

St. John Messenger

St. John Lutheran Church
V. 28, No. 7

168 Mound St.

Berlin, WI 54923
August, 2023

"I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus... (1 Cor 1:4)

Dear brothers and sisters of St. John. As I write this newsletter to you I am filled with feelings of inexpressible joy and sadness. I have feeling of joy because of the 5+ years Kelli and I have spent ministering to this wonderful congregation. I have nothing but fond and joyous memories of my time at St. John (including the year I spent here in 2002). And what a joy it has been! Together we have grown in ways that the Lord clearly has been directing. I feel confident in saying that these 5 + years will end up being the best years of my ministry.

Which is why I also have profound feelings of sadness at leaving this congregation. I know it may not seem to make sense to some people why a pastor would retire from a church when things are going well. It's precisely because things are going well that I feel now is the time to move on to this next phase in our lives. St. John is a wonderful church with incredible people. What a blessing this congregation will be for your new pastor as he undertakes to shepherd this flock of amazing people. I know you will love him and his family (as you have loved us) and you will care for them as one of your own. In turn, he will love you and shepherd you and feed you with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

I wanted to say all of these things to you in my last sermon. But as I am tearing up just writing them, I am pretty sure I wouldn't

have been able to speak them from the pulpit! I leave for Birchwood with the knowledge that the Lord has a plan and a purpose for Kelli and myself in retirement. I know I'll continue to preach as opportunities arise and I pray one day, God willing, I will be able to return to St. John to fill in for your new pastor.

I leave St. John knowing that the future remains bright for this congregation. The school is on solid ground and continues to grow. I love seeing the young children in church on Sunday mornings and the enthusiasm they bring to the service. Is there room for improvement? Most certainly!

But with the power of the Holy Spirit, the people of St. John will always be there to address any challenges and figure out a solution to problems as they arise. The things we've accomplished together at St. John in the last 5 + years could only have happened as we worked together.

I know that the Lord has a wonderful plan for St. John that will be exciting to behold as it unfolds in the future months and years. As was pointed out to me several times over the last few weeks, we never really say good-bye in this life thanks to our mutual faith in Jesus Christ. And let's be honest, Birchwood isn't that far away. I will see all of you again from time to time, God willing. Until then, may the Lord bless you keep and make His face shine upon you always! In Christ, I am your brother always!

Pastor Munding

+In Our Prayers

Laurie Siegmund
Debra Schubert
Karen Rowen
Harry Nimmer
Vern Lichtenberg
Sandy Gregor
Duane Schmutdlach
Joan Parsons
Brenda Podoll
Sylvia Wells
Cathy Steinke
Amanda Martin
Patricia Tabbert
Jayne Kersten
Ricki Schubert

Our Shut-In and Homebound members



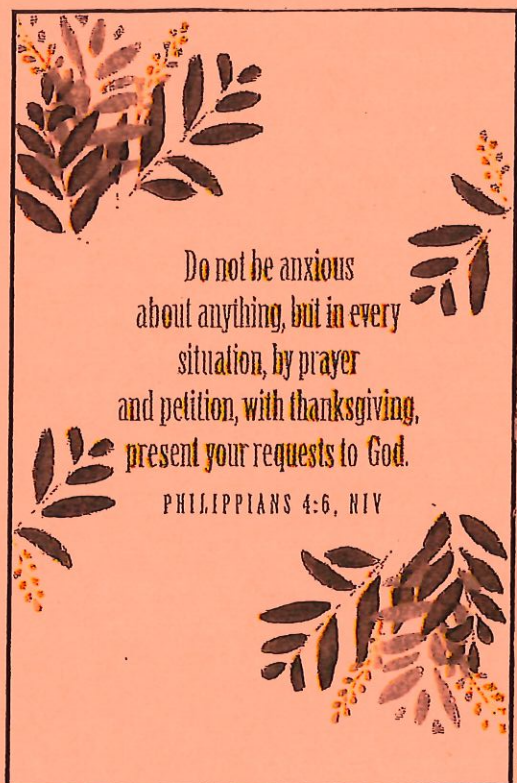
NEWLY BAPTIZED

July 15, 2023

Elsie Lou Schuster
Daughter of Evan and Lisa Schuster
Granddaughter of Candy Schram

