

St. John Lutheran Church

CONNECTING PEOPLE IN THE HEART OF JESUS

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 :

Vacant

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Joseph Leech

Director of Music & Worship:

Mr. Steven Whitney

Interim Church Administrator:

Katie Schnitzler

Administrative Assistant:

Diane Stoural



Looking around, we might think we have every reason to despair. It seems like the church is declining in numbers. Perhaps we see fewer members in the pews on Sunday, and we're unsure whether the church will be around to bury us. If we look beyond the church, we see the assaults of the culture on every side.

Like the children of Israel as they stood between the Red Sea and the rushing hordes of Egypt coming behind them, it's tempting to despair.

But the church is not a community of despair. It is a community of hope. We do not place this hope in the power of a ruler or the strength of a man, but in *the* Man, Jesus Christ. The church of God is a community buoyed by hope, confident and certain that God — just as He did for Israel — will make a way for us. And, in fact, He already has. Through His death and resurrection, Christ has conquered our foes. He has led us through the Red Sea and drowned the wicked foe in the waters of Holy Baptism. His promise to us is that just as He brought Israel to new life through water, so also will He do for us today.

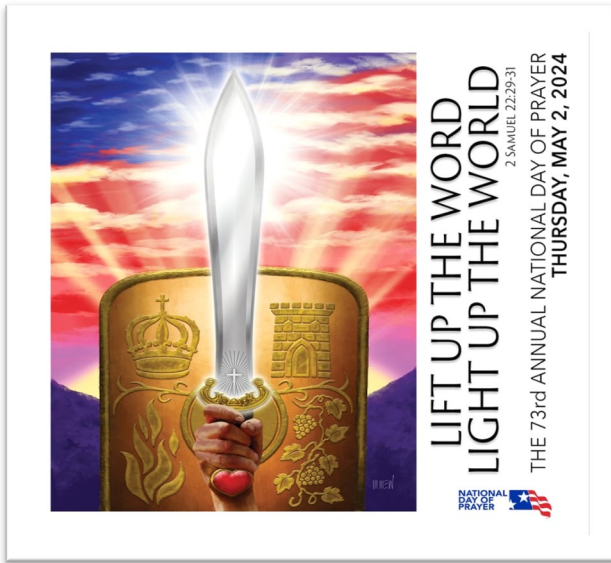

"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (Rom. 5:3-5).

(Taken from the March Lutheran Witness)



(continued from pg. 1)

With this hope in mind let us continue to approach the throne of God's grace with boldness in prayer. Please pray for the next Shepherd for St. John Ministries and our Call & Nominations Committees. We encourage you to prayerfully consider serving on a ministry board or in another capacity. In these challenging times, it is crucial for us to unite with hope as members of not only St. John but also as His church and in our community.

Pray for our community with the children of St. John School & Early Learning Center on their prayer walk for the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2 at 8:15 am. Meet in the school gym. Due to the prayer walk, there will be no chapel on Wednesday, May 1.

St. John Ministries Prayer Weekend

St. John Ministries is firmly rooted in the belief that God hears our prayers, and that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. With this confidence we continue to lift up this ministry to God's direction and guidance that by His grace we may thrive in 2024 and beyond.

The goal is for our ministry to be in constant prayer on May 3 & 4.

You can easily sign up by visiting stjohnbc.net/church under events or by scanning the QR code provided or call the church office 402-675-3155.

Let us therefore
COME BOLDLY Unto the
THRONE OF GRACE
 That We May Obtain
MERCY And Find
GRACE To Help
In time of need
Hebrews 4:16



God hears our prayers regardless of our ability.

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us." Romans 8:26

Getting Started—Tips for Praying:

- Thank & praise God for His provision.
- Read & Pray Psalms 20 & 72.
- Recite the Lord's Prayer pausing to contemplate each section.
- End each petition with: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- Sit quietly without distractions and listen for the Spirit's prompting.

Prayer Ideas:

- Senior Pastor Vacancy, Call Committee, Leadership Team, Church Boards & Nominations Committee
- School & ELC Students & Families
- Ministry Staff & Families
- Stewardship-Volunteering & Tithing
- That our Ministry Would Be united for Christ and His Church

Baptisms

Cade Caleb Zohner

Child of Caleb & Rachel
Zohner

was baptized into the
Lord's family on
March 31.

Sponsors are
Jackson & Aiden Baer
& Ryan Zohner



*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.*

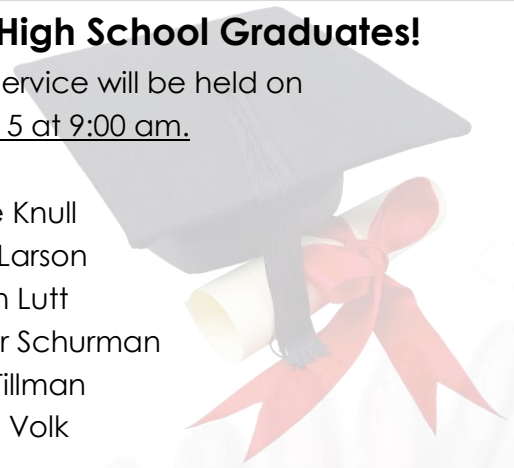
Romans 6:4

Congratulations to our High School Graduates!

A Baccalaureate Prayer Service will be held on
Sunday, May 5 at 9:00 am.

