



# St. John Messenger

St. John Lutheran Church  
V. 27, No. 4

168 Mound St.

Berlin, WI 54923

May, 2020

Happy Mother's Day to all you mom's out there! I understand that not all countries celebrate Mother's Day – but they should! None of us would be here today without our moms! When I think about the impact my own mother has had on my life I have to be thankful for all she sacrificed for me and my brother and sister growing up. The things she put up with and the love that seemed to always be present - even when we had done the wrong thing - is something I can always remember. My mom has now been with the Lord for almost 7 years and Mother's Day always gives me cause to reflect on her impact in my life and the life of those around her. I remember talking with a resident of my mom's old apartment building shortly after she died and she commented that things just aren't as "exciting" without mom there anymore. I'm sure those of us who have lost our moms knows that feeling all too well.

As I was thinking about this article, I naturally got to thinking about the influence that a mother can have on their children. I am going to be honest and tell you it can be positive or negative. However, I have come to understand that sometimes what moPam's say or do is done in an attempt to push us to be the children God desires us to be. This is even recorded in the New Testament Gospel of John. We read in John 2 about how at the Wedding of Cana Jesus' Mother was a person of influence in his life and ministry. She understood that Jesus was called to something more; **"On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with**

**me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."** John 2:1-6 (ESV)

While she may have seemed to be asking a lot, she knew that it was not beyond His ability to do something about the situation. As we look at this exchange we see that Jesus does not call her "mother." Without misinterpreting the scripture it would seem that Jesus was almost on the defensive when He responds. How many of us have been there when our mothers ask us to do something? I am sure there are thousands of studies about what is called Jesus' first miracle and the significance of it. What I can tell you is that it met an immediate need which was great for the groom and his bride. However the much deeper impact is seen in verse 11: **This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.** John 2:11 (ESV)

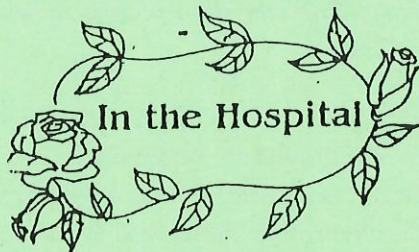
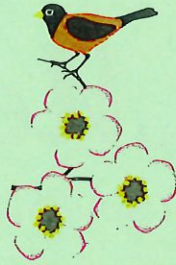
I do not want to overestimate the importance of the influence that Mary had on Jesus; however because she had faith in His ability to do all things, His ministry was launched and those who followed Him saw and believed in Him. The influence of a mom is something that we must not lay aside or overlook as we look at those who succeed in life. So I want to say thank you to my mom and to all those mothers out there that have struggled with and prayed for their children hoping that one day they would become who God had created them to be. Have a happy and blessed Mother's Day as you walk in the Light of God's Word.



Pastor Munding

# +In Our Prayers

- Eugene Ficken
- Janet Ryerson
- Kathy Wiese
- Jeannette Mitchelly
- Marie Chellow
- Walter Schmudlach
- Elaine Humphrey
- Dolly Doan
- Orville Behm
- Ken Schuett
- Tammy Wood
- Karen Schurk
- Vicky Clark
- Julie Snow
- Maren Krause
- Anna Enderle
- Don Hertzberg



Don Hertzberg

## Memorials



IN MEMORY OF JOAN BEHM  
 For Elderly Fund  
 From Randy & Cheryl Behm  
 .....\$1,000.00

IN MEMORY OF JUDY ELDRED  
 For Human Care  
 From Delbert & Barbara Krause  
 .....\$ 20.00

IN MEMORY OF ARLENE WEISS  
 For Human Care  
 From Orville & JoAnn Behm  
 .....\$ 20.00



## New Members

Richard and Rita Weisjohn  
 N2063 State Road 73  
 Wautoma, WI



THIS IS LOVE  
 FOR GOD:  
*to keep his  
 commands.*  
 1 John 5:3, NIV

# From the President...



Friends and Members,

We continue to deal with the effects of the "Safer at Home" order put in place to help contain the Covid-19 Virus. Pastor and the Choir are recording weekly services for our radio ministry and website to help us stay in the habit of regular worship.