July 16, 2023

Natalie Rae Chier
Daughter of Nathan and Rebekah
Chier
Granddaughter of Sara Chier



Do not be anxious
about anything, but in every
situation, by prayer
and petition, with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6, NIV

MEMORIALS



IN MEMORY OF NICOLE SCHUMACHER

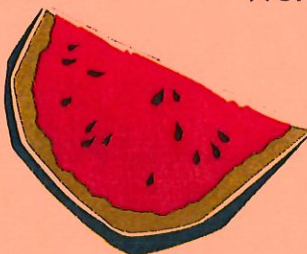
For General Fund

From Family & Friends.....\$700.00

DONATIONS

For Communion Wine

From Delbert & Barbara Krause.....\$151.92





From the President..

Friends and Members of St. John,
At the end of our July 16 worship service, I attempted to properly recognize Pastor Mundinger for his 25 years of ministry and especially for the years he has been with us at St. John.

All I could get out was "Thank you".

What follows is what I meant to say.

Thank you, Pastor Mundinger.

Thank you for sharing and spreading the Gospel of salvation.

Thank you for the screens that have enhanced our worship and made it easier for so many to follow along with the order of service.

Thank you for your children's sermons that have brought inclusion and participation to many of our young ones, joy and laughter to the rest of us.

Thank you for your concise sermons and the outlines that helped us focus and follow along.

Thank you for your faithful visitation of shut ins and the sick.

Thank you for the funerals and comfort of those who mourned the passing of loved ones.

Thank you for the Baptisms.

Thank you for the Weddings.

Thank you for serving us the Lord's Supper and providing the gift of His forgiveness of sins in His stead and by His command.

Thank you for doing all the things a Pastor should do and more.

"Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Rich



THANK YOU

Thank You to all who sent cards, called, or in some way helped me celebrate my 90th birthday. I am so blessed to have a kind and loving church family. Your kind and thoughtful words and deeds are very much appreciated.

Thank you for your prayers.
May God continue to bless you all.

June Richter



ANNIVERSARIES *to Celebrate*

August 3, 2007 – Michael & Kristy Herbst
August 4, 1973 – Bob & Jayne Kerstén
August 5, 1995 – Richard & Lori Ryckman
August 15, 1981 – Pat & Laurie Siegmund
August 18, 2012 – Adam & Allie Henke
August 18, 2000 – Jerrod & April Lueck
August 20, 1976 – Harry & Gladys Nimmer
August 20, 2016 – Jonathon & Payton Phelps
August 22, 2015 – Joshua & Katie Weisensel
August 24, 1974 – Ray & Vickie Clark
August 25, 2012 – Ryan & Megan Draeger
August 26, 1995 – Ed & Brenda Marks
August 26, 1989 – David & Laura Stertz
August 27, 2021 – Dillon & Anna Scheer
August 29, 2020 – Lucas & Morgan Parker
August 31, 1979 – Robert & Marie Chellow



Teacher Needed

St. John Lutheran School is seeking names for a middle school teaching position. Our school is excited to be growing, so come and join our school family! This position would work with students in grades 5th - 8th grade students but be the homeroom teacher for 5th and 6th grade. Please call the school at 920-361-0555 if you are interested or if you know of someone who would be interested. The candidate would need to be licensed to teach middle school and ideally would be synodically trained, but this is not a requirement.

