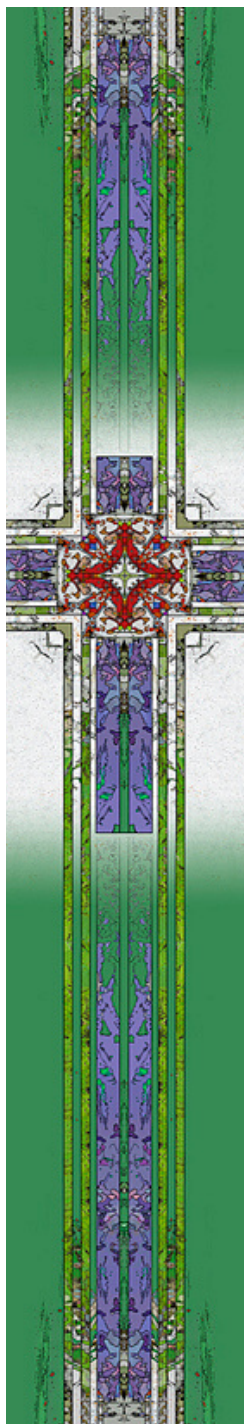


Saint John News

Proclaiming and Practicing the Love of Christ

August 2026

From the desk of ... Deaconess Jeri



I was listening to the “40 minutes in the Old Testament” podcast while I was walking a couple weeks ago. They were discussing these verses from Deuteronomy 6: “For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations...”

The discussion took off on the word KEEP.

The last “keep” in this section is that God’s people are to keep His commandments. We usually take this to mean obey. But we also know we can’t obey God’s commandments and God knows we are not able to do that. Will our inability to obey His commandments let God off the hook for keeping His covenant?

What if to keep means to remember and to remember means to be connected to the event, and connected in relationship with people who experienced it, AND connected in relationship with God.

Consider this: Passover is a time that God set aside for His people to REMEMBER that The Lord God brought His people out of the slavery of Egypt. It was an anniversary celebration. Initially, people recalled eating that meal in haste and being led out of Egypt and through the parted waters of the Red Sea. The next generation only knew what their parents told them and reenacted what they were shown.

Yet, even today when the Passover is celebrated, the question is asked “How many people crossed the Red Sea?” the answer remains “All of us”.

A Professor during my deaconess training explained the Hebrew understanding of “remembering” this way:

- We read in Rom. 12:4: “For as in one body we have many members”- this is a reference to our variety of body parts.
 - Rom. 12:5: “...so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”
- Similarly, as humans we are all “members” of the body of Christ- His church.

Continued on next page

In this issue ...

- From the desk of...
- Campaign Updat
- July 4th Tours
- rGroups
- Anniversaries
- Voter’s Meeting
- LWML Girl’s workshop
- Meet Mr. Tom
- Mission Moments
- I See Masks
- Stephen Ministry
- Youth Fireworks Fundraiser
- Set Apart to Serve
- Ministry of St. John

From the desk of ... continued

- My prof explained that if one of our members, say a finger or a leg were cut off, when the surgeon reattaches it, that would be RE-Membering.
- Furthermore, being members of the Body of Christ we are members of each other. When we REMEMBER the 10th Plague, The Exodus from Egypt, the Crossing of the Red Sea, the Death and Resurrection of Christ, we are attached to God's saving act.
- When we hear the Words of Institution as we celebrate the Lord's Supper, "Do this in remembrance of me," we are connected to Christ in a very real way, not just a dream or imagination. We never have to question "Did I remember this correctly?" It is HIS remembering that makes us His. It is His keeping that satisfies us. Jesus kept and obeyed the Law. The Lord keeps His covenant promises and we are forgiven for every mistake, shortcoming and sin.

