

October 2021

Firmly Rooted in God's Word

ST. JOHN EV.
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA

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

Lifeline

Church Office Hours

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



SAVE THE DATE!!

St. John Lutheran Church
Saturday, October 30th
11:00 am—1:30pm

Luncheon-2 options

Dine In-Tables will be spaced apart

Take Out-Full Meal only

Soup:	\$3.00	Homemade Vegetable Beef
Sandwich:	\$3.00	Sloppy Joe
Pie	\$2.50	Pie & Beverage
Full Meal	\$8.00	

Bake Sale

Quilts by St. John's Quilters

Women of the **ELCA**

Women of the **ELCA**

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



"I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 27:13-14)

From time to time, I get a flutter in my stomach. I have struggled with anxiety and excessive worry since I was a child. It can be a sense of "too much on my plate" that brings on the anxious/worrisome thoughts, or it can be a sense of things going wrong in the world. I know my anxiety is ramping-up when it feels like I can't catch my breath. That's when I fall

back on the training given by a spiritual teacher several years ago. His name was Roy Oswald. He taught me to "breathe in, breathe out."

The Bible is in two parts and has two languages. The first part is what we call the Old Testament. It was originally written in Hebrew. The second part is what we call the New Testament. It was originally written in Greek. And here's the thing: In Hebrew, there is a word "ruach." It means both breath and spirit. In Greek, there is a word "pneuma," with a silent 'P.' It also means both breath and spirit.

God's Spirit is God's holy breath. Your breath is your spirit.

I've used this practice more and more. When that panicky flutter comes to my gut, I have been taking time to breathe in and breathe out. Deep inhaling in through the nose. Deep exhaling by mouth. Breathing in the Spirit, remembering God is here, God is with me, God will give me strength.

It's a technique of meditation in our Christian faith and other spiritual traditions. Breathe in, breathe out. Some people use a prayer word...a single word while breathing in, like "love" or "peace" or "mercy" or "Jesus." Some people count their breaths. Some people simply try to be aware of breathing. It is a very helpful practice for me right now.

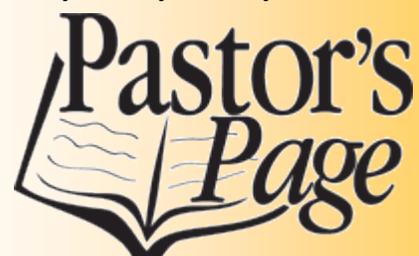
One of the worst aspects of suffering is the way we can lose our perspective. As the clouds close in, we may lose sight of everything but our suffering, making it loom larger and larger. Losing perspective in suffering is stifling; it is like forgetting to breathe. We Christians can forget that we are never alone, no matter what we are undergoing, because God is with us, just as he was with those saints who have been in similar straits before.

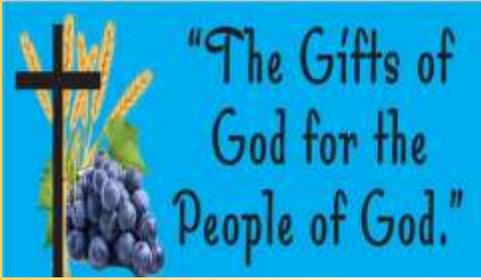
The Bible records a lot of suffering because God's people have never been free of it. Indeed, when Job's suffering in the Bible seemed to him to be never-ending, he accused God of keeping him from catching his breath (see Job 9:18). Yet his story finally conveys that, as awful as his situation was, much of what he needed to hear was something like this: "Breathe! Don't panic, God is here. Don't irrationally conclude that things will never get better."

In other words, even one of the Old Testament's greatest believers needed some breathing lessons.

We do, too.