Taylynn Aldag
Christyan Anderson
Blake Borchers
Makenzi Eckert
Tylar Humphrey
Tucker Kirby

Chase Knull
Kade Larson
Lauren Lutt
Amber Schurman
Leah Tillman
Josiah Volk



Notice

Congregational
Quarterly Voter's
Meeting is scheduled for
Sunday, June 2 at
10:30 am.

On the Agenda

Board Reports
Election of Officers
Budget
Vacancy Update



**If you, or someone you know, would like
to become a member of St. John Lutheran
Church please sign up for the New
Member class beginning on June 1. Call
Pastor Leech at the church office for
more information.**

The church office will be
closed on Monday,
May 27,
in observance of
Memorial Day.



If you want to honor your
loved one on Memorial Day
by having their flag flown at
the Lutheran Cemetery, you
can drop it off at the church
office or call Rex Volk at 402-
675-8505.

The flags will be folded and
either returned to you or
stored for next year's use.

The Battle Creek community is cordially invited to attend the Memorial Day Program on Monday, May 27. This program is sponsored by the Battle Creek American Legion Post #75 & Auxiliary. The Parks of Pride will be serving coffee and rolls in the commons area at Battle Creek High School starting at 9:00 am. The Memorial Day Program will commence at 10:00 am featuring special guest speakers including Girls State representatives, Jaylynn Kesting & Alexis Hoffmann, and Boy State Representatives, Gavin Olson & Logan Lutt. We urge you to join us in honoring those who have served or are currently serving our country.

WINGS—*Women in Gods Service– Women in Missions-LWML*

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 met on March 28, 2024. Sarah Tillman shared an LWML devotion called, "Living in the Spirit Gives Me Power".

WINGS members volunteer each month to help with BINGO at the Community Pride Care Center. It's always a fun afternoon spent in fellowship with the residents. In April, the 3rd and 4th grade students at St. John School will send off their final pen pal letters of the school year. What a blessing they have been these last few months, writing letters to St. John members living in a care facility or who are home shut-ins.

WINGS has purchased three new round tables to replace the unstable ones in the Fellowship Hall classroom.

On April 9, Carma Anderson, Deb Eckert, Janice Hitz, Linda Lehman, Shirley Staver, Deborah Sunderman, and Judy Warneke joined a busload of others from the LWML Norfolk Zone for a visit to Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa. It was a day full of information and passion for mission work and missionaries. What a privilege to see how God continues to bless the work being done through Mission Central to "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:14). And to be reminded by missionary Gary Thies, that we are ALL missionaries! Our thoughts and prayers are with Gary, who lost his wife, Maxine, later that evening.



On Thursday, May 30, at noon, WINGS will host its annual Salad and Dessert Bar Luncheon. Our guest speaker will share information, updates, and upcoming plans for the Heritage Park in Battle Creek. All women are invited to join us. You can RSVP to the church office or WINGS President Patty Renner at 402-841-1440.

WINGS will be collecting used greeting card fronts to be used at the District LWML Convention in June to cut out crosses to send to missionaries. There is a tote in the Fellowship Hall entrance for the cards. Thank You!

Get Involved: Community Opportunity

The Battle Creek Parks of Pride has been featured in Wandermore Nebraska Magazine as a top tourist site among Nebraska's 125 museums. They are currently seeking assistance to maintain the park's beauty throughout the summer by cleaning, planting, and watering. We kindly request you to consider this opportunity to serve your community. If you are interested please contact Marci at 402-750-1671.

We are excited to announce the expansion of our spiritual care services at St. John Ministries.

We have recently started our Stephen Ministries program, and Ginger Howser has completed her training as a Stephen Minister-Leader. This means that the women of our congregation now have an additional resource for spiritual care through Ginger. We will be conducting our Stephen Ministries Training on June 8th and 9th. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining this ministry and serve God by serving others.



If you are interested, please contact Pastor Joe at the church office for more information.
(402) 675-3155

Celebration of *Life*

May Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Joe Jessen | 11 Randy Halpin | 17 Sarah Roberts | 25 Dennis Hofmann |
| 3 Dave Praeuner | 11 Layla Santos | 18 Justin Schnoor | 26 Jason Lyon |
| 3 Linda Seiler | 12 Taylynn Aldag | 18 Justin Eckert | 26 Adam Wysocki |
| 5 Jerry Lulow | 12 Daniel French | 19 Terrie Dahlberg | 26 Titus Tillman |
| 6 Sophie Humphrey | 12 Everett Koopman | 19 Wyatt Holecek | 26 Mandy Humphrey |
| 6 Travis Humphrey | 13 Zach Painter | 20 Kyle Hamilton | 27 Ginger Huttman |
| 6 Tucker Kirby | 13 Peyton Aldag | 20 LaRhea Voelker | 27 Dick Seelmeyer |
| 6 Rich Lauritsen | 14 Lexi Stueve | 20 Taylor Wennekamp | 28 Hannah Goodwater |
| 6 Cody Young | 14 Ralph Glandt | 21 Crystal Schurman | 28 Grayson Ehrisman |
| 7 Tammy Bierman | 14 Pat Hintz | 22 Sierra Anderson | 28 Jim Henrickson |
| 7 Crystal Hintz | 14 Courtney Klug | 23 Ali Long | 29 Harper Harbottle |
| 8 Kolby Heller | 15 Aceley Krueger | 23 Brittney Forsell | 29 Larry Werner |
| 8 Tami Otjen | 15 Chris Prauner | 23 Doug Praeuner | 29 Emily Wedekind |
| 8 Leon Voelker | 15 Jane Beltz | 23 Jim Wennekamp | 29 Mona Henery |
| 9 Silas Whitney | 15 Russ Hamer | 24 Paige Kossmann | 30 Susan Bierman |
| 10 Brian Nelson | 16 Austin Prauner | 24 Matthias Spulak | 30 Tia Eriksen |
| 10 Cody Roewert | 16 Haven Henery | 25 Richard Brauer | 30 Theo Uecker |
| 10 Riley Prauner | 17 Faith Baumgartel | 25 Preston Buckendahl | 31 Kay Ponton |