Consider this! When you go on a trip, you might buy a souvenir. If you attend an event, there might be a table favor for you to take home. These items can be referred to as "keepsakes". They help us remember the event and the people who were there. They help us retell the story to others. You may have some of your grandparents' keepsakes. You may have heard the stories so much that they have become part of your story. You are connected. They help us retell the story to others. You may have some of your grandparents' keepsakes. You may have heard the stories so much that they have become part of your story. You are connected.

Let's go back to Scripture. "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a

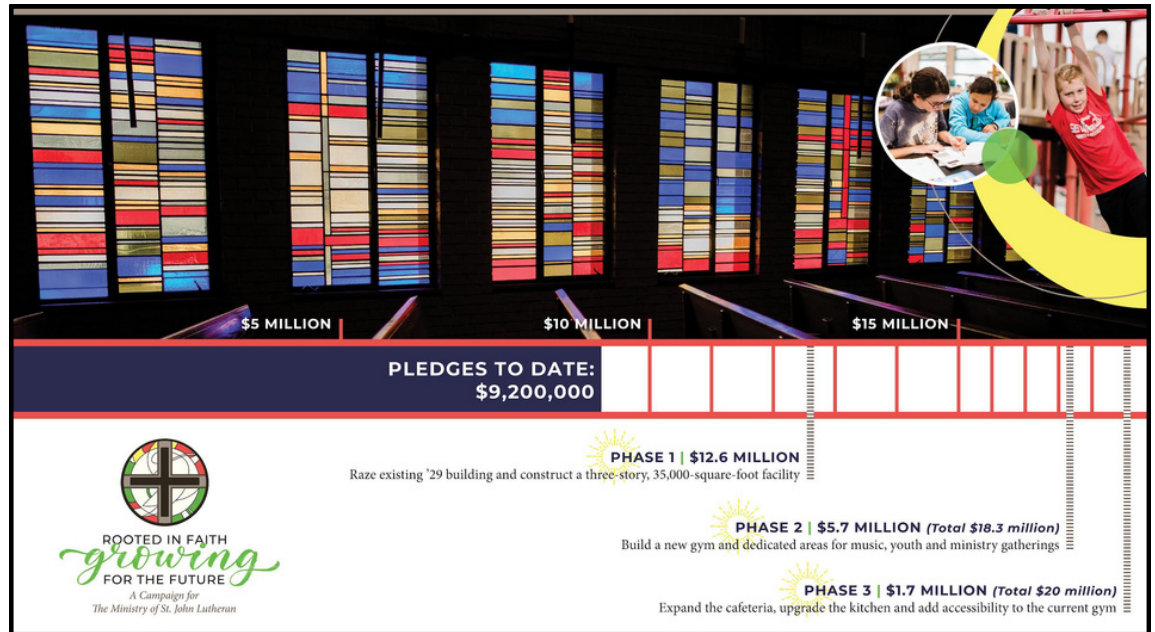
resurrection like his." (Romans 6:3-5).

Our Baptism is our anchor, our connection! It is the gift that proves God has made us His own. He remembers us, He keeps us. "God has a way of joining us to these saving events and to the body of His Son. We don't have to actually be [at each one]. God makes it happen by means of His Word". (40 Minutes in the Old Testament, episode 163)

One final comment, if dementia is or becomes part of your story, the Lord will always remember you. Romans 8 proclaims, "Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord". I have witnessed people with dementia who could no longer tell their own name still recite the Creed, Lord's Prayer and a variety of hymn verses. Dementia does not have power over Faith and Salvation in Christ.

"nothing in all creation
can separate us from
the love of God in
Christ Jesus our
Lord"

Romans 8:39



1929 School Building Tours on July 4

By Bob and Lana Urban

St. John Lutheran School participated in the Seward 4th of July festivities with “1929 School Building Tours” from Noon to 2 p.m. on the 4th.

The tour guide was Pastor Scott Bruick along with Bob and Lana Urban as hosts and co-chairs of the *Rooted in Faith, Growing for the Future* Capital Campaign.

