

Saint John News

July 2023

Proclaiming and Practicing the Love of Christ

From Pastor Bruick's Desk . . .

Empty . . . and needing rest

AN EMPTY LAWN CHAIR in the yard . . . an empty hammock hanging between two trees . . . an empty front-porch swing . . . an empty patio picnic table . . . an empty fishing boat on the lake . . . an empty bench in the park . . . an empty walking trail through the woods . . . an empty church pew in the sanctuary. It seems to me that there are so many great summer places just sitting empty. So, that makes me wonder if the individuals, for whom those spaces were created, are just like those spaces . . . empty.

With the 4th of July right around the corner, the summer season is half over; therefore, it would be good to ask ourselves, "Have we taken the time to sit down, to rest, to be refreshed?"

When I was a youth and my parents told me and my siblings that we were going on a vacation, all I could think of were the nonstop activities that were in front of us. I mean, if you are going to leave home for a week or two, it seems wise to pack as much as possible into your time away. "More bang for your buck!"

As a family, we would race into vacation, run through the days away and, in the end, rush home so that everyone could

get back into the rat race of the regular routines, the rat race that we had wanted to escape by taking a vacation. Upon arrival at home, we would slow down from the vacation rat race to get back into the daily routine rat race that we had tried so hard to escape by going on a vacation. Now, what makes sense of all of that? But that is what most of us do, especially with summer family vacations.

I know that life is full. I know that raising children creates many demands. I know that our jobs and vocations are time consuming. I know that the resource of time is limited. Last time I checked, I heard that you and I have the same number of minutes in a day—1440. I also know that my body and your body, my soul and your soul need times of rest, of vacating, of stepping out of the schedules and demands that are the "normal" of our everyday lives.

Back to those "empty" spaces I listed above. What might happen to you and me if you and I stopped and filled one or more of those places? And even more important, what might happen to you and me if we stopped and filled those places on a regular basis simply to pause, to be refreshed, to

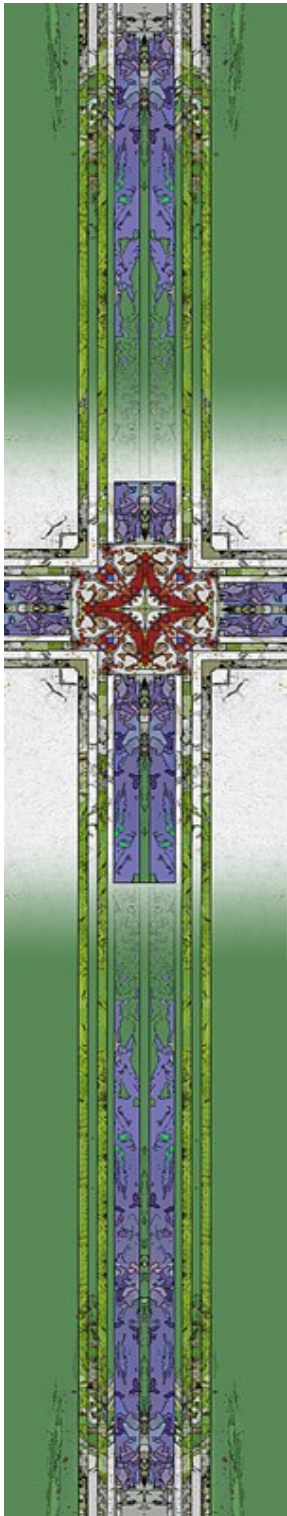
"You and I have the same number of minutes in a day—1440. I also know that my body and your body, my soul and your soul need times of rest."

reflect, and to be renewed in our relationships with one another and our Savior and Friend, Jesus? I am asking you and myself these questions because I am hearing of and seeing again the summer rat race in many of our lives: non-stop activities, vacations that are leaving participants

See **Bruick**, page 2

In this issue . . .

- 1 From Pastor Bruick
- 3 Vacation Bible School
- 4 Brent Royuk tribute
- 5 St. John School
- 6 Child Development Center
- 7 Plain Brown Wrapper award
- 8 LWML banner
- 8 Summer Horizons
- 9 Alaska mission update
- 9 Charting Our Course prayer
- 10 Board members and officers
- 11 Charting Our Course Vision
- 11 Official Acts



“I would have to say that most of us in our current way of living are full-speed ahead.”

