

May 2020 Firmly Rooted in God's

Lifeline



ST. JOHN EV.
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA

401 3rd Ave NE
Waseca MN
507-833-1703

Church Office Hours

Monday — Thurs.
7:30 am — 11:30 am
12:30 pm — 4:30 pm
Fridays Closed



"...as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight." (Acts 1:9)

Jesus rose from the dead. He is alive! That's what we just celebrated on Easter Sunday. Tradition tells us that Jesus appeared, in bodily form, to his followers, over a period of 40 days, following Easter. Then he ascended into a cloud and disappeared from their sight. It's what we say in the Apostle's Creed: "He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead."

Pontius Pilate, the leaders of that day, and others, may have said, "I hear that he's disappeared into the clouds! What a relief! I'm finally rid of him. Yes, 'it's a good thing he's gone!'"

Yes, it is a good thing that Jesus has ascended. All these people are right about that, but for all the wrong reasons!

Because Jesus has ascended doesn't mean he is absent or has abandoned us to struggle in this life on our own. It means he is "sitting at the right hand of the Father." It means Jesus is now given authority over this broken world. As the writer of Ephesians says, "God has put all things under his feet and has made him head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." (1:22-23) Jesus, physically gone now, but filling all the world with his presence. Not everything is according to his kingdom rule, not yet. Jesus is doing battle with the cosmic forces of darkness and evil. (See Ephesians 6:12)

Being in heaven doesn't mean he's absent from us, but rather that now, he can be everywhere and anywhere. It means he can be with us in our sufferings and temptations. It means he can be with us in our joys and sorrows. It means his presence is no longer limited to one place at a time. Sitting at the right hand of the Father means he can be with us now as our risen and living Lord to give us his help, his strength, his guidance, his comfort, and to share with us his victory over death. Whenever we confess our sin, Jesus is with us to forgive us and lead us in right paths. Whenever we feel alone or forgotten, whenever we suffer, Jesus is with us to give us strength. Whenever the Gospel is preached, we can be confident that the risen, ascended Jesus is present here . . . for us . . . now!

Jesus is not absent, he is here, present with us in the ministry of St. John Lutheran Church today.

One day, we will see our risen Lord face to face. Until that day, he is present with us.

Jesus has not left us, he is alive! Jesus is risen and he is with us. And we are witnesses of these things. Let us proclaim this truth to all the world!

Peace, Pastor John





St John Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement

St. John is a Christian family of disciples alive in a Scripture-based, Spirit-led mission of ministry, worship and play. Disciples at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church are expected to pray often, worship regularly, learn from the Scriptures, participate in the serving groups if physically able, offer their time and talent as the spirit calls them, and regularly contribute monetarily to support the mission and ministry of the church.

Photograph by Curt Yess

The ladies have been working hard on during the past months, making PPE masks during our shut down. People greatly appreciated the hard work and have been coming to Trinity Hall entryway to pick them up.



The St. John Quilters ...

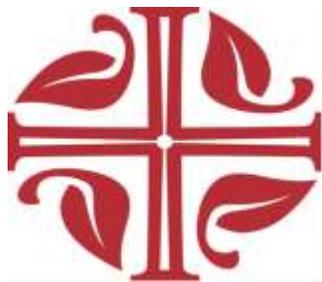
are missing their usual Monday quilting days and looking forward to resuming our normal schedule. At that time necessary precautions will be taken for a safe work day. In the meantime, we try and stay supportive and connected by texts and phone calls.

Some of the quilters have kept busy making medical masks. There are packets that contain pre-cut material and elastic in Trinity Hall for anyone in the congregation who would consider sewing masks so they can be distributed. There are finished masks in the lobby of Trinity Hall that can be picked up by anyone in need of an adult or children's size mask. They are also being distributed to several local care facilities. Thank you to everyone involved in this mission project. The need is great and if there are more masks than we can use locally, there is also a need worldwide.



4 year old Ella W. singing "Gethsemane" on Maundy Thursday.





Stewards of Grace

1 Peter 4:10-11

“As good stewards of the manifold grace of God”

What is God’s grace? A good definition of “Grace” is the undeserved goodness of God. God’s grace is that caring, redeeming, supporting, renewing, inspiring love that comes to us, especially when we are feeling overwhelmed by scarcity, challenges, and feelings of hopelessness.