The walk down memory lane attracted local folks as well as alumni who attended St. John Lutheran School, including those who had traveled from out of town to celebrate the holiday with families.

The tour began with information shared by Pastor Bruick about future plans for the space. Drawings of the new facilities, which will replace the learning space in the current 1929 building, were presented.

The tour then proceeded with highlights including the (very old) boiler room, the extremely long and narrow stairwell leading to the upper-level classrooms that are all still heated with radiated heat.

Many of the original features of the building are still in use today, albeit not as efficiently or usefully as they once were. Bruick emphasized how

the new space will provide much needed accessible and effective space for children to learn going forward.

Pastor Bruick also highlighted the excellent and well-rounded K-8 Christ-centered education the students receive due to the dedicated faculty at St. John Lutheran School. Not only are students well-prepared for their high school experience, but they are prepared for a lifetime of living out their faith and serving God. The new space will continue to carry out this mission, providing Lutheran Christ-centered education for years to come.

1929 School Building Tour Photos



A Simple Way to Make an Eternal Impact

By Jeanette Niemann



When our rGroup completed its six-week sermon study, we found ourselves searching for a meaningful service project. Ideas were scarce until one of our members came to the rescue with a flyer from Camp Luther in Schuyler, Nebraska. Tucked within its pages was an opportunity that seemed tailor-made for our group: adopting a summer camp counselor.

For more than 70 years, Camp Luther has provided Christ-centered experiences for children, youth, adults, and families across Nebraska and beyond. Situated on 160 beautiful acres in southwestern Colfax County, the camp offers a wide range of ministries, including summer camps, confirmation retreats, outdoor education programs, special needs ministry through His Kids program, men's and women's retreats, and much more. These dedicated servants spend their summer sharing the Gospel,

organizing activities, preparing meals, and helping create a safe, faith-filled environment for campers. Their work touches lives in ways that often have lasting and eternal significance.

Through Camp Luther's Adopt-a-Staff program, individuals and groups can provide encouragement, prayer, and financial support for these counselors.

Donations help cover training, housing, wages, and certifications such as First Aid and CPR. Adopters also receive a biography and photo of their counselor, along with specific prayer requests and opportunities to support them throughout the summer.



Our rGroup enthusiastically embraced the opportunity. We gathered snacks, practical camp supplies, and notes of encouragement for our adopted counselor. Two members volunteered to personally deliver the care package and meet the counselor face-to-face.

The visit proved to be both enlightening and inspiring. We gained a deeper appreciation for the ministry taking place at Camp Luther and the commitment of the young people serving there.



What began as a simple service project became a powerful reminder that even small acts of support and encouragement can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who are learning to serve and relate to their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Sometimes the most impactful ministry opportunities are the simplest ones. Our rGroup discovered that by supporting a single counselor, we became partners in a ministry that reaches hundreds of campers each summer with the love and saving message of Jesus Christ.

Monthly Anniversaries

In each newsletter we list the members of the church, school, and Child Development Center whose start date was in the current month.

July

Christine Bauer
Tashia Dieckhoff
Tina Kirk
Barb Mertens
Tim Oberdieck

August

Ron Aring
Jaylyn Brase
Katelyn Cody
Maggie Doane
Caroline Fehlhafer
Deborah Gebhardt
Valerie Gerdes
Rachel Jank
Jennifer Krause
Katherine Krause
Sarah Kumm

August Continued ...

Jessica Neuman
Jeff Neuman
Brenda Reif
Pam Simpson
Andrea Sloup
Lauren Sommerer
Paul Soulek
Lyn Stennett
Sarah Urwin
Abigail Van Nelson

July 26 Voting Assembly Approves Balanced Budget for 2026-27

by Katherine Steffen

St. John members gathered for the annual July Voting Assembly on Sunday, July 26, following a potluck lunch.