Peace, Pastor John





The following is a summary of an article in the June, 2021 Living Lutheran, a magazine of our ELCA church. The article was written by Robert Blezard, an ELCA pastor in Aberdeen, Maryland. The full article may be viewed at: www.livinglutheran.org/2021/06/stewardship-a-disciples-path/

In too many congregations, “stewardship” has become a cheesy euphemism for “We want your money.” It’s a shame too. As our church’s traditional offering prayers express, stewardship lies at the very center of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

“Stewardship is everything we do after we say, ‘I believe,’” said Clarence Stoughton (1895-1975), who served as executive secretary of

the Lutheran Laymen’s Movement and as secretary of stewardship for the United Lutheran Church in America, an ELCA predecessor.

His definition of stewardship, which has become something of a mantra for Christian stewardship leaders in North America, becomes clear when two key elements are understood.

First, a “steward” is a person of authority who is entrusted with the duty of managing and caring for another person’s property. More than a mere employee, a steward is endowed with a great degree of autonomy, trust and responsibility.

Second, Stoughton’s definition relies on the biblical understanding that everything in creation, even our lives, belongs to God. No exceptions. Yes, all that which we possess, but also much more.

Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:15 describe how God created human beings in the divine image and put us in charge of what God has made. Thus, we are stewards—caretakers, managers, supervisors—given a high degree of authority and autonomy, but also commensurate responsibility. Our task as stewards represents a sacred trust and solemn duty. We carry it out in everything we think, say and do after we say, “I believe.”

This idea of faithful stewardship should ring familiar to Lutherans, who hear the traditional offering prayer in the weekly worship liturgy: *Merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

BIBLE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

We will continue our series, “God looks at the heart.” You are encouraged to read these Bible readings during the week and gather around God’s word each Sunday morning at 9:00am.

10/03/21 – 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

10/10/21 – 2 Samuel 7:1-17

10/17/21 – 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

10/24/21 – 1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29

10/31/21 – Jeremiah 31:27-28, 31-34



You are Invited to Wear Red for Reformation Sunday, Oct 31, 2021

Why do we wear red on Reformation Day? To celebrate the Holy Spirit who moved Martin Luther to reform the 16th century church. We also celebrate the Holy Spirit who moves in and among us today as God makes his love known to us, and as God breathes his spirit of love, through us to others.

Before saying yes...

I keep learning the same lesson over and over (so maybe that means I haven’t learned it yet). With church, school and community volunteer work, my schedule is packed. I’m exhausted! And to be honest, only about a third of the roles truly excite me.

Of course, service is important and yields blessings. And in a pinch, helpers need to step up. But consider all these benefits of occasionally saying no:

- You give someone else a chance to shine and thrive.
- You free up your schedule to be present elsewhere.
- You protect your mental resources for existing roles.
- You gain a bit more sleep or rest.

The last time you felt fully alive while volunteering, what were you doing? Who was serving alongside you? Can you do this — or something similar — again? Before quickly agreeing to a request, see if God is tugging your heart in a certain direction. If he prompts you, by all means, shout yes! If not, “rest” assured that it’s okay to say no.



August 2021

Monthly

Income \$ 20,455.58
Expense -19,355.60
 Diff 1,099.98

Year to Date

Income \$148,757.10
Expense — -148,180.80
 Diff 576.30



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

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.

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!!

BABY CARE KITS

“But Jesus called for them and said, Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.”

A Thrivent Action Team by the women of St. John for **October 2, 2021** will assist us in providing Baby Care Kits to help welcome a mother and baby out into the world.

We are now collecting for Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits. Items needed are-

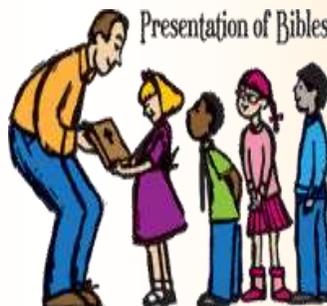
- Lightweight cotton t-shirts
- Long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers without feet or shirt and pair of pants(sleepers with feet can have the feet portion cut off and the bottom then hemmed or zigzagged)
- Receiving blankets or medium weight cotton or flannel or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square
- Cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- Jacket, sweater or sweat shirt 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

Gently used and clean items(no stains or tears) can be used. Garage sales are a good place to get some of these items. Please leave items in the basket in the narthex or on the pew by the Library in Trinity Hall. Thank you for your generosity in this important project.

