

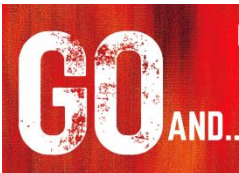


VOLUME 59

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NUMBER 4

April Chatterbox Newsletter



Go And Tell the Story

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!

Its Easter! The tomb is empty, and Jesus has appeared to the disciples saying “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation...” Sharing the story of Jesus is an ongoing conversation: From the announcement of his birth, through the amazed responses of folks who witnessed his healings and the raising of Lazarus, to the those who listened to his teachings and the parables he told, and now those who are hearing, for the first time, that the tomb is not strong enough to hold the mystery and the wonder of God in the world.

There is so much to tell about the life and the ministry of Jesus. Plus, when you add the history and traditions of the Jewish faith from which Jesus emerged, you can go on and on, rehearsing the never-ending story of how God is present with God’s people again and again, as the world continues to unfold. But where do we start? What parts of the story hold the most awe and wonder for you? And what setting do we need in order to be comfortable sharing this story with others? Does it feel as comfortable talking to your friends about a bible story you have read in your morning devotions, as it would if you were talking about the latest New York Times bestselling novel?

Telling the story of God’s love, proclaimed through Jesus, and lived out through the power of the Spirit can feel a bit overwhelming, but it can be as simple as sharing one of your favorite songs, or discussing a story you read in your morning devotions. The women at the empty tomb, and the disciples in the upper room began their stories after seeing Jesus alive and among them. Perhaps that is a good place for us to start, too. Where do you see the healing love of God active in your life? What questions do you have that you would like to ask God? What experiences have you had of others showing God’s love to you?

Perhaps you could share a favorite song that speaks to the story of God’s love. My grandmother’s favorite hymn was “I Love to Tell the Story”, and though she died when I was only six years old, I still have vivid memories of her singing this hymn over and over again as I helped her bake pies, or change the sheets on the beds. Her evangelism wasn’t as obvious as the pastor’s preaching sermons on TV, but she made a huge impression on me, just sharing her favorite hymn as she went about her everyday life.

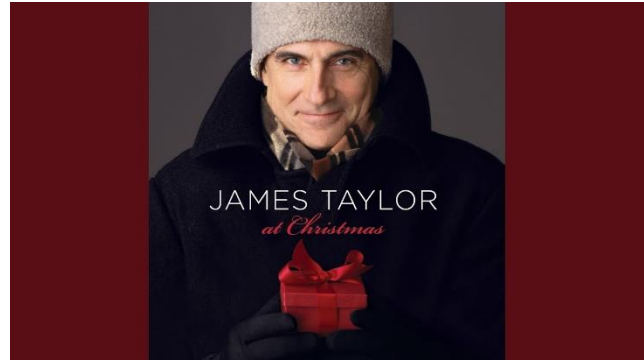
Maybe sharing that hymn with my Grandmother influenced one of my own favorite hymns that I now sing with my grandson at Christmastime “Go Tell it on the Mountain.” I sang it a lot as a kid in the youth choir, and as an adult, I especially enjoy the James Taylor version of this song on his album of Christmas music (you can hear it here: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=mlak9WRXERq>). This hymn is considered a Christmas song because it is announcing the birth of Jesus, but I think it could be a song that is appreciated any time of the year, and does a good job of showing us God’s love through the gift of a child, who through the Spirit, is continually engaging us and drawing us close. The James Taylor version says it this way:

*Yes, I was a seeker,
I sought him both night and day*

*Asked the Lord to help me.
He showed me the way.*

*Down in a manger
The humble child was born.
God sent salvation on that Christmas morn.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus is born.*



Once the song is in your head, it's easy to tell God's story, just by recounting some of your favorite experiences of sharing God's love, at Christmas time, Easter morning, or any time of the year. So, sing out, gather your friends and family, and tell the story through the love you share with one another. This is the heart of God, being proclaimed within the everyday lives we lead.

