



VOLUME 49

May 2023

NUMBER 5

May Chatterbox Newsletter

This is the week that closes the first year of my life since my Mother died. Last year, on April 17 (Easter Morning) I got a call from my sister, telling me that my Mother's health was declining rapidly, and that she had chosen not to continue with any treatments that might, or might not, extend her life for just a few months longer. My Sister told me that if I wanted to see my Mom and get a chance to speak with her before they began hospice care, that I should come home in the next couple of days.

My Mother had been in and out of the hospital during the last couple of months before making this decision, and she did not want to go to the trouble and expense of finding a suitable nursing facility to care for her increasing needs. This was her choice. She got to choose how, when, and where, she would say goodbye to her loved ones and let go of the only life she had ever known.



I left for the long drive home directly following Easter Service last year, and got to spend a couple of wonderful days with my Mother and my sisters in my Mother's home, before the hospice medication made communication with her mostly impossible. After she could no longer join the conversation, my sisters and I just sat with her - praying, singing, and telling old stories that we remembered from our childhood, and the many years since. It was a very peaceful and meaningful time for all of us.

As I remember those weeks saying good bye to my Mother, I still feel a bit of sadness, but I also feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the beautiful life that she lived, the life she provided for all of her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. I know everyone experiences grief differently, but, I keep thinking that I should be flipping back and forth between all of the emotions that Elizabeth Kubler-Ross describes in her five stages of grief: shock and denial, anger, resentment and guilt, depression, and finally acceptance, but I actually have not felt any of these feelings. Rather, I just continue to feel very thankful that she had such a terrifically wonderful death, as well as a wonderful life, and I trust that she is resting in the embrace of God's love even now in her death, as she always did in her living.

My Mother has always been a spiritual inspiration for me, even though we disagreed on many, many, things. But one thing she never wavered on was that she knew God loved her and held her close, and for that spiritual legacy she passed on to me, I am extremely grateful. So, as I see the anniversary of her death on my calendar, I do not feel sad, but rather, I just say, "I love you Mom," and say a prayer of comfort for everyone

who has lost a loved one this past year, as well as a prayer of gratitude for the love God gives us that binds us all together, eternally. Amen.

Peace to you – Pastor Chris

**St. John's Lutheran Congregational Council
April 3rd, 2023 Minutes**

Opening

St. John's Lutheran Congregational Council met with Tracey Moore, Brian Bunkers, Bethany Wilke, Denise Stevenson, Dave Groteluschen and Larry Wennekamp. Pastor Chris zoomed in. Rose Runge & Kara Allbaugh were at the meeting as guests for a partial time.

President Moore called the meeting to order and Brian led the opening prayer.

Executive Session-Council members went into executive session for a brief period and then resumed into the regular meeting.

Minutes/Financial Reports

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

Beginning Monthly Balance-\$35,170.57
Monthly General Income\$7,671.32
Monthly General Expenses-\$10,842.99
Ending General Balance-\$32,042.58
YTD Income required to meet budget-\$39,379.65
2023 Budget Balance-\$5,327.68
Memorial Fund-\$1935.79

Old Business

-Easter Sunrise Service-We are doing great on breakfast slots! Thank you so much for all who volunteered to bring something for Easter sunrise service.

-Video Recording Update-Brian Bunkers called in Kara Allbaugh from Rival Design to talk to us about what we believe should be on the video. Do we want to showcase the Church/Video part of a Church service/Children's sermon? It's important to have engagement/attractive images/videography. Less than one minute is what it should be. It's also important to boost a video like this at a few different times to show people. Kara talked about costs of what a drone would be if she did a whole 360 of the whole church. We can use original photos if we have them. Depending on our budget she also talked about Google Ads/Internet TV/Paper Click Adds. The council really thinks the first steps would be to create a video showcasing the church. We like the idea of forming a committee to discuss this and design what ideas they have for our church.

-Painting Basement-Brian has talked to Sam and the first steps will have to be texturing the wall of the basement and scraping away all that is bad. This will all be done in the next month so we can start painting in the next few months. We would like to finish the painting of the basement by the end of summer. The Sunday School kids will be so excited!

New Business

-Pastor Chris's Contract-We are going to keep the contract the way it is. But extend the time frame to a year. The call committee is still going to continue to work with the synod to think creatively on next steps for us. Pastor Chris explained how with every year of graduates there may be someone who is looking. It was expressed to Pastor how much everyone loved her Wednesday night Bible Studies. Brian made a motion to approve Pastor Chris's contract as it stands. Dave seconded it. Motion carried.

-Call Committee-Call committee will meet now as needed. They will continue the call process at this time in hopes we find the right fit for our church. We will have Pastor Chris continue with us for another year. We appreciate all the work the call committee has done so far. We also appreciate Pastor Chris with everything she has done for us and continues to do.