The meeting was facilitated by congregation chair, Ryan Floor. Pastor Bruick opened the meeting with prayer and reviewed staff reports, all of which highlighted how God is working through the many ministries of St. John.

Kurth Brashear, who served as the voting lay delegate of the Seward circuit was called on to provide a recap of the LCMS national convention, which took place in Phoenix on July 18-23, 2026.

Brashear stated that the tone of the convention affirmed the course of the

Synod and and leadership, noting that 106 resolutions were brought before the convention by the floor committees, with only one declined, resulting in a 99% adoption rate.

Lastly, the ministry funding plan (budget) for the 2027-27 year was presented.

The Ministry Operations Board (MOB) representative, Kurth Brashear, presented a balanced budget to the congregation for approval and explained some of the cost saving measures that had been put in place to achieve a balanced budget. The most noteworthy measure was a no cost-of-living increase for staff, as well as an adjustment to health

insurance benefits. The change in health insurance benefits includes a reduction of the plan provided to employees along with reducing the dependent coverage paid by St. John from 70 % to 60%. Seventh grade teacher, Rachel Jank, took to the microphone to share a personal experience and then applied it to how the changes to the benefits package impact staff members personally.

Ultimately, the budget was voted on and approved. A detailed copy of the ministry funding plan has been shared in the St. John e-News.

St. John Hosts LWML Workshop for Girls

By Cheri Johnson

St. John Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) held their fourth annual 4-day fun-filled workshop in July for girls from grades 6th to 9th. The comments on the evaluations confirmed that the girls had a really great time!

The goal of the workshop reflects the goals and purposes of LWML: providing for and serving those in need, supporting missions, and studying the Bible as we begin each day with devotions and prayer.



The mornings were spent completing service projects. This summer the girls decorated 36 onesies for the FORWARD program of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lincoln, sewed nine wildly beautiful pillowcases for People City Mission also in Lincoln, assembled 36 jars of yummy cookie mixes for St. John Christ Cupboard, and did piece work for "Common Threads" a ministry of Messiah Lutheran in Lincoln.

The girls worked hard to complete the projects planned for them and enjoyed the fellowship with each other!

The highlight of the morning (besides the much better-than-average snacks) were the speakers. We try to coordinate the speakers with the projects the girls complete if possible.



LWML Workshop continued ...

This year Bethany Gebers from Trinity Lutheran spoke about the “FORWARD” program that supplies diapers and other needed items for young families. Allegra Koehler, a volunteer for “Common Threads”, spoke about the need in some countries for “Days for Girls” bags, and how they are constructed and used. Since a main focus of LWML is supporting missions, there is at least one speaker who is a

missionary or has gone on a mission trip. This year Amanda Geidel spoke about the St. John Alaska Mission Team’s trip to Akiachak. These speakers brought to our attention needs both physical and spiritual that we most likely are not aware of in our experience. It is an eye-opening experience.

We are blessed that many of the girls who come to the workshop sign up again in following years.

The girls always achieve more than we think is possible in the time we have each morning! We are thankful that God has blessed us, leaders and girls, with the opportunity to be His hands and feet in service to others, and learn more about how we can meet needs in our community and the world.

Lutheran Women in Mission,
Glenda Dobbertien
Cheri Johnson
Phyllis Mol



LWML THEME BIBLE VERSES

- Psalm 118:24, This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16, Rejoice always .
- Proverbs 3:5–6, Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
- Galatians 6:2, Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ



Meet Mr. Tom, New Director of the Child Development Center

By Jeanette Niemann

Prior to attending the University of Missouri and majoring in Political Science, Tom Koffarnus attended an LCMS National Youth Gathering. That experience—seeing youth and adults equipped for ministry and vocational service in their congregations, communities, and throughout the world—became a turning point in his life. God used that gathering to redirect Tom's career path from politics to education and ministry.

