



# St. John Messenger

St. John Lutheran Church  
V. 28, No. 8

168 Mound St.

Berlin, WI 54923  
September, 2023

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***“The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”*** (James 5:16b)

Fellow saints in Christ at St. John:

By the time you read this article in the *Messenger*, my time for serving you may already have been determined. Some of you know all about my background and how I came to minister to the good people of St. John's, but others may only know me by name, so I would like to formally introduce myself.

It all started with my great-grandmother back in the 1960s. Growing up on a farm, if I wanted to stay after school for anything, I would walk over to her house to call home and wait for my dad to have time to drive in and pick me up. She encouraged me to consider entering the ministry. I told her, “No, Grandma. I’m planning to be a math teacher.” And I went on to get a math/biology teaching degree from UW-Eau Claire. But instead of teaching, I ended up farming with my parents for 12 years. Because my dad was the school board president, he talked me into teaching parttime for 5 years at my alma mater, Abbotsford, grades 6-9. When 3 children came along and the 4<sup>th</sup> on the way, I found I could no longer get up at 4:30 a.m. to start chores, clean up and teach until 1:00, come home and work the farm until 8:00, and then grade papers and plan for the next day until 11:00 p.m.—and still have time for family. So, I ended up leaving the farm and taught 2 years at Tomah and 10 years at Clintonville. When St. Martin-Clintonville celebrated their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they brought in a “son of the congregation” each month as guest preacher. One of them was an 80+ year old from Nebraska who said he would like to retire, but there was no one to take his place. He urged the men and boys to consider the holy ministry so he could retire. Since the curriculum director was intent on sending the math program in a different direction, it had to be the Holy Spirit that laid it upon my (and my wife’s) heart that maybe this was the direction to go.

In June 2000, I entered summer Greek at CTS-Ft. Wayne in the “alternate route” program. In March 2002 I was assigned as vicar to Calvary-Princeton. In October that year, they voted to issue me a call pending my graduation and I served them until retiring in January 2020. I guess my great-grandmother’s prayers were answered. Too bad she wasn’t able to see it. Since retiring, I have served a vacancy at Grace-Omro (2020) and Immanuel-Westfield (2021) and doing pulpit supply since.

My wife, Carol, and I have 4 children: Elsa (Jon) Mierow, Carver MN; Heidi, Princeton; Phil (Christina), Barneveld; and Amanda (Cam) Tetzlaff, Cambria. We have 4 grandsons: Jonah, Cephas, Francis, and Justus. We are “*simply blessed!*”



I have enjoyed getting to know you better. It just takes me longer to learn (and remember) names than it used to—so please be patient with me. Once St. John has a called pastor in place, I will go back to doing pulpit supply, but continue to worship with you on Sundays I'm not committed elsewhere.

May our good and gracious Lord guide and direct you in your lives as He has me in mine.

*Pastor Bob Busse*



## +In Our Prayers

Laurie Siegmund

Debra Schubert

Karen Rowen

Harry Nimmer

Vern Lichtenberg

Duane Schmudlach

Joan Parsons

Brenda Podoll

Cathy Steinke

Jayne Kersten

Ricki Schubert

Our Shut-In and Homebound members



## Ladies Aid Fall Luncheon

Everyone is invited to the Ladies Aid Fall Luncheon on Thursday, September 7 at 1pm in the church lower level. Bring your friends and husbands for food and fellowship.



*Sending Our*  
**SYMPATHY**

Karen Mosier

Mother of Jayson Mosier

Grandmother of Brenna and Nathan



## Book Sponsors for 3k/4k classroom

Members of St. John,



I am looking for book sponsors in the 3K/4K classroom. This will allow us to help build the child's library at home so children can work on their literacy skills. I am looking for 2 \$25.00 sponsors each month, September – April. If you would like to sponsor, please catch me at church, call, or email me.

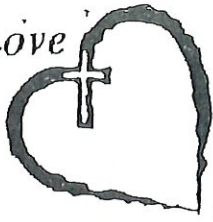
I can be reached at: (920) 369-0204, or [ahenke@stjohnberlin.org](mailto:ahenke@stjohnberlin.org)

Thank You!  
Allie Henke





*Divine Love*



*Human Care*

According to a Chinese fable, an elderly Han woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be utter failure, the porous pot spoke to the woman one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? Why do you suppose that is?"