Pastor's Report

Its Holy Week! We made it through all the special programming for Lent! We did a Worship Series on the Psalms, we did a bible Study on the Witnesses to the Cross, and we partnered with our Ecumenical neighbors to do Lenten Lunches and Retreat Services. It was a busy time but this week we concentrate solely on Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, his Last supper with his Disciples, His Betrayal, Trial, and Crucifixion. All of this culminating into a fresh new start of living an Easter Faith through the great resurrection of our Lord. Halleluiah!

The weather hit us hard in the end of March, as we were forced to cancel one week of our worship (March 26), but all our ministries continue to thrive: Visiting our members in their homes and residential communities; Our Confirmation and Sunday School programs are in their final weeks of the program year, VBS is well into its planning mode, we have a voting member to attend the Annual Synod Assembly, and we are already talking about what we might do this year for "God's Work, Our Hands Sunday" on September 10.

We have a couple of fun things coming up:

- Our next Ecumenical event is a Service for Good Friday on April 7 at noon at Grace Episcopal Church in Columbus, where we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross.
- Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00AM on Sunday April 9, followed by a Community Breakfast.
- One of our families recently moved into a new apartment space in the Prairie Village Retirement Community and I am looking forward to celebrating a house blessing for them in the next couple of weeks.
- We will celebrate the baptism of Kade Michael Runge, the youngest son of Tyler and Jordan Runge, on Sunday April 16.
- And our Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a concert by the music group "Honor and Glory" (formerly known as Disciple) at the Eagles Club on Wednesday May 3 at 7:00pm

I am looking forward to all the new life, the blossoms and the new possibilities of Spring!

Committee Reports

-Christian Ed-Bethany Wilke and Chris Luchsinger held a brief meeting after church on April 2nd to discuss volunteers. If you would be interested to help please reach out! ☺ It takes a lot of hands to put something like this in motion so please consider.

-Worship & Music-no updates

Evangelism-concert on May 3rd. Please consider attending!! Dave Groteluschen is helping grill steaks. Money has been donated from Thrivent and T-shirts are being made with a fun Nebraska logo. Water bottles and meat have been purchased. Ramada has graciously donated two rooms for the band.

Property Committee-Gary Schrieber and Butch Runge will be putting up the crosses in front of the church.

Finance Committee-No updates

Stewardship-No updates (will touch base about Spaghetti Feed)

Social Ministry-Keep collecting pill bottles. The spaghetti feed will be September 10th. A free will offering as well as bringing food pantry items will be offered.

Adjournment

May council reps are Larry Wennekamp and Dave Groteluschen. Next meeting will be on May 15th at 7:00.

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

Submitted by Bethany Wilke

Council Secretary

CONGREGATION COMMITTEES 2023

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Tracey Moore-President 402-606-8212
Brian Bunkers-Vice President 402-910-6914
Bethany Wilke-Secretary 402-276-2900
Dave Groteluschen-402-910-4862
Larry Wennekamp-402-615-1579
Denise Stevenson 402-615-0961

EMAIL & WEBSITE

stjohnshellcreek@gmail.com

www.stjohnlutheranshellcreek.weebly.com

PROPERTY/CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE

Brad Luchsinger 402-910-8619
Bill Luckey 402-910-2906
Fletcher Schmid 402-910-3671
Jack Lehman 402-910-8777
Justin Wilke 402-910-3861
Roy Reinke-402-564-3708
Larry Wennekamp 402-615-1579
Brian Bunkers-Council Rep.-402-910-6914

STEWARDSHIP/TIME & TALENT

Dwayne Groteluschen-Chair-402-910-0782
Michelle Bentz 402-910-0245
Dwayne Groteluschen 402-910-0782
Karol Swan 402-450-9511
Tracey Moore-Council Rep.-402-606-8212

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sam Welch 402-910-8554
Greg Schneekloth 402-618-0523
Sharon Hartman-Organist-402-563-3499
Pam Goering-Organist-402-246-4088
Pat Cuda-402-615-0412
Denise Stevenson-Council Rep.-402-615-0961

CRADLE ROLL

Dona Henderson 402-564-749

INTERIOR CLEANING

Joanne Marxsen-Chair-402-652-0340
Diane Skiles-402-564-9968
Brenda Dicke-402-563-1842
Barb Welch-402-564-8990
Joyce Lindstrom-402-564-8283
Clayton Brunt-402-276-3556
Denise Stevenson-Council Rep.-402-615-0961

FINANCE

Randy Lindstrom-402-564-8283
Sam Welch-402-910-8554
Brian Bunkers-Council Rep.-402910-6914

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Pam Goering-Treasurer-402-246-4088
Doug Hartman-Financial Secretary-402-563-3499

EVANGELISM

Jackson Moore-Chair-402-564-3001
Colleen Lutjelusche-402-564-7273
Barb Koch-402-564-5097
Dona Henderson-402-564-7497
Tracey Moore-Council Rep.-402-606-8212