Thanks to those who have been giving by mailing, dropping off envelopes, or direct deposit. I am amazed by the support you have shown and pray you will be able to continue when so many businesses have been forced to temporarily close or cutback on employees.

Without knowing how long we would be unable to hold regular services or what effect the economic impact would have on offerings, I asked the Church council to approve application for a Paycheck Protection Loan from the Small Business Administration.

Normally, this would have been presented to the Congregation at a Voters Meeting for approval, but because of the restrictions of the "Safer" order and the limited availability of the loan funds immediate action was required.

The Council approved and the Loan was applied for and received. The Loan is "forgivable" for payroll expenses and a portion of our utility costs we have over an eight-week period from the day we received the funds.

This Loan will ensure we are able to continue paying all our employees and are ready for the start of the next school year when, hopefully, things return to normal.

Because the uncertainty regarding how long and what restrictions will be in effect, the Council is unable to schedule a Quarterly Voters Meeting with any confidence. This may require the Council to approve the next fiscal year's budget by June 30<sup>th</sup> to comply with School Choice requirements.

Sundays have been difficult. I miss seeing you and worshipping together and I pray this will be over sooner rather than later.

Rich

## THANK YOU! YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

I think I say this on behalf of our entire congregation; Having the opportunity to continue to hear God's Word in broadcasting of services by internet or on the radio, has been a blessing.

Which is only possible by the efforts of some very dedicated people. Our organists, the choir members, those operating the audio and visual equipment, our church secretary and the congregational officers.

And of course our Pastor, who amazingly has made himself available to us for communion and in whatever needs might arise. We thank God for all of you.

### What Are You Doing to Occupy Yourself During Our "Stay-At-Home" Time of the Coronavirus Pandemic?

Karen Wendt, author of the "Did You Know" articles in the newsletter would like to hear about what new things you have tried, what projects you are working on, new hobbies, family activities, etc. that you have engaged in during this time.

If you are willing to share your experiences, you can get your information to Karen via **call or text to 369-6822**. You can also **email information to [newsletter@stjohnberlin.org](mailto:newsletter@stjohnberlin.org)**. Some of your experiences may be published in future newsletter "Did You Know" articles. If texting or emailing, please identify yourself so Karen knows who it is.



# Ascension Day

Divine Love



Human Care



**Scripture Reading: Psalm 1**

Today's reading is Psalm 1. This psalm speaks of trees planted by waters, trees which bring forth fruit in their season.

The month of May, however, is a month when we think about flowers. It's a month when many flowers bloom. The April rains have been plentiful, and the warm sun of spring has pulled the flowers from the cold winter earth.

Some flowers, however, don't bloom often. Some orchids for example, only bloom once in several years. Even more astounding is the Youtan Poluo plant which, according to botanical experts, only blooms every 3,000 years!

Another interesting flower is the Night-blooming Cereus, also called the Queen of the Night, the Lunar Flower, and Moon Flower.

What is striking about this cactus type of plant, is that it does not bloom during the day. It doesn't bloom when the sun is out.

It only blooms during the night, after dark has fallen. When the sun comes up in the morning, it closes its petals until darkness comes once again.

As Christians, we're made to bloom. In that sense, we're like flowers. In John 15, God is compared to the vinedresser tending the grape vines. God plants us, and takes care of us, and expects us to bloom.

But can we bloom at night? Ah, that is a very rare phenomenon! It's not so hard to bloom when the sun is shining, but to bloom when darkness falls - that is something else.