Peace, Pastor Chris



GO AND...

TELL THE STORY

Jesus isn't in the tomb anymore – God is on the loose! God is active and up to something! The story of Easter is an ongoing one, similar to the story of our own faith. Our response as disciples is to *Go and....* to go out, go share, go proclaim, and to go tell the story.

Questions to Consider:

- What is one of your favorite Bible stories?
- Is there a prop or tangible item you might use to help you tell the story?
- How will you *GO and* tell the story?

Prayer: Master Storyteller, your stories seem almost unbelievable. Open us to recognize your patience, deep love, and grace. Help me be a storyteller. Amen.

Suggested Song: I Love to Tell the Story (ELW 661)

St. John's Congregational Council Meeting March 18,2024

Opening

St. John's Lutheran Church Council met Monday, March 18, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the church. Attending were Larry Wennekamp, Dave Groteluschen, Brian Bunkers, JoAnne Marxsen and Karol Swan. Denise Stevenson and Pastor Chris Alexander were unable to attend. President Larry Wennekamp called the meeting to order and opened with a prayer.

The minutes from February meeting were read and approved by Brian seconded by Dave. Motion Carried

Karol went over the end of February financial reports. Motion to approve was made by Dave, seconded by JoAnne. Motion Carried.

Financial Report for end of February 2024

Beginning Monthly Balance	\$26,643.86
Monthly General Income	\$22,614.19
Monthly General Expense	\$13,263.64
Ending General Balance	\$36,027.39
YTD Income Required to meet Budget	\$28,848.60
YTD Ahead 2024 Budget	\$6,923.59
Memorial Fund	\$1489.77

Old Business

- The radio add on St. John's Easter is on track for airing.
- The Ecumenical Service for March 20 is going as planned. St. John's will be serving. Pastor Chris is arranging the meal; some members will help serve.
- Confirmed plans for the March 24 Confirmation reception. Council members will help serve the reception following the morning service.
- For Easter Sunrise service, the food sign-up is full. Tables will be set up and decorated. JoAnne said that Rose Runge has the Egg Hunt ready to go.
- At this time council decided to not pursue an usher sign-up system and continue to ask for volunteers.

New Business

- "Meet the Confirmands" was read. Brian moved to accept, Larry seconded and all approved to accept our 2 Confirmation Students as new members. Welcome Karley Jo Killham and Benjamin Patrick Rocheford.
- Larry will talk to Pat and take care of updating paperwork for Pastor Chris' contract for Transitional ministry.
- Larry suggested an informal Study Session to be scheduled to discuss Pastor options, congregation future needs, ideas, keeping current, etc. The Council possibly meeting with Pastor Chris outside of a council meeting.

Pastor's Report to the Church Council March 2024

The gatherings with our ecumenical partners for Wednesday Lenten Lunches are going well and introducing us to everyday spiritual practices such as reading and dwelling in the word, taking sabbath rests, and feasting together through sharing meals and celebrating communion together. It's been a terrific conversation so far, and St John's is preparing to serve the luncheon meal to the group on March 20.

Sign-up sheets for the Easter Breakfast are up, and planning for the Easter Egg hunt are underway. We have radio announcements for our Holy week services that are playing throughout the month, and all are invited to

celebrate with us on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter morning, so feel free to invite friends and family to join us.

We have only 2 confirmation lessons left, before we publicly Affirm the Baptism of our students, and they receive their first communion, on Palm Sunday, March 24 during our worship service. Each of the students have chosen a bible verse and have written a personal faith statement to complete their studies after two years of working through the confirmation curriculum on the Bible, the creeds, the Lord's prayer, and Lutheran theology. I have enjoyed working with these students, sharing stories and experiences of how God is active in their lives.

We have been blessed to have Jackson Moore, our Parish Ministry Associate in training, practicing his preaching with us, and gathering feedback from folks in the congregation and his mentor, to grow his skills in this area. We are happy to support Jackson as he continues to learn and grow in his leadership abilities.