Confirmation

Students will be confirmed on Sunday, October 31 at 11:00 am. Women of the ELCA will host a reception following 9:00am worship at 10:15am.

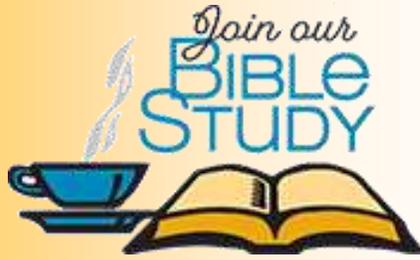
*McKayla Baumgarten
 Kendall Bowers
 Alexis Brinkman
 Lexi Kanewischer
 Siri Kuhns
 Brody Overland
 Solomon Wilson*



Presentation of Bibles

3rd Graders to receive their 1st Bible on Sunday, Oct. 3rd.

**Maci Bramer
 Korbin Collins**



YOU ARE INVITED ...to the Women of the ELCA Monthly Bible Study!

www.gathermagazine.org/category/bible-studies/

Mary Bible Study
2nd Monday, 1:30pm
Leader: Jean Miller

Ruth Circle
3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm
Leader: Shirley
Host: Marcie

NEW VANCO MOBILE APP
has replaced GIVE+
as of Sept. 30th, 2021

Creating a **Vanco Mobile** account provides additional convenience and security. Go to your App Store or Google Play to **Vanoc Mobile look up** **St John Lutheran Waseca** and get your **FREE** mobile app now. If you had Give+ you will automatically rolled over to the Vanco Mobile site but the Give+ app will no longer work after the end of September.



2022 Christmas Nativity Drive Through Event!



Noisy Offerings
First Sunday of the month

September offering
\$66.20

When? December 17 and 18, from 5-8pm

We are looking forward to an expanded event with St. Paul's, St. John, and Christ the King Lutheran Churches!

VOLUNTEERS are needed in the following areas:

- Traffic Control...lights (decorating)...props/backdrops for scenery...
- Characters (angels, shepherds, Wiseman, King Herod)...
- Costumes and costume helper...Kitchen (cookies, hot choc, cider)...
- Animals (thank you Terry Huber for animals, fence, straw bales)...
- Sound/radio...marketing/signage...bag stuffers...setup/take-down

THANK YOU!
Please contact the church or Pastor John

Lutheran Men in Mission

Brothers and Friends, The 2021 Fall Bold Gathering registration is now open! We look forward to having you join us virtually that day! We will not be offering an in-person registration option for this event! Looking forward to helping you engage with your communities and change men's lives!

The Bold Gathering team
Fall 2021 Bold Gathering
Saturday October 16, 2021
11a – 2p Central Time

Registration is now open!
Cost is Free! (Or, you can give a free-will donation)

<http://boldgathering.com/>
Call Russell Tesch or Pastor John for more info!

Jan Macklay is in need of congregation members to be Lectors/Readers on Sundays. Please give her a call if you are willing to help. (507) 456-4578.