*Prayer: O God, help me to bloom. Keep me from being a late bloomer. Help me to bloom steadily and faithfully, so that others may enjoy the glory that is Your love. Help me even to bloom, when called upon to do so, in the dark. For Your praise and glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

- May 2, 1998 - Brian & Cindy Hartzke
- May 3, 1986 - Mike & Julie Hess
- May 3, 2003 - Kevin & Debra Koch
- May 6, 1961 - Delbert & Barbara Krause
- May 6, 1978 - Barry & Gloria Rodensal
- May 8, 1993 - Joseph & Tammy Bertzyk
- May 8, 1993 - Todd & Dawn Henriksen
- May 9, 2008 - Jonathon & Jennifer Schilder
- May 11, 1991 - Dean & Karen Sales
- May 13, 1988 - John & Ilene McDougal
- May 14, 2011 - Joshua & Ashleigh Schubert
- May 15, 1965 - Charles & Delores Clark
- May 16, 1998 - David & Nancy Albright
- May 16, 1992 - Mike & Debbie Schrader
- May 17, 1997 - Scott & Brenda Oppor
- May 18, 1996 - Tedd & Ann Henriksen
- May 18, 2017 - Keith & Maron Krause
- May 18, 1991 - James & Stacey Polk
- May 21, 1983 - Ken & JoAnn Fink
- May 22, 1971 - Wayne & JoAnn Kaufman
- May 22, 1993 - Ralph & Tammy Wilson
- May 25, 2008 - Gary & Sara Podoll
- May 26, 1990 - Glenn & Kim Hameister
- May 27, 1988 - Gerald & Donna Dutcher
- May 27, 1972 - Jeff & Sophie Wasniak
- May 29, 2004 - Jeremy & Candy Johnson
- May 31, 2014 - David & Heidi Beardsley
- May 31, 1975 - Wayne & Susan fink



# From St. John Lutheran School



Happy May to you all. During these uncertain days, there is one thing that is certain. Jesus Christ is our risen Lord and Savior. This is the message that we cling to and share with everyone we meet. You can share it through your mask while remaining socially distant, with clean hands and covering your cough.

**“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” (Luke 12:6-7)**

We thank everyone who sold or purchased hanging flower baskets in this year’s sale. I am told that the sale was a big success. I look forward to seeing those delivered to brighten up people’s lives and homes.

The teachers are working very hard to deliver instruction to our students. They are Zooming and staying in contact each week. We love our students and want to keep them engaged.

The Timber Rattler game has been canceled. The Pizza sale was canceled, and funds are being returned. The California trip has been officially canceled. The Board of Education will be discussing graduation plans.

Right now, there is quite a bit of “We don’t know”. We do not know when worship will resume. There are questions about when or how professional sports will look like. Some question when or what school will look like going forward. When will the state open up? How about testing? Will there be a vaccine? What about the economy, employment, small businesses?

We take comfort that we have a loving God who has all things in His hands. He sent His Son to take away our sins. What a wonderful message we have to share.

**“To each of us grace has been given... so we will no longer be tossed back and forth by waves and blown here and there by every wind of teaching... Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is Christ.” (Eph. 4:7, 14-15)**

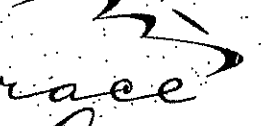
**Jesus said, “I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)**

Be sure to visit the Church web page to view the weekly worship service. Pastor is even recording a weekly chapel service for families to watch. Stay in the Word.

We thank all of you for your support and prayers. We thank you for your kind words. We are confident that we will get through this time of uncertainty with God’s loving and guiding hand.

Happy Mothers’ Day.

I am yours in Christ’s service



The Grace  
of God is  
with you!