The poor pot said nothing.

"It's because I've always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

The moral of the story? Perhaps it is a reminder to accept oneself as a person made in the image of God, and second, there is no one whom God cannot bless and cannot make a blessing to others!

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, I am not perfect. There are plenty of persons around to remind me of this; no need for me to be among them. You love me. You have seen fit to use me for your glory. And I am pleased to be in your service, however you may need me. Amen.*



## **Altar Guild Pot Luck Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2022 at 6 pm**

The Altar Guild invites all the ladies of St. John to an evening potluck. We would like to extend a special invitation to all the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls and their mother as well. The Guild provides the food, tableware and beverages. So enjoy an evening of fellowship, and learn how to serve the Lord at St. John church.

## **Sunday School**



Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 10 at 10:15 in the school gym.

All children ages 4 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to attend. There are three classes: ages 4 – 1<sup>st</sup> grade; 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grades; and 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

The children will meet every Sunday at 10:15 in the school gym for opening devotions and singing. They then go to their classes and are dismissed at 11:15. Parents are to go to the main hallway and pick up their children.

We all are looking forward to a great year!!





# From St John Lutheran School



Happy September all! Can you believe that another school year is here already? There have been some big changes over the last couple months – new teachers and a new classroom. The teaching staff was installed on Sunday, August 27, at the 9am church service.

We began our year with our Kick-off cook out and open house at 11am on Sunday, August 27. The congregation members and our school families were able to spend time in fellowship with one another over a lunch of brats, hamburgers, hot dogs, and other delicious dishes. School families were able to bring in their child's school supplies, and everyone was welcome to tour the building and see the updates and changes that have taken place over the summer.

The teachers started meeting in the middle of August and spent several days working on class schedules, going over curriculum, and attending some professional development conferences. Our new teachers are settling in nicely. They were hard at work setting up their classrooms and meeting with families.

The trustees and Ron Gehrke were hard at work over the summer completing their various projects. They installed lockers, moved desks, spruced up the shed, painted the new classroom, installed air conditioners, installed new smartboards, and other projects too numerous to count. Our volunteers have put in countless hours

making improvements around our church and school. They are a huge blessing from God. We are very grateful to them for their efforts.

Thank you, Tyler Kettlewell for the cement work to fix our playground sidewalk. Thank you, Doug Dewhurst for the locker risers. Thank you, Jacquei Silva for helping clean and rewax our gym and classroom floors.

I would like to send a special thank you to Rich Wallner for the hours and hours of work he does with the books and auditors for our school to maintain its status as a Wisconsin Parental Choice School. He even takes vacation time to work with the auditors. He is a good example of a person serving the Lord with his time and talents. We are fortunate to have him. Thank you.

I would also like to send a special thank you to Deb Schrader. She has been a tremendous help during this summer of transition. She puts in countless hours all summer to prep for the new year. Deb also does a great deal with the auditors for our School Choice status. I am very grateful for all she has done as I would be lost without her. Thank you.

School began on Thursday, August 31 and we are in the final push to get our technology set up for the new and returning students. We made use of the last of the EANS funds to continue to offer computers to our students at a 1 to 1 ratio. We also put new smart boards in first grade, second grade, and our third/fourth grade rooms and updated the school WiFi.

Have a fabulous September. I am yours in Christ's service.

Miss Melissa Linse





# Creation Corner

From the Bi-Monthly Journal

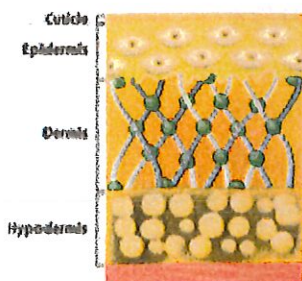
*"Does God Exist?"*

A regular feature of the journal *"Does God Exist?"* is a section entitled *"Dandy Designs."* Here are various examples from God's creation pointing to the undeniable existence of our Creator.