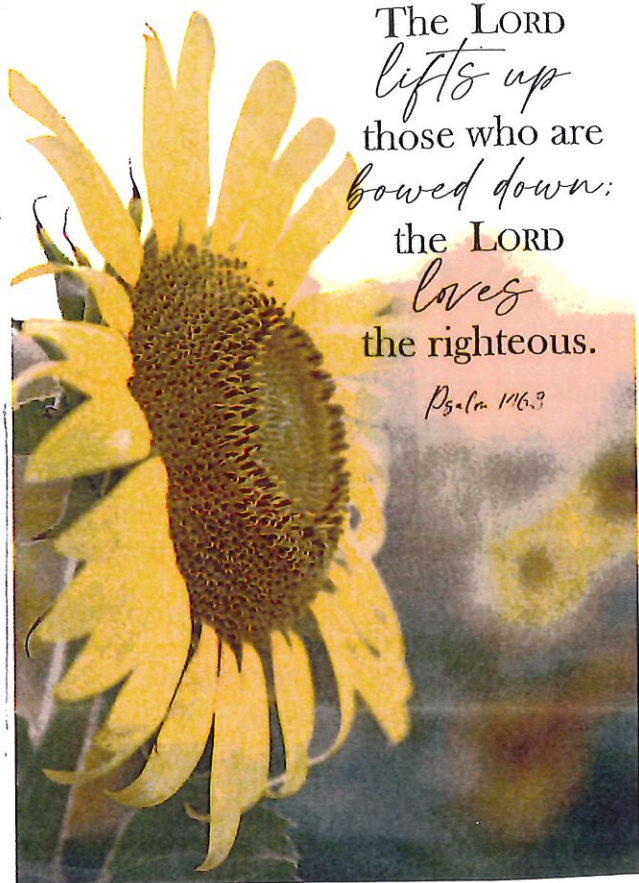
*Thanks,
Everyone!*

The family of **Nicole Marie Schumacher** wishes to thank all members of St. John who have offered prayers, kind words, cards and memorials, made salads or desserts for the luncheon or helped us in any other way in dealing with our loss. A special "thank you" to Pastor Mundinger for spiritual support and officiating a touching memorial service. We also thank Nancy Wallner and Amy Radliff for using their talents providing beautiful music. Finally, a big thank you to St. John's Ladies Aid for coordinating and serving a delicious meal. God's blessings to all!

Bonnie, Mark Schumacher & Family
Arden Patchett

The LORD
lifts up
those who are
bowed down:
the LORD
loves
the righteous.

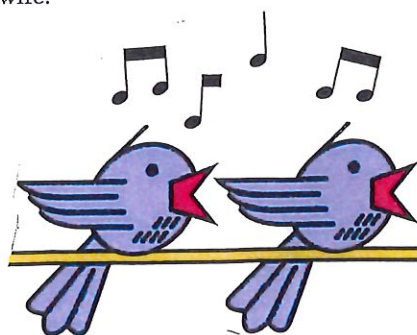
Psa. 146.3



Nuptial LOLs

When Outreach magazine asked pastors for their most embarrassing mistakes during wedding ceremonies, the responses took the cake. Hundreds of clergy 'fessed up about dropping rings, using the wrong names and even driving to the wrong venue. Have a laugh at these "I do" don'ts!

- I asked the groom if he promised to leave his wife and cleave to all others. Before I could correct it, he said, "I do."
- Due to a bulletin typo, the Bible reading from 1 John was listed as John 4:16-19. In those verses, Jesus tells the woman at the well, "... for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband."
- I accidentally read, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and money and be united to his wife."
- While praying, I meant to say, "Lord, please bless this marriage." The word *message* started to come out instead, and I tried to stop it. Unfortunately, the result was "Lord, please bless this mess."
- I asked the groom, "Do you take this wedded woman to be your wife?"



From St John Lutheran School



Welcome to August. You will soon see the teachers hard at work gearing up for the new school year. School enrollment numbers are being finalized. Our new classroom is ready. Classrooms are being setup. Final school cleaning is underway. We are very grateful to the trustees and the countless volunteers for their hard work this summer.

Thank you to everyone that helped move desks, chairs, whiteboards, a teacher desk, and lockers that were purchased for our school from All Saints. These projects would not be possible without our trustees and our wonderful volunteers.

We were able to use the rest of our EANS funds to purchase more student laptops and cover the cost of our CurriculumTrak, which we use to show that our curriculum aligns with state standards.