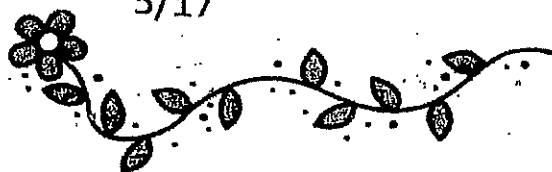


# May Birthdays



LuAnn Johnson	5/01	Payton Herbst	5/18
Brianna Hameister	5/02	Deegan McCutcheon	5/19
Robert Londowski	5/02	Marjorie Ewald	5/19
Lanette Pomplun	5/02	Payshence Kettlewell	5/19
Donna Dretske	5/04	Gladys Nimmer	5/19
Kaylee Vergin	5/04	Matthew Parsons	5/19
Jane Kasubaski	5/05	Madelyn Weiland	5/20
Satori Snow	5/05	Bernice Lemke	5/22
Elizabeth Carriere	5/06	Doug Wilde	5/22
Debra Koch	5/06	Heather Becker	5/23
Paul Putzke	5/07	Jacob Chappa	5/24
Shirley Keenlance	5/08	Brian Thiel	5/24
Preston Hess	5/09	Kasten Ewald	5/25
Elaine Humphrey	5/09	Bella Hubatch	5/26
Eleanor Gallup	5/10	Joan Parsons	5/28
Abigale Dretske	5/11	James Sternat	5/28
Arnold Dittman	5/12	James Polk	5/29
Donald Riedel	5/12	Dominick Nechkash	5/30
Brent Snow	5/12	Bob Wendt	5/30
Garret Dament	5/13	Cameron Phelps	5/31
Wayne Fink	5/13	Sophie Wasniak	5/31
Harry Nimmer	5/13		
Debra Johanknecht	5/14		
Melissa Weiland	5/14		
Finley Wollert	5/14		
Kenneth Hansen	5/15		
Gabe Thiel	5/15		
Jim Janes	5/16		
Doug Dewhurst	5/17		
Betty Dewhurst	5/17		


 Happy  
**MOTHER'S DAY!**



## **Continued History of St John Lutheran Church**

---

**Pastor David Meyer** (1973-1997) was installed as St John's 13<sup>th</sup> Pastor on November 18<sup>th</sup> 1973 by Rev. Karl Barth, the South Wisconsin District President. Pastor Meyer, his wife Clara, and their 3 sons: Paul, Daniel and James came to Berlin from Our Redeemer Lutheran in Wawautosa, WI.

The 1973, Christmas Eve Pre-Service Music, arranged by Wm Roerig, featured 6 young St John Organists: Terri Eggert, Jean Teske, Kathy Dibelius, Sherry Eggert, Dawn Krause and Nancy Ewald. (Today, Nancy Ewald Wallner is head organist at St John.) Under the direction of choir directors Nancy Lichtenberg and Betty Mittlestaedt, a midnight song service featured both the Junior and Senior choirs.

The budget for 1974 was \$81,999 including \$15,000 for missions. Sandra Jarling replaced Kathy Stofflet as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher. The school basketball team, with Bill Handrich as head coach, participated in yearly tournaments and in February of 1976 hosted a tournament at Clay Lambertson Elementary School. Proceeds from this tournament went toward the purchase of bleachers for St John's school gym which were made at Berlin Seating. That same year School enrollment reached 150 and the voters decided to add three classrooms to the 2<sup>nd</sup> story of the school. Ground breaking was held in May of 1977. Members of the Building Committee included Donald Gatzke, Arnold Kretzmann, Larry Langenhorst, Keith Krenke, LeRoy Teske, Walter Schmudlach, and Richard Madden. The congregation acted as it's own general contractor with Clarence Braun, Construction Manager.

Choir Recognition Sunday, held April 25, 1976, honored Mr. Wm Roerig on his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. He first taught at St John School in 1919. While here he met

and married Miss Elsa Bliefernicht. Bill returned to college, took organ lessons and after graduation he began his teaching career at Immanuel Lutheran College in Greensboro North Carolina. After retiring in 1962, the Roerigs returned to Berlin. Bill became a very active member of the church serving on many committees, attending District Conventions, directing the choir, writing words and music to many songs, playing the organ and giving organ lessons. He also wrote a monthly column for the newsletter titled "Are You Aware?" In 1980, when President Carter asked the churches to ring their bells at noon to remember the hostages, Bill volunteered to play St John's chimes every day, instead. This he did for 444 days until the hostages were released. Bill passed away at the age of 91 and was buried on Good Shepard Sunday.