Celebrating May Wedding Anniversaries

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| MAY 1- RUSSELL & COURTNEY VOLK | MAY 21- TONY & SARA ANDERSON | MAY 28-SCOTT & MONA HENERY |
| MAY 3- MIKE & MARY FLEER | MAY 22- B.J. & JESSICA FOUTS | MAY 30- JOSHUA & KATIE SCHNITZLER |
| MAY 6- JOE & RANDI JESSEN | MAY 22- DENNIS & JANICE ALDAG | MAY 31- ORAND & POLLY UNKEL |
| MAY 7- PATRICK & ALEXANDREA NOBLE | MAY 22- WENDELL & MANDY LEWIS | |
| MAY 9- LYNDON & ANDEE KLUG | MAY 24- CHRIS & CRYSTAL SCHURMAN | |
| MAY 15- JON & LYNN KLUG | MAY 24- ROGER & JANET SPULAK | |
| MAY 15- RANDY & KAREN RITTERBUSH | MAY 25- CHRIS & MELINDA HASSLER | |
| MAY 20 -RUSS & KARI HAMER | MAY 27- RANDY & GINGER HOWSER | |
| MAY 21- CHRIS & SELLAH PRAUNER | MAY 28- BARRY & JODI STUEVE | |



Call the church office to add or check your wedding anniversary date. We would love to pray for you.

May God bless you on your special day!

st. John Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, NE

Council Meeting Minutes-Monday, April 22, 2024

In Attendance: Reid Ehrisman, Colby Kolm, Pastor Joseph Leech, Katie Schnitzler, Christy Schmidt, Ann Grant, Tia Eriksen, Karen Grant, Todd Roberts, Kelsey Schnoor, Dane Prauner, Kevin Wedekind, Nick Onnen, Vince Hoehne & Mike Anderson, Pastor Barry Williams.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Reid Ehrisman at 8:05 pm. Reid opened with devotion and prayer.

Karen Grant made a motion to approve the March 18, 2024, council meeting minutes. Second by Christy Schmidt. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report by Katie Schnitzler. Praise God for all the support and that continues to increase in giving! Income continues to increase but not at the same rate as expenses. IGNITE produced nearly \$108,000. Of the funds raised, 5% was designated to go to school scholarships. The remaining funds helped pay down the operating debt. Unfortunately, \$65,000 will be needed by Friday, April 26 to meet operating expenses for this month so the debt balance is likely to go back up. As the end of the fiscal year nears, so do slower giving months meaning the operating debt balance is likely to continue to increase going forward. Dane motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Second by Karen Grant. Motion carried.

Trustees Report by Todd Roberts. Spring clean-up day was Saturday, April 20. Trustees still have some landscaping work to be done. They continue to monitor issues with some gutters at the ELC. A group of trustees put together a fence to hide the dumpsters at the end of the school parking lot. The trustees did a walk-through of the parsonage. The stove, upstairs carpet, and dishwasher will need to be replaced. The parsonage will also need some painting and repair to a piece of laminate flooring before the next occupants move in. The Council will need to decide how repairs should be done and approve the cost to the budget. Currently, there is \$5,000 designated for parsonage repairs from the Endowment Fund. The Fouts family will be officially moving out on Memorial Day weekend.

Elders Report by Dane Prauner. Transfer out for Andrew Warneke to Holy Cross Lutheran in Dakota Dunes, SD. Motion to accept the transfer out by Dane. Second by Todd Roberts. Pastor Leech will start a New Members class starting June 2 in place of adult Bible study. The class will run for eight weeks. Right now, there are expected to be 8-10 participants. Stephen's Ministry training classes will be on Friday evenings and before Saturday night church beginning on June 8 and 9.

Evangelism Report by Tia Eriksen. The Evangelism Board worked with Parish Ed to collect coffee and treat donations in April to create care packages for college students who are members of St. John. The board has a sign-up for National Day of Prayer beginning on May 3 at 5:00 am – 8:00 pm and May 4 at 5:00 am – 8:00 pm for 15 continuous hours of prayer each day. People can sign up to pray for a 30-minute time slot on either day. You can pray from anywhere including your home or at the church. Prayer requests will be distributed after worship on May 5 for families to pray for before education hour begins. Evangelism discussed their goals for the next year. The board is also planning to do some kind of welcome package for the people completing the New Members Class.

Parish Ed Report by Christy Schmidt. Parish Ed has enjoyed doing the care packages for the college student connections. Included with the college student's care package was a reminder that you are still part of the church family and an invitation to worship with St. John when they are home for the summer. The VBS kick-off is next Sunday, April 28 following education hour. This event will allow people to sign up as VBS participants as well as volunteers who want to help. There will be a hot dog meal and fun activities at the kickoff event. Parish Ed discussed several different ways to advertise in the area for VBS. The majority of the kids that attend VBS come from surrounding communities, and we need to make sure they are aware. VBS will take place July 21-25. Parish Ed also discussed their goals for the next year.