■ **Bruick**

continued from page 1

worn out when they return, endless nights at the ball field, and concerns that the summer is “flying by!”

During the month of June, I have been reflecting on this concern that I have for many of us in our life together. In doing so, I have been reading *The Emotionally Healthy Leader*, by Peter Scazzero, a Christian researcher and author. He asks the following question: *In what ways does the current pace of life [and leadership] enhance or diminish my ability to allow God’s will and presence full scope in my life?* (p. 120) I would have to say that most of us in our current way of living are full-speed ahead, thus we struggle to allow God’s will and presence to have full scope in our lives. But imagine what opportunities for spiritual growth and growing in one’s understanding of the depth of God’s grace and mercy could be experienced if pausing and resting in with one another and Jesus were a key part of our regular routines.



So, back to those empty places again! Why do we struggle to stop

and sit down in those spots to rest? Are we afraid of what other people might think of us? Are you concerned that your credibility would be

“I am hearing and seeing again of the summer rat race in many of our lives: non-stop activities, vacations that are leaving participants worn out.”

diminished because of your lack of productivity at work, at home, and/or in the community? Are we wanting to avoid establishing deeper relationships with others by taking time just to visit? And, what about resting with your Friend and Savior, Jesus? Would the stillness with the Lord, the contemplating of God’s Word, bring into clearer focus the need you have for a Savior?

Let me challenge you! Let me challenge us! Our gracious God loves to spend time with His children. Picture a parent who is calling their toddler to just slow down and come sit down for a while. The toddler keeps running around but finally, after much coaxing, gives in. They reluctantly crawl up into their parent’s lap and, knowing the safety and comfortableness of this embrace, falls asleep in their parent’s arms. That is the image I have in mind when I think of the rest that is needed for our bodies and souls and

the invitations that Jesus shares with us:

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends” Revelation 3:20.

“Then Jesus said, ‘Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls’” Matthew 11:28-29.

These invitations of Jesus are for more than physical rest from the rat race of life and all of our activities. These invitations are for you and me to rest in the “finished work of Jesus” which He accomplished at the cross and the empty tomb. These invitations are filled with the message of the free gift of grace from our gracious God. And, when we rest in the work of Jesus, then the other things that perhaps we are so busy trying to accomplish in life are put into proper perspective. Our worth has already been established by Jesus. Real rest comes not from an endless list of vacation experiences, but it comes from vacating the demands of our broken mind that tells us that we have to keep doing, keep trying, keep producing, keep serving in order to have worth, value, and identity in the eyes of others.

See **Bruick**, page 3

■ Bruick

continued from page 2

So, we still have time. With the last half of summer still in front of us, I encourage you to find one of those empty spots, including the church pew, and think about Jesus' invitations in light of this question: *In what*

ways does the current pace of life [and leadership] enhance or diminish my ability to allow God's will and presence full scope in my life? When you do, you will be surprised who will be right there with you, to take you into His

arms, so that you can really get some rest and refreshment this summer!

Crawling up into the arms of Jesus!



Thank you for helping to bear our burdens!

JAN AND I are grateful for the Body of Christ helping to bear our burden when I underwent surgery on May 5 for a calcified herniated disc in my spine which caused the main nerve to my right leg to be compressed and limited in its function. The surgeon was

hopeful that he and his staff were able to accomplish what they had planned. The presenting pain was gone immediately following the surgery. Now I am working through the nerve and leg muscles learning how to function properly again. This

will take a couple of months. Your prayers, encouragement, and acts of kindness during my time of rehabilitation have been greatly appreciated.

In His love,
PB & J (Pastor Bruick & Jan)



Vacation Bible School—a big success

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL was held June 5 through 9 under the theme, "Take a Walk with Jesus." Over 130 children learned to walk through the New Testament and see our Lord's saving work.

Over 40 youth and adults helped and led these children as they walked through the New Testament with the Lord. It was a wonderfully energetic week.

Thank You, Lord!

Vacation Bible School



“Emotionally, shutting down worship during (the pandemic) brought him to tears as he considered long-term impact on members.”

A tribute to Brent Royuk

Thank you, Brent, for 18 years of leadership

by Jeanette Niemann

“BELOW DECK” operations... How many of us think about the operations below deck on any luxury cruise that are integral to navigating the ship? How about the task of navigating a congregation through 18 years?