Under Pastor Meyer's leadership St John steadily grew. In 1978, the congregation voted to enter the vicarage program. Gary Gustafson was the first to arrive, along with his wife Ruth and three daughters. Over the next seven years Andrew Steinman, Gregory Hoffman, Terry Tieman, Michael Walther, Mark Spitz and Fred Kutter also served as vicars. When school opened in the fall of 1978, new teachers Keith Krenke, Cynthia Roerig, Valaria March, Delores Kafer and Nancy Londowski were there to greet the students and Eileen Boehlke was hired as the Church Secretary.

A combined spring concert with Zion Lutheran in Neshkoro was held on May 20<sup>th</sup> 1979. It featured over 100 voices from the school, teen and senior choirs of both Zion and St. John. Mrs Gustafson was the organist for the concert.

Igor Skrastins, Barbara Rosner, Clarence Radl, Gwen Grotelueschen, Wendy Gutske Ewald, Cheryl Hoth, Robert and Jayne Kersten, Eugene Sattler, Vivian Senn, Amy Meyer Brooks, Bernice Pehl and Wanda Potratz all taught at St John during the late 1970's and 1980's.

In the summer of 1980 Principal Snyder left for Ft. Wayne, Indiana and Michael Oyler from Kansas became the next principal and teacher. Mrs. Oyler was appointed choir director and the choir gave several concerts over the next few years. They also held ice cream socials during the summer months; the proceeds being used to purchase new red choir robes. Mr and Mrs. Walter Rung became part-time custodians and the hot lunch cook was Tina Hilgart.

At the Annual Voter's meeting on January 11, 1981 a committee was formed to study the future needs of St John Congregation and develop an appropriate program for a possible new church building. Mr. Lyle Block would serve as Chairman of this committee. Later that year, Candy Jung Schram arrived from South Dakota to teach the lower grades. We have been blessed to have her teaching our young students for the past 36 years.

In the fall of 1982, the St John PTL served a roast pork dinner which continues to this day as the now famous roast pork and beef dinner. On March 27<sup>th</sup> 1984, cancer took Principal, Michael Oyler to his heavenly home. He was survived by his wife Bertha, 2 sons and 2 daughters. Eugene Sattler became temporary principal until his son Karl arrived from Hilbert, WI.

On June 8, 1986, 2 special services were held to celebrate Pastor Meyer's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the ministry. The choir sang his favorite hymn "My Shepard Will Supply My Need." Pastor Meyer became very well known for his excellent sermons. He was well liked by the entire Berlin community and his advice and help was sought by hospital personnel and Police alike in various situations. In the summer of 1984 he was given the opportunity by Berlin Radio Station, WISS, to broadcast a 5 minute message every morning. With donations from the St John Congregation and all around the circuit, this program continued for many years. After 7 years in the vicar program, it was determined

that an Associate Pastor, working alongside Pastor Meyer, might better serve the needs of the congregation.

**Pastor Burnell Eckardt** (1985-1995) from Sheboygan, WI accepted that call. While serving St John, he continued his post-graduate studies at Marquette University receiving his Ph. D in Historical Theology in December of 1991, becoming the first Pastor serving St John to have earned a doctorate degree. Beginning in 1988, the school began presenting Christmas Plays: reviving a St John tradition that began many years earlier. Two of these musical plays were written by Pastor Eckardt including original music and lyrics. He became the primary children's religion teacher, led adult bible classes and produced family prayer books for members of the congregation. He served on the Commission of Adjudication for the South Wisconsin District, was twice a visiting Professor for Ft Wayne Seminary, wrote articles for the seminary's periodical and served as a delegate at several Conventions. In 1992 his doctoral dissertation, "Anselm and Luther on the Atonement. Was it "Necessary?" was accepted for publication.

On Reformation Sunday, October 25 1987 during a celebration of St John's 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary a new set of carillons was dedicated. Karl Sattler accepted a call to teach in Alaska in 1989 and Delores Kafer and Eugene Sattler retired. Over the next three years the school underwent several changes. Curt Snow accepted the call for principal and teacher for the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades, Paul Boettcher taught 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. Mark Dickie, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, Candy Schram 2<sup>nd</sup>, Char Fritsch 1<sup>st</sup> and Debbie Smith Podoll Kindergarten and Nursery School. In 2017, Curt Snow, Char. Fritsch and Candy Schram continue to teach the students of St John.