## Your Amazing Skin

The largest organ in the human body is your skin. I asked a group of five-year-olds one time, what their skin did for them? One young man after thinking about the question for a minute said, "It holds everything together, so nothing falls out." Another volunteered, "It keeps the bugs and worms out of my stomach." A young lady said, "It lets me smell good when I take a bath." Then her little brother belched causing her to look at me and say, "Not like that smell!"

The fact of the matter is that our skin does all of those things. But there are a large number of other designs built into the skin that we may not realize. Our skin reduces water loss from our bodies. It helps regulate temperature, insulates our bodies, and helps produce vitamin D. Under our eyes our skin is only .5 mm thick, while on our back it is 14 mm thick. Sweat glands, hair follicles, and connective tissue are strategically placed to allow us to live on a planet that has large swings in surface temperature. The highest concentration of touch receptors in our skin is in our fingertips. That gives us the important sensations we need and treasure.



The structure of our skin is amazingly complex. There are two different layers separated from each other by a membrane which is a thin sheet of fibers that transmit nutrients and remove wastes. This sits

on a layer called the hypodermis which supports the upper layers. The outer layer called the epidermis has no blood vessels of its own but carries on its functions with the outside world by capillary action and diffusion.

One area of mystery even today is why our skin wrinkles when it is wet for too long. Recent studies show that there is a lattice in the epidermis made of a fibrous protein called keratin. The lattice expands when it gets wet and carries water away leaving the wrinkles. Some researchers believe the wrinkles give the fingers or toes better traction on wet surfaces, but not all agree on that.

We do not have to go far to see God's wisdom in the design of our bodies. Just look at your hand. "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, ..." (Psalm 139:14).



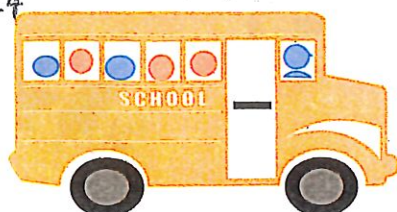
September 3, 2002 - Wade & Haley Kaufman  
 September 7, 2017 - Derrick & Rebecca Hubatch  
 September 9, 1967 - Duane & Linda Nitz  
 September 10, 2022 - Brian & Kaye Wheeler  
 September 12, 1987 - Mark & Lori Piechowski  
 September 12, 1997 - Thomas & Yvonne Wustrack  
 September 17, 2004 - Carlo & Amy McCormick  
 September 19, 2010 - Adam & Kayla Gilmour  
 September 20, 2013 - Terri & Jennifer Billington  
 September 20, 1969 - Robert & Sandy Londowski  
 September 22, 1984 - Robert & Cathy Young  
 September 24, 1988 - Robert & Amy Radliff  
 September 25, 1993 - Doug & Linda Dewhurst  
 September 28, 1996 - Mark & Mitzi Putzke  
 September 29, 2012 - Casey & Jennifer Wollert  
 September 30, 2000 - Darrell & Ronda Dretske  
 September 30, 1972 - Eugene & Kathy Thom  
 September 30, 1989 - Rich & Nancy Wallner





# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Keith Krause	9/01	Nathan Gabor	9/15
Madison Mertens	9/01	Michael Herbst	9/15
Jane Olson	9/02	Linda Hertzberg	9/15
Glenda Schmidt	9/02	Henry Lemke	9/15
Alyssa Thiel	9/02	Vernon Lichtenberg	9/15
Gary Kracht	9/03	Karen Vergin Krause	9/16
Ryan Henley	9/03	Allie Henke	9/17
Jayce Schubert	9/03	LeRoy Larson	9/18
Jeff Degener	9/04	Gordon Manske	9/18
Jackie Lewis	9/04	Ed Marks	9/18
Alexander Nighbor	9/04	Sara Bruss	9/19
Jordyn Putzke	9/04	Sara France	9/20
Jennifer Beier	9/05	Jaycee Henke	9/20
Jackie Eggert	9/05	Conrad Nisiewicz	9/20
Dennis Hoffman	9/05	Jeremy Wissell	9/21
Violet Lueck	9/05	Betty Freimark	9/22
Kathleen Thom	9/06	Amy Dament	9/23
Phyllis Van Dellen	9/06	Jennifer Kettlewell	9/23
Katie Weisensel	9/06	Tyler Schubert	9/23
Kody Wiese	9/06	Lucille Verheyen	9/23
Vickie Clark	9/07	Ashley Dretske	9/24
Stacey Polk	9/07	Jason Weiland	9/24
Maxine Ferron	9/09	Makenzie Fox	9/24
Ashlyn Ballard	9/11	Rich Wallner	9/25
Trinity Abitz	9/12	Abigail Carriere	9/26
Debra Schubert	9/12	Brian Wheeler	9/28
Gary Eggert	9/13	Sawyer Hess	9/29
Pamela Ponto	9/13	Korin Larson	9/29
Carol Krause	9/14	Rebecca Mosier	9/29
Susan Kukla	9/14		



