

October 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

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WELCA THRIVANT ACTION TEAMS...

We were busy this summer!

It is hard to believe all this was accomplished during this COVID year. Behind all the masked faces are WELCA women and volunteers that helped complete these Action Team projects: 104 School Kits, Baby Care Kits, and 92+ Personal Care Kits.

Do you recognize anyone?





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



“Ask what I should give you.” (1 Kings 3:5)

It happened one night that God appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, “Ask what I should give you.” In other words, “make your prayer request, Solomon, God is listening.”

Here is a person who has been entrusted with great responsibility. God has made Solomon king of Israel. We could pause here and ask, “What responsibilities have been entrusted to you?” Perhaps as a parent, you have responsibilities in raising children. OR, think of your responsibilities as a member of the community in which you live, or as a member of a family to which you belong. OR, think of the responsibilities of a job position. OR, think of the abilities we have, or the time we’ve all been given, or our knowledge, or our financial resources – do not these also entrust us with responsibilities? Once we start making a list of that for which we are responsible, it can get to be a fairly long list!

What I love so much about this Bible story from First Kings chapter 3, is what Solomon does after he sees the great responsibility before him.

He asks God for help: “Give your servant therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?” (1 Kings 3:9) Here is a powerful leader, who humbles himself before God, showing himself to be needy, asking God for help. In other words, he allows himself to be weak before God.

There is something about our society that makes us think that we must handle everything on our own. And yet – this prayer from King Solomon shows us that we can be open to God about our weaknesses and needs. We know this is what God wants because of what we read next: “It pleased the Lord,” the scripture says, “that Solomon had asked this.” (1 Kings 3:10) And then the Lord says, “Because you have asked ... for yourself understanding to discern what it right.” (1 Kings 3:11) God wants us to let him into our lives, to be humble and needy before him, and to seek his help in our lives. It pleases God. And God is good to us when we open that door to God in our lives. In those moments of prayer, we ask God to enter into our conversation, to give us wisdom, and to help us discern what God would have us do. Our prayers help us to see, to receive, to follow it, and to respond to what God wants to do with our lives.

It’s okay to admit to God our need and to seek his help and guidance. It’s okay to be weak and needy and dependent before God. In fact, it is more than OK – it is pleasing to God.

This time of pandemic has taught me, that we need God more than ever. Will you pause each day, take a deep breath, and invite God into your life and your decisions once again? Let’s invite God to be with us on the journey.

- Pastor John Omans



Stewards of Grace

1 Peter 4:10-11

“As good stewards of the manifold grace of God”

“If I understand that all that I have is mine, then I am going to want to amass as much of it as I can and cling tightly to it.

If I understand that everything I have really belongs to God and I’m given the responsibility to care for it, here there is a whole different attitude –holding on a little less tightly, a little more thought to what I really ‘need,’ and more concern to caring for that which God cares for.

These words were spoken by Pastor Charles Lane at a stewardship workshop. It spoke to me, and still does, about that truth that everything we are and everything we have comes from God’s gracious giving, and that God gives us the awesome responsibility to be stewards (or caretakers) of all of that.

Over the next month, I invite you to think about the time, abilities, and financial resources that God has entrusted to your care. How are you using them? Are you using them in ways that best care for your family, your neighbor, and the world? How do you discern the difference between what you really need and what is available to give/share/donate?

We’ll be looking at these questions together during our fall Stewardship emphasis in the month of November. As you think about what that will be, you might want to consider putting the quote at the top of this short article somewhere that you will see it each day.

Take time to reflect on how you understand all that you have.

I look forward to the mission and ministry that we will be sharing in the months ahead!

In Christ,

Pastor John

BIBLE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Sunday Series – Standing firm in the battle

10/04/20 Joshua 1:1-9

10/11/20 Joshua 3:7-17

10/18/20 Joshua 6:1-7, 12-21

10/25/20 John 8:31-36

You are invited to join in worship each week. Let’s grow together!

Peace, Pastor John Omans



August 2020
Monthly
 Income \$ 14,958.43
 Expense — 21,437.21
Diff (-6,478.78)
Year to Date
 Income \$ 127,997.89
 Expense — 162,774.23
Diff (-34,776.34)



Dylan Wesseling
 Dana Elias
 Savannah Grunzke
 Jacob Kuhns
 Jacob Lemmen,
 Madyson Murphy
 Darren Peterson
 Matt Wantoch

Quilt Sales in Trinity Hall

ST. JOHN'S FALL FESTIVAL has been cancelled this year, but we have created an opportunity for you to purchase quilts.

