



VOLUME 50

June 2023

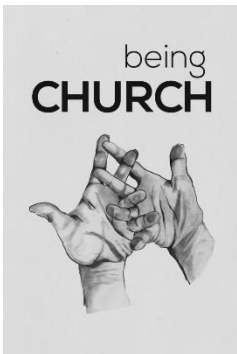
NUMBER 6

June Chatterbox Newsletter

May was a very busy month of program year finishing up and all the recognitions of volunteers and personal achievements of our young people, ready to move on to the next stage in their growth and development. In all the busyness it got me thinking about the role the church plays in helping to mark the rites of passages in our lives.

The church celebrates its own rites of passages in the development of children in their communities. We have Baptism, Sunday School classes, Third Grade Bibles, Confirmation and First Communion, and Graduation Recognitions for both High School and College educations. We then celebrate marriages and continue participating with them as they begin a new generational cycle when they begin bringing their own children to for Baptism, and faith formation in Sunday School. And then of course our church community follows them into adulthood, continuing to help them develop their faith lives through worship and continued study of scripture, as well as encouraging activity in living out their faith as they are forming it, through community outreach and mission.

The whole faith community experience helps lead us boldly into life, as well as supporting and nurturing us while we are in the process of living. That is what is so very important about "being church" for one another. It's not about earning attendance merit points with God, or even being able to recite the 10 Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, or the Apostles Creed to St Peter as an entrance exam for admittance into heaven. Community is about learning and growing together to help each other discover new ways of being in the world, as we intentionally seek out the activity of God all around us as we grow. It's about celebrating our achievements together, as well as sitting together in silence when there are no words to express our deepest compassion in the face of death, loss, despair, and disappointment.



In our faith community, we can experience our connection not only to Jesus Christ, but to one another. As we are baptized with Christ in his death and resurrection, we are also bound together with the whole cloud of witnesses who carry the eternal congregation of God's glory - the past present and future of all that is. We belong to each other, and each of us shares our unique gifts and abilities to share with the whole. So, we celebrate each other, in the name of Christ: We say thank you to all those who lead our communities and those who volunteer their time and talents to help make St John's the very best it can be. Thank you to all those who serve through our councils and committees; To those who direct and sing in our choirs; To our altar guild volunteers; To those who lead and attend the Women's groups and Bible studies; and To our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers, as well as our Vacation Bible School directors and volunteers. We thank all of you have sent cards and kind thoughts and prayers for those on our prayer chain, and visitation lists, as well as all of you who have made and delivered food for special worship opportunities or for families who need a helping hand.



Being Church together builds a strong community, and I thank each and every one of you for allowing me to join with all that are and all that you do in Christ's name.

Peace to you – Pastor Chris

St. John's Lutheran Congregational Council

May 15th Meeting 2023 Minutes

Opening

St. John's Lutheran Congregational Council met with Brian Bunkers, Denise Stevenson, Dave Groteluschen, Larry Wennekamp and Pastor Chris. Bethany Wilke & Tracy Moore were absent. Vice President Brian Bunkers called the meeting to order and Pastor Chris led the opening prayer.

Minutes/Financial Reports

Larry made a motion to approve last meeting minutes. Dave seconded it. Motion carried. The April financial reports were reviewed. Denise made a motion to approve them. Larry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Beginning Monthly Balance-\$32,042.58
Monthly General Income\$12,309.23
Monthly General Expenses-\$11,357.77
Ending General Balance-\$33,035.50
YTD Income required to meet budget-\$52,506.20
2023 Budget Balance-\$5,389.36
Memorial Fund-\$2087.95

Old Business

-Video Recording Update-Evangelism Committee will lead the process. The Honor & Glory concert went very well! 115 people were in attendance. Big thank you goes out to Jackson Moore and all of those who helped make the concert a success.

New Business

-Emma Moore YouTube Channel-Pastor Chris will talk to Tracey and Emma about discussion questions that were asked. BIG thanks goes out to the Moore Family for always recording our church services.

-VBS Décor-All items up front can be moved after Pentecost as needed.

-Member Update-Brian will start looking into form letters to send out (The church uses the membership roster for voting and photo directories).

-Call Committee Update-The call committee meets as needed. Pastor is in communication with the Synod on a regular basis.

-Semi annual meeting-SAVE THE DATE-The meeting will be held on July 23rd, 2023.

Pastor's Report

The month of May brings the close of the program year for all of our educational ministries and our choirs. We celebrate our High School and College Seniors, and say Thank You to all those who led our classes, bible studies, and music ministries. Every week in May had a different celebration: a Community Concert and the sacramental celebration of Communion; Mother's Day and Graduation Recognition; The last week of Sunday School, Teacher Appreciation, and Music Ministry Recognition; Pentecost and another Baptism. And, just as we are catching our collective breaths through all of this, VBS is revving up to host a learning extravaganza for children and volunteers alike - We are an energetic bunch moving in lots of directions!

My pastoral visits with those who are hospitalized, homebound, or in residential communities, continue throughout the change of seasons, and we all continue to support one another in prayer and service as we are needed. Our congregation is also participating with the larger church by attending the Nebraska Synod Assembly in Kearney on June 2-3.

Even as our programs are taking a short hiatus, our community will hold many conversations this summer about all the ministry events that will be happening when our program year begins again in August. All are invited and welcome to be a part of the planning for next fall. If you are interested in starting something new or want to help with the many opportunities already in place, just call me or the church office and let us know of your interest and we can find a way for you to make a connection.