**A Report on 68<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention  
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
July 29-August 3, 2023 Milwaukee, WI**

The delegates representing our circuit were Rev. Bryan Fritsch of Messiah Lutheran in Ripon, pastoral delegate, and Mrs. Connie Belter of Grace Lutheran in Omro, lay delegate. Mr. Kevin Koch of St. John Lutheran in Berlin had been elected as our primary lay delegate but a last-minute bout with COVID necessitated Connie to attend as the alternate.

Just over 1000 voting delegates representing each district of the Synod attended the convention along with 160 advisory delegates, 160 advisory representatives, and about 150 special guests and visitors. With about 1500 people gathered in the Baird Center, the opening worship service on Saturday evening was especially uplifting. A full organ, instrumentalists, and a choir led the congregation in singing, President Harrison preached, and we all were offered the body and blood of our Lord in Holy Communion. In fact, each day's business began and ended with a brief devotion on the Word of God.

As the official Proceedings of the convention will be published and sent to each congregation in due time, this report will only highlight some of the actions of the convention. Your delegates are more than willing to discuss other matters with you individually.

One of the highlights of the convention came on Sunday afternoon (July 30) when the delegates voted unanimously to enter into altar and pulpit fellowship with 5 confessional Lutheran church bodies around the world. Basically, altar and pulpit fellowship means that both they and we believe, teach, and confess the same things about Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions in all their articles and that their members and ours can now commune together and their pastors and ours can now preach in each other's churches. The LCMS is now in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Sudan and Sudan, Africa, the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland, the Lutheran Church of Uganda, Africa, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine, and with the now self-governing Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka.

The Bishops (like our Synod President) of each of these church bodies, except from Ceylon whose visa application was denied, were present at the convention to express their joy and thanksgiving to God for this partnership in the Gospel. Bishop Serge Maschewski of the Lutheran Church of Ukraine presented LCMS President Harrison with a special gift. It was a dented military helmet. When the war against Russia broke out, President Harrison contacted the Bishop to ask what they needed. He told him helmets and flak jackets. President Harrison committed to doing what he could. He was able to secure some of each and sent them to the Bishop. One day, the Bishop was traveling to a region under attack so he would check on the wellbeing of the pastors and members of his church body. His convoy of three trucks was hit by rockets fired from drones. The Bishop was wounded, even suffering blindness for 20 days. But the helmet provided by the LCMS saved his life and then later that of a colleague as well. The Bishop returned the helmet with thanks.

A major function of the convention was to elect persons to various positions. Although the president of Synod was elected earlier this summer by the vote of every congregation in the Synod, the first-vice president and regional vice-presidents were elected at the convention. Rev. Peter Lange was re-elected as first vice-president. The five regional vice-presidents were also re-elected and they continue to serve

as vice-presidents two through six. An interesting fact about regional vice-president and now the fourth vice-president of Synod, the Rev. Nabil Nour, is that he was born and raised in Nazareth, Israel. Yes, the very city in which our Lord Jesus grew up. He was brought up a Christian in the Roman Catholic Church, but when he immigrated from Israel to South Dakota to work with his brother, he met his future wife who is a Missouri Synod Lutheran.