Oct 25 – Sunday 8:30 – 9:00 and 10:00 – 11:00 am
 Nov 1 – Nov 3: Sunday, Nov 1 8:30 – 9:00 and 10:00 – 11:00 am. Monday and Tuesday, Nov 2-3 10 am to 2 pm

The Quilters of St John look forward to displaying a variety of quilts for sale, but only for a few days. This is a great opportunity for you to pick a quilt for yourself, or for a birthday or Christmas gift for someone special. We've sold quilts at the Fall Festival for many years, but making a profit on the quilts is not the real purpose of our group. We hope to sell a few of our beautiful quilts with the plan to reinvest the money into materials to make more quilts for people in need!

We recently received news from Lutheran World Relief that three 40-foot shipping containers including over 22,000 handmade quilts plus baby-care kits, personal care kits and school supplies were all destroyed in the devastating August 4th explosions at the port of Beirut Lebanon. These goods were to be distributed to refugees and other vulnerable communities in the Middle East. We are heartbroken at this loss, but we are more concerned for the welfare of the people it was intended for. The women of St John are committed to working together to help replace quilts and care kits.

Contact Ann Ruedy @ 507.308.4779 or Amy LeCocq @ 507.837.9733 to make purchases.

If you are unable to come to our in person sales we will also be offering our quilts for preview and sale via St John's Facebook and Facebook Marketplace from Nov 4 – Nov 30, 2020



**Come and make some noise!!
Noisy Offerings**

You can now bring your change to church.
 First Sunday of the month you can drop your Noisy Offering in the milk can!!



[Lutheran World Relief](#)
 Running out of Coffee or Tea?
 "Fair Trade Coffee" or "Fair Trade Tea"
 may be purchased thru Sue Erdman.



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.



MEN IN MISSION MEETING
 OCTOBER 27, 7:00 PM
 Host: Russell Tesch-Desert
 Devotions: Steve Schroeder
 Program: Bold Gathering
 Speaker: Pastor John Omans





Scrip Cards area available for purchase 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.

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|------------------------|--------------------|
| Applebee's | Oscar's |
| Cash Wise | Pizza Ranch |
| Domino's Pizza | Subway |
| El Molino | Walmart |
| Yellow Mushroom | Hy-Vee |
| Kwik Trip | McDonald's |

Help our local stores and our church youth at the same time!!

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



**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.

Memorials

Simple. Convenient. Secure

St. John Lutheran has added a Electronic Giving "Memorial" choice to our website in Giving.

If you would like to make a monetary gift you can go to the website and designate as to where you would like to have your gift go and/or in whose name.

Make prayer a key rhythm of your life. Luther memorably said, "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." Prayer is the center piece of the Christian life; it is to be the anchor that affixes our souls before God in reliance upon him.

The Lutheran Journal
The Story of Their Songs-Part 2

**Lutheran Men in Mission November
College Care Packages**

We are looking for the address for all out college students so that we can send a care package to them.

Whether they are studying virtually or away at college, please email or call Russell Tesch with this information.

Men in Mission

**3rd Graders will be receiving their 1st bible on Oct. 11th
Given as gift by:
Women of St. John**



2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Sat
				1	2	3 10-2pm WELCA Mission Work Day-Baby Care Kits 8:30am Men in Mission Outdoor Day Event for Men
4 RSVP 9am Traditional Worship 5pm Video Voice	5 Office open 9-12 10am Quilters 10:30am Video Voice	6 Office open 9-12 10 am Quilters 7pm Commissions	7 Office Open 9-12 5:30-6:30 Confirmation via ZOOM	8 Office Closed 7pm Men in Mission BS-via Zoom	9	10 10:30 Joann Egness- Priv. Graveside service. Kim Possehl & Dylan DeMarce Wedding
11 RSVP 9am Contemporary Worship 3rd Gr rec bibles 5 pm Video Voice	12 10 am Quilters 10:30 am Video Voice	13 10 am Quilters 5:30pm Ex. Council 6pm Council mtg	14 5:30-6:30 Confirmation via ZOOM	15 7pm Men in Mission BS-via Zoom	16	17 Katelyn Miller & Jeff Sprunk Wedding
18 RSVP 9am Traditional Worship 5pm Video Voice	19 10 am Quilters 10:30 am Video Voice	20 10 am Quilters Lifeline Info Due	21 5:30-6:30 Confirmation via ZOOM	22 7pm Men in Mission BS-via Zoom	23	24
25 RSVP 9am Contemporary Worship Reformation Sun. Blessing of Quilts/Shawls 11am Confirmation 5pm Video Voice	26 10 am Quilters 10:30 am Video Voice	27 10 am Quilters 7 pm Men in Mission Mtg.	28 5:30-6:30 Confirmation via ZOOM	29 7pm Men in Mission BS-via Zoom	30	31 