Brent Royuk is stepping away after 18 years as Vice Chairman of the St. John congregation. “BELOW DECK” is the term used by Royuk to describe how God used his gifts and talents to encourage the Coordinating Council during times of blessings and challenges.

“I love running meetings!” Brent stated eagerly. “If I could keep another member of St. John from something that might seem like a drudgery or an undertaking, that was my calling.”

Early on, he established the habit of discussing the many blessings that have been bestowed on St. John through the years, and listing those blessings became a monthly item on the Coordinating Council’s agenda.

Were times always good? During the early years of his tenure, Royuk helped navigate St. John through some of its most difficult years. He observed the congregation grow to a more welcoming, relationship-building entity with Concordia University, and with our sister congregation, the Rock. Pastor Bruick and Royuk partnered in helping the congregation discover its true identity in Christ, through the development of a better self-image. The pair voiced, “We had to learn to like ourselves!”

Navigating the PANDEMIC presented a challenge. Organization and making sure everyone on the Council was heard were the strategies Royuk employed to ensure the successful function of the Coordinating Council in

getting through that time. Brent’s passion is data-driven science, and that made him a good resource as he worked with Congregational Chair Brady Johnson, the pastors, and a COVID crisis committee to “captain the ship” during all of the preparations to keep everyone safe during those times.

“Of all of the considerations for handling the pandemic,” says Royuk, “choosing ones that kept us at the center of current practice was a test, but I think we did that.” Emotionally, shutting down worship during that time brought him to tears as he considered long-term impact on members. Helping St. John recover its “MOJO” after the pandemic led to ideas to improve morale, helping others find satisfaction, and continuing to become more “welcoming.” Brent is constantly reminded of the faithfulness and stability that is evident at St. John.

As he looks to the future, several items appear on his agenda...

- ◆ Snuggling grandchildren



(Check with him later as he looks forward to greeting 16 grandchildren)

- ◆ Establishing a pathway for musicians from Concordia to be involved in contemporary worship through his own experiences in ROOM 211 (Christ, Lincoln), 1 C, (Columbus), and other “rock worship” churches (Check out his bass guitarist skills at a service near you!).
- ◆ Continuing to share the history of his house (Check out his presentation “142 Seward Street: Story of a House” on July 4 at 10 a.m. at Bottle Rocket Brewing Co.).
- ◆ Continuing to be fascinated by data (talk about a lifelong learner).
- ◆ Blessing a possible new governance structure in the congregation.

The congregation, Executive Board, Coordinating Council, and shepherding staff wish to thank Brent Royuk for the years of dedicated service to St. John, and pray for continued blessings for him in the future.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is upon you

by Anita Foor

A FAVORITE SONG of St. John children is “*Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come.*” Check it out with a quick web search for that title by Jered McKenna! It was the inspiration for the new theme for the educational year that has already begun at the Child Development Center and will soon begin at the St. John day school on Wednesday, August 16.

In Isaiah 60, we read another reminder that there will be dark, difficult, trying times that we experience, and we’re instructed to lift up our eyes to see the light of Christ. We’re more than reminded that when we gather together around our Father, no matter the trials we face, His love will be all that we know when we arise, shine, and keep our eyes and hearts focused on Him.

Arise and Shine with anticipation of a new school year

While we are embarking upon the second half of the summer break from the day school, we do so with the hope and assurance that students will gather for the first day of the 2023-2024 academic year very soon! We praise God in anticipation of the 139th year of school at St. John Lutheran. We are blessed for the love of Christ to be proclaimed and practiced through our school ministry. We enter the remainder of the summer

prayering for the health and safety of our faculty, staff, students, and families; for the grace and love of the Gospel to prevail amid any trials; and for each of us to arise and shine because of, and as examples of Christ’s love for us.

Shining facility improvements

In the last school newsletter, a preview of some of the summer work being done was provided. Now, a month later, the school building is also saying, “Arise! Shine!” with some improvements that we are grateful to have because of congregational support. On the outer east and west sides of the building, new windows look fresh and shiny, but most importantly, they are more efficient and help us to be



better stewards of our resources to heat and cool the building. If you’ve been in the building, you might notice the fresh paint in the hallways; and in a couple of weeks, you’ll also see carpet installed and bathroom upgrades complete.