That grace can come through the caring outreach of a trusted friend who calls just when we need them. Or, that grace can come as we reach out to someone and find compassion, love, and concern welling-up in us that we might be God’s grace to someone else. Or, that grace can come in the simplest of things as a surprise gift, a sunny day, or the smile of a stranger.

Yet, grace can also come to us in trusted and reliable ways. Word and Sacrament are the trusted and promised sources of God’s grace. In the Word, we find Jesus, for as Martin Luther said, the Bible is like the manger that holds the Christ child. In the sacraments – in, with, and under these earthly elements of water, bread and wine – we are graced with forgiveness, life, and salvation in Christ Jesus.

The life we live, as children of God, is our “response of gratitude” to this grace of God that is given to us. As one our Songs in our cranberry hymnal says so well:

*In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life’s way.*

*O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day until life’s work is done.
(695)*



BIBLE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Sunday Series – Signs of the Resurrection

05/03/20 John 10:1-18

05/10/20 John 14:1-12

05/17/20 John 14:15-21

05/24/20 GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

05/31/20 Acts 2:1-21 (Pentecost)

WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD CONTINUES!!

Each Wednesday, through May 20, a bible teaching video (less than 30 minutes) will be posted on our Facebook page.

Each week, you will receive an email with a one-page guide – questions for reflection and prayer.

These study guides are also available at the church. If you don’t have access to Facebook, these guides are still useful for reflection and growth.

You are invited to join with me each week. Let’s grow together!

Peace, Pastor John Omans



March 2020

Monthly

Income \$ 18,610.92

Expense — 19,295.06

Diff (684.14)

Year to Date

Income \$ 46,295.02

Expense — 63,174.55

Diff (16,879.53)



Prayers for Our Military



Dylan Wesseling
Dana Elias
Savanna Grunzke
Jacob Kuhns
Jacob Lemmen,
Nathan Lonneman
Madyson Murphy
Darren Peterson
Matt Wantoch

*Behind you, all your memories
Before you, all your dreams
Around you, all who love you
Within you, all you need.*

Welca Bible Study



Mary Bible Study

Monday, May 13

CANCELED

Ruth Bible Study

Tuesday, May 21

CANCELED



Gather's summer Bible study on 'Just Love'

This three-session Bible study invites readers to consider how justice and love intersect. What does "just love" look like? How is this kind of love more than a sentimental or sanitized emotion, but is instead a love-in-action that seeks to dismantle the various systems of sin that damage God's creation and harm God's people?

Pick up your copy in Trinity hall!



Lutheran World Relief

"Fair Trade Coffee" or "Fair Trade Tea" may be purchased the first Sunday of each month before or after services.

Do you have a Favorite Hymn?

If you have a favorite hymn that you would like included in our Sunday worship, please call the church office (507-833-1703). We will make a list, and sing them as soon as we can!





*Communion Bread baking:
Vickie Hill & Cindy Dickie*

*Fourth Sunday in Easter May 3, 9:00 am
ONLINE WORSHIP*

*Fifth Sunday in Easter May 10, 9:00 a.m.
ONLINE WORSHIP*



*Sixth Sunday in Easter May 17, 9:00 a.m. ??
Traditional Worship with Communion*

*Ushers: Vickie Hill, Wayne Hansen
Scott & Shannon Hedberg
Prepare Communion: Merril & Mary Schultz
Acolyte: Kendall Bowers
Reader:
Council:
Videographer:
Fellowship:*

*Seventh Sunday in Easter—
Sunday May 24, 9:00 a.m. ??*

*Ushers: Jody & Teri Wilker, Shirley Raetz
and Wallace Priebe
Acolyte: Lexis Kanewischer
Reader:
Council:
Videographer:
Fellowship: WELCA Graduate Recognition ??*



*Day of Pentecost Sunday May 31, 9:00
a.m. ??*

*Ushers: Dennis & Marcia Bartz
Jon & Vicky O'Neil
Acolyte: Siri Kuhns
Reader:
Council: Gary Conrath
Videographer:
Fellowship: Russ & Marie Tesch*



- Liam Aberle*
- Tanner Brinkman*
- Cortney Davison*
- Katrina Hoffman*
- Jay Lewer*
- Kailey Overland*
- Ethan Speikers*
- Grace Speikers*

Email-stjohn@hickorytech.net
[Call-507-833-1703](tel:507-833-1703)
www.stjohnwaseca.org
[Facebook-stjohnlutheranchurchelca](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnlutheranchurchelca)