Communion Bread Baking:
Ardean Klampe

Sunday, October 4, 9:00 am
Traditional Worship

Ushers: Mary Conway, Janet Wichmann
Reader: Janet Wichmann
Church Council: Mike Schlueter
Videographer: Gyles Randall

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Sunday, October 11, 9:00 am
Contemporary Worship w/ communion

Ushers: Philip & Brenda Langerud
Prepare Communion: Carol Tilney &
Dianne Bathke
Reader: Brenda Langerud
Church Council: Merrill Schultz
Videographer: Curt Yess

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Sunday, October 18, 9:00 am
Traditional Worship w/communion

Ushers: Wayne Johnson, Julie Pederson
Prepare Communion: Scott & Shannon Hedberg
Reader: Susan Erdman
Church Council:
Videographer: Marcia & Denny Bartz

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Sunday, October 25, 9:00am.
Contemporary Worship

Ushers: Diane Blowers, Shirley Raetz
Reader: Shirley Raetz
Church Council: Val Possehl
Videographer: Merril Schultz

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Sunday, October 25, 11:00am
Confirmation

Ushers: Jeff & Ann Ruedy
Prepare Communion: Ann Ruedy,
Myra Battenfeld
Church Council: Val Possehl
Videographer: Pam/Dominic Grunzke



Dream Undimmed:
Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929)
*Her story in The Lutheran Journal available
in Trinity Hall entryway...*

America the Beautiful

*O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America ! America !
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.*

*O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of or freedom beat
Across the wilderness.
America ! America !
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!*

*O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved:
And mercy more than life!
America ! America !
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every grain divine!*

*O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America ! America !
God she His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!*

Katherine Lee Bates



THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS ARE STILL IN ACTION AT ST. JOHN

Action Team for **Baby Care Kits** will be **October 3, 2020**.

Items needed are-

- Lightweight cotton t-shirts (Onesies will need to have the snap area cut off and zigzagged)
- Long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers without feet or shirt and pair of pants (sleepers with feet can have the feet portion cut off and the bottom then hemmed or zigzagged)
- Receiving blankets or medium weight cotton or flannel or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square
- Cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- Jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- Pairs of socks, various sizes make the kit last longer
- Hand towels, dark color recommended
- Bath size bars of soap



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".

WELCA Fall Festival 2020

Tower of Soups

Here at St. John's we are experiencing with the rest of the world hardships and we have chosen to not have our Fall Festival this year (2020) for your safety.

The Leadership Team is proposing to collect soup cans (any variety) or non-perishable ingredients for soup-making to make a Tower of Soups in Trinity Hall which will be given to our local Neighborhood Service Center.

We are also asking if you are financially able to make a monetary donation and then these monetary funds will be divided amongst various Mission causes that we have traditionally supported.

You will be contacted by your Service Group Caller during the month of October asking for soup can, non-perishable soup-making ingredients, or a monetary donation. Monetary donations can be dropped off at the church office, mailed to church office, or put in collection plate at Sunday worship service. Please mark the outside of your envelope "WELCA" and make checks payable to Women of the ELCA. Soup cans and non-perishable soup-making ingredients can be left in Trinity Hall so that we can build our TOWER OF SOUPS.

"THANK YOU" in advance for your generosity so that we may continue to support Mission causes as we have in the past and also with donations to your Neighborhood Service Center.

WELCA LEADERSHIP TEAM
Fall Festival Committee
Debbie Bartelt 507-461-4874
Linda Sandborg 507-835-2881



Donations can be made at church from October 1 to October 31, 2020.



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 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.



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

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

Martin 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