The delegates also elected the secretary of Synod, members to the LCMS Board of Directors, members to the Board for National Mission, to the Board for International Mission, to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, to the boards of Concordia Publishing House, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, and the Concordia University System, and to the boards of regents for the Fort Wayne and St. Louis Seminaries, and to the Concordia Universities in Chicago, Illinois, Irvine, California, Seward, Nebraska, St. Paul, Minnesota, Austin, Texas, and Mequon, Wisconsin. By in large, incumbents were re-elected with some exceptions.

There were two resolutions in particular that raised deep and heart-felt feelings among the delegates. One concerned the situation at Concordia University in Austin, Texas (UTX). The resolution called for the UTX leadership to repent over their recent action of declaring that the university is no longer under LCMS governance but is independent. This declaration violates the constitution and bylaws of the Synod. Much time and effort has been spent between the leadership of UTX and the Synod to bring the university back under the governance of the synod, but talks are at a complete stalemate. After much debate, the resolution passed 716 to 283. We pray that the Lord would lead to a good conclusion.

The other resolution, which did not have as much debate but was sad nonetheless, was to recognize that the LCMS is no longer in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Japan Lutheran Church. The JLC originally began as an LCMS mission. It grew to become a self-supporting church body with whom we did have full fellowship. In the past many years however, the JLC started drifting away from our positions on several issues including the authority and inerrancy of Scripture and the ordination of women to the pastoral office. After many meetings in-person and otherwise through the years, it became clear that the JLC has no intention on returning to agreement over the disputed doctrines. By a vote of 944 to 55 in favor of the resolution, the LCMS is no longer in fellowship with the JLC. May the Lord have mercy on us all.

Many other resolutions were brought to the floor for discussion and voting. They included affirming closed Communion and the biblical view of human sexuality, rejection of racism, white supremacy, and other related issues, in-person worship and distribution of holy communion, and more. A more detailed summary of the convention can be found on the LCMS website: [lcms.org](http://lcms.org).

Thank you for electing us to serve as your delegates to the convention. We were present at every session and voted our consciences as to how best to serve our Lord through our beloved church.

The next convention will be in Phoenix, Arizona in 2026.

May God bless our Synod, our district, our circuit, and our congregations.

Rev. Bryan Fritsch  
Mrs. Connie Belter



## St. John Quarterly Voters Meeting

August 13, 2023

The Quarterly Voter's Meeting was called to order at 10:45 am by Chairman Rich Wallner. 48 voting members were present. Pastor Robert Busse opened with prayer.

### Reading and Approval of Minutes (May + Special June Meeting)

Motion by Bill Brooks to accept the minutes. Second by Kevin Koch. Motion approved.

### New Voting Members: (none)

### Board of Education Report – by Kevin Koch

- School Kick-off and Open House scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup>
- VBS held in July, was successful.
- Updating several policies before the start of the year.
- Special "thank-you" to the Trustees for all their extra efforts in preparing the school including the new classroom.
- Lemonade stands (2) generated \$800 toward transportation costs for school events.
- The board is currently working on teaching team or long-term sub for the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade class.
- The school received an anonymous donation of \$50,000. Projects are being evaluated in which to use the donation to further enhance the educational experience.

Motion by Bob Young to accept Board of Education report. Second by Debra Thiel. Motion approved.

### Trustee Report – by Keith Krause

- School work is complete for the start of the classes, including flooring in the new classroom.
- Parking lot has been sealed and striped however, there is now standing water following heavy rain. The board will be meeting to evaluate causes and solutions.
- HVAC Controller at church is not working right. Following a storm related power outage, the system does not restart. The installer and programmer have been contacted; trustees are working to resolve the issue.

Motion by Ken Fink to accept Board of Trustees report. Second by Amy Brooks. Motion approved.