Video voice of St John
Each Sunday morning the worship service at St. John is videotaped and broadcast on Media Comm Channel 8 Consolidated Comm 107
Sundays at 5:00 p.m. and Mondays at 10:30 am.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Sat
					1	2
3 9am Traditional Worship ONLINE 5pm Video Voice	4 10:30am Video Voice	5 7:00 pm Commissions- VIRTUAL via	6 NO St. John Senior Dinner 5:30 pm Confirmation Via ZOOM	7 7pm Men in Mis- sion BS-via Zoom	8	9
10 Mother's Day 9am Contemporary Worship -ONLINE 5 pm Video Voice	11 10:30 am Video Voice	12 VIRTUAL via ZOOM 5:30 pm Exec Council 6:00 pm Council Meet	13 NO Ministerial Dinner 5:30 PM Confirmation Via ZOOM	14 NO Joint Communion NO ICE 7pm Men in Mission BS-via Zoom	15	16
17 9am Traditional Worship w/ Communion ? 10:15am Fellowship 5pm Video Voice No Church Picnic	18 10:30 am Video Voice	19	20 5:30 PM Confirmation Via ZOOM	21 7pm Men in Mission BS-via Zoom Life Line noon	22	23
24 9am Contemp Worship Graduate Recognition ?? 10:15 am WELCA reception for grads 5pm Video Voice	25 Memorial Day 10:30 am Video Voice 	26	27 5:30 PM Confirmation Via ZOOM	28 7pm Men in Mission BS-via Zoom	29	30
31 9 AM Contemp.?? No communion 10:15 FAITH5 5pm Video Voice 1:30pm Graduation						



Scrip Cards can be purchased in the church office. Every scrip purchase you make will help the youth of St John. Please contact: Kari Priebe 507-521-4723 or Pam Grunzke 612-910-7230, Scrip Co-Coordinators, or Julie at the Church office 507-833-1703.



Hospitalized or ILL? Pastor John would like to visit you if you have any mental or physical health issues. Therefore if you or a loved one is sick, or if you are in the hospital for a planned surgery or any other reason do contact us! Call




We want to recognize you on Sunday, May 24 at the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service and reception following hosted by the Women of the ELCA. Please bring your cap and gown to church that day. **Possible Cancellation due to Shelter In Place.**

St. John & St. Paul Street Picnic

Has been **CANCELED** for May 17th.



Simply Giving® Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow.

Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis. Your consistent support is vital to our church.

Get started today!

There is information on our church website, or ask for an authorization form in the church office.

Thank you to all that have switched over to Simply Giving !!!

FAITH₅ SUNDAYS -

Despite our social distancing our Faith Formation continues! Check out the entryway to Trinity Hall to find our Faith Formation Station! Your challenge - Visiting the station and get the info you need for the 10 Commandment Memory Challenge!

2020 GRADUATES SAVE THE DATE!

We still want to give you the recognition you deserve!

Watch for more details but here is a teaser; May 24th !!



*St. John Lutheran Church
 401 3rd Ave NE
 Waseca, MN 56093
 John Omans, Senior Pastor
 phone: 507-833-1703
 e-mail: stjoh@hickorytech.net*

May 1, 2020

To St. John Lutheran Congregation,

It has been brought to our attention that the postage for the Life Line mailing has increased and with that being said, we are hoping to get more members email addresses so that we can send the Life Line this way, to cut costs and save the our church some money.

Below, please fill out the information if you have any changes to your phone, address, and **adding you email address**. You may send it back to us or drop it off at the church office. Please have this back by the end of June 2020. We would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you,
 Pastor John
 Julie Keane, Admin. Secretary

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home PH # _____ Cell PH # _____