Arise and Shine in celebration of our growing student body

This school year our faculty and staff will serve approximately 182 students. Current enrollment numbers are as follows:

Kindergarten – 21
1 st Grade – 17
2 nd Grade – 20
3 rd Grade – 23
4 th Grade – 20
5 th Grade – 16
6 th Grade – 23
7 th Grade – 22
8 th Grade – 20
Total Enrollment: 182

Each family who chooses to send their child(ren) to St. John helps to build up the body of Christ and equips even the youngest among us to proclaim and practice the love of Christ.

“No matter the trials we face, His love will be all that we know when we arise, shine, and keep our eyes and hearts focused on Him.”

■ School

continued from page 5

If you are able and would like to support families in the choice and opportunity for a Christian education, please contact Principal Mertens (barb.mertens@stjohnseward.org) to learn more about contributing to the Angel Fund. And if you are interested in a child you love receiving a

Christian education, Miss Mertens can assist you with learning more about that opportunity through St. John.

Arise, Shine, and Proclaim and Practice the love of Christ

As families, faculty, and staff continue enjoying the rest of

the summer, please pray for them in preparation for the upcoming school year. May our congregation be a model of serving others with the joy we read in the Chapter 60 verses of Isaiah.

Coming up at St. John Lutheran School

August 16	First day of the 2023-2024 school year
Wednesdays	Join us for chapel!
September 4	Labor Day – no school
September 18	Teacher Work Day – no school
September 28 & 29	Grades K – 8 Parent/Teacher Conferences
September 29	Early dismissal @11:20 a.m.



Summertime with little ones

by Lisa Aring, Director, St. John Child Development Center

THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER is open, educating children all summer. During the summer months, our schedules are a little more relaxed, and we spend a lot of time learning outdoors.

Playing with water is a great way to cool off, and it also is conducive for learning about liquids and volume. Taking care of plants stimulates young brains to have fun and to learn at the same time. Learning about bugs and growing things are summertime activities that help children learn about seasons, our holidays, our country, and God's creation.

**“Learn-
ing about
bugs and
growing things
are summer-
time activities
that help
children
learn”**

Even though it is “vacation-time,” we don’t take a vacation from learning, and more importantly, we don’t take a vacation from Jesus in the summer. Our students learn about God every day. They sing

songs, pray, talk about how Jesus tells us to treat others, and they attend chapel--learning and worshipping together with the whole center. We just finished a unit on baptism in chapel. Students learned what baptism is, what two things you need for baptism, what the pastor says and does, why we baptize, and then had fun singing some baptism songs. Throughout all our activities, we are growing in our faith in Jesus--all summer!

Blessings!



Kathy Paulson shares her faith visually

by Sara Endorf

Editor's note: From time to time in the newsletter, we include a Plain Brown Wrapper award, featuring a volunteer who has served for many years, working behind the scenes with little or no fanfare.

KATHY PAULSON just finished her 243rd church and convention banner. It represented the Nebraska South District at the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) National Convention in Milwaukee June 22-25.

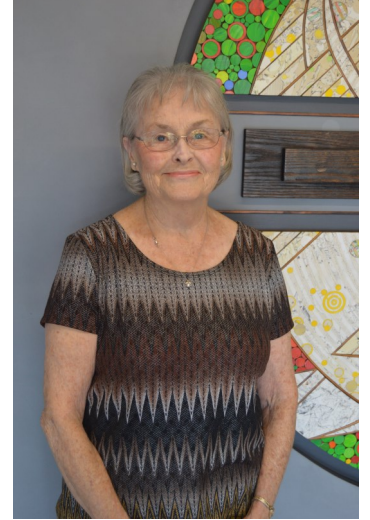
Her "love of fabrics," as she says, began as a five-year-old when she began sewing her own doll clothing. That transformed into using the sewing machine at age 10 and eventually making and repurposing her and her family's clothing. In college she changed to an art major her third year at University of California Davis, gained experience in drawing and design, and met and married Bob Paulson (former visitation pastor at St. John here in Seward). Then one day the pastor of her and Bob's congregation in California gave her a Bible verse, a book on Christian symbolism, and asked her to create a banner and eventually chasubles and stoles, and God opened a new way for her to worship Him by doing something she loved and was good at.

At this point of her life, Kathy's priorities were her family, but she found time when the kids

were older to construct banners at her kitchen table. When Bob answered God's call to go into pastoral ministry at age 42, Kathy was able to teach classes on banner and stole creation for the wives of the seminary students. She even created a banner series for the library at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis .

She has created banners, stoles and paraments for churches or individuals in 12 states. Though most banners she designed and created herself, she has also constructed banners designed by other artists. A banner she made in 1996 for the LWML District Convention hung in Weller Hall on Concordia's campus for many years, and a banner and podium covers she made in 2007 were on the stage for the LWML National Convention in South Dakota. She's taught workshops on this art form and has encouraged others to take the plunge into this specific medium. She's

made ordination banners, banners and a funeral pall for St. John, banners for the A Capella Choir at Concordia to take on their European tours, confirmation banners, six Nebraska District Convention stage backdrops, and so many other pieces stitched together with needle and thread. Each small banner takes 25-30 hours of serious, precise sewing, and at the height of her artistic career she averaged about 12 banners in a year.



Not only does she get to enhance the worship of her brothers and sisters in Christ through her talent, but she also grows closer to God in the process. She said, "I love the devotional aspect, especially when I really have to work hard to figure out a design for a Bible passage and work through it. It becomes a very devotional experience. I have the best of both worlds where I can do what I enjoy but also get fed by it [spiritually]."

Age has slowed down much of this aspect of her life, but she considers her talent and vocation of a liturgical artist to be such a gift from God. As someone who has a hard time verbalizing her faith, she says, "It's a visual sharing of faith in the banner making, and I just love being able to use the gifts the Lord has given me to His glory. It's the crux of the whole thing."

Thank you for your faithfulness in serving God with your talents, Kathy!

"God opened a new way for her to worship Him by doing something she loved and was good at."

Plain Brown Wrapper award



Banner featured at LWML Convention

“Lord of the Nations” banner

by Gretchen Gebhardt

KATHY PAULSON designed and constructed the Nebraska District banner for the International Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Convention in Milwaukee in June. At the Convention, the banner was included in the Parade of Banners, which featured banners from every District of the LWML.

The banner illustrates two themes: 1) Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and 2) He has the whole world in His hands.

These themes roll into one as we see the Lamb wearing the crown of thorns and crown of victory. Christ, the spotless Lamb of God, has taken away the sin of the world by His suffering as seen in the thorns, drops of blood, and the cross. He reigns victorious as King of the world as proclaimed by the crown and the hands of God around the earth.

On the back of the banner is a fabric printed with peacock feathers, symbolizing the resurrection. When the old

feathers fade and die, new ones come out in brighter colors.



Attending the Convention from St. John were Deanna Dowding, Rita Luebbe, and Elaine Royuk.



Summer Horizons sets attendance record

TWO-HUNDRED ninety-six children registered for Summer Horizons this year, topping the old record of 286. At the first Summer Horizons held in 2009, 50 children attended.

Thirty-one classes were offered, everything from exploring a cave (right), to making a podcast (below), to cheerleading (below right). Thank you Liz Owens, Cathy Wignall, and your team of 49 student assistants and nine adult volunteers who organized and administered the event.



Above: Make your own podcast, led by Emma Brand

Above right: National Park Road Trip, led by Tiffany Schmidt

Below right: Cheer & Dance Fun, led by Natalie Keller



Summer Horizons

Greetings from Alaska!

THIS MAY SEEM ODD to Nebraskans suffering through the sweltering summer heat, but, in Anchorage, we are still waiting for summer to arrive. Temps have been in the



Jan Bruick, AMC Servant Event Coordinator
Russ Schumacher, AMC Project Manager (vol.)
Nate Milan, AMC Interior Coordinator (staff)

low to mid-50's with almost daily drizzle and very little sunshine; however, daylight surrounds this city for 20 hours per day.

Despite the shortened summer season, our ministry is in full swing.

We have close to 55 teams and over 400 volunteers serving with Alaska Mission for Christ (AMC). Opportunities to share God's love abound through Vacation Bible School, Fine Arts, Sports, Work & Witness projects, and Teen Camp.

Shortly after my Alaska arrival, I flew to Fairbanks to view the work performed by multiple teams serving at Bingle Camp on Harding Lake. From St. John, Bob Bounds (2022 & '23), Cayden Glandt (2022 & '23),

Emmy and Duane Zajic (2022) have used their physical labor skills to bless this 70-year old log-cabin camp so that children and teens can hear of God's redemption and hope through His Son, Jesus. The camp has been beautifully restored, and ministry will continue from this location.