Parochial Ed Report by Nick Onnen. St. John Lutheran School re-enrollment is happening now. At this moment there are more students re-enrolled for the 2024-2025 school year than the number of current students. The Parochial Ed Board discussed ways to try to encourage and develop more of a recruiting presence to get kids to St John. Mr. Onnen visited with an outside church who have multiple students attending St. John School to ask that they consider paying a portion of the cost to educate their members. The church was open to the idea and the progress is encouraging. Gym floor progress continues to just be conversations, but some have been more encouraging recently. Several classes have participated in many different service projects that have helped break up the ordinary routine towards the end of the school year. Next Monday, April 29, is preschool graduation. A discussion was had about issuing a tuition discount to active and regular tithing members of St. John church. The board has considered this option in many ways, and it could potentially become part of the tuition model in the future. It was noted that district-wide a growing number of students who attend a Lutheran school associated with a church do not attend that church as their home church. This particular issue is not specific only to St. John. In June, the Parochial Ed Board will recommend the Voters extend a call to Tia Eriksen who has completed her colloquy certification.

Early Learning Center (ELC) Report by Ann Grant. The ELC will be using the ProCare Software System starting on May 1. Also at this time, all parents will be required to enroll in automatic payments to help avoid delinquent bills. Kelsey is hiring high school and college-aged kids to help for the summer. The ELC was awarded a technology grant which will allow for several new electronic devices. All the ELC staff will assist with the spring carnival happening this Sunday, April 28, after education hour. The ELC Board also discussed their goals for the next year.

Stewardship Report by Karen Grant. The Stewardship Board reviewed the budget for 2024-2025 and will make their final recommendation to Council in May. A couple of the Stewardship Board members sat in budget meetings with the ELC board, per their request, to assist with some financial decisions. The Stewardship Board is also working on its goals and plan for the next year.

Old Business - None.

New Business –

Nominations – Each board was given a list of names to contact to be listed on the voter's ballot for June. Every board should have contacted those people by now. Please continue to stay in touch with Reid and Katie with any responses you have received.

ELC Proposed 2024-2025 Budgeted Income – This item was tabled at the last council meeting due to several questions that needed to be answered. The ELC Board is very thankful for the people who took the extra time and gave extra care to developing several options that could be considered. This decision will impact so many lives in the church and community and was not taken lightly. The ELC Board is recommending changing the ministry staff discount to twenty-five percent. The health insurance and benefits will remain unchanged for all staff. The board increased the base rates and removed the additional child discount. The new rates will take effect July 1. The board looked at restructuring classrooms and with these future changes the ELC will be able to function with 12 full-time staff rather than 14, cutting the overall proposed ministry deficit by \$100,000. Karen Grant motioned to approve the ELC's proposed budget number of \$898,972. Second by Dane Prauner. Motion carried.

Vacancy Report – As of last Sunday, the congregational member survey is available for people to complete. The purpose of the survey is to gather information and provide guidance in the call process. The surveys need to be returned by April 29. The results will be reviewed and then used to prepare the Congregational Self-Study document that will be submitted to the district office. Pastor Snow has helped with communication with potential vacancy pastors. Pastor Lee and Pastor Eric from Our Savior are options. Pastor Carretto from Christ Lutheran could also help assist at times. The Council discussed that there is a need for a vacancy pastor to assist with preaching to allow Pastor Leech the opportunity to continue to care for our church's shut-ins. Pastor Snow informed the Chairman that vacancy could take up to two years or more before a senior pastor is called. Karen Grant motioned to request a vacancy pastor(s) to assist during this time of need and to extend an offer to Pastor Lee to serve as the vacancy pastor. Second by Dane Prauner. Motion carried.

Other- Visitor Vince Hoehne shared information about an opportunity to receive a tax credit by donating to St John School or the ELC. There will be a Brunch & Learn on May 19 to provide more education on these tax credits that lower the taxpayer's (individual or business) state tax liability and benefit St. John Ministries at the same time. Be on the lookout for more information. Katie Schnitzler, Vince Hoehne, or Nick Onnen can provide more information and assistance with the donation process if needed at this time.

The next Meeting is Monday, May 20 at 8:00 pm.

Christy Schmidt made a motion to adjourn. Second by Dane Prauner. Motion carried.

Closing prayer by Pastor Leech.

Minutes submitted by Mandy Lewis.

Vacancy Update

Associate Pastor Rev. Joseph Leech is continuing in the weekend worship duties at St. John, as well as visiting the sick and shut-ins. In the interim all other administrative functions at St. John have been transitioned to the current Business Manager, Mrs. Katie Schnitzler. In planning for the vacancy with the District President, Rev. Richard Snow, and St. John's circuit pastor, Rev. Barry Williams, it was suggested that St. John Lutheran Church find the assistance of a vacancy pastor. The Council of Ministries met on Monday, April 22 to discuss this very matter. The Council agreed that Pastor Leech should have assistance with the preaching so that he can continue to properly care for the sick and shut-in. After discussing the available options for a vacancy pastor, the Council voted to ask Pastor Lee from Our Savior to be the serve as vacancy pastor with assistance from Pastor Gradburg and Pastor Carretto when needed.