Tom's journey eventually brought him to Lincoln, where he served with Family Service of Lincoln before joining Christ Lutheran Child Care and Preschool, where he specialized in creating engaging, developmentally appropriate curricula that inspire curiosity and foster a love of learning in young children. His approach focuses on nurturing the whole child—academically, socially, and emotionally—while creating a warm, inclusive, and supportive classroom environment. At Christ Lutheran, he embraced the belief that every child is uniquely created by God.

He fostered learning environments where children could grow at their own pace through active exploration while nurturing their emotional, social, physical, spiritual and intellectual development.

Each step along the way prepared him for the next. Those experiences led Tom to earn a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education in 2012, followed by completing the Colloquy Program through Concordia University, Nebraska.

Tom spent 16 years at Christ Child Care and Preschool,

including four months as interim director, gaining valuable leadership experience that prepared him for his current role.

What first attracted Tom to St. John's Child Development Center was its outstanding reputation. The center's Step 5 accreditation—the highest quality rating in Nebraska's Step Up to Quality system—immediately caught his attention. This distinction recognizes programs that significantly exceed state licensing standards and demonstrate exceptional



Tom Koffarnus and his family



Meet Mr. Tom continued ...

quality in teaching, learning environments, and interactions with children.

But what truly excites Tom isn't a rating—it's the **opportunity to share Jesus**.

His face lights up as he talks about leading chapel, playing guitar with the children, and sharing God's love in the classroom. While taking time to get to know the children, families, and staff at St. John, he is already looking ahead.

With the Child Development Center nearly at full enrollment, Tom hopes to strengthen connections throughout the community by networking with families, attending conferences, and building partnerships that will help extend the center's ministry.

His leadership philosophy is simple: **lead by example**.

When story time arrives, Tom enjoys reading books that spark imagination and wonder. Among his favorites are *Stars* by Mary Lyn Ray and Marla Frazee, along with Mo Willems' entertaining *Unlimited Squirrels* series.

A few fun facts about Tom:

- He has gone skydiving once—and would gladly do it again (just in case anyone is looking for a Christmas gift idea!).
- Asked to choose between tea, coffee, or hot chocolate, his answer is an enthusiastic tea.
- He enjoys vegetable gardening and smoking meats.
- He and his family are grateful to be part of the Seward community.

Tom asks the congregation to keep him, his family, and the Child Development Center in your prayers as they continue the important work of nurturing young children in both faith and learning.

You're warmly invited to stop by the Child Development Center, meet Tom, and see firsthand the wonderful things God is doing through this ministry!



Mission Moment Presentations at St. John

By Julie Hermann

Sunday, August 9:

Julie Hermann and Jan Bruick will share new opportunities for St John members to join a mission vision group or a summer English Bible camp team with LCMS International Missions in the Czech Republic.

Sunday, August 16: Alaska

Mission team members will report on their experiences and learnings from serving in **Akiachak, Alaska** this summer and encourage joining the 2027 Alaska Mission team.

Sunday, August 23:

Inn His Grip will provide a space for those in ministry to rest, pausing from life's challenges, and spend quiet time with our Lord. Pastor and Jan Bruick will share their vision for this respite ministry on their acreage.

I See Masks Everywhere

By Pastor Rempfer

Look around as you go through a normal day and you will see it. I did. It started at 6:30 when I looked out the window and God was at work wearing a mask through the work of a garbage collector. Then I went to the wellness center, and God was at work wearing a mask through the welcome of the host at the front desk. When I got home, I smelled the aroma of zucchini bread in the oven. God was wearing a mask as Rhoda went about her to-do list of the day. I walked into church and there they were, Brenda, Cathy, Esther, Jeff, Jackie, Ron, Tim, Jeri, Nathan and Scott. Looking at each of them, I noticed that God was wearing masks through the work of those who clean, repair, keep records, answer phones, and care for our congregation. These masks that God wears were everywhere – at the hospital, at Wal-Mart, in the police car, the mail vehicle, and behind the counter at Runza. So many people, each with this in common, God was at work in them and through them to serve the needs of others.

