

April Newsletter

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

DEVOTIONAL: SUNRISE IS COMING!

"But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen."

Luke 24:1-5

Here, in the depths of the Lenten Season, we start looking for the glories of Easter morning. Your pastors, worship planners and choirs are letting the "Alleluias" seep out a little early. The planning is well underway, the music is selected, and the celebration is laid out. Yet, here we still are, in the depths of the Lenten Season, in the solitude of the road to the cross, in the purple-ness of the journey.

Isn't this life as a whole? Isn't our whole life spent this way? In the midst of our day-in and day-out routines, in the midst of the gloomy news on T.V. and in the papers, in the midst of attending funerals, and tending to the ill aren't we looking forward to the glory and the "Alleluias?" Isn't this our lives? Granted, there are bright spots of births, and birthdays to celebrate, newlywed couples to toast, and accomplishments to hail. Rainbows appear after the rains, and the sun peaks through the storm clouds. Life is not all a Lenten journey... or is it?

"Why do you look for the living among the dead?" We look for the living among the dead because Christ has given us life. We look for the living among the dead because the author of life dwells within us. We look for the living because Christ has promised us life. We look for, and forward to, life. So, whether we are tending to the sick, or grieving, or celebrating a newborn, we look for life. We look for the Living One, the giver of life. And, in all of our looking, He is looking back at us. He is looking at you, celebrating you and your life here, and your life in the world to come. He is the source of life for all the living. He rejoices over your now. He rejoices also, over your life to come.

Pastor Becky Hand,
AD Program Coordinator

April 28 is the last day of Sunday School, but we would also like to recognize our Sunday School Teachers that day, so please join us, Sunday April 28 to say "Thank You" to those that taught this year.

Teachers are Dennis Youngerberg, TJ Smith, John Holles, Dave Milbrath, Kari Smith, Lori Milbrath, Denise Hauger, Emma Hauger, Gabby Anderson, Brenda (Nick) Anderson, Ericka Wells, Lucas Milbrath



The Sunday School children will perform with the Senior Choir during the service on April 28th. Please bring your child to the rainbow room by 8:30am for a final rehearsal. Thank you!

April Church Calendar

Tue, April 2

9:00 AM

Quilting

Wed, April 3

5:15 PM - 6:45 PM

6:15 PM

7:00 PM

Kitchen Table Ministry
Confirmation
Choir Practice

Thu, April 4

9:00 AM

10:15 AM

Bible Study
Prayer Time

Sun, April 7

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

10:15 AM

Sunday Service
Fellowship Coffee
Sunday School

Tue, April 9

9:00 AM

3:00 - 5:00 PM

Quilting
Pro Kinship

Wed, April 10

5:15 PM - 6:45 PM

6:15 PM

7:00 PM

8:00 PM

Kitchen Table Ministry
Confirmation
Choir Practice
Council Mtg.

Thu, April 11

9:00 AM

10:15 AM

Bible Study
Prayer Time

Sun, April 14

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

10:15 AM

Sunday Service
Fellowship Coffee
Sunday School

Tue, April 16

9:00 AM

Quilting

Wed, April 17

5:15 PM - 6:45 PM

6:15 PM

7:00 PM

Kitchen Table Ministry
Confirmation
Choir Practice

Thu, April 18

9:00 AM

10:15 AM

6:30 PM

Bible Study
Prayer Time
WoW

Fri, April 19

2:00 PM

Bingo

Sat, April 20

9:00 - 11:00 AM

Anderson Baby Shower

Sun, April 21

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

10:15 AM

Sunday Service
Fellowship Coffee
Sunday School

Tue, April 23

9:00 AM

3:00 - 5:00 PM

Quilting
Pro Kinship

Wed, April 24

5:15 PM - 6:45 PM

6:15 PM

7:00 PM

Kitchen Table Ministry
Confirmation
Choir Practice

Thu, April 25

9:00 AM

10:15 AM

Bible Study
Prayer Time

Sun, April 28

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

10:15 AM

Sunday Service
Fellowship Coffee
Sunday School (last day!)

Tue, April 30

9:00 AM

Quilting

April Worship Helpers

Lay Readers are needed. Sign up sheet is in the fellowship hall.

April 7

Acolytes..... Tyler Petersen, Jalyn Louwagie
Communion Asst. Brady Anderson, Bowen Eberhard
Birthday Reader Brady Anderson
Reader..... Karen Shiveley

April 14

Acolyte Logan Shoen, August Saffert
Birthday Reader Logan Shoen
Reader..... Carlotta Lindeman

April 21

Acolyte Preston Anderson, Conner Schmitt
Communion Asst Gabby Anderson, Jaden Hornick
Birthday Reader Gabby Anderson
Reader..... Sandy Hesse

April 28

Acolyte Camden Guhlke
Birthday Reader Thomas Beers
Reader..... TBD



Thank You

A Big Shout Out to all those that helped with the Lenten/Holy Week and Easter Season, from music to altar committee to readers to the ushers with all the extra efforts we needed for our worship services this past season. Thank You!



Newsletter Deadline

All information is due
Apr 25th at days end.
Thank you!

Happy Birthday!