### Treasurer's Report – by Debra Thiel

#### Square Account Q4 FY 2022/2023:

Beginning Balance: \$ 1.76  
Total Expenses: \$1,929.85

Income: \$1,929.85  
Ending Balance: \$ 1.76

#### Hot Lunch Q4 FY 2022/2023:

Beginning Balance: \$11,810.94  
Total Expenses: \$ 0.00

Income: \$ 300.00  
Ending Balance: \$12,110.94

#### Elderly Fund Q4 FY 2022/2023:

Beginning Balance: \$7,702.28  
Total Expenses: \$ .00

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

#### Children's Fund Q4 FY 2022/2023:

Beginning Balance: \$120,709.44  
Total Expenses: \$ 1,839.27

Income: \$ 784.83  
Ending Balance: \$119,655.00

- General Givings are ahead of budget. Expenses are higher due to start of school expenses.

Motion by Jackie Lewis to accept Treasurer's report. Second by Amy Brooks. Motion approved.

## **Elder's Report - by Rich Wallner**

### **Official Acts:**

**Baptisms** – Jacee Mark Schubert, son of Tyler and Emily Schubert. Brian Wheeler (adult Baptism). Stanley Arnold Scheps, son of Gabrielle and Samuel Scheps.

**Baptism (children not added to church roll)** – Emmelyn Suzie Klima, daughter of Dominic and Paysence Klima. Layla Toddish, daughter of Marleigh McQuown and Garry Toddish.

**Affirmation of Faith** – Tyler and Emily Schubert.

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

**Junior Confirmation Class** – Sayer Hess, Payton Herbst, Nathan Mosier, Makenzie Fox, Colin Dalton.

**Transfer In** – Dean Miller, from St Paul Lutheran, Butternut, WI. Linda Hertzberg, from Grace Lutheran, Omro, WI..

**Transfer Out** – Anna Stertz, to Shepherd of the Hills, Greenville, WI. David and Heidi Beardsley, with children Wyatt, Elijah and Adeline, to St James, Shawano, WI. Thomas and Elizabeth Butterbrodt, to Luther Memorial, River Falls, WI.

**Released by Request** – Kendrik and Tiffani Chappa and children “Li’onna and Maximis.

**Deaths** – Gerald Krause. Nicole Schumacher.

**Non-Member Funeral** – Gordy Klassa.

**Added to Roll** – AJ Wood, Grandson of Tammy Wood.

**Wedding** – Paul Maas and Karen Jari.

**Affirmation of Holy Marriage** – Tyler and Emily Schubert

**Communicant Membership 484**

**Baptized Membership 572**

**Church Families 299**

- Elders continue to follow up on the delinquent member list. Recommendations for drop from membership will be presented at the next voters meeting.

### **Pastor's Report** (none)

Motion by Curt Snow to accept Elder's/Pastor's report. Second by Cathy Young. Motion approved.

### **Reports of Committees**

#### **A. Reserved Fund Report** – by Rich Wallner

- The value of the School Endowment fund is strictly based on market changes. At present there is not a systematic deposit to the fund to help build its value. Rich will be asking the Fund Committee to meet to discuss ways to continue to add to the fund balance to build upon its growth value.

Motion by Keith Krause to accept the Reserved Funds report. Second by Jackie Lewis. Motion approved.

### **Old Business**

- Pastor Noah Rogness has declined our call.

### **New Business**

- Federal Mileage Rate 2023 – 65.5 cents per mile

Motion to adjourn was made by Curt Snow, second by Ken Fink. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 11am.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Radliff, Secretary

\*\*\*\*These minutes have not yet been approved and are subject to revision and change at the next congregational meeting\*\*\*\*



## Special Voters Meeting Call Meeting

August 13, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 11am by Chairman Rich Wallner. 48 voting members were present.

Purpose of the meeting to present nominations for call of our next pastor. One name, Pastor Keith GeRue was added to the nomination list. Pastor GeRue was nominated previously but not before the original deadline and his information was not reviewed during previous meetings. Since then, Pastor GeRue's information was provided by the district for inclusion and the call committee conducted an in-person interview. The call committee's recommendation is for that of Pastor GeRue.

Motion by Mark Podoll to request a new call candidate list. Second by Jackie Lewis. Discussion followed in which Mark Podoll shared his feeling that the pastor, regardless of who it is, needs to be Church focused. He went on to express his concern that Pastor GeRue's military service and any potential promotion thereof would require more of his time away from serving the congregation and pastoral duties. Jackie Lewis concurred to having the same concern and additionally that his (GeRue) involvement would be school centered.