The Board of Education has selected a new standardized testing system to replace the IOWAs that our students have taken in the past. This new standardized testing system is more current and is done on a computer instead of with pencil and paper.

Our students held 2 lemonade stands this summer and were able to raise about \$800.00 to help with the cost of busing for school field trips.

Our Vacation Bible School was held on Saturday, July 22. Thank you to Kelli, Kayla, and Pastor for organizing and running this

fun adventure for the students. Thank you to the countless volunteers who helped make the day a success for the children that attended.

We are planning our School Kickoff party on Sunday, August 27 starting at 11am. Students can drop off school supplies and families can get reacquainted. Come meet our new teachers for the 23-24 school year. There will be food and games for everyone to enjoy. Look for the flyer in this newsletter.

Our first day of school is set for Thursday, August 31 at 7:50am. Everyone is invited to our opening Chapel service at 8:15 that day.

The school office continues to be open Mondays through Thursdays from 8am to 1pm in case you wish to drop off payments, fill out paperwork, or have any questions.

Enjoy the month of August as the summer winds down.

In service to Christ,

Miss Melissa Linse



Pray for Our Students



St. John School

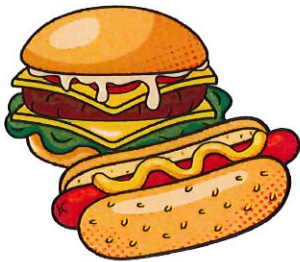


Back to School Kickoff!

**Plan to join us as we “Kickoff”
the 2023/2024 School Year.**

When: Sunday, August 27th at 11:00am

Where: St. John Lutheran School Grounds



**The PTL will provide Brats,
Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Chips, Drinks
and Tableware.**

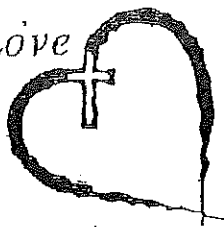
****Please bring a Dish to Pass.****

There will be *games* for the kids!

**Meet your teachers and bring your
school supplies to set up your desk for
the new school year.**



**Any Questions, please contact Brianne Hess, Amy Vetrone or Nancy
Wallner**



Human Care

Last week, I was cleaning through my files and I found this illustration on a 4-by-6 card that was in a sermon folder for 1 Corinthians. I don't know the source, but the content is the definition of anatomy - an explanation of how our bodies work-and it is obviously written by a very young boy.

- "Your head is kind of round and hard and your brains are in it.
- "Your face is in the front of your head and where you eat and make faces.
- "Your neck is what keeps your head out of your collar. It is hard to keep clean.
- "Your stomach is something that if you don't eat enough it hurts, and spinach don't help
- none.
- "Your spine is a long bone in your back that keeps you from folding up.
- "Your back is always behind you no matter how quick you turn around.
- "Your arms you have to pitch with them and so you can reach the butter.
- "Your fingers stick out of your hand so that you can throw a curveball and add arithmetic.
- "Your legs is what if you have not got two of you can't get to first base.
- "Your feet are what you run on, your toes are what are always get stabbed and that is all there is to you except what's inside and I never saw that."

That's the perspective of a child. But the truth is that our bodies are amazing in conception, design and function. The psalmist David exclaimed, "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139: 14).

We can praise God for giving us bodies which we inhabit in order to give praise to his holy name!

Prayer: Lord, my body is a wonderful thing, to be sure. But it is old and creaking. It doesn't have the energy it used to have. Its "get-up-and-go" has "got-up-and-gone." But like the psalmist, I will still praise You all of my days for Your steadfast lovingkindness. Amen.

The 40th biennial LWML Convention

was held June 22-25 with the theme "Celebrate the LORD of the Nations."

Leitha Kraus, Cindy Schuett, and Bonnie Sperberg attended this inspiring national convention which opened and closed with worship. Business was conducted, missionaries shared their testimonies, Bible study enriched us, we were encouraged to be "Esthers" for this day and age, LaVernne and Shirley kept us in stitches, the exhibit hall offered information and shopping, and "The Lutheran Ladies Lounge" entertained us. It was a mountaintop experience!