Martin Luther is credited with describing this concept of God being active through the work of people as God wearing masks. That was his way to help us understand the doctrine of vocation. God is the one who provides all that we need. However, he doesn't do it like he did for the children of Israel by miraculously placing manna on the ground each morning. God still provides all that we need, but he does it by wearing the masks through the work of farmers, bakers, doctors, nurses, and all occupations. What we see is ordinary human beings, but as they go about their daily tasks, God is the one who is serving us through them. God is wearing a mask through vocations and occupations.

Often, we describe our day with language about what "we do." That's not completely wrong. However, if we describe our day in line with the doctrine of vocation, the more accurate description would be, "what God is doing through us." Even better would be, "what is God doing for others through us."

This is an important and Biblical perspective as we think about the purpose of our lives, as we get ready for another day, as we ask that thought-provoking question, "Why am I here?" The answer to all three questions is "to be a mask of God," that is, to be used by him to serve others.

So, we do well to talk back to the ads and commercials and the pervading pulse of our culture that deceitfully and powerfully try to convince us to think of our lives and to plan each day based on our ideas, our desires, our pleasure. Just as Jesus came, "not to be served but to serve," (Mark 10:45) so also has God arranged our lives to live by the same pattern. When the focus of life or the plans for the day become about what I want or desire, Galatians 2:20 takes the "I" right out of our vocabulary and our perspective saying, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Think of what that means, what that looks like in our occupations and vocations.

Masks continued ...

It is as if we have been joined so closely to Christ that what we do is actually what Jesus is doing in us and through us. The love, the generosity, the servant mentality of Christ so thoroughly shapes us and powerfully works in us that in our lives can be seen the masks of God in the love, generosity, and service that flows through our vocations. Christ is in us. God is at work through us. We are privileged to be the ones through whom His love, mercy, and provision flow to others.

If I had seen you that day, I would also have seen a mask of God. Parents as you change diapers, encourage, discipline, prepare meals, or do laundry, you are masks of God as he cares for children through you. If I had followed you around as you went about your occupation, (can you imagine the number and variety of occupations represented in our congregation?) I would have seen you, no matter what you did, a mask of God. For through you, God was providing and serving the needs of others in our homes, our community, and our world.

Even when we don't realize it, even when our routines

seem so ordinary and repetitive, our vocations are masks of God. When you live out your callings as parents, children, employers, employees, volunteers, neighbors, roommates, God is at work. This is the doctrine of vocation that Luther emphasized and that he explained through the image of God wearing masks.

I see the masks of God through what you do, dear members of St. John. Parents, I see them on Sunday mornings as you care for and teach your children in the pew. Altar guild, ushers, communion assistants, parking lot and welcome center hosts, Sunday School teachers, Bible Study leaders, choir members, musicians, and acolytes, I see them on Sunday mornings as you serve faithfully. God is at work through you. Fellow office staff, teachers and staff in our school and CDC, I see them as the good news of Jesus is evident in your teaching and your lives. God is at work through you. Officers, board members, funeral committee and food providers, those who work at and provide for Christ Cupboard and the Food Bank,

newsletter staff, lawn mowers and flower planters, janitors, I see them as you give of your time and talents to bless our congregation. God is at work through you. As I make my visits, I hear so often about the masks of God through your visits as friends and Stephen ministers, as those who provide meals, rides, yard work and who knows what else you do without anyone knowing about it. God is at work through you. To all of you and whomever else I missed, THANK YOU!! What a blessing and what a privilege it is to be the masks of our loving Father in the vocations and opportunities that he provides to serve the needs of others. It is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us to serve others.