As the days grow longer throughout the month, may our gratitude for one another, and our shared ministry here at St John's, continue to expand. Happy Summer Everyone! 😊

Committee Reports

-Christian Ed-BIG thanks to those helping with Sunday School. Thank you to the teachers and assistants who have helped with Sunday School and those helping with VBS.

-Worship & Music-no updates

Evangelism-no updates

Property Committee-Basement work will start after VBS and planting season.

Finance Committee-Brian Bunkers gave an update on the CDS and interest rates.

Stewardship-No updates

Social Ministry-September 10th is the spaghetti feed. More information will be coming out soon for volunteers and donations.

Adjournment

June Council Reps-Tracey Moore and Denise Stevenson. Next Meeting-June 19th @ 7:00.

Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry seconded. Motion carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Bethany Wilke



2023 Quilting Project is Completed

A total of twenty-four children's blankets were sewn and eight comfort denim bags with books. These were distributed to youth and Families for Christ and Center for Survivors as well as fifteen quilts.

Women of the ELCA Action Committee



Children's Day

Children's Day will be on Sunday, June 4th with the students doing the service at 11:00am. (No 10:00am service) There will be a potluck following the service.

Also, there will be no communion on the 4th.
Communion will be on Sunday, June 11th.

New Members by Baptism



We welcome these newest members
to St. John's by holy baptism:

Kam Hoyt Wilke, August 7, 2022-son of Justin and
Bethany Wilke.

Kade Michael Runge, April 16, 2023-son of Tyler and
Jordan Runge

Cort William Spiehs, May 28, 2023-son of Kendra
Marxsen and Colby Spiehs.

2023 Spring Cleaning Day
THANK YOU!!

Thank You to everyone who helped with this year's Spring Interior Cleaning. The following committee members generously gave of their time: Barb Welch, Diane Skiles, Brenda Dicke, Joyce Lindstrom and Clayton Brunt. Everyone used the sign-up sheets and all the jobs were completed.



Please consider helping in October for the Fall Cleaning Day.

Jo Anne Marxsen
Chairman of the Interior Cleaning Committee





The following is an excerpt of “Living Lutheran”, “Self Care is a Spiritual Practice”

by Kari van Wakeren November 14, 2019

How to find balance is one of life’s perpetual questions, and its answer is one of life’s most elusive. No matter what season of life we are in, we have multiple responsibilities and roles to manage. The particularities differ for each of us, yet the desire to find balance is a struggle to which most of us can relate. In my own wrestling in this area, one of the biggest tensions I feel is between caring for others and taking time to care for myself.

Through many times of not hitting the mark, I’ve come to learn that if we don’t take time for self-care—and particularly for nurturing our first calling as a child of God—eventually we’ll find ourselves running dry as we tend to our other callings. As a result, we’re not likely to find fulfillment in them the way we might normally.

I’m at my best when I take time to connect with God, [exercise](#) and be creative—if not daily, then on a regular basis. Yet if something must get cut out of the calendar, these things are the first to go. That’s why it’s important to remember that self-care isn’t something to do only when we feel dried up or have time for it. Rather, we must drink regularly and deeply of the living water Jesus offers us.

I think our difficulty in making this time a priority is part of the reason God not only gave us permission but commanded us to take time for sabbath. Instead of thinking of this commandment as a “have to,” we should see it as a gift, a boundary that enables us to live more fully into the person God has created and called us to be.

This is why I make a clear connection between the [sabbath](#) and self-care. If we don’t take time to have our cup filled, connect with God and, as a result, be renewed on a regular basis, we won’t have any reservoir to draw from when life is especially demanding. When this happens, it’s harder for us to offer ourselves the compassion and kindness we need, much less to be the instruments of God’s peace and love that we desire to be.

For many, and maybe especially for women, taking time for self-care can feel countercultural. We’ve been conditioned to think that taking time to care for ourselves is selfish or even that sacrificing our own needs and desires is a mark of the faithful.

I look at it a bit differently. Only by taking the time to listen for God’s still, small voice are we able to hear the truths that sustain us in all our other roles. God wants us to hear these truths more than any other: “You are beautiful. You are loved. You are enough.”



June



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>Office Hours</u> Tues. and Thurs 9:00 AM-1:00 PM</p> <p>Pastor is in Columbus on Sun. to Tues.</p>				1 VBS 8:30AM-12:00PM	2 VBS 8:30AM-12:00PM	3
4 11:00 AM Worship Service Children's VBS Program-no communion Potluck following	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:00 AM Worship Service With communion	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:00 AM Worship Service	19 Council Meeting 7:00PM	20 Tabitha Circle 7:30PM	21	22 Eve Circle 1:30PM	23	24
25 10:00 AM Worship Service	26 Ruth Circle 7:30PM	27	28	29	30	
		<u>Council Reps</u> Tracey Moore Denise Stevenson	<u>Altar Guild</u> Barb Welch	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Cleaner</u> Deb Runge

Congregation Officers 2022
 President: Tracey Moore
 Vice President: Brian Bunkers
 Secretary: Bethany Wilke
 Financial Secretary: Doug Hartman (income)
 Treasurer: Pam Goering (expenditures)

Council members: Denise Stevenson, Dave Groteluschen,
 Larry Wennekamp
 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
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COLUMBUS, NE 68601

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"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

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