



July Newsletter

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

"Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all works of your hand." Isaiah 64:8

When I was in high school I was enrolled in art class for two years. One of my favorite things to do was work with clay. I had the opportunity to do a variety of projects, and one of the best things about working with clay was that I could easily start over if a project wasn't turning out the way that I wanted. Starting over, however, required some extra work. When we initially started projects we used pieces of clay cut off of a fresh block. These blocks were vacuum sealed to ensure that no air bubbles were trapped in the clay. If you wanted to start a project over with clay you had already been working, you had to knead the clay and apply pressure to ensure that all the air was pressed out. If you did not go through the process of applying pressure and kneading the clay your project would blow up when it was fired in the kiln.

The Bible makes many references to clay and potters. The two most prevalent themes are that we, humans, are formed by God and that the clay cannot tell the potter how to form it. A glob of wet dirt telling a potter how it wants to be formed is an amusing thought, but the comparison becomes more significant when we remember that we are the clay and God is the potter. Romans 9:20-21 says, *"But who are you, a human being to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?' Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?"*

Being shaped and formed by God is not always a pleasant experience. Sometimes it can feel like God is applying great pressure to push all the air bubbles out. Remember though that pressure is necessary before a new project can be started. The leader of a non-profit told me once that it is important to "get comfortable with being uncomfortable because it is through discomfort that we often grow the most." Pressure and discomfort are things that we often try to avoid because they are not pleasant. God, however, applies pressure in order to form us into the masterpiece that He wants each and every one of us to be.

We do not get to tell God how we are to be formed. We are, however, given the promise that our Heavenly Father cares for us. As 1 Peter 5:6-7 reminds us *"Humble yourselves, therefore under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."* Times of formation and struggle are hard but God promises that he is always there with us in both pleasant and hard circumstances. You are the work of your Father's hand. Remember that He cares deeply for you.

Pastor Laura Webb

Elk Horn Lutheran, Elk Horn, Iowa

Article reprinted from the Augustana District 6./2023 Newsletter

Welcome to our interim Pastor Roger Godfredsen, we will have a meet & greet on July 2nd to welcome him to St Johns.



July Church Calendar

Sunday, July 2 (Holy Communion)

9:00AM Worship
10:00AM Meet & Greet with Pastor Roger
Coffee & fellowship

Tuesday, July 4



Wednesday, July 5

4:30PM Prayer Time

Thursday, July 6

5:30PM The Kitchen Table Meal

Sunday, July 9

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

Tuesday, July 11

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

Wednesday, July 12

4:30PM Prayer Time
7:00PM Church council Mtg.

Thursday, July 13

5:30PM The Kitchen Table Meal

Sunday, July 16 (Holy Communion)

9:00AM Worship
10:00AM Coffee & fellowship
10:15AM Special Congregational Meeting
Kayla Moe Appreciation

Wednesday, July 19

4:30 PM Prayer Time

Thursday, July 20

Newsletter Deadline

5:30PM The Kitchen Table Meal
6:30PM WoW

Friday, July 21

2:00PM Bingo @ St. John's
Home

Sunday, July 23

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

Tuesday, July 25

3:00-5:00PM Pro-Kinship

Wednesday, July 26

4:30 PM Prayer Time

Thursday, July 27

5:30PM The Kitchen Table Meal

Sunday, July 30

9:00AM Noisy Offering/Hymn Sing Worship
10:00AM Coffee & fellowship

CANCELLATION NOTICE:

Creating a Welcoming Environment for the Holy Spirit by LCMC service director Mike Bradley has been canceled due to conflicting schedules.



July 2 (Holy Communion)

Lay Readers..... Kayla Moe
Com Asst..... Courtlyn Runck, Sarah Kottke
Acolytes Jalyn Louwagie
Birthday Reader Courtlyn Runck

July 9

Lay Reader TBD
Acolytes Jalyn Louwagie
Birthday Reader Russell Beers

July 16 (Holy Communion)

Lay Reader April Beyer
Com Asst Annie Holles, Ethan Louwagie
Acolytes Jalyn Louwagie
Birthday Reader Alayna Beyer

July 23

Lay Reader TBD
Acolytes Jalyn Louwagie
Birthday Reader Jaelyn Batzlaff

July 30

Lay Reader TBD
Acolytes Jalyn Louwagie
Birthday Reader Blaise Louwagie

JULY USHER

Curt Frederiksen

With Time, Comes Change

Change is a word that we struggle with. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, St. John's has been undergoing much change. People come, and people go, and the way we do things changes, a few years ago, there were four Circles, and now we have one. We can look at several reasons for this, but the fact remains that change is inevitable. It's up to us to decide how we will react to change. A group of women has been gathering once a month for the last year in an attempt to keep a women's group alive at St. John's. It is a lot like the circles we used to have. We now have the Women of St. John's, aka "WOW," instead of Leah Circle, Mary-Martha Circle, Rachel Circle, and Esther Circle. We meet on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM. There is a Bible Study, a business meeting, dessert, coffee, and of course, fellowship. It's a change that isn't a change. As more women attend, we hope to return to Circles. If you participated in a woman's group or wished you had, this is the group for you. Please consider attending a meeting, all are welcome and we'd love to have you join us.