**SOLI
DEO
GLORIA**

To God Alone Be the Glory

“For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

ROMANS 11:36

Celebrating 30 Years of Stephen Ministry

By Jack Swanson

For many years, the Stephen Ministry Leaders have welcomed July with a special picnic honoring our Stephen Ministers. Held at Hughes Cabin, the annual gathering features a traditional hamburger fry with all the trimmings, refreshing drinks, and a variety of delicious homemade side dishes.

This year's meal was expertly prepared by Bob Urban, Marvin Siefert, and Steve Rathje, who built the fire and grilled hamburgers over the outdoor fire pit to perfection.

The celebration began with opening devotions and prayer led by Deaconess Jeri. After everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal, a

commemorative cake was served in honor of the 30th anniversary of Stephen Ministry at St. John. The afternoon also featured a delightful violin performance by Abbey Van Velson, who shared her musical talents.

Lana Urban presented a brief history of Stephen Ministry, highlighting several milestones:

- 1975: Dr. Kenneth Haugk founded Stephen Ministries.
- 1996: St. John commissioned its first class of Stephen Ministers.
- Since 1996, 15 classes have been commissioned, preparing a total of 102 Stephen Ministers.

- The inaugural class in 1996 remains the largest, with 19 trainees.
- Sixteen Stephen Ministers have completed Leadership Training and have served as Stephen Ministry Leaders.
- The 16th Stephen Ministry training class will begin on Thursday, September 10, 2026.

Thirty years of Stephen Ministry at St. John is truly a milestone worth celebrating. Through the faithful service of our trained Stephen Ministers, Christ's love and compassionate care have been shared with countless individuals during times of need.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the confidential, one-to-one Christian care provided by a Stephen Minister, please contact

- Church Office (402-643-2983)
- Deanna Dowding (402-643-3148)
- Mary Ann Steinbeck (402-499-6618)
- Lana Urban (402-641-3099)



St John Youth - Firework Fundraiser

by Tim Oberdieck

This summer, the St. John Youth were able to host their very own fireworks stand. Many thanks to the commitment of effort and time given by Business Manager Cathy Brase and a generous group of adult volunteers, who supported the stand and the students.



Over one hundred student and adult volunteers showed up to set up our pinstriped tent and wobbly-man, assist guests, sell fireworks, serve food for volunteers, and pack it all up at the end of the week. In addition to raising funds, this event fostered the opportunity for inter-generational connection and relationship building, strategically doubling as an opportunity to bring our community on campus and accomplish Strategic Ministry Plan Goal Y5: *Design opportunities for youth to develop*

inter-generational relationships with congregation members.

Our triple digit team should be proud that they sold over \$25,000 dollars of fireworks over the course of our week together! Our profit margins were good, yet fair, resulting in a gross profit closing in on \$7,000!



Regularly scheduled St. John Youth functions, including monthly middle school Dare2B gatherings, Godparent groups, and Sunday morning Youth Hour, are all generously funded by the St John annual budget and participating student registration fees. Attending national and district youth gatherings, however, requires intentional fundraising. This includes attending the national LCMS Youth Gathering every three years.

Students are currently preparing for the 2028 Gathering taking place in San Antonio, Texas. Simultaneously, each November a team of middle school students attends the Nebraska District Middle School Youth Gathering. Both of these opportunities require significant funding and the leadership of gracious adult chaperones, but they are powerful experiences for our youth that deepen and grow their faith.

While a handful of strong annual fundraisers have assisted in supporting these initiatives in the past, our plan this summer was to launch a fundraiser that could individually support both gatherings and open the door for additional summer opportunities.



In partnership with B&J Fireworks, based out of Valparaiso, NE, we attempted to do just that!

Fireworks ...continued

While this year's stand required a portion of that profit to cover start-up costs, our team is confident that next year's stand can operate with minimal to no start-up costs. Without start-up costs, and with increased event sponsorship and community awareness, our goal is to raise even more money next year to support youth endeavors.