On November 7 1990, Mr Lyle Block presented the Study Committee's findings to the Voter's Assembly. A resolution was passed which stated "Be



it resolved that the congregation unite for the common good and direct our efforts to the building of a new church. That the Chairman appoint, with the approval of the council, all committees needed to reach the objective, and convene as often as needed congregation meetings to approve design and plan modifications. That following a successful fund/pledge drive, the Building Committee will move through the required steps to obtain bids and that when all is ready, a Voter's Meeting will

be called to approve building construction."

In April of 1995 Pastor Eckardt left St John for Kewanee, Ill. By August, the church council recommended engaging a part-time retired minister to assist Pastor Meyer. Pastor Ronald Schultz, newly retired from Budsine was hired. He would help with calling on the elderly and teach religion 2 days a week at the school. He continued to visit the elderly members for many years.



## *Thanks from the Seminary!*

April 19, 2020  
Easter Greetings from Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Harvel IL

Hopefully, this letter finds you safe and well. Based on our Governor's Stay at Home Order, we began Facebook Live services on April 4. We've learned a few things not to do, learned a few things to do, but can still have new problems to crop up. This morning, we developed network issues, making it arguably the worst so far.

The Community Garden is doing well. With the "stay at home" order in place, I only have one neighbor who has offered to help. One of the elders is an amazing gardener. We've got two plots turned over. We've planted lettuce, radishes, spinach, and onions so far. We were going to get tomato plants from the High School Ag teacher, but unlike previous years, everything he had sold in one hour. So, tomorrow morning's adventure is going to find tomato and pepper plants for the community garden and the flowers that Linda wants for her pots.

Two pieces of good news came from the Seminary this month. First, the Faculty certified me for my first call and I received a passing grade on the Community Outreach (Community Garden) project even though I have very little participation from outside the congregation.

With the pandemic going on, Call Day services will be consolidated into one virtual event on April 28 for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and April 29 for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. It will be nice to be able to tentatively accept the call after April 28. We will still be in a holding pattern waiting for the completion of Vicarage on July 6. Then I can accept the call and be ordained and installed.

At this point, it is anyone's guess what ordination/installation will be. Hopefully, more than 10 people can attend. If 10 or less, My supervisor's thoughts are District President, my supervisor, 2 or 3 members of the congregation, an organist (maybe) Linda and I, and someone to do Facebook Live so that the other members of the congregation can watch from home. I, of course, was hoping to have the 3 kids with their spouses, 6 grand kids (and dates for the older two), maybe even my siblings and their spouses, a few folks from my home congregation, and a few friends were planning to attend. Only time will tell. May God richly bless you as you serve Him, His Church at large, your local congregation and your neighbor.

In Christ,

Joe Nehring, Seminarian III, Concordia, St. Louis  
Vicar, Trinity Lutheran Church, Harvel, IL

The following novels have recently been donated to our church. They are located in the first book-shelf on the left as you enter the library. All are on the "Honor-System" Take a book home, enjoy and return it when you're finished. Thanks to Jackie and Gordon Lewis for their generous donation

**A Private Battle** by Cornelius Ryan

The story of a man's courage in the face of terrifying odds.

**Boys Town: Father Flanigan's Dream** by Air Force Chaplain Clifford Stevens

**Cheaper by the Dozen** by Frank B. Gilbreth Jr.

Hilarious & heartwarming about America's best-loved family

**Esther's Friend** by Dr Daryl Donovan

An innocent little girl is terrorized by a demon

**Evidence of Mercy** by Terri Blackstock

Suspense novel about a Piper Cub plane crash

**Face of a Stranger** by Yoji Yamaguchi

A comic tale of clever ruse and mistaken identity

**Father Bede's Misfit** by Phil Troyer

A young dyslexic man finds sanctuary with a group of monks

**Heaven is for Real** by Todd Burpo

Will encourage those who doubt and thrill those who believe.