I continue to visit and share communion with folks who are unable to join us for worship on Sunday mornings, and we hosted the funeral and reception for Janet Salak, who was buried at Calvary Cemetery.

Wednesday night bible studies on the parables continue through Lent, and then we will return to studying the Old Testament with Professor Craig Koester from Luther Seminary on Monday nights.

And VBS planning is gearing up and gathering resources to provide a great experience for students from May 28 -31. Feel free to invite friends, family and neighbors to join us this year as we celebrate a **“Food Truck Party – On a Roll with God!”**

The days are growing longer and the light is much appreciated as we continue our Lenten journey's preparing for the wonder and the mystery of Easter Sunrise.

Committee Reports

- Christian Education-Easter Egg Hunt is ready to go.
- Evangelism- Radio ad is set to run
- Property Committee-Discussed possibilities for pest control in and around the building. We will talk to cleaning staff to decide actions to take. Discussion if the church needs a lawn service for turf care. Brian will call for bids. Noted we have volunteers to do the mowing.
- Finance- Brian gave updates on the CDs. The CDs are doing well and we have funds available.
- Stewardship/time and talent- We are planning a fall event.
- Social Ministry- Continuing pill bottle collection and will have spaghetti feed late summer.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 15, 2024 at 7:30 pm at the church.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Brian, seconded by Dave.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Karol Swan- Council Secretary



WELCA Spring Gathering

WELCA Spring Gathering will be held in Grand Island, NE on April 13, 2024. Registration forms are on the bulletin board in the Narthex and are due by April 3rd. Pastor Chris will be leading the Bible Study. The fee is \$20 per person.

2024 St. John's WEE SINGERS SCHEDULE
(KIDDOS AGE 4-GRADE 2)
SAVE THE DATES...
SINGING THE 2ND SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.

APRIL 14TH
MAY 12TH



Calvary Cemetary Annual Meeting

ATTENTION: The annual meeting of Calvary Cemetary has been changed due to a conflict to Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 8:00pm in the church parlor of St. John's Lutheran, Shell Creek.

Did you know that St John's has a ***Pastor's Emergency Fund*** available to support people when they need a little help? We do! If you know of anyone who needs some extra groceries, rent assistance, or a tank of gas, maybe we can help. Or if you would like to contribute to this fund to help others when they need it, it is appreciated. Reaching out to support one another is a tangible way to reveal the wonder and mystery of God moving through us, as we live into our shared community. Let us know how we can help.



Spring Interior Cleaning

Welcome April! That means it's time for Spring Interior Cleaning.

The sign off sheets will be posted on the bulletin board on or about April 7.

The sheets will remain up all month or until all the jobs are completed.

Please call or text me after signing off a job. I will notify my committee members of what has been finished.

JoAnne Marxsen – Cleaning Committee Chair

Cell Phone Number: (402) 615-1819 Call or Text

Thank you in advance for any help you choose to give of their time!



Meet the Confirmands

Karley Jo Killham is in the 8th grade and attends Lakeview Middle School. Her parents are Jeremy and Amy Killham and she has a brother named Camden.

Karley is involved in Student Council, volleyball, basketball, and track. Her hobbies are reading and spending time with family and friends.

Karley's confirmation verse is 1 Peter 5:7:

"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you"

Benjamin Patrick Rocheford is in the 8th grade and attends Schuyler Middle School. His parents are Pat Rocheford and Casey Baumert, and Troy and Bobbie Schleuter. Ben's siblings are Robert and Anna.

Ben is involved in football, basketball, track, and baseball. He likes to work on his truck and going to the Field House to hang out with friends.

Ben's confirmation verse is Philippians 4:13:

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."