If you worked a shift, helped set up or take down the tent, cataloged fireworks, made a meal or dessert, promoted the stand, wore a t-shirt, or bought a firework, thank you! Your ongoing support of our student ministry makes events like this possible. Thank you for your investment in shaping the faith of our next generation.

If you missed out on participating in the fireworks stand this year, and if you want your very own St John fireworks t-shirt, plan to join us in July, 2027!

This project wouldn't be possible without many of you!

God Bless your August.
In Christ,
Tim Oberdieck

Where do they come from?

by Ron Bork

Jesus told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Luke 10:2

Where do our pastors, teachers, DCEs, deaconesses, and directors of church music come from? Originally they came from a congregation much like St. John. They grew up on a farm or in a town much like Seward. They went to church, were part of a youth group, and maybe had the chance to attend a Lutheran school. Someone told them they would make a good pastor, teacher, or worker in the church.

They heard that call and decided they should follow that path and prepare for serving others through the church. And now they are here at St. John. Who will be next? You can help answer that question. How? Pray that God would raise up young people at St. John to consider full-time church work for their future. Talk to young people about becoming a pastor, teacher, DCE, deaconess, or church music director. Pray for these young people as they grow in their faith through worship, Sunday school, and our Lutheran school. Connect them to those in our church who are full-time workers. Support these young people as they

continue to prepare themselves for their chosen vocation.

Serving God and serving others through full-time work in the church is a blessing to them and to those they serve. God loves each one of us very much. God made us His children through Baptism. Jesus suffered and died for each one of us. We have the opportunity to share that message and that joy with others. Workers in the church are called to do that on a daily basis. What a blessing that is!

Ron Bork
SAS Congregational
Representative
ronbork48@gmail.com



Official Acts

BAPTISMS

May 31, 2026, Maya Katherine Wergin, daughter of James A. and Monica E. (Griffin) Wergin

June 14, 2026, Lucy Kate Oberdieck, daughter of Timothy L. and Josie L. (O’Laughlin) Oberdieck

July 26, 2026, Gemma Maria Shropshire, daughter of Aaron J. and Jaimee D. (Prochnow) Shropshire

July 19, 2026, Andrew Johnathan Widmann, son of Soren L. and Lillian E. (Alwood) Widmann

FUNERALS/COMMITALS

May 25, 2026, Robert A. “Bob” Reisdorff at the age of 74 years, 9 months and 18 days

June 15, 2026, Rita Renee Bruns at the age of 72 years, 9 months and 22 days

June 15, 2026, Patricia Rae “Pat” Holle at the age of 87 years, 2 months and 29 days

June 24, 2026, Daryl Dean Hackbart at the age of 73 years, 10 months and 5 days

July 2, 2026, Kenneth Lee “Ken” Schmieding at the age of 82 years, 5 months and 2 days

July 13, 2026, Nancy Anne Duncan at the age of 74 years, 7 months and 27 days

MARRIAGES

May 23, 2026, Tyson D. Kube and Jamie M. Price (non-member)

May 29, 2026, Samuel V. Matthias and Molly S. Frenzen

May 30, 2026, Casey J. Koranda and Mattie L. Hans

June 6, 2026, Jared T. Putnam and Cecilee A.J. Jacobsen (non-member)

JUNE 2026 MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

TRANSFERS OUT:

Mike & Holly Klintworth to Christ Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

Brandy (Dani) Sova to Trinity Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE

JULY 2026 MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

ADULT CONFIRMATION (7-22-26)

Hannah E. Daniel

TRANSFERS OUT:

(M/M) Justin & Abby Groth and Caroline, August & James to Christ Lincoln, Lincoln, NE



The Ministry of St. John Lutheran Church

www.stjohnseward.org

Church

919 North Columbia Avenue
Seward, Nebraska 68434
402 643 2983
sjcstaff@stjohnseward.org

School

877 North Columbia Avenue
Seward, Nebraska 68434
402 643 4535
school@stjohnseward.org

Child Development Center

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