**Love Comes Softly** by Janette Oke

In one day her whole world crumbled around her.

**Narrow is the Way** by B.D. and Jeremy Hyman

An embattled relationship between Bette Davis & her daughter

**O Pioneers!** by Willa Cather

A young woman's dying father leaves her in charge

**Patches of God Light** by Jan Karon

Father Tin's Favorite Quotes

**The Christmas Box Miracle** by Richard Paul Evans

Anyone can make a difference.

**The Gifted** by Terri Blacklock

Rescued friends are gifted with mysterious powers

**The Go-Getter** by Peter B. Kyne

A story that tells you how to be one.

**The Harbringer** by Jonathon Cahn

An Ancient Mystery that holds the secret of America's future

**The Heart Reader** by Terri Backstick

Something strange Happened to Sam Bennett this morning

**The Mark of an Angel** by Nancy Huston

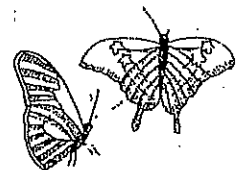
A young German girl in Paris after WWII

**The Woman in the wall** by Patrice Kindl

"My name is Anna. I'm fourteen and shy"

**True Courage** by Dee Henderson

It will appeal to the patriotism of every American



# St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Date: April 21, 2020

The April meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Bob Young. Pastor Munding opened with prayer.  
Present: Bob Young, Kevin Koch, Rich Wallner, Debra Thiel, Bob Radliff, Amy Radliff, Curt Snow and Keith Krause.

## Secretary's Report submitted by Amy Radliff

Motion by Wallner/Koch to accept March minutes. Motion approved.

## Financial Secretary's Report by Bob Radliff

	<u>March 2020</u>	<u>March 2019</u>
General Fund	\$48,868.64	\$77,244.99
Children's Fund	\$ 2,842.91	\$ 2,745.19
Elderly Fund	\$ .00	\$ 1,000.00
Memorials	\$ 25.00	\$ 6,892.19

Attendance 164 per week 238 per week

- March income was down due to Covid-19 social restrictions. April is showing more consistency.

Motion by A Radliff/Snow to accept the Financial Secretary's report. Motion approved.

## Treasurer's Report by Debra Thiel

### Square Account March 2020:

Beginning Balance:	\$1,276.46	Income:	\$ .00
Expenses:	\$ .00	Ending Balance:	\$1,276.46

### Hot Lunch Account March 2020:

Beginning Balance:	\$38,396.07	Income:	\$ 1,640.30
Expenses:	\$35,695.34	Ending Balance:	\$ 4,341.03

### Elderly Fund March 2020:

Beginning Balance:	\$5,702.28	Income:	\$ .00
Expenses:	\$ .00	Ending Balance:	\$5,702.28

### Children's Fund March 2020:

Beginning Balance:	\$78,028.53	Income:	\$ 2,842.91
Expenses:	\$ 5,085.59	Ending Balance:	\$75,785.85

Motion by Wallner/B Radliff to accept Treasurer's report. Motion approved.

## Board of Trustees Report by Keith Krause (Trustees did not meet in March)

- Water fountain was installed in upper level of the school.
- Water softener was installed in the teacherage
- Defective boiler pump for the water heater in school was replaced at no cost, under warranty.
- With classes cancelled for the remainder of the school year, the trustees will coordinate with the cleaning service, the principal and the school staff to begin summer cleaning/maintenance projects.

Motion by Wallner/Thiel to accept Trustee's report. Motion approved.

## Board of Elders Report & Pastor's Report (Elders did not meet in March)

Official Acts: (none)

Communicant Members 472

Baptized Members 551

Church Families 291

- Pastor is working on a quote for a camera to upload services to Church's website.
- Parish nurse training is on hold for now.

Motion by Koch/B Radliff to accept Elder's and Pastor's report. Motion approved.

