

@ 7:00 pm Parish Hall

Men's & WINGS

Women's Bible Studies

Wednesday @9:30 am

Parish Hall Classroom

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Church Worker/ Pastor Appreciation Month						1
2 LWML Sunday 4:00 4th Confirmation 6:00 Adult Sports	3 6:00Altar Guild Meeting	4 1:00 Senior Fun Day	5 6:00 Community Youth Night 6:30 Choir Practice	6 6:30 PTL- Early Learning Center	7	8
9 4:00 4th Confirmation 6:00 Adult Sports	10	11	12 4:00 Leadership Team Meeting	13	14	15 9:00 Fall Cleanup 9:30 MOMSAMOMS
16 10:00 ELC Open House 11:30 Appreciation Pot luck 4:00 4th Confirmation 4:30 FROGS –LIGHT 6:00 Adult Sports	17	18 1:00 S Fun Day	19 6:30 Choir practice	20	21	22
23 11:45 Voters' Meeting 4:00 4th Confirmation 6:00 Adult Sports	24	25	26 12:00 Leadership Staff Meeting 6:00 Operation Christmas Child 6:30 Choir Practice	27 1:30 WINGS Meeting	28	29
30 Reformation Sunday 9:00 Confirmation. No Ed Hr	31					





*Connecting People in the Heart of Jesus*

St. John Lutheran  
Church  
P.O. Box 87  
Battle Creek, NE 68715

October Church Newsletter