Thank You



Dear St. John's. On behalf of Marilyn Lusche, we would like to thank you for all the prayers and support during the loss of our mom. Thank you to the men that assisted in parking the vehicles at the funeral, to the ladies that brought the salads and desserts, and for serving the wonderful lunch. Thank you, Pastor Chris, for such a comforting service, and Sharon Hartman for playing for Donna, and the beautiful music. We had so many people tell us that the service was a wonderful tribute to Marilyn. Our hearts will be broken for a while and mom will be sorely missed by so many, however, she certainly has left some great memories for us to cherish.

In sincere appreciation and kind regards,
The Marilyn Lusche Family

ATTENTION ALL ST. JOHN'S CHURCH KIDS

The St. John's WELCA organization has a great deal for this summer. We would like to help sponsor campers by helping to pay for any church camp attended.

The WELCA organization will **pay up to \$100** of your church camp fees.

In order to be eligible for camp reimbursement, you must return this registration form.

Forms may be given to: Kendra Bunkers, Sharon Hartman, Chris Luchsinger, or Pat Cuda

by June 15th.

Name _____ Age _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Name of Camp and Location _____

Date of Camp _____

Fee of Camp _____



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



It's time to sign-up for VBS or help
volunteer.

VBS will be held May 28th-31st from 8:30am-
noon at St. John's Church.

Children's Day and Pot Luck on
Sunday, June 2nd.

Come join the fun!!

Please mail or give form(s) to Bethany Wilke, 7027 Shady Lake Road, Columbus, or
Chris Luchsinger, 610-38th Street Columbus.

REGISTRATION FORM

(Preschool-4thGrade 5th Grade & up are helpers)

CHILD'S FIRST & LAST NAME _____

PARENT NAME _____ PHONE # _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CHILD'S AGE _____

CHILD'S LAST SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED _____

CIRCLE YOUR CHILD'S T-SHIRT SIZE

3T/4T, 5T/6T, YS (6/8), YM (10/12), YL (14/16) OTHER SIZE _____

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A FOOD ALLERGY? YES/NO

FOOD THEY ARE ALLERGIC TO _____



April



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Office Hours Tues. and Thurs 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Pastor is in Columbus on Sun. to Tues	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 8:50AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service with communion	8 Adult Bible Study 6:30PM	9	10	11	12	13
14 8:50 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service Wee Singers	15 Adult Bible Study 6:30PM	16 Tabitha Circle @ church 7:00PM	17	18 Eve Circle 1:30PM	19	20
21 8:50 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service with communion	22 Adult Bible Study 6:30PM	23 Ruth Circle 7:00PM	24	25	26	27
28 8:50 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Palm Sunday Worship Service with Confirmation	29 Adult Bible Study 6:30PM	30				
		<u>Council Reps</u> Brian Bunkers Dave Groteluschen	<u>Altar Guild</u> Kendra Bunkers	<u>Cleaner</u> Rose Runge & Family		

Congregation Officers 2024
 President: Larry Wennekamp
 Vice President: Dave Groteluschen
 Secretary: Karol Swan
 Financial Secretary: Doug Hartman (income)
 Treasurer: Pam Goering (expenditures)

Council members: Denise Stevenson, JoAnne Marxsen,
 Brian Bunkers

Please put your committee and organization meetings on the
 calendar in the Narthex on the information desk or send to
 Pat Cuda at stjohnshellcreek@gmail.com



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
10785 280TH ST
COLUMBUS, NE 68601

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

"A COUNTRY CHURCH WITH A WORLDWIDE MISSION"

SUNDAY SCHOOL
School Year, Sunday at 8:50 A.M.

WORSHIP
Sunday 10:00 A.M.

Cell Phone 701-226-8140 Pastor Alexander
Office Phone 402-564-8707

Website: www.stjohnlutheranshellcreek.weebly.com
Email: stjohnshellcreek@gmail.com
10785 280th St.
Columbus, NE 68601-8745

From Hwy 30: 5 Miles North on 18th Ave 4 1/2 Miles east on 280th St.