Here are some statistics: 3,550 registrants; 375 host committee volunteers; 1,200 servant event participants; 566 school kits assembled and 50,000+ meals packed for Orphan Grain Train; 162 fleece blankets tied; 1,167 Braille books and calendars assembled for Lutheran Braille Workers; 4,751 witness bracelets made for MOST Ministries; 1,154 cards of encouragement written; 125 golfers raised \$35,000 towards the new mission goal of \$2,350,000; 5 officers elected and 31 Mission Grants selected.

Gifts From the Heart (ingathering) recipients were truly blessed. Phil's Friends received 2293 puzzle books, 1268 journals, 1576 decks of cards, 1097 pair of fuzzy socks, 2545 hats, 95 hygiene items, 1240 note cards, plus \$16,296 in gift cards and cash. A Place of Refuge received 90 cases of hygiene and children's items, plus \$26,793 in gift cards and cash. (St. John contributed \$675 in gift cards.) MOST Ministries received 10,510 pair of eyeglasses, 7051 eye glass cases, plus \$75 in cash. Orphan Grain Train received 2078 quilts/blankets, 1786 hygiene kits, 24 school kits, 7 layette kits, 28 lap robes, plus \$25 in cash.

There were 4 convention offerings, and over 1,000 women walked for mites in downtown Milwaukee. Totals raised are still being tallied. Never underestimate the power of the Mighty Mite! \$28.9 million has been raised since 1942 benefiting 83 countries.

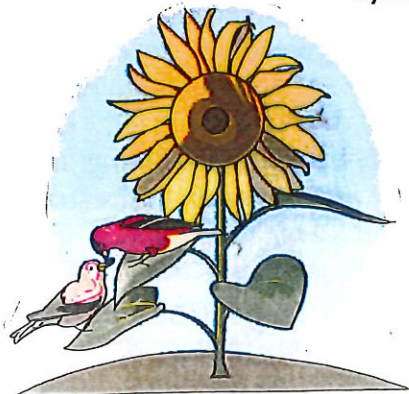
For more convention news, or general information about the LWML, please talk to Leitha, Cindy or Bonnie. You can also visit the website LWML.org



August Birthdays



Tim Achterberg	8/02	Joan Hardel	8/21
Diane Gable	8/02	Mark Putzke	8/21
Ann Henriksen	8/02	Elissa Ewald	8/22
Marleen Hobbs	8/02	Shawn Kaufman	8/22
Owen Maas	8/02	Joshua Piechowski	8/22
Watson Vergin	8/02	Luke Piechowski	8/22
Sullivan Billington	8/03	Gary Olson	8/23
Clayton Webb	8/04	Mark Schubert	8/23
Maurice Gallup	8/05	Brody Weisensel	8/23
Leitha Kraus	8/05	Adam Wilson	8/23
Joann Behm	8/06	Steven Brooks	8/24
Bridget Block	8/06	Brian Hartzke	8/24
Nolan Stauske	8/06	Gwendolynn Draeger	8/25
Terri Van Dellen-Rausch	8/06	Missy Grayunder	8/25
Laura Langenhorst	8/07	Gloria Larson	8/25
David Stertz	8/07	Jace Schilder	8/27
Jacob Gehrke	8/08	Bradley Thiel	8/27
Jacob Henriksen	8/08	Dana Ballard	8/28
Amy McCormick	8/09	Evion Larson	8/28
Silas Gilmour	8/10	Yvonne Wastrack	8/28
Autumn Hartzke	8/10	Ruth Eggert	8/29
Konnor Mehn	8/11	Linda Nitz	8/30
Natalie Chier	8/12		
Kathleen Rodencal	8/12		
Paul Maas	8/15		
Charlee Scheps	8/17		
Mason Nighbor	8/18		
Tyler Radke	8/18		



St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Date: July 19, 2023

The July meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Adam Ewald. Pastor Munding opened with prayer.