2021

October Happenings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Sat
					1	2 10-2pm WELCA Baby Care Kits Good Earth- Men in Mission
3 9am Traditional Worship/Noisy offer- ing/3rd Gr. Bibles 10:15am Coffee Hour 5pm Video Voice	4	5	6 5:30—7:15pm Confirmation	7 7pm Men in Mission BS-via Zoom	8	9
10 Choir 9am Contemporary Worship 10:15am Coffee Hour 5 pm Video Voice	11 10 am Quilters 10:30 am Video Voice 1:30 pm Mary Bible Study— TH	12 6pm Commission Mtg 6:30 pm Council mtg	13 5:30—7:15pm Confirmation	14 2:00 Lakeshore Communion 3:30 Colony Ct 7pm Men in Mission BS-via Zoom 7pm Christmas Dr-through mtg.	15	16 11-2pm Men in Mis- sion Bold Gathering- via ZOOM
17 9am Traditional Worship/communion 10:15am Coffee Hour 5pm Video Voice	18 10 am Quilters Lifeline Info Due 10:30 am Video Voice	19 7pm Ruth's Bible Study-TH	20 5:30—7:15 pm Confirmation	21 7pm Men in Mission BS-via Zoom	22	23
24 9am Contemporary Worship 10:15am Coffee Hour 5pm Video Voice	25 10 am Quilters 10:30 am Video Voice	26 7pm Men in Mission Mtg	27 5:30 –7:15 pm Confirmation	28 7pm Men in Mission BS-via Zoom	29	30 11-1:30 Fall Festival
31 Reformation Sunday-wear RED 9am Contemporary Worship 9:20 Sunday School 10:15 Confirm Recpt. 11am Confirmation HALLOWEEN 						



Care
Packages
for the
Military

**We are looking for the address
of your family members military
addresses for Nov. to send them
care packages from us.
Email or call Julie in the office.
Please let her know ASAP.**



Communion Bread Baking:
Pam Grunzke, Marcia Bartz, Rhonda Behsmann

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Sunday, October 3, 9:00 am
Traditional Worship

Ushers: Diane Blowers, Melvina Conrath
Acolyte: Riley Mitchell

Reader:

Church Council: Rhonda Behsmann
Videographer: Dennis Sommers
Facebook Live: Curt Yess

Sunday, October 31, 9:00 am
Contemporary Worship

Ushers: Jon & Vicki O'Neil
Acolyte: Jack Kuhns

Reader: Nadine Omans
Church Council: Ann Ruedy
Videographer: Marsha & Dennis Bartz
Facebook Live: Curt Yess

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Sunday, October 10, 9:00 am
Contemporary Worship-Communion

Ushers: Jody & Teri Wilker
Communion Prep: Craig & Cathy Johnson
Acolyte: Cory Bartz
Reader: Pam Grunzke
Church Council: Sue Michaels
Videographer: Merrill Schultz
Facebook Live: Curt Yess

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Sunday, October 31, 11:00 am
Confirmation

Ushers: Angela Barbknecht,
Mary Conway
Communion Prep: Myra Battenfeld,
Carol Tilney
Reader: Confirmation Student
Church Council: Rhonda Behsmann
Videographer: Curtis Yess

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Sunday, October 17, 9:00am
Traditional Worship-Communion

Ushers: Russell Tesch, Brian Tesch
Communion Prep: Mary Meyman,
Sue Michaels
Acolyte: Carson Harter
Reader: Russell Tesch
Church Council: Koni Hudak
Videographer: Dennis Sommers
Facebook Live: Curt Yess

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Sunday, October 24, 9:00 am
Contemporary Worship

Ushers: Rodney & Lori Born
Acolyte: Madison McColley
Reader: Rodney Born
Church Council: Sue Michaels
Videographer: Pam/Dominic Grunzke
Facebook Live: Curt Yess

Time to hit delete?

If we really have too much to do, there are some items on the agenda that God did not put there. Let us submit the list to him and ask him to indicate which items we must delete. There is always time to do the will of God. If we are too busy to do that, we are too busy.

Appreciating your pastor

Many people have complex relationships with their pastors because faith, church and God involve a mix of emotions. We have particular ideas about church practices, congregational priorities, the minister's use of time, money, authority and more.

But most pastors are deeply devoted to Christ and believe that God has called them to serve in a certain place. They have the best of intentions and work hard to share the good news of the gospel. So in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month in October, consider the following:

God doesn't call the qualified; he qualifies the called. Your pastor may need time to learn and develop certain skills. (Everyone does!) Bless pastors with your patience.