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. John's 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. John's have been working on this year's Fall Gathering but it will require more women to make this a success. The Women of St. John's 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 Leaguers 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. John's Women.

Registration form is available at
www.augustanadistrict.org/church/women-of-the-word

We have a few openings for volunteers for the WOW gathering in September, please sign up in the fellowship hall.

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

July 1

Mitchell Johnson

July 3

Brian Thoreson
Chelsea Wenisch

July 4

Frank Schnobrich

July 5

Ella Kottke

July 8

Troy Hoyt
Matt Tews

July 11

Aubree Paplow

July 12

Wade Anderson

July 13

Joe Korkemeier

July 15

Marynda Anderson
Michelle Anderson

July 16

Brandon Hensch
Axel Schwarzrock

July 17

Stacy Koopman

July 18

Sherri Ellefson
Annabella Holles

July 19

Terry Anderson
Logan Shoen



July 20

Lynn Anderson

July 21

Cheri Turbes

July 22

Carter Hillesheim

July 24

Todd Wells
Stephanie Friesner
Rick Louwagie
Jay Anderson

July 25

Abbie Holles
Mason Leonard

July 28

Andrew Ramos

July 29

Jerome Mathis
Emily Scholtz

July 30

Lee Coyour
Logan Richert

July 31

Tyson Hornick
Jaxon Hornick



July 2

Benjamin & Amber Hauger

July 7

Grant & Diane Lade

July 8

Chris & Laura Scholtz
Jacob & Laura Anderson

July 9

Brian & Julie Hogan

July 11

Doug & Kelsey Nylander-Walker Jr.

July 14

Del & Jodi Dalsgaard
Warren & Cathy Hauger
Joe & Jenny Anderson

July 17

Christopher & Joeli Kretsch

July 20

Doug & Brigette Brown

July 21

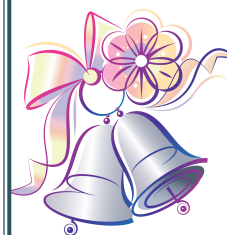
Jeremy & Anna Dressen

July 25

Chris & Sally Richert

July 30

Darv & Kaye Voge
Jay & Lisa Anderson



Congratulations to Adam Anderson & Karley Zarn who will be united in marriage on Saturday, July 22, 2023. We pray for God's blessings on their union and wish you many wonderful years together.

THANK YOU

Thank you, Lori Milbrath for providing our birthday and anniversary lists. Your help is very appreciated.

St. John's Lutheran Church – Church Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

In attendance: Andrew Hauger, Rod Smith, Brian Meier, Sue Anderson, Chris Petersen, Tracie Berg, Brenda Krieger, Chad Thram, April Beyer, David Milbrath, and Adam Beers

Absent: Todd Wells, Pastor Denton Bennet Called to order by Andrew Hauger at 8:13 pm.

Brenda Krieger opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

Secretary's Report: 1) No additions or corrections. m/s/c Rod Smith/Brian Meier

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Andrew Hauger. 1) Bank accounts as April 30, 2023: General account \$77,974.94; Dedicated account \$101,675.14. m/s/c Adam Beers /Chris Petersen

Board of Education Report: Presented by April Beyer.

- 1) Church Council is hosting the fellowship snack for after 5/21/23 service.
- 2) Confirmation is during the 5/21/23 service.
- 3) VBS is 6/11-6/13 at St. Paul's Church and the hours are 6:00 pm-8:15 pm. There are still need for more volunteers.
- 4) Sunday School was gifted money from the Shively annuity and one consideration to use some of the funds is to replace the Sunday School rooms flooring.

Board of Trustees' Report: Presented by Andrew Hauger.

- 1) Reviewed monthly financial statements and disbursements.
- 2) Church's lawn mower was serviced.
- 3) West door latch was repaired by Andrew Hauger.
- 4) Electrician has been recontacted about the basement heating and that service call should be completed soon.
- 5) Dave Milbrath contacted Shelly Anderson about having Steve come to look at the screen. We may need to find a different resource.

Board of Deacons' Report: Presented by Rod Smith.

- 1) Communion assignments for April are:
 - a) 6/4- Adam Beers set-up, Rod Smith & Brenda Krieger to assist.
 - b) 6/21 Sue Anderson set-up, Todd Wells & Rod Smith to assist.
- 2) Regarding membership changes for the month of April:
 - a. Baptisms: 0
 - b. Transfers in: 0
 - c. Transfers out: 0
 - d. Funerals(visitation): 1- Frances Bast(memorial service 6/20/23)
 - e. Inactive list: 0
 - f. Removal: by request: 0
 - g. Requested membership: 0
- 3) Discussion took place about handling leading sermons beginning on 5/28/23. Adam Beers will contact Augustana District about finding "stocked" sermons for upcoming services.
 - i. May 28: A deacon will lead service.
 - ii. June 11: Dave Milbrath or Brian Meier will lead along with a Gideon message.