The Akiachak team was greeted at the airport and given a night of rest at an LCMS church/school in Anchorage. They were returned to the airport the following morning to continue their journey to southwest Alaska. While the week was chilly with no heat/hot water in the public school (temps dipping in upper 30's to low 40's at night), God's love seemed to propel their spirits as they shared Bible stories and basketball camp with Yup'ik children.

Each week, I am involved in supporting and deploying 5-8 teams throughout the state. Our ministry's 2023 theme is based on John 1: 16 "For from His fullness we have all received grace upon grace." Sometimes it's hard to see what God is doing amid the minutia of paperwork, delayed flights, and team illness, but He raises my head to see from a "30,000-foot view." His goodness and abundant provisions in

"We have close to 55 teams and over 400 volunteers serving with Alaska Mission for Christ."

proclaiming His grace and love to me and to those who call Alaska home.

Is He doing that for you, as well? Lifting your head this summer so that you can see His goodness in your life and those around you? Join me in shouting: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness. For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations" (Ps. 100:1-2, 5).

Serving with Joy,
Jan Bruick
AMC Servant Event Coordinator



The breathtaking beauty of Harding Lake at Camp Bingle

AMC update

Charting Our Course prayer

ABBA FATHER, as we plan for the focus and course of our congregation's ministry over the next several years, help us to remember that You have created and nurtured us for a purpose – to proclaim Your

mighty acts, that others, like us, may be called out of darkness into Your marvelous light. Amen.

You may wish to refer to Hymn 833, "Listen God Is Calling" for further prayerful reflection.

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).



Board members and officers are elected

ELECTION OF OFFICERS was held May 20/21. The results are shown below. The year terms end is indicated after the members' names.

Congregation Chair

Jeremy Geidel 24

Congregation Vice-Chair

Vacancy 23

Congregation Secretary

Vikki Gremel 24

Congregation Financial Secretary

Vacancy (appointed)

Congregation Treasurer

Rudy Nuttleman (appointed)

Assistant Secretary

Carlene Bauer 23

Christian Nurture (12)

Rebecca Bimler 24

Abby Van Velson 24

Vacancy 24

Vacancy 24

Linda Brettmann 25

Vacancy 25

Carol McDaniel 25

Cathy Miller 25

Taylor Eitzmann 26

Diane Holtorf 26

Karin Plautz 26

Melanie Wake 26

Advisory: DCE

CU Student Ministry (6)

Gerald Homp 24

Vacancy 24

Gabe Haley 25

Rachel Sommerer 25

Kristy Jurchen 26

Vacancy 26

Advisory: Bill Preuss

Education Board (9*)

Mark Minchow 24

Emily Nix 24

Pat Ohlmann 24

Max Wake 24

Anita Foor 25

Tim Gesell 25

Judy Preuss 25

Hans Eickmeier 26

Marla Johnson 26

Kristine Luebbe 26

Advisory: School Principal

CDC Director

Elders (12)

Courtney Meyer 24

Marv Siefert 24

Allen Luebbe 24

Mike Meyer 24

Ken Block 25

Kurth Brashear 25

Jon Krause 25

Don Weber 25

Ryan Foor 26

David Leising 26

John Mehl 26

Drew Olson 26

Advisory: Pastors & Deaconess

Evangelism (12)

Roger Meyer 24

Vacancy 24

Vacancy 24

Vacancy 24

Sharon Mailand 25

James Mol 25

Linda Zimbelmann 25

Vacancy 25

Nancy Duncan 26

Connie Meyer 26

Vacancy 26

Vacancy 26

Finance (12)

Kent Einspahr 24

Tom Malander 24

Vacancy 24

Vacancy 24

Joel Endorf 25

Jack Swanson 25

Vacancy 25

Vacancy 25

Matthew Carley 26

Garold Leggott 26

Harold Pester 26

Vacancy 26

Advisory: Business Manager

Congregation Treasurer

Foundation (9)

Clark Kolterman 24

Bob Urban 24

Brad Wagner 24

Niki Nelson 25

Jack Russell 25

Curt Sherman 25

Monica Braun 26

Dan Ellis 26

Joel Helmer 26

Advisory: Bus. Man. & Cong. Treas.

xxxxx (Finance)

xxxxx (Trustees)

xxxxx (Worship)

xxxxx (School)

Human Care (9)