## Board of Education Report by Kevin Koch

- The principal and teaching staff continue to support students learning from home.
- Candidates have been interviewed for the school administrative assistant's position.
- The class trip to Catalina Islands has been cancelled. Lodging reservations made have been cancelled or refunded. Curt continues to work with airlines for a refund of travel tickets.
- Pizza sale has been cancelled. Money will be returned to those who placed orders.
- Governor Evers approved the waivers and Covid-19 relief. Hours of instruction have been waived.
- Confirmation and 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation is on hold/postponed.

Motion by Wallner/Krause to accept the Board of Education report. Motion approved.

### Old Business:

- Budget update: Rich is working with Mighty Fortress Accounting to see what impact the Paycheck Protection Plan will have on next year's budget.

### New Business:

- Small Business Administration is offering Loans under the CARE act. St. John qualifies for Paycheck Protection Program loan.
- Budget for 2020-2021 Fiscal year has been approved by the Council to meet the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The approved budget will be printed in the May newsletter for the congregation.

### Council moved to Special Session –

Rich advised while we currently are in good shape, there is uncertainty of what effect a prolonged church shut down will have on giving. If we experience a 50% drop in average giving it's likely we would need to use reserve funds in August to make payroll. A loan would ensure that we could make it into the new school year without using reserved funds and hopefully things will improve.

Under the Small Business Administration, "Paycheck Protection Program" a loan will cover 2.5 times the average monthly payroll expenses of the congregation or \$94,500. This 2-year loan (and interest) is "forgivable" for the amount of actual payroll expenses we incur for an eight-week period beginning when we receive the loan, provided we maintain our current payroll and staffing. The remainder we would repay at 1% interest.

Rich has researched the terms and consulted with our Payroll accountant and School Choice Auditors and believes obtaining this loan would be a good move at this time with very limited downside, if any.

Time is of the essence. The funds for these loans are limited, given on a first come, first serve bases till the administration runs out of funding. With the current social restrictions, calling a voters meeting is not possible. The Church Constitution gives the Council the right to act in case of great emergency to preserve the property of the Congregation without calling a voters meeting. Motion by Curt Snow to allow Council to authorize the Congregational President to apply for the loan through Fortifi Bank of Berlin, WI. Second by Kevin Koch. Motion was accepted.

**Meetings next month:** Trustees – Monday, May 11th. Board of Education – Tuesday, May 12th.

Elders – Tuesday, May 12th. **Council – Monday, May 18th – 6pm.**

Motion by Snow/Thiel to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

*Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Radliff, Secretary*

**\*\*Note:** These minutes have not yet been reviewed by the Council and are subject to revision and correction at the next meeting.

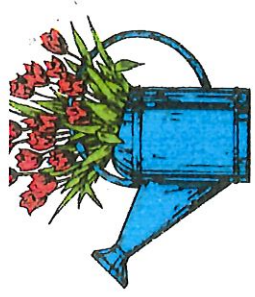


"You will be my  
**WITNESSES.**"

ACTS 1:8



# May 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Church Office Hours: 9:00—12:00 Monday thru Thursday</b> <b>Website: <a href="http://www.stjohnberlin.org">www.stjohnberlin.org</a></b>						
3 No Worship service or Sunday School or Bible Class 9:30 RADIO Service	4	5	6 NO Confirmation Class	7	8	9
10 No Worship service or Sunday School or Bible Class 9:30 RADIO Service	11 7:00 pm Trustees	12 6:00 pm Board of Ed 6:30 pm Elders	13 NO Confirmation Class	14	15	16
17 No Worship service or Sunday School or Bible Class 9:30 RADIO Service	18 6 pm Council Mtg.	19	20	21 ASCENSION DAY	22	23
24 No Worship service or Sunday School or Bible Class 9:30 RADIO Service	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28	29	30
31 No Worship service or Sunday School or Bible Class 9:30 RADIO Service	<b>RADIO: Tune in to AM 1600 or FM 93.1 From 9:30-10:30 am Sunday</b>			<b>Service VIDEO, BULLETIN and other material on website. New weekly service usually available Thursday afternoons. <a href="http://www.stjohnberlin.org">www.stjohnberlin.org</a></b>		