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Kathy Brunt-Chair-402-276-1212
Pat Muhle-402-563-1924
Sonia Schmid-402-910-6895
Janelle Groteluschen-402-942-3204
Cody Luchsinger-402-910-3432
Trevor Luchsinger-402-910-0870
Dave Groteluschen-Council Rep.-402-910-4862

CHURCH SECRETARY

Pat Cuda-402-615-0412

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Rose Runge 402-615-0054
Chris Luchsinger 402-910-1707
Cindy Groteluschen 402-279-3232
Bethany Wilke-Council Rep.- 402-276-2900

ALTAR GUILD

Kendra Bunkers 402-910-6916
Sharon Hartman 402-910-4418
Sonia Schmid-402-910-6895
Tracey Moore 402-606-8212
Joyce Lindstrom-402-276-2120
Barb Welch 402-564-8990
Sam Welch 402-910-8554
Diane Skiles-402-889-8524

CLEANING

Denise Stevenson 402-615-0961
Deb Runge 402-910-6776

MEMORIALS & PAROCHIAL RECORDS

Pat Cuda 402-615-0412 (Church Records)
Pam Goering 402-246-4088 (Memorials)

COUNCIL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Tracy Moore-402-606-8212
Bethany Wilke-402-276-2900

Please remember that if you are the Chair of a committee, you are responsible for that committee. Pastor will help remind you of when you need to meet along with a council member. Council members are on the committee to represent and report what your committee has done at our council meetings-they are not the head of it.

Also, at the end of the year, if you are the chair, you will go off (some committee chairs will stay the same) and the next person in line will be the chair for the next year.

If you have any questions, please ask a council member and we will try to help.



Wee Singers

This is the last date that the Wee Singers will be singing in church.

MAY 14, 2023

Last day of Sunday School is May 21st!!

2023 Quilting Project is Completed

Eight to ten dedicated women faithfully met every week for eight weeks beginning on January 25th. A total of 50 quilts will be sent to Lutheran World Relief in November. Ten will be delivered to the Columbus Rescue Mission, seven to Youth and Families for Christ, and eight to Center for Survivors. (continued on next page)



THANK YOU to all that participated faithfully by making middles, sewing tops, assembling and pinning, sewing the tree layers together and tying, to make this Mission Project possible.

Women of the ELCA Action Committee:

Brenda Dicke and Barb Welch-Co-Chairs



**Congratulations to our Seniors of 2023,
Emma Moore and Josie Bentz!!**

Josie will be graduating from Lakeview High School in May. She participated in volleyball, basketball, track, National Honor Society, FFA, and the Center for Survivors Teen Revolution group. Her plans after graduation are to attend CCC on a volleyball scholarship. Her major is currently undecided but plans on completing a two-year Associate of Arts degree in Academic Transfer to eventually transfer to complete her bachelor's degree.

Emma Moore will graduate from Columbus High School on May 21, 2023. While in High School Emma has been active in her church, St. John's, by participating in Rejoice Choir, serving as an acolyte, helping with VBS, Sunday School and programs, candy sacking, serving on the Call Committee and helping with Altar Guild. At CHS she was in Softball, Robotics, Marching Band, Captains Chorale, Concert and Symphonic Band, and Bowling. After High School, she plans on attending Central Community College in Columbus, Nebraska majoring in IT Support while working part time at the Educational Service Unit 7 and Godfather's Pizza in Columbus.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

There is still time to sign-up for VBS or help volunteer.

VBS will be held May 30th-June 2nd from 8:30am-noon at St. John's Church.

Children's Day and Pot Luck on Sunday, June 4th.

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-6th Grade)

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 _____

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: Chris Luchsinger, Marlene Engel, Cindy Groteluschen, or Dona Henderson by June 15th.

Name _____ Age _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Name of Camp and Location _____

Date of Camp _____

Fee of Camp _____

HONOR & GLORY



St. John's Lutheran ELCA, Columbus, NE is hosting a worship band called "Disciple" on May 3rd at the Eagle's Club in Columbus, NE.


They will be giving an acoustic performance of their "Honor & Glory" tour, beginning at 7:00pm. There will be a free will donation at the door.

If you would like to help, there is a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board, or contact Jackson Moore.



May



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	2	3 Honor & Glory Concert Eagles Club 7:00PM	4 National Day of Prayer Frankfort Square Columbus	5	6
7 8:50 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 8:50 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service Wee Singers Youth Choir	15 Council Meeting 7:00pm	16 Tabitha Circle 7:30PM	17	18 Eve Circle 1:30PM	19	20
21 8:50 AM Sunday School-Last Day of Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:00 AM Worship Service	29 	30 VBS begins 8:30AM- 12:00PM	31 VBS 8:30-12:00PM	1 VBS 8:30-12:00PM	2 VBS 8:30-12:00PM	3
4 Children's Day Service and Potluck!!		<u>Council Reps</u> Larry Wennekamp Dave Groteluschen	<u>Altar Guild</u> Sharon Hartman	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Cleaner</u> Denise Stevenson

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
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.