

May Newsletter

224 Mary Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 • Phone: (507) 723-5397 • www.sjlcmc.org • Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9am - 2pm CST

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

The third chapter of Ecclesiastes reminds us of an unchanging truth: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." For the past two years, I have felt called by God to serve as the Pastor of St. Johns Lutheran Church. Not only have I felt called, but I have also greatly enjoyed the privilege of serving as a pastor to such a wonderful community of faith.

However, life often is about change. Change is inevitable. God continues to call us to new challenges, opportunities, and adventures. A little over two years ago, God called me to Minnesota, with no more than the understanding that I needed to be obedient and that He would provide. Little did I know that at that time, St. Johns was also in a time of transition. The timing was completely in His will, and you all have graciously allowed me to be part of your family.

As you know, discerning God's call upon one's life can be a difficult process. I truly believe that God called me here to be your pastor as you were in a period of transition. And now, I truly believe that God has called my family to be faithful once again. Over the past several months, my family and I have been prayerfully discerning His will for our future. During that time, I met with the people of Faith Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, Colorado. The following Sunday, the congregation voted to extend me a letter of call. After more prayer and discernment, I have accepted the call to serve at Faith Lutheran. My last Sunday of called service at St. Johns will be May 21st.

Many factors go into consideration for understanding God's leading. My gifts for ministry will be best served at Faith, while God brings the right person to St. Johns. As God is leading this process, I do not doubt that He already has a plan in place for you.

St. Paul opens his letter to the church at Philippi with these words: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in

every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." Amid all the varied emotions I am currently feeling, I am definitely experiencing the joy Paul felt as he wrote to his beloved congregation. It is impossible for me to express how grateful I am to God for the privilege and pleasure of serving as your pastor. I believe God has truly blessed our ministry together. My family and I have also been richly blessed through the loving, nurturing, and supportive faith community that is St. Johns. The relationships we have formed have enriched our lives and allowed us to love and be loved in the most profound ways.

Pastoral transitions are difficult. One advantage of moving across the country is that it is easier to maintain healthy boundaries, which allow new pastoral relationships to form. These standard boundary policies apply to all pastors when they leave a congregation. Accordingly, I will not be available for any pastoral or administrative duties at St. Johns, including officiating or assisting at baptisms, weddings, or funerals for St. Johns members as of May 21, 2023.

One of the most important things in life is saying "good-bye" in healthy ways. I want to do this very intentionally in the coming days. As I said earlier, St. Johns has truly been a blessing in my life and the life of my family. We will miss you dearly. Thank you for welcoming us into your church family. Thank you for two years of serving, laughing, crying, and doing ministry together. Thank you for sending us off with your blessing.

In Christ's service,

Denton L Bennet Jr.

Denton L. Bennet Jr.
Pastor

Augustana District
Annual Convention
May 6, 2023



May Calendar

Tuesday, May 2

9:00AM Quilting
3 - 5:00PM Pro-Kinship for Kids

Wednesday, May 3

6:00 PM Confirmation
6:15 PM Prayer Time
7:00PM Choir

Thursday, May 4

9:00AM Bible Study
5:30PM The Kitchen Table Meal

Sunday, May 7 (Holy Communion)

9:00AM Worship
10:00AM Coffee & fellowship
10:15AM Bible Study
6:00PM Forward In Faith

Tuesday, May 9

9:00AM Quilting

Wednesday, May 10

6:15 PM Prayer Time
8:00PM Council Mtg

Thursday, May 11

9:00AM Bible Study
5:30PM The Kitchen Table Meal

Sunday, May 14 - Happy Mothers Day!

9:00AM Worship
10:00AM Coffee & fellowship
10:15AM Bible Study



Tuesday, May 16

9:00AM Quilting

Wednesday, May 17

6:15 PM Prayer Time

Thursday, May 18

Newsletter Deadline

9:00AM Bible Study
5:30PM The Kitchen Table Meal
6:30PM WoW

Sunday, May 21 (Holy Communion)

9:00AM Worship
10:00AM Coffee & fellowship

Tuesday, May 23

9:00AM Quilting
3 - 5:00PM Pro-Kinship for Kids

Wednesday, May 24

6:15 PM Prayer Time

Thursday, May 25

5:30PM The Kitchen Table Meal

Sunday, May 28 (Noisy Offering)

9:00AM Worship
10:00AM Coffee & fellowship

Monday, May 29 - Memorial Day



Tuesday, May 30

9:00AM Quilting

Wednesday, May 31

6:15 PM Prayer Time





May Worship Helpers

LAY READERS ARE NEEDED!!