We don't change the message; the message changes us. You probably won't like all your pastor's sermons or newsletter columns. But instead of complaining, ponder that something may rub you the wrong way because God is trying to change you. Keep an open mind and heart.

If a church wants a "better" pastor, it just needs to pray for the one it has. Pray often and caringly for your pastors, church leaders and their families. The role is challenging, so support them spiritually and ask God to reveal his love and grace to these special servants.

SERVICES

October Lifeline



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”.



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



Complimentary bus tokens are available for St. John members and guests riding the bus to church. Call the church office at 833-1703 to get your tokens. You must call DISPATCH to arrange a pick up for yourself.



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 833-1703

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.

Lutheran World Relief

Looking for that special Coffee or Tea for yourself or a GIFT? We have just the brew for you! “Fair Trade Coffee” or “Fair Trade Tea” may be purchased thru Sue Erdman. Call 507-461-5108.

*Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;
teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.*

Proverbs 9:9





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 Behsmann 507-461-7490

Council Vice-President

Ann Ruedy 507-308-4779

Council Secretary

Koni Hudak 651-983-7342

Financial Secretary

Al Tonn, 507-234-5737

Congregational Life

OPEN

Education Committee

Terry Huber 507-461-5424
Valerie Possehl 507-461-9677

Worship and Music

Sue Michaels 507-381-4299

Social Ministry and Outreach

Rhonda Behsmann 507-461-7490
Nadine Omans 507-837-9099

Council Members At Large

Kyle Gallagher (2022)

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

stjohn@hickorytech.net

Youth Director:

OPEN

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

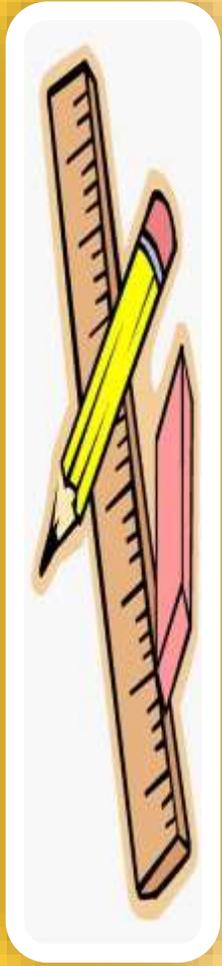
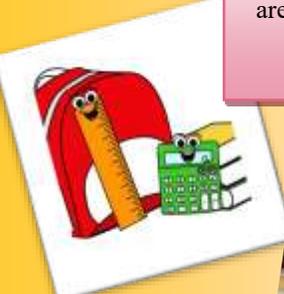
Bill Erdman 507-461-5108

E-mail : stjohn@hickorytech.net

WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.stjohnwaseca.org



Thank you to all who donated supplies, helped with set-up, and assembled 111 Lutheran World Relief School Kits this past Sunday. Many hearts and lives will be impacted. You are blessing others through your service and acts of generosity.
Marie Tesch



Food Shelf Month

Share the Love FOOD DRIVE

Upcoming opportunity for local donations: October is another FOOD DRIVE month for the Waseca Area Food Shelf. There will be designated baskets in Trinity Hall and in the Narthex for donations of nonperishable food items, and a special monetary offering will be taken on Sunday, October 31. Thank you for your generosity!

Remember the Neighborhood Service Center can purchase items at reduced prices, so cash donations are greatly appreciated.

Sunday, Oct. 31 will be cash donation day.

You are able to make NSC donations on New Vanco Giving (mobile or Giving on www.stjohnwaseca.org)



THANK YOU to all who donated underwear and socks for our annual "Undies Sunday" giving opportunity! All cash donations were used to purchase some men's and boys' socks, as most of the socks received were girls' and women's. The items were all brought to the Waseca Area Community Service Center, to be kept in storage until the store is ready to reopen. They were excited to receive them!