The Call Process

In April, the Congregational Chairman, Mr. Reid Ehrisman, assembled the Call Committee. The district office has disseminated a Pre-Call Survey for the members of the congregation to share their input on the desired qualities and skills of the next senior pastor. Congregation members have until April 29 to complete the survey. Meanwhile, the congregation's leaders will complete a self-study of the mission, vision, and functionality of St. John Ministries as a whole. After the self-study is complete and the surveys are collected and tabulated the information will be sent to the district office. Following that, President Snow will come for a meeting with the congregation to review the survey results and the self-study document and to discuss the next steps of the call process. After that meeting, members of the congregational community will have the opportunity to submit nomination forms for potential pastors to be considered. After two to four weeks, these forms will be sent to President Snow who will review them and prayerfully consider other potential candidates from around the Synod and send a call list of 10-20 names. Also included with this list will be the Pastoral Information Forms and Self-Evaluation Tools from these potential pastoral candidates. The Call Committee will review the call list and information, get feedback, and possibly conduct interviews before eventually calling for a Voters' Meeting. The Call Committee will present a slate to the voters who will prayerfully discuss and possibly vote to call a new pastor. Once a call is issued the pastor-elect will take anywhere from two to six weeks to deliberate the call. If he accepts the call another one to two months will be likely before he is installed at St. John. If the call is returned, the Call Committee decides whether to continue with the current call list or ask the District President for additional names.

A few things we urge you to consider during this ministry transition period:

1. The Lord is leading His Church, it is His Ministry, and it is His Call.
2. God provides for the ministry He desires, not only is He raising up the next pastor, but He has raised up the congregational leaders to serve through this transition.
3. We encourage you to figure out the direction God has for St. John and look for the pastor whom God is going to use to lead you there.
4. Pray for our leaders and our ministry here at St. John and use this time to unite us as members of the body of Christ.

We urge you to be active in the Call process. To keep you informed on the process we will be posting information in the church bulletins and newsletters.

Reading / Prayer Calendar - May 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
April 29, 2024	April 30, 2024	May 1, 2024	May 2, 2024	May 3, 2024
Psalm 117	Psalm 118	Psalm 119	Psalm 120	Psalm 121
Pray for Schools	Pray for the Armed Forces	Pray for your children or nieces/nephews	Pray for your Pastor	Pray for blessings in worship
May 6, 2024	May 7, 2024	May 8, 2024	May 9, 2024	May 10, 2024
Psalm 122	Psalm 123	Psalm 124	Psalm 125	Psalm 126
Pray for Teachers	Pray for the Government	Pray for your friends	Pray for Church Staff	Pray for outreach in our community
May 13, 2024	May 14, 2024	May 15, 2024	May 16, 2024	May 17, 2024
Psalm 127	Psalm 128	Psalm 129	Psalm 130	Psalm 131
Pray for School Administrators	Pray for the President	Pray for the Family	Pray for the lay leaders of the church	Pray for missionaries
May 20, 2024	May 21, 2024	May 22, 2024	May 23, 2024	May 24, 2024
Psalm 132	Psalm 133	Psalm 134	Psalm 135	Psalm 136
Pray for Students	Pray for Congress	Pray for your spouse or parent	Pray for the Church	Pray for the lost

Connecting people in the heart of Jesus. Serving the Lord's House in May 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
Sat. May 4 Sun. May 5	6:00 9:00	M Baumgartel/Wedekind J Baumgartel/Zohner	Knull/Volk Werner/Zohner	Volk Andersons
Sat. May 11 Sun. May 12	6:00 9:00	Borgelt/Prauner Sunderman/Howser	Schwede/Volk Volk	Kuchar/Huntley Brauer
Sat. May 18 Sun. May 19	6:00 9:00	Borgelt/Kossmann Prauner/Wedekind	Knull/Volk J Borchers/Wolf	Volk Borchers
Sat May 25 Sun May 26	6:00 9:00	M.Baumgartel/Kossmann J Baumgartel/Zohner	Schwede/Volk Tillman/Werner	Volk Kuchar/Huntley

Christ at Work through our Students in Service Projects

At St. John Lutheran School, our commitment to fostering virtues extends beyond the academic curriculum. Each month, we shine a spotlight on a different virtue, drawing inspiration from the Galatians 5 Fruit of the Spirit. As we journey through April and May, our focus turns towards the virtue of Servanthood, guiding our students through practical initiatives that embody the spirit of selflessness and compassion.

During our recent education fair, themed around Project Based Learning, our 6th graders seized the opportunity to focus on service projects. These initiatives ranged from cleaning efforts to assembling kits for those in need, providing tangible demonstrations of servanthood in action. Venturing beyond our school grounds, our students actively participated in community outreach endeavors. A visit to the Community Pride Care Center, following its reopening post-pandemic closure, allowed our students to spread joy through songs and genuine fellowship.

Collaborating with SMILE Inc., our 8th graders gained valuable insights into the essence of service as they assisted in facility preparations. Through this experience, they learned about therapeutic horseback riding for individuals with special needs, further deepening their understanding of compassionate outreach.

One highlight of our service journey was the 6th graders' excursion to Omaha, where they partnered with the Food Bank for the Heartland. Through their efforts, they contributed to packaging over eight thousand pounds of food, showcasing their commitment to addressing hunger in the community.



Looking ahead, our 8th graders eagerly anticipate their upcoming visit to the Norfolk Rescue Mission. With funds raised earlier in the year, they will shop for essentials, serve meals, and gain deeper insights into the organization's mission.

At St. John Lutheran School, our approach to education extends beyond academics. Through practical experiences and hands-on initiatives, we aim to instill in our students the values of compassion, empathy, and proactive service to others. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who support our endeavors to nurture and train each child in the way they should go.





Serving the Lord through song. The students have been practicing all year to sing at CPCC!



Spread the word about St. John to friends and acquaintances. Incoming transfer students from public schools, new kindergarten students, and their siblings have an incredible scholarship opportunity through the Opportunity Scholarship Nebraska. Refer a student who enrolls and you will earn a \$500 discount on tuition fees.