May 7 (Holy Communion)

Lay Readers Seniors
Com Asst. Brady & Blaine Anderson
Acolytes Liam Eberhard, Amaira Brown
BD Reader Amaira Brown

May 14

Lay Reader Needed
Acolytes Alayna Beyer, Taya Beyer
BD Reader Thomas Beers

May 21 (Holy Communion)

Lay Reader Needed
Com Asst. Jaelyn Batzlaff & Bowen Eberhard
Acolytes Jaden Hornick
BD Reader Jalyn Louwagie

May 28 (Noisy Offering)

Lay Reader Needed
Acolytes Jalyn Louwagie
BD Reader Isaac Jensen

MAY USHERS

✝ Josh Anderson

Thank You!!

Thank you to the Board of Education: Pastor Denton Bennet Jr, April Beyer (Superintendent), Brenda (Mrs Nick) Anderson, Kari Smith, Jenni Runck, Brenda Anderson

Thank you to the Sunday School Teachers and Helpers:

April Beyer, Brenda (Mrs Nick) Anderson, Lori Milbrath, Denise Hauger, Kayla Moe, Kari Smith, Jason Beyer, John Holles, Hilary Paplow, TJ Smith, Dave Milbrath. Helpers: Emma Hauger, Gabby Anderson, Erika Wells, Olivia Milbrath. And Music Director Jodi Dalsgaard



Graduate: Blaine Anderson

Parents: Joe & Jennie Anderson
Career Plans: Attending Mitchell Tech in South Dakota for Diesel Power-Ag Power Technology

Graduate: Theodore Anderson Jr

Parents: Ted & Carolyn Anderson
Career Plans: Continue Farming

Graduate: Annabella Eve Holles

Parents: John & Heather Holles
Career Plans: Join the Family Business

Graduate: Sarah Kottke

Parents: Keith & Chiloe Kottke
Career Plans: Attending University of Minnesota-Twin Cities for Theatre Arts

Graduate: Ethan Louwagie

Parents: Rick & Kim Louwagie
Career Plans: Attending Southeast Technical School in Sioux Falls, SD for Media Design
Open House: Sunday, May 21st, 1-4 pm at the Clements Legion

Graduate: Courtlyn Runck

Parents: Brian & Jenni Runck
Career Plans: Attending Ridgewater in Willmar for Veterinary Technology
Open House: Saturday May 20th, 1-4 pm at our home (32092 US Hwy 14, Sanborn)





2023 WOW Gathering

Saturday, September 16, 2023

hosted by
St. John's Lutheran Church
Springfield, MN

"Behold God is my salvation I will trust and will not be afraid for the Lord God is my strength and my song and he has become my salvation."

~ Isaiah 12:2

The Augustana District Women of the Word (WOW) will be holding their 2023 Fall Gathering at St. Johns Lutheran Church on September 16. The Gathering gives women from various churches within the district an opportunity to get together to hear good speakers and get to know what is happening in other churches.

This year the speakers will be Pastor Erica Varcoe of The Table Ministry in Sioux Falls, SD. and Pastor Jennifer Bennet, the wife of Pastor Denton Bennet. The verse they will be digging into is Isaiah 12: 2. Faith over fear and transformation will be the themes. Last year the Fall Gathering was held at Hope Lutheran in Comfrey and next year it will be held in Hutchinson. About 60-75 women attend throughout of the district. Churches in New York, Ohio, and Minnesota have "attended" the Gathering through Zoom.

A group of women from St. Johns have been working on this years Fall Gathering but it will require more women to make this a success. The Women of St. Johns includes all women who are members of the church, whether you were part of a circle or the group that has been meeting once a month for the past year. We will need help in various areas and that's where you come in.

The Fall Gathering begins at 8:00 AM with Registration and Coffee and ends around 3:00 PM. At noon a lunch will be served. At previous gatherings, the women that serve the food seem to miss out on some of the activities. SO, we will also be asking men and Luther Leaguer's to help with the serving and cleaning up after coffee and lunch.

There is a sign up sheet on the board by the offices in the fellowship hall. We have divided the areas we need help into:

1. Food E
2. Exhibitors
3. Registration Packets
4. Decorations
5. Clean-Up 6. Greeters and Ushers

It would be greatly appreciated if you would check the board and sign up where you feel you would fit.

Please save the date of September 16, 2023 and join us for this wonderful opportunity to hear God's Word and fellowship with women from other churches and show the hospitality of St. Johns Women.

Registration will be opening soon!



You are cordially invited to join the women of New Hope Lutheran Church, Comfrey for the

Friendship Salad Luncheon

on Saturday, May 16, 2023 at 12:00PM
in the Fellowship Hall.

All refreshments will be provided by the
Women of New Hope.

Bring a friend and come for a time of fun and fellowship!
We hope to see you there!



2023 VBS REGISTRATION FORM

Hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church ~ At St. Paul Lutheran Church ~ June 11-15, 2023
5:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. (Supper served at 5:30)

(One form per child, and please fill in all fields. Thank you!)