Other's spoke to the pastor being able to prioritize his duties to meet the needs of the church first and foremost. In addition, the military duties of Pastor GeRue when interviewed, were that he will be retiring from the military in 1-1/2 years. His current obligation is approximately 3-4 days permonth. Regarding the school involvement, St. John is seeking a pastor supportive of the school but not to actively participate in teaching or other staff duties outside of pastoral care and leadership.

Returning to the original motion to request a new call candidate list, a voice vote was taken. Motion failed.

Bob Young made a motion to add Pastor Keith GeRue to the official call list. Second by Bill Wissell. Motion was approved.

Motion by Cynthia Schuett for a ballot vote from all the names presented. Second by April Lueck. Handwritten votes were taken, with majority vote for Pastor Keith GeRue.

Motion by Kevin Koch for unanimous vote to extend the call to Pastor Keith GeRue. Second by Melissa Linse. Motion approved.

Pastor Fritsch (SWD Circuit Visitor) made the call to Pastor GeRue. Pastor GeRue will consider the call. Formal documentation will be sent to him both digitally and by mail.

Rich Wallner presented a salary proposal for 78% of district scale in the amount of \$78,872. Included is 100% benefit coverage, same as previous. A no-interest housing loan up to \$20,000 will be available and moving expenses up to \$6,000. Motion by Rebecca Mosier to approve compensation, housing loan and moving expenses as presented. Second by Bill Brooks. Motion approved.

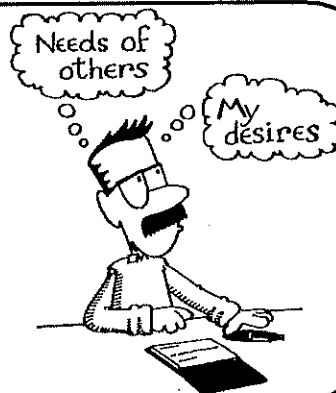
Motion by Curt Snow to adjourn. Second by Ken Fink.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

*Respectfully submitted, Amy Radliff, Secretary*

**IT MATTERS WHAT WE DO WITH  
OUR GOD-GIVEN TIME, TALENTS,  
AND TREASURES.**

"Each one should use whatever gift he  
has received to serve others, faithfully  
administering God's grace in its various  
forms" (1 Peter 4:10).



## A kindled fire

"I can worship outside among nature just as well as I can inside a church building." That claim is especially common during the summer, when church attendance tends to decline.

Certainly it's possible to worship and talk to God among his creation. In fact, George Washington Carver called nature "an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in." And Martin Luther said, "God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars."

Yet corporate, or church, worship is still vital. Luther also noted: "At home, in my own house, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through." When we're away from God's house, we miss blessings and opportunities including communion, fellowship and support. So this summer, spend time in nature but don't neglect "to meet together" (see Hebrews 10:25)!



## PAIRS IN THE BIBLE

Using a pen or pencil, draw lines to connect well-known pairs in the Bible. (Answers below)

SAMSON

WATER

LOAVES

ADAM

PAUL

DAVID

MARY

CAIN

LEAH

MOSES

JACOB

FISHES

GOLIATH

ESAU

WINE

RACHEL

SILAS

MARTHA

AARON

DELILAH

ABEL

EVE



## St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Date: August 16, 2023

The August meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Rich Wallner. Pastor Busse opened with prayer.

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

Absent: Adam Ewald.

### Secretary's Report by Amy Radliff

Motion by B Radliff/Koch to accept the July minutes. Motion approved.