Pastor's Report: Presented by Andrew Hauger

- 1) Pastor Bennet wanted us to contact Pastor Tricia Mattson about our role in the Riverside Days community service. It was determined that our congregation will attend the Riverside Days service if it is still held. m/s/c Brian Meier/Chris Petersen

Discussions:

- 1) Stewardship & Evangelism: Women of the Word Conference is being held in September at St. John's Church. Vendors will be attending. m/s/c David Milbrath/Adam Beers
- 2) Worship and Music: 5/14/23 is the pastor appreciation service.
- 3) Children, Youth, and Families: No reports provided.
- 4) Other- David Milbrath reported that the Last Youth Bowling night was a success.
- 5) Summer council meetings will begin at 7:00 pm. m/s/c Rod Smith/Brian Meier

Old Business:

- 1) Inactive membership plan: Brian Meier generated a letter for consideration. Some mild modifications were discussed. Next council meeting we will go through list and will address envelopes to send out to current members.
- 2) Pictorial Directory- Re-addressed this topic and the directory can be held until we have a new pastor hired. This will occur during the week of 8/14(Tuesday-Saturday) for those that can't attend will be able to submit a picture.

New Business:

- 1) John Mueller sent communication that their council offered an invitation to our council to meet about having conversations about different avenues we can partner with St. Paul's Church in possible future. Chris Petersen, Brian Meier, and Adam Beers will meet at a future date to discuss such avenues.
m/s/c David Milbrath/Brian Meier

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Adjourn: m/s/c All

Next meeting: June 14th @ 7:00pm. Secretary, Adam Beers



Let's get together on Sunday, July 16, after worship, to thank Kayla Moe for all her years as the church secretary and to wish her best of luck on her new adventures.

Our deepest sympathies...

To the Margaret Moe family, who was laid to rest on June 2nd, 2023. May our God of love and grace bring you comfort and peace.

Meeting

A brief Special Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, July 16, 2023 after the 9am worship service for those who have accepted the call to serve on the Pastor Call Committee.

WORLD HUNGER

The Stewardship committee has decided the 2nd quarter world hunger funds will be given to the Partners for Housing to help those need in the St Peter and Mankato Area. 2nd Quarter benevolence allocations will be decided at the next meeting.

Thank you to the Fran Bast Family for the gift of 2 metal easels. The new easels are in the Flower Room for general use.

We have also received:

- ◆ \$20 Donation Memorial for Fran Bast
- ◆ 5.00 Donation Memorial for Margaret Moe
- ◆ 50.00 Donation Memorial for Margaret Moe
- ◆ 50.00 Donation Memorial for Margaret Moe-Flower Fund
- ◆ 25.00 Donation Memorial for Margaret Moe-Library Fund



Coming Soon!

OUR NEW

Directory!



St. Johns Lutheran Church Church Photo Directory

Photos will be taken August 15 - 19, 2023

We are putting together a church directory and it is our hope that you will ALL participate. Participants will receive a free 8"x10" photo and the church directory free – just make an appointment to have your photo taken.

You can do this on-line in four easy steps by scanning the QRCode below or by visiting www.ucdir.com.

1. Enter Church code: **mn357**
2. Enter Password: **photos**
3. Select the date you want and fill in the information required.
4. Click "Save Appointment" at the bottom

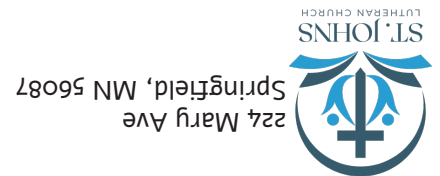
Alternatively, you may call VerJean (507.227.2067) or Laurie K. (507.829.1289) and they will help get you scheduled.

Those of you who have children who are still members and no longer living in the area, please contact them to see if they'd like to be included. A "portrait" photo (not landscape) may be submitted for \$15 and they also will receive a church directory.

The only costs are submitting a photo or ordering a photo package through the photographer. Otherwise this is free. We ask that everyone please plan to participate.



place
POSTAGE
Here



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

Volunteers can sign up on the
lists by the offices.

ARK ENCOUNTER®

Join St. Johns and friends as we take an adventure of biblical proportions! We're heading to the Ark and Creation Museum in Kentucky, where we'll walk in the life-size Ark and experience the Bible stories as they come alive.

- ◆ Deposit: \$200
- ◆ Available Seats: 30

For Full Details, Contact: Linda Meier, 507-531-0147
Sign-Up Deadline is July 9, 2023



St Johns Council has decided to continue providing RIGHT NOW MEDIA resource library/videos to our congregation. Have you checked it out? Need a link? Call or email the church. We will send an email to create your free account, and start browsing.

Church email: sjlcspringfieldmn@gmail.com