Student Full Name: _____

Age: _____ Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female Grade completed: _____

Home Church: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Primary Contact Number: _____

Medical Release: I give my permission for the VBS staff to administer basic first aid to my child (named above) in the event of an injury. I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency services will be paid by me.

Photo Release: I hereby grant the above named church permission to use photographs/videos taken at VBS of the minor designated above in any manner or form for any purpose lawful at any time. I waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product or written copy, that may be used in conjunction therewith, or the use to which it may be applied.

Permission to Attend: I give permission for my child (named above) to attend the Vacation Bible School (VBS) listed above. I understand that the information I give for this registration will only be used by the VBS hosting church.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____ Phone: _____

For a Free VBS T-shirt please submit this registration form by the May 26th Deadline

Please circle the desired T-shirt size:

Youth Extra Small	Youth Small	Youth Medium	Youth Large	Adult Extra Large
Adult Extra Small	Adult Small	Adult Medium	Adult Large	
Adult 2X	Adult 3X	Adult 4X	Youth Extra Large	

**Register by May 26, 2023, return form to St. John's Lutheran Church,
224 Mary Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 or email to b_vangrouw@hotmail.com**

BURGER BLAST!

at the Springfield Community Center



JUNE 7TH, 2023
4:30PM - 6:30PM

Can You Help?

We need:

- 2 people for preparation on June 6;
- 2 People 11:00AM - 1:00PM on June 7;
- 2 People 4:30PM - 6:30PM on June 7.

Please contact Marion Thorston at 507.723.5509
Sign up deadline is May 18th.



What do Quilting & Baseball have in common?

We don't know, but we do need your help! Are you going to a Twins game? Would you be willing to take quilts to Sharing Hands (Mary Jo Kappland)? The location is close by the stadium. Call Arliss Petersen (763-6694) or Marion Thorston (723-5509).

Please consider helping if you can!



Nursing Home Bingo is the
3rd Friday of every month.

Volunteers can sign up on the
lists by the offices.



REMINDER

Please check your
mailbox...



There are many
unclaimed items.

May 1

Julie Smith

May 2

Jordyn Menage

May 4Jesse Kieper
Mitchell Leonard
Aubrie Haala**May 5**Keith Kottke
Anita Johnson**May 6**

Diane Thram

May 7Jerry Batzlaff
Eva Mark**May 8**

Jami Sather

May 9

Margaret Moe

May 10Alyssa Streich
Megan Kaup**May 11**

Clare Nelson

May 14Gregg Anderson
Cindy Gewerth**May 15**Chris Richert
Sally Richert
Bruce Runck**May 17**

Patty Mude

May 18Russell Beers
Kallie Smith**May 19**Curt Fredin
Richard Petersen**May 20**Becky Peters
Lowell Runck
Dorothy Jacobsen
Jennifer Eberhard
Starshine Segura**May 21**Skyler Kottke
Ashley Schmitt**May 22**Nicole Van DeKieft
Roxy Korkemeier
Rick Gewerth
Ana Gamez**May 23**Alex Smith
Emma Hauger**May 27**Linda Mathis
Shelby Schultz**May 28**Mae Wenner
Jordan Haala**May 29**Nadene Ahlness
Michael Tews**May 30**

Chiloe Kottke

May 31

Melissa Mude

May God bless you all with
good health, good fortune
and lots of love
on your special day!

**May 1**

Dan & Stephanie Friesner

May 2

Steve & Dianne Lipetzky

May 6

Bruce & Sandy Runck

May 9

Randy & Rose Haseleu

May 14

Curt & Betsy Saffert

May 16

Adam & Sarah Wenisch

May 17

Ken & Jami Sather

May 26

Terry & Meghan Anderson

May 28

Frank & Cindy Schnobrich

May 29

Brian & Jenni Runck

May 30Stetson & Kim Shoen
Tony & Jennifer Nath

Thank you, Lori Milbrath for providing our
birthday and anniversary lists, and to all our
volunteers who help to make St. John's church
the caring place that it is. We appreciate you!

St. John's Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 8, 2023

In attendance: April Beyer, Andrew Hauger, Rod Smith, Brian Meier, Sue Anderson, Pastor Denton Bennet, Todd Wells, Chris Petersen, Tracie Berg, Brenda Krieger, and Adam Beers

Absent: Kari Scholtz, Chad Thram, & David Milbrath

Called to order by Andrew Hauger at 8:15 pm.

Pastor Bennet opened the meeting with a devotion.

Secretary's Report:

1. No additions or corrections. m/s/c Brian Meier/Rod Smith
2. No additions or corrections for the 2/12/23 Special Congregational meeting m/s/c Rod Smith/Sue Anderson

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Andrew Hauger.

1. Bank accounts as of February 28, 2023: General account \$70,182.38; Dedicated account \$100,979.09.
m/s/c Rod Smith/Adam Beers

Board of Education Report: Presented by April Beyer.