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.






St. John Closing Chapel
Thursday, May 9 @ 6:30 pm
in the church sanctuary

8th grade graduation
reception to follow in the
parish hall



WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY
"THANK YOU" FOR YOUR
CONTINUED GENEROSITY TO
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL &
EARLY LEARNING CENTER!

GO & TELL
HISTORY
 HEBREWS 13:8

Congratulations
St. John 8th Grade Graduates!

Ava Baumgartel-Olivia Eckert
Elisabeth Fouts-Carlee Knull
Lucy Prauner-Asher Carter
Augustus Richardson-Adam Wysocki



GO & TELL
HISTORY

National Teacher Appreciation Week!

April 29-May 3



Praising
God for
each one of
you!



Teach-Love-Inspire

"TEACHERS PLANT
THE SEEDS OF
KNOWLEDGE THAT
GROW FOREVER."



It takes a big
heart
 to help shape
little
minds.

National Teacher Appreciation Week!

April 29-May 3

Praising God for
each one of you!



Dear St. John Ministries Members,

You now have an opportunity to lower your state income tax liability AND benefit St. John Ministries. You can do this by contributing to the Opportunity Scholarship Fund (OSN) at <https://www.nebraskaopportunity.org/giving>.

What:

Donate up to HALF of your projected state tax liability to the OSN Scholarship fund and designate St. John Lutheran School as your preferred school. Get a dollar-for-dollar credit for your 2024 taxes. This credit is available for individuals and businesses!

Who is impacted?

Eligible students will receive scholarships to attend St. John Lutheran School based on several factors including financial need per the established guidelines.

You can also contribute to the Nebraska Child Care Tax Credit to provide funding to St. John Early Learning Center. Fill out the "Childcare Tax Credit Application" at stjohnbc.net/credit and get a receipt from the church office. Send those to the Nebraska Department of Revenue. More information on this credit can be found at <https://revenue.nebraska.gov/businesses/child-care-tax-credit-act>.

What:

Donate up to 100% (or remaining 50% if contributing to OSN) of your projected state tax liability (and your business's state tax liability) to the St. John Early Learning Center. Get a dollar-for-dollar credit on your 2024 tax return.

Who is impacted?

St. John Ministries has a unified budget with the school and Early Learning Center (ELC) being two of the primary missions. The ELC operates at a subsidized rate for families and the deficit incurred is covered by the congregation at St. John Lutheran Church. Donations to the ELC relieve the financial strain to the congregation and indirectly impacts all of our families by allowing more affordable rates. Contributions to these credits make an impact ministry-wide!

Please note that the information provided is not intended to be construed as tax or legal advice. Please consult your tax professional for guidance on how the credits are applicable to your personal tax situation.



ST. JOHN Ministries

Brunch & Learn

Sunday, May 19
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

St. John Parish Hall



RSVP Here

Get answers to all of your questions regarding the new **Nebraska Income Tax Credits**. Learn how they impact you AND St. John Ministries. Brunch will be provided.



GIVE TO ST. JOHN STUDENTS

AT ZERO COST TO YOU

DONATE UP TO 50% OF YOUR PROJECTED STATE INCOME TAX LIABILITY TO OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP NEBRASKA WITH ST. JOHN AS YOUR PREFERRED SCHOOL



1  Scan & Follow the prompts

2  Help even more by donating the other 50% here.

RECEIVE A DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR TAX CREDIT FOR YOUR 2024 STATE TAXES

EARLY LEARNING CONNECTION



IMPORTANT DATES:

- April 28 - Spring Carnival, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
- May 24 - **Change from physical calendar** ELC closes at 3:00 pm for staff development
- May 27 - ELC Closed for Memorial Day

PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH NEBRASKA'S CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT ACT

We are thrilled to share an exciting development that promises to enhance the quality of early childhood care and education we provide, while also helping St. John Ministries with overall operating costs. The introduction of the Child Care Tax Credit Act, operative for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, opens up new avenues for support and improvement within our community.

This Act establishes two separate tax credits aimed at encouraging contributions towards child care services. For taxpayers, this means that contributions made towards qualifying activities, such as the establishment or operation of an early childhood program like ours, could be eligible for a nonrefundable tax credit of 75% or even 100% of the contribution made, up to \$100,000 per year. These contributions can take various forms, including cash, agricultural commodities, or publicly traded securities, and can be used for a range of purposes from improving child care facilities to providing employee retention efforts.

For St. John Early Learning Center, this legislation represents a significant opportunity. Contributions made under this Act could support us in enhancing our educational programs, improving our facilities, and so much more. This not only aids in providing high-quality early childhood care and education but also supports the overall sustainability and operation of St. John Ministries by potentially reducing our operational costs and making our services more accessible to the community.

Moreover, the Act encourages contributions to programs with a physical presence in opportunity zones or those actively caring for children enrolled in the child care subsidy program, highlighting a focus on supporting underrepresented communities and ensuring all children have access to quality care.

We are incredibly optimistic about the positive impact this Act will have on our ability to serve our families and community better. We look forward to exploring these opportunities further and are committed to keeping you updated on how these developments will enhance the experiences of the children and families we serve.

To apply for this credit, a donor would need to fill out a Child Care Tax Credit Contribution Application, CCTC-A, along with the Child Care Tax Credit Contribution Receipt, CCTC-R. Our offices have both forms prefilled for donors. This is open to individuals and businesses, so please share this information with those who may be a potential donor. If you'd like more information, please stop by Kelsey's office or visit the church business office.