Jennifer Bockelman 24

Deanna Dowding 24

Aaron Nix 24

Esther Jurchen 25

Mitch Klintworth 25

Laurie Sherman 25

Nancy Held 26

Susan Mehl 26

Montana Soffin 26

Advisory: Deaconess

Stewardship (9)

Justin Groth 24

Jeanette Niemann 24

Bobbie Weatherholt 24

Steve Rathje 25

Vacancy 25

Vacancy 25

Marv Plamann 26

Vacancy 26

Vacancy 26

Trustees (9)

Charleen Gausman 24

Chris Read 24

Ed Simpson 24

Brian Albright 25

Brian Freeman 25

Greg Stennett 25

Dwayne Brettmann 26

Stan Obermueller 26

Vacancy 26

Advisory: Facilities Manager

Education Board Rep.

Worship (12)

Mark Geidel 24

Brent Luebbe 24

Byron Luebbe 24

Kyle Royuk 24

Vicki Pflughaupt 25

Phil Sloup 25

Aaron Stitt 25

Vacancy 25

Marcile Brehmer 26

Nancy Hans 26

Clark Koehler 26

Pat Piskorski 26

Youth (9)

Jessica Brashear 24

Cayla Freeman 24

Kelley Limback 24

Michelle Gesell 25

Ben Limback 25

Tina Marroquin 25

Barry Eitzmann 26

Shanna Opfer 26

Vacancy 26

Advisory: DCE

Installation and rededication of officers, board members and committee members was held on Sunday, June 11, during the 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship services.

Annual elections held

“We are His providers for all those in need.”

Vision statement

Official acts

St. John summer activities reflect Vision Statement (We are His for all)

EVEN THE SUMMER MONTHS find St. John teeming with activity. The

congregation certainly does not “shut down” during the summer. God continues to

work through St. John’s ministry:

Saturday/Sunday worship continues each week

We are His proclaimers for all who desire His Word.

Senior Living Centers services are offered monthly

We are His worship leaders for all the homebound.

Bible classes – Sunday morning and weekly home Bible studies are meeting

We are His teachers for all who seek to learn.

Child Development Center meets daily, Vacation Bible School served 136 children

We are His nurturers for all God’s children.

Summer Horizons enrolled nearly 300 children

We are His guides for all explorers of God’s marvelous creation.

Christ Cupboard and food distribution volunteers, quilters, caregivers, and Stephen Ministers all record many hours of caring

We are His providers for all those in need.

Boards and congregational officers continue to meet regularly in summer

We are His planners and organizers for all members who proclaim and practice the love of Christ in varieties of ways.

The Clarity Core Team for Charting Our Course continues its work of establishing ministry targets and goals for the congregation in the next three to five years. The team will share those targets and goals

with the congregation leaders for review in the coming weeks. The Ministry Plan will be presented to the congregation for deliberation this Fall.

I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you,

who directs you in the way you should go.
Isaiah 48:17

Marlene Block
Director of Communications
Charting Our Course



Baptisms

May 28, 2023, Tate Christopher Eitzmann, son of Cody M. and Taylor M. (Johnson) Eitzmann
June 4, 2023, Isabelle Jubilee Jeppesen, daughter of Robert J. and Jennifer A. (Roth) Jeppesen
June 17, 2023, Zoey Marie Sayer, daughter of Austin D. and Kelsey A. (Duerr) Sayer
June 18, 2023, Ky Russell Council, son of Wade R. and Taryn M. (Schuette) Council

Reaffirmation of Faith

Christina “Tina” Kirk-Schellenbach and Louise Schellenbach

Marriage/Reaffirmation of Marriage

May 27, 2023, Jonathan T. Grass and Anna E. Royuk
June 3, 2023, Jake E. Roberts and Makenna K. Volzke
June 10, 2023, Joshua P. Johnson and Heidi K. Weber
June 17, 2023, Noah R. Fenton and Morgan E.C. Fischer (non-member)
June 24, 2023, Kenneth E. Paetow and Kalina K. Schoenfeld (non-member)

Funerals/Committals

June 21, 2023, Shirley A. Meyer at the age of 78 years, 10 months and 7 days
June 21, 2023, Ruth A. Gerler at the age of 89 years, 8 months and 2 days

Transfers In

Taryn Council
Bonnie Schuessler

Transfer Out

Marcus Gubanyi to The Rock Lutheran Church, Seward, Nebr.