Present: Debra Thiel, Rich Wallner, Bob Radliff, Amy Radliff, Melissa Linse, Pastor Munding, Adam Ewald, Kevin Koch, Keith Krause.

Secretary's Report by Amy Radliff

Motion Thiel/Koch to accept the June minutes. Motion approved.

Financial Secretary's Report by Bob Radliff

	<u>June 2023</u>	<u>June 2022</u>
General Fund	\$37,101.11	\$48,710.26
Children's Fund	\$51,087.40	\$ 4,837.36
Elderly Fund	\$.00	\$.00
Memorials	\$ 2,557.10	\$ 7,255.66

Attendance	171 per week	212 per week
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- Children's Fund includes anonymous Donation of \$50,000 for the School

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

Treasurer's Report by Debra Thiel

Square Account June 2023:

Beginning Balance:	\$ 102.06	Income:	\$2,557.10
Expenses:	\$2,657.40	Ending Balance:	\$ 1.76

Hot Lunch Account June 2023:

Beginning Balance:	\$12,390.96	Income:	\$ 2,593.70
Expenses:	\$ 3,173.72	Ending Balance:	\$11,810.94

Elderly Fund June 2023:

Beginning Balance:	\$7,702.28	Income:	\$.00
Expenses:	\$.00	Ending Balance:	\$7,702.28

Children's Fund June 2023:

Beginning Balance:	\$73,419.02	Income:	\$ 51,187.40
Expenses:	\$ 3,896.98	Ending Balance:	\$120,709.44

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

Board of Trustees Report by Keith Krause

- The boy's bathroom water leak has been fixed by Quinn Plumbing
- School parking lot has been resealed, striping will take place in coming days
- AED pads were inspected and replaced
- Moving furniture from All Saints (teacher and student desks, lockers).

Motion by B Radliff/Koch to accept Trustees report. Motion approved.

Board of Elders Report & Pastor's Report by Rich Wallner

- Following Pastor Mundinger's retirement, Pastor Bob Busse will serve as vacancy pastor until a new pastor accepts our call. Both Pastor Busse and Pastor Bryan Fritsch will share the responsibility of shut-in visits.

Official Acts:

Baptism – Stanley Arnold Scheeps, son of Gabrielle and Samuel Scheeps.

Adult Confirmation Class – Joyce Miller. Brian and Kaye Wheeler.

Transfer In– Linda Hertzberg, from Grace Lutheran, Omro, WI.

Deaths – Nicole Schumacher

Communicant Members 484

Baptized Members 572

Church Families 299

Motion by B Radliff/Krause to accept Elder's report. Motion approved.

Board of Education Report by Kevin Koch

- Looking for a full-time teacher for 5th and 6th Grade classroom. The Technology Course that was prescheduled for the start of the school year will continue as originally set. Mrs. Kersten will assist as she is able.
- August 15th is a working In-Service day for teachers. Back to School Kickoff will be August 27.
- A second lemonade stand held during July was a success. Both sale dates netted nearly \$800 which is designated to support the transportation of students for field trip events.

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

Old Business: (none)

New Business:

- The company that managed and supported the AEDs has been sold. Service agreement required with new company going forward, cost is \$450/year. School and Church each have AED unit.

Meetings next month: Trustees – Monday August 14th – 6:30 pm. Board of Education – Tuesday August 8th– 6pm.

Elders – Tuesday August 8th – 6pm. Council – Wednesday August 16th – 6pm.

Quarterly Voters Meeting – Sunday, August 13th following the service

Motion by Linse/Thiel to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:31 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.*





August 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00 Worship/HC	7	8 6:00 Elders 6:00 Bd. of Ed.	9	10 6:30 Worship/HC	11	12
13 9:00 Worship/HC Voters Meeting After Church	14 6:30 pm Trustees	15	16 6 pm Council Mtg.	17	18	19
20 9:00 Worship/HC	21	22	23	24 6:30 Worship/HC	25	26
27 9:00 Worship/HC Back to School Kickoff 11 am at school	28	29	30	31 6:30 Worship/HC		