1. Meeting at St. Paul's church took place since last council meeting.
 - a. Vacation Bible School will be 6/11-6/15.
 - b. St. John's church will be responsible for meals on the Monday and Wednesday of the vacation bible school week.
 - c. 3/28 is next meeting date for VBS at St. Paul's church.
2. Elementary students will be singing on Palm Sunday(4/2).
3. Audit of the Board of Education and Luther League will take place since it had not been completed last year due to time constraints.

Board of Trustees' Report: Presented by Andrew Hauger.

1. Reviewed monthly financial statements and disbursements.
2. Nuvera will be hooking up to their new fiber optics this coming Friday.
3. The library has been cleaned up due to clutter.
4. David Milbrath fixed some carpet molding.
5. The exit door by the sanctuary is getting blinds.
6. Some discussion took place about the electric heaters in the basement. Andy will talk with electrician about backordered heaters.

Board of Deacons' Report:

1. Communion assignments for April are:
 - a. 4/2- Sue Anderson set-up, Todd Wells & Rod Smith to assist.
 - b. 4/6(Maundy Thursday)- Adam Beers set-up, Todd Wells & Sue Anderson to assist.
 - c. 4/9- Easter Sunrise Service- Sue Anderson set-up, Rod Smith & Todd Wells to assist.
 - d. 4/9- Easter Service- Sue Anderson set-up, Todd Wells & Brenda Krieger to assist.
 - e. 4/16- Rod Smith set-up, Sue Anderson & Adam Beers to assist.
2. Regarding membership changes for the month of February:
 - a. Baptisms: 1- Chelsea Lisa Ahlness 2/25/23
 - b. Transfers in- 0
 - c. Transfers out: 6 -Jon, Ashley, Madisyn, Gracelyn, Noah, and Zoey Keck
 - d. Funerals(visitation): 1- Renee Jensen
 - e. Inactive list: 0
 - f. Removal by request: 0
 - g. Requested membership: 2- Adam Anderson & Karley Zarn

3. Statistic change/events for February 2023
 - a. Baptism: Postponed - Evan Tyrone Anderson and Isaac Theodore Anderson.
4. Since Pastor will be gone for the following services....
 - a. 3/19 service- Adam Beers will lead service. Sue Anderson to read sermon.
 - b. 3/26 service- Brenda Krieger will lead service.

Pastor's Report: Presented by Pastor Bennet.

- ◇ Pastor Bennet will be gone 3/19/23 for the Quake event and 3/24-3/26.
- ◇ Pastor met with Adam Anderson and Karley Zarn and he has been counseling them for their upcoming marriage.
- ◇ Denise Gicker approached Pastor Bennet about whether or not an Ecumenical worship service will take place for the Sunday(6/25) of Riverside Days. Pastor will visit with other pastors to discuss this further.

Discussions:

- » Stewardship & Evangelism: The Season of Hope Lent project is going well with a goal of 100 care packages to be sent out.
- » Worship and Music: No reports provided.
- » Children, Youth, and Families: Quake event is next week.

Old Business:

- ◇ Inactive membership plan: Rod Smith and Brian Meier will be meeting to construct a letter to be sent out. m/s/c Rod Smith/Chris Petersen
- ◇
- ◇ Pictorial Directory- Ben and Verjean Luense will head up the planning to have another church directory photo session, possibly next fall.

New Business:

- ◇ Funds were donated for upgrading the sound system and projector/overhead screen. An individual(Audio Visual Electronics) came and provided an estimate of \$20,000 to upgrade our current set-up. There is a consideration to obtain a second estimate.

Closing Prayer: Rod Smith

Adjourn: m/s/c Brian Meier/Sue Anderson

Next meeting: April 12 @ 8:00pm.

Secretary, Adam Beers



place
POSTAGE
Here

NEEDED FOOD SHELF ITEMS

Items that are needed at the food shelf are Apple, cranberry combinations, and grape juice in 64 oz. containers, baking products such as brown sugar, frosting, cake/cookie mixes and any other baking items. Breakfast bars, variety of spaghetti sauces, small cans of coffee, instant oatmeal variety packs, fruit snacks for kids, fruit cups for kids and adults, toothpaste, cereals. Anything we receive we will use in the food shelf as long as the expiration date is OK.

Feel free to contact or call Shari Koll at 507-227-0386 if you have questions. You may also contact Dave Carruthers with questions at 507-276-6679. You may also leave a message on the food shelf phone 507-723-3663, and we will call you back.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation instead of donating food item then drop in an envelope. Send to:

Springfield Area Food Shelf
PO Box 15
Springfield, MN 56087

A heart felt thank You to all who support the local food shelf. Clients really do appreciate all the groceries they receive. We couldn't do this without your generosity.