The Ministry of St. John Lutheran Church

www.stjohnseward.org

Church

919 North Columbia Avenue
Seward, Nebraska 68434
402 643 2983

School

877 North Columbia Avenue
Seward, Nebraska 68434
402 643 4535

Child Development Center

1053 North Columbia Avenue
Seward, Nebraska 68434
402 643 3122

Newsletter staff

Co-editors

Marlene Block
Shirley Liesener

Copy editor

Richard Zwick

Photographer

Mary Ann Steinbeck

Staff writers

Marlene Block
Sara Endorf
Jack Swanson
Anita Foor
Molly Marroquin

Deadline for August newsletter is

July 25, 5 p.m.

Email: stjohnseward@yahoo.com

To contact us:

Church office

sjcstaff@stjohnseward.org

School office

school@stjohnseward.org

Child Development Center office

cdc@stjohnseward.org

Scott Bruick, Pastoral Leader

scott.bruick@stjohnseward.org

Nathan Scheck, Associate Pastor

nathan.scheck@stjohnseward.org

Jeri Morrison, Deaconess

jeri.morrison@stjohnseward.org

David Rempfer, Pastor for Visitation and Pastoral Care

david.rempfer@stjohnseward.org

Tim Rippstein, Director of Christian Education

tim.rippstein@stjohnseward.org

Paul Soulek, Director of Parish and School Music

paul.soulek@stjohnseward.org

Barb Mertens, Principal of St. John School

barb.mertens@stjohnseward.org

Lisa Aring, Director of Child Development Center

lisa.aring@stjohnseward.org

Cathy Brase, Business Manager

cathy.brace@stjohnseward.org

Ron Aring, Facilities Manager

ron.aring@stjohnseward.org

**For all staff contact information,
go to stjohnseward.org**

Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 10 - May 83.33 %
 St. John Lutheran Operating Statement
 Company#: 1 Name: The Ministry of St. John Lutheran
 Fiscal Year Beginning 8/1/2022

<u>Description</u>	<u>Budget Annual</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
Income				
GF + PDCBF				
General Fund	\$2,041,607	\$1,737,236	\$115,303	\$1,600,948
Projected Deficit Cov'd by Faith	\$250,434	\$213,099	\$835	\$10,895
TOTAL GF + PDCBF	\$2,292,041	\$1,950,335	\$116,138	\$1,611,843
SJ Utilities(Hot Lunch)	\$1,200	\$1,000	\$100	\$1,000
Interest	\$1,000	\$833	\$502	\$4,371
School Tuition & Fees	\$380,000	\$369,354	\$32,351	\$413,847
School Other Income	\$13,000	\$10,833	\$174	\$57,141
CDC Tuition & Fees	\$774,508	\$588,301	\$83,037	\$645,606
CDC Other Income	\$33,000	\$27,500	\$6,010	\$35,703
Foundation General Fund	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$0	\$36,000
School Scholarship	\$6,900	\$6,900	\$0	\$0
Other Income	\$2,500	\$2,083	\$128	\$2,540
Total Income	\$3,540,149	\$2,993,141	\$238,439	\$2,808,051
Expenses				
Elders	\$41,990	\$34,992	\$4,082	\$25,122
Evangelism	\$6,150	\$5,125	\$1,049	\$5,472
Finance	\$11,095	\$9,342	\$1,371	\$11,212
Christian Nurture	\$24,317	\$22,264	\$1,379	\$15,177
Personnel	\$2,812,118	\$2,319,501	\$238,500	\$2,302,723
Human Care	\$3,000	\$2,683	\$262	\$2,126
Stewardship	\$2,150	\$1,792	\$0	\$100
Trustees	\$290,885	\$234,820	\$18,841	\$228,443
Worship	\$21,255	\$17,713	\$794	\$15,113
Youth	\$5,125	\$4,354	\$139	\$2,408
Synod and Mission	\$144,954	\$120,795	\$12,080	\$120,795
Circuit Ministerial Training	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
Student Ministry	\$1,375	\$1,146	\$0	\$219
CCUNE	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0	\$0
Child Development Center	\$102,395	\$85,121	\$6,825	\$82,895
School	\$62,340	\$54,833	\$3,656	\$46,434
Total Expenses	\$3,540,149	\$2,925,481	\$288,977	\$2,861,239
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$0	\$67,660	(\$50,537)	(\$53,188)