Thank you for partnering with us to provide quality early childhood care and education services for our community.

ALL ABOUT EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Quality early childhood education supports children.

- Nearly 90% of brain development takes place during a child's first five years of life.
- Kids who receive quality childhood education are better prepared to learn and more likely to read by the 4th grade, graduate high school, and go on to college.

Quality early childhood education supports Nebraska families.

- More than 72% of children under age 6 live in homes where all adults work.
- 76% of mothers with infants and toddlers are in the labor force in Nebraska.
- However, 91% of counties in Nebraska with licensed childcare facilities do not have enough available places to meet demand. This includes Battle Creek and Madison County.

Early childhood educators need our support.

- Early childhood teachers are critical to quality learning - and a thriving future.
- But 46% of licensed providers in Nebraska who employ staff reported that staff have left the profession entirely, for several reasons.

The more we care about bringing affordable, high-quality early childhood care and education to all families, the more we ensure that Nebraska thrives.



We care for and educate young children—and that helps Nebraska thrive.

NebraskaCaresForKids.org



WE CARE FOR KIDS

Voices for Children in Nebraska recently released its 31st annual Kids Count report. The report calls out Nebraska's "child care crisis" and its impact on children, families, and the workforce. Notable statistics included in the report highlight that there has been a 17% decline in licensed child care facilities in Nebraska since 2020 and nine counties out of 93 do not have a single licensed child care provider. You can read the full report, which includes additional information about child poverty, health, education, and juvenile justice, by visiting <https://voicesforchildren.com/data-research/kids-count/>.

To learn more about how to be a partner and advocate for early childhood education, visit <https://nebraskacaresforkids.org/>

MINISTRY CORNER

- Church Services:
 - Saturday, 6:00 pm
 - Sunday, 9:00 am
 - Education Hour, 10:30 am
- Scuba VBS - July 21-25

SUMMER DAY CAMP

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

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

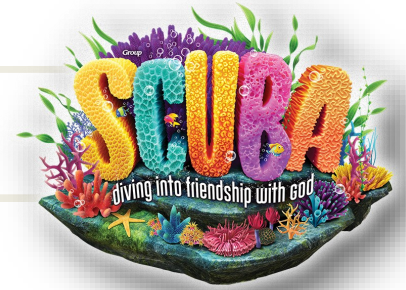
Sadie Mrsny, Assistant Director



Sadie joined STJ ELC in 2019. Sadie and her 4-year old daughter, Melodie, live in Norfolk. Sadie has been in the early childhood field for over 10 years.

Sadie has worked in all of our classrooms, and was a part of the first cohort of Rooted in Relationships providers. She currently serves as the assistant director and is very active in the classrooms. She is pivotal in planning a lot of our events and family engagement activities.

Youth and Family Ministry



St. John Ministries VBS 2023– July 21-25,

Hey there! Get ready to mark your calendars because John Ministries is bringing you our Spring Carnival & 2024 VBS Kick-off on Sunday, April 28 at 11:30 am at the Early Learning Center! This exciting event will feature carnival games, a hot dog meal, and VBS sign up!



What is VBS you ask?

Vacation Bible School is a community event where your child will learn about Jesus through Bible verses, acting out Bible stories, singing fun educational songs, watching and participating in skits, creating crafts, participating in recreation, discovering God's creation, and having a snack. Oh, and did we mention that family meals are provided for FREE before VBS? So, don't miss out on this amazing opportunity! Bring your friends and family along as well. We can't wait to see you there, we are going to have a blast!

Attention Grades 7 & 8 Parents & Students

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) has released a new curriculum that explains the role of a called worker, how to support them, and how students can pursue this vocation. As per the confirmation booklet, May 5 is a catch-up day for grades 7 & 8. In light of this, I would like to extend an invitation to you and your students to join us for a special discussion on called workers during the education hour on May 5. As the end of the year approaches, I feel that this would be an excellent opportunity for us to learn more about this important aspect of our faith. Additionally, this would be a great chance to invite a friend to join us for church and Sunday school. I look forward to having you and your students join us for this discussion!

Mrs. Kollbaum

5 MAY

What does it mean
TO BE CALLED?

Join us in confirmation class for a discussion on different vocations within the church, how to support called workers, and options for YOU to become a called worker!

SET APART TO SERVE
LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT

LIGHT Night— May 1 at 6:30 pm in the school youth room. You need not be a member of St. John to join in. Invite a friend to Come and See.



The last day for Education Hour is Sunday, May 5. We would like to thank all those who helped with Sunday School, Confirmation, and Bible Classes. Your volunteer time is much very appreciated!



Take Heart Scholarship



WIN A \$3,000 Scholarship



ENTER HERE
lcef.org/scholarship



HURRY ENTER!
By May 1, 2024

The Take Heart Scholarship was developed for Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) Y.I. Club World Changers, who are high school seniors and will soon advance to your next level of higher education.

As you begin your new journey, LCEF's Young Investors Club wants to assist your transition by offering financial support through the Take Heart Scholarship with up to three awards \$3,000, \$1,000 and \$500.

Visit lcef.org/scholarship to learn more.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
where investments build ministry

IT'S TIME TO START APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) Nebraska District College Scholarship was developed to encourage college students in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Nebraska District to pursue their educational goals. Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior with a minimum 3.0 GPA or current full-time post-secondary student at an accredited institution with at least one year of courses remaining and a minimum 2.5 GPA. Applicants must also be a member of a congregation belonging to the Nebraska District LCMS. **Applications close April 14, 2024.** Winners will be announced on May 6, 2024. Learn more and complete your application at lcef.org/Nebraska-scholarship. Questions about this scholarship? Connect with Nate Meier, LCEF District Vice President at nate.meier@lcef.org or 402-643-2961.