### Financial Secretary's Report by Bob Radliff

	<u>July 2023</u>	<u>July 2022</u>
General Fund	\$49,928.29	\$47,338.27
Children's Fund	\$ 784.83	\$13,702.26
Elderly Fund	\$ .00	\$ .00
Memorials	\$ 27.66	\$ 196.23
Attendance	201 per week	154 per week

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

### Treasurer's Report by Debra Thiel

#### Square Account July 2023:

Beginning Balance:	\$ 1.76	Income:	\$1,929.85
Expenses:	\$1,929.85	Ending Balance:	\$ 1.76

#### Hot Lunch Account July 2023:

Beginning Balance:	\$11,810.94	Income:	\$ 300.00
Expenses:	\$ .00	Ending Balance:	\$12,110.94

#### Elderly Fund July 2023:

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

#### Children's Fund July 2023:

Beginning Balance:	\$120,709.44	Income:	\$ 784.83
Expenses:	\$ 1,839.27	Ending Balance:	\$119,655.00

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

### Board of Trustees Report by Keith Krause

- Contracts renewed for AED and GFL (Waste Management) Services.
- Tyler Kettlewell repaired a concrete area near the school's north door.
- The roof vent motor for new classroom has been repaired to control temperature.
- A/C Controller at the church continues to be an unsolved mystery. Some adjustments were made, manual operations of the unit are being monitored.
- City of Berlin repaired sidewalks in front of school
- Huge "Thank-you" to the Trustees and volunteers for work in bringing value to our church and school including but not limited to; Doug Dewhurst (Lockers), Tyler Kettlewell (All groundskeeping help), Josie Hartzke and her sister Jackie (cleaning & painting), Bob & Karen Wendt (church cleaning & records).

Motion by Koch/Thiel to accept Trustees report. Motion approved.

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

#### Official Acts:

Baptism – Elsie Lou Schuster, daughter of Evan and Lisa Schuster. Natalie Rae Chier, daughter of Nathan and Rebekah Chier.

Communicant Members 484

Baptized Members 574

Church Families 300

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

## Board of Education Report by Kevin Koch

- PTL Kick-off Party scheduled for Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, classes begin Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Updates have been made to the Family and Student Handbooks
- Covid protocol has been reviewed. St. John will be following similar guidelines as established by BASD.
- The board is working on long-term substitute teaching team for 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom for first half of school year. The curriculum and room are ready for the start of the school year.

Motion by B Radliff/Thiel to accept the Board of Education report. Motion approved.

## Old Business: (none)

## New Business:

- A Call has been made to Pastor Keith GeRue, we pray for his consideration.
- The annual audit is underway, so far everything is going well.

**Meetings next month:** Trustees – Tuesday, Sept 5<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm. Board of Education – Tuesday Sept 12<sup>th</sup> - 6pm.  
Elders – Wednesday, Sept 13<sup>th</sup> – 6pm. Council – Monday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup> – 6pm.

Motion by Linse/Krause to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:26 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.*

## Thank You!

The Trustees would like to thank everyone who assisted in completing the school and church's summer projects. Many hours and a village of volunteers is very appreciated - Thanks to everyone who helped, and all projects made great improvements for St. John's.

Some of the leaders of projects that require special thanks go to Stan Hartzke for all mowing and property improvements, Tyler Kettlewell for many property improvements, Bob & Karen Wendt for the church's storage organization and special projects, Josie Hartzke, Jacquei Silva & Keith Krause for the school's many painting projects, cleaning & floor waxing, Ron Gerhrke, Keith Krause and many others on the transformation of a new classroom, and Doug Dewhurst for the construction of bases for the new school lockers. Thanks again to everyone who helped with property improvements this summer.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	
3 9:00 Worship/HC	4 Labor Day No School	5 1st Day for 3K/4K 6:30 pm Trustees	6	7 1 pm Ladies Aid Fall Potluck 6:30 Worship/HC	8 9	
10 Rally Day 9 am Worship/HC 10:15 Sun. School 10:15 Bible Class	11	12 6:00 Bd. of Ed.	13 6 pm Elder Mtg. 7 pm Sr. Choir	14 6:30 Worship/HC	15 16	
17 9 am Worship/HC 10:15 Sun. School 10:15 Bible Class	18 6 pm Council Mtg. 6:30 pm LWML	19 6 pm Altar Guild	20 7 pm Sr. Choir	21 6:30 Worship/HC	22 23	
24 9 am Worship/HC 10:15 Sun. School 10:15 Bible Class	25	26	27 7 pm Sr. Choir	28 6:30 Worship/HC	29 30	