Email address _____

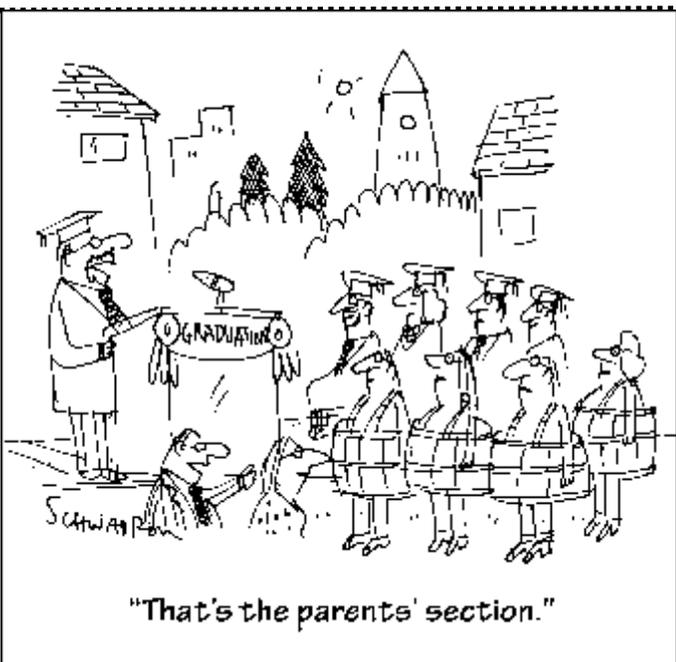


Email-
stjohn@hickorytech.net
 Call-507-833-1703
www.stjohnwaseca.org
 Facebook-
[stjohnlutheranchurchelca](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnlutheranchurchelca)

Breakfast With the Bishop
Saturday, August 8, 2020
 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 at Cabela's in Owatonna
 Featured Speaker: Bishop Regina Hassanally
 Watch for more details at semnsynod.org/LMM
 Sponsored by Southeastern Minnesota Lutheran Men in Mission.


Feel free to register as individuals or a group. Please send a check for \$15 per person (under 20 yrs. \$10) payable to: SE MN Synod LMM by July 31st to:

Russell Tesch
 906 4th Ave SE
 Waseca, MN 56093
 507-835-3843 or
 e-mail: marietesch@mchsi.com



If you would like to adorn our altar with fresh flowers please call Debbie Bartelt at 461-4874 or the church office at 833-1703 at least a week ahead of time. Two vases of flowers can be purchased at \$40 paid to WELCA. This may be brought to the church office or put in the offering plate and labeled. Individuals whom belong to the church may have this donation listed on their financial statements. You may request a color and/or flower preference. A written announcement can be put in the weekly bulletin specifying if they are "in honor of" or "in memory of".

Homebound Visitation Team



Anyone that wants to be included on our current Homebound Communion list please call the church office at **833-1703**. Pastor John and trained members of the congregation make regular visits. You may also request a copy of the weekly bulletin, announcements, and/or prayer concerns to be sent to your residence. Remember we are broadcast on the local television station Sundays at 5:00 pm and Mondays at 10:30 am .

Sunday Bus



Complimentary bus tokens are available for St. John members riding the bus to church. Call the church office at 833-1703. You must call DISPATCH 1-855-762-7821 before 3pm Saturday to schedule your pickup and drop-off.



Nonprofit Organization US
Postage Paid Permit No.35
Waseca, MN 56093

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
401 3rd Avenue NE
Waseca MN 56093
Email: stjohn@hickorytech.net
Website: www.stjohnwaseca.org
Phone: 507-833-1703

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Council Members and Staff

Council President

Michael Schlueter 507-304-3530

Council Vice-President

Michael Behsmann 507-461-7490

Council Secretary

Nancy Hansen, 507-837-9115

Financial Secretary

Al Tonn, 507-234-5737

Congregational Life

Dan Kuhns 507-461-2681

Education Committee

Valerie Possehl 507-461-9677

Worship and Music

Merril Schultz 507-461-7240

Social Ministry and Outreach

Ann Ruedy 507-308-47779

Council Members At Large

**Gary Conrath 507-521-2663
Valerie Possehl 507-461-9677**

Building and Grounds

Kyle Gallagher 507-461-3347

Pastor John Omans

Church office 507-833-1703 cell 507-201-1103

home 507-833-1525

E-mail faith.worker@hotmail.com

Administrative Secretary

Julie Keane 507-833-1703

Director: Cross+Gen Ministries

Marty Aberle,

Email: stjohncrossgen5@gmail.com

Senior Choir Director

Deb Wantoch-Yess 507-835-3498

Assistant Choir Director

Jan Macklay, 507-835-8706

Organists

Jan Macklay, 507-835-8706

Al Tonn, 507-234-5737

Custodian

Bill Erdman 507-461-5108

E-mail : stjohn@hickorytech.net

WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.stjohnwaseca.org