Nebraska District financial support is available to anyone preparing for full-time service in the church. Applicants must be enrolled at a Concordia University System school; Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne; or Concordia Seminary,

St. Louis. Applicants must hold membership at a Nebraska District congregation, demonstrate financial need, and have completed their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). **The deadline for completing this application process is May 1 for the first semester and December 1 for the second semester.** Only one application is needed per academic year. Details and application forms can be found at <https://ndlcms.org/scholarships/>.

The **LWML Nebraska North** offers assistance to full-time students from the LWML Nebraska North region who are going into full-time church work. The application is the same as the District Aid Application Form. That form may be obtained from the financial aid offices of the universities and seminaries or <https://ndlcms.org/scholarships/>, with a **May 1 deadline**.

The **LWML Nebraska South** offers assistance to students from the LWML Nebraska South region who are going into full-time church work. Information and applications may be obtained from the student's local LWML society or at www.lwmlnesouth.org/scholarships. **Completed applications are due June 1.**

The **Nebraska District Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL)** provides scholarships for students studying for full-time church work, including pastor, DCE, DCM, deaconess, liturgical arts, and education. For more information, guidelines, and an application, visit <https://ndlcms.org/scholarships/>. Applicants may also contact: Virginia Von Seggern at 87127 512th Ave, Orchard, NE 68764; 402-655-2254 or 402-360-4060; or virginia.vonseggern251@gmail.com. **The application deadline is May 22 of each year.**

The **Gil and Blondie Vogt Scholarship Fund** assists Nebraska students preparing for LCMS church vocations at any LCMS university or seminary. Requests for an application can be made after January 1 for the following school year by contacting: King of Kings Lutheran Church, attn: Vogt Scholarship Committee Chairperson, 11615 I Street, Omaha, NE 68137. **The application deadline is April 15.**

April 2024

LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHEAST



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Go to the LHNE website (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. Join now to get a free Class of 2028 t-shirt! We can't wait for you to join the Eagle family!

TRACK NEWS!

This year we had two students who qualified for the Norfolk Classic track meet! Lexie Dinkel qualified in the 100m dash and is on the waitlist for the long jump. Gavin Feddern qualified for the high jump and the long jump. The Norfolk Classic was held on April 25th. Congrats Lexie and Gavin!

FFA HONORS

Congratulations to Principal Sievert who was honored with the Nebraska State FFA Cornerstone Award at this year's FFA State Convention in Lincoln. The Cornerstone award is given to Nebraska High School Administrators who show outstanding support for their school's Agricultural Education Program and FFA Chapter. The following LHNE FFA members competed at the State FFA Convention this year: Emilee Anderson, Hollie Anderson, Callie Fisher, Nikki Haack, Micah Hafer, Gracie Iske, Grace Nelson, Quinn Pruden, Olivia Story, Elliot Wieseman. Congratulations to the Food Science team (Hollie, Callie, Gracie, Quinn) who brought home a white team ribbon and to Quinn Pruden who brought home an individual white ribbon.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The end of the school year is FAST approaching! Please be sure to mark your calendars with these dates.

Senior Finals – May 6-7

Honors Convocation – May 7 at 7:00pm

Senior Graduation Rehearsal – May 8

Graduation – May 12 at 2:00pm

Finals – May 15-17

Last Day of School! – May 17

LHNE GRADE SCHOOL SPORTS LEAGUES

Lutheran High has grade school sports leagues! We 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 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 or text her at 402-750-7464.

LHNE SUMMER CAMPS

LHNE is offering numerous camps this summer! There are camps for grades 1-8 volleyball, grades 3-4 agriculture, grades PK-8 boys wrestling, grades 5-8 drama camp, grades 5-8 art camp, grades 3-8 girls basketball, grades 5-8 science camp, grades 3-8 boys basketball, and grades 5-8 football. Some of these camps have limited numbers so be sure to sign up ASAP! Stop in or call the LHNE office for more information and to get a registration form. We hope you can join us!

UPCOMING EVENTS –

April 29 – Golf at Lutheran Invite

May 1 – Track at Humphrey Lindsay Holy Family

May 3 – Golf at Stanton

For information on any **Lutheran High Northeast** activity or to see a complete calendar, please visit our website: www.LHNE.org

May 2024



Join us!

Weekly Service times:

Saturday 6:00 pm

Sunday 9:00am

Bible Studies:

Tuesday 7:00 pm

Wednesday 9:30 am

WINGS Women

Bible Study

Parish Hall Classroom

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5	9:00 Baccalaureate Prayer Service 2:00 LHNE Graduation Last Education Hour		7 1:00 Sr. Fun Day	8 No Chapel	9 Last Day of School 12:00 Dismissal	10	11 2:00 BC Graduation
12	Happy Mother's Day 	13	14 12:00 Blood Drive—St. John Parish Hall	15	16	17	18
19	10:30 Brunch & Learn (NE Tax Credit Info)	20	21 1:00 Sr Fun Day	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	28	29 10:00 Leadership Staff Church	30	31		

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Battle Creek, NE 68715

Phone: 402-675-3155
churchsecretary@gmail.com
Web: stjohNBC.net
Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church

Connecting People in the Heart of Jesus