April 2
Randy Haseleu
Becky Nielson
Pyper Anderson

April 3
Kaelyn Yokiel

April 4
Emma Wenisch

April 5
Sarah Wenisch

April 7
Kaleb Wenisch
Mariah Anderson

April 9
Don Koopmann
VerJean Luense

April 10
Tabor Runck

April 12
Declan Gordon

April 16
Sally Anderson
Grant Lade

April 17
Jonathan Anderson
Denise Hauger
Brianne Luckman

April 19
Brian Runck
Kristie Yokiel
Aiden Imker

April 22
Collin Ahlness
Becky Wandersee

April 23
Karson Herfurth

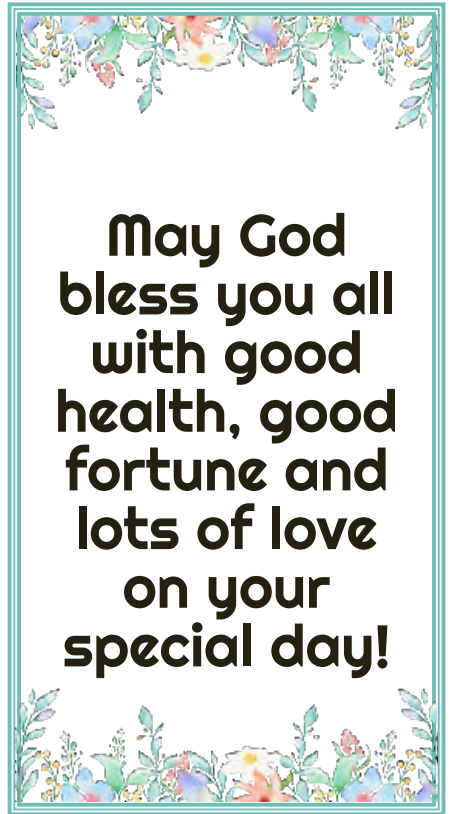
April 24
Shawn Anderson

April 25
Jenny Anderson

April 26
Paul Anderson
Del Dalsgaard
Rob Hansen

April 28
Ron Kettner
Lucas Milbrath
Easton Jensen

April 30
Blaine Anderson
Janelle Tews



Happy Anniversary!

April 2
Steve & Cindy Gewerth

April 5
Glen & Val Graff

April 7
Lynn & Nancy Anderson

April 11
Ivan & Darlene Anderson

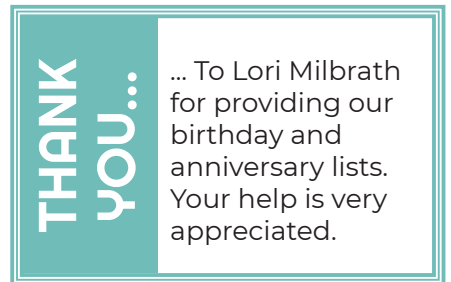
April 13
Gregg & Heather Anderson

April 19
Butch & Andrea Guhlke

April 22
Todd & Joy Wells

April 25
Jordan & Jessica Haala

April 27
Nick & Brenda Anderson



Keep an eye out for the Summer VBS information meeting coming in late April. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Marian Thorston is collecting \$5.00 donations for the St. Johns Home Auxiliary until the end of March. Envelopes are available in the Fellowship Hall, in front of the mailbox, if you would like to donate. Please give your donation to Marian directly or place it in her church mailbox.



Thank you to Janet and Yvonne for volunteering to take communion to our members that are homebound or are in assisted living.

If you know of anyone from St John's that we may have missed who would like to receive communion please contact the church office via phone or email to get them on the list.



IN SEARCH OF...

We are looking for two delegates to attend the Augustana District LCMC Convention at Mt Carmel in Alexandria on Saturday April 27. Please contact the church office at 507-723-5397 or email sjlcspringfieldmn@gmail.com if you are interested.

St. John's Lutheran Church – Church Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Deacons: Rod Smith, Janet Groff, Todd Wells, Randy Haseleu, Brenda Krieger Trustees: Dave Milbrath, Brian Meier, Nick Anderson, Curt Saffert, Lynn Anderson Additional Attendees: Tracie Berg, Gilbert Anderson, Brenda Anderson

Absent: none

Called to Order by sitting Vice-President Rod Anderson at 8:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Deferred due to Council meeting taking place after Lenten Service. Volunteers for open council positions were received and accepted by unanimous vote. m/s/c

President: Lynn Anderson Vice President: Rod Smith Secretary: Brenda Krieger Treasurer: Gilbert Anderson

Secretary's and Stewardship Reports:

Reviewed reports and accepted as written. m/s/c Dave Milbrath/Brian Meier

Treasurer's Report:

- 1.) Balance of Accounts as of 01/31/2024
 - a.) General Account \$97,836.05
 - b.) Dedicated Account \$93,617.91
- 2.) Noted that new signers will need to be added to both Red Rock and F & M banks. Also, Kari Schultz, Andrew Hauger, and Sue Anderson will need to be removed from both banks' signature cards. Lynn Anderson, Gilbert Anderson, and Rod Smith volunteered to accept signatory responsibilities. m/s/c Dave Milbrath/Brian Meier

Board of Education Report: Presented by Brenda Anderson

- 1.) Confirmation: Dave & Lori Milbrath, Adam Beers, and Rick Louwagie have been leading classes. They have covered the items/curriculum that were scheduled as well as several other topics.
- 2.) Three confirmation students will read their faith statements at 7 p.m. on May 8 at the council meeting.
- 3.) The Board of Ed. will be researching confirmation curriculum that can stay the same regardless of who is teaching.
- 4.) The youth have had very positive comments on what they have learned in Confirmation, and they have enjoyed the discussions that have taken place.
- 5.) Sunday School: Going well. Will continue with "Grow" curriculum until end of Sunday School year (April 28th). At that time, new curriculums will be evaluated.
- 6.) The children will sing during April 28th worship service (last day of Sunday school).

Board of Trustees' Report: Presented by

- 1.) xxx
- 2.) xxx

Board of Deacons' Report: Presented by Rod Anderson

- 1.) Communion assignments for March:
 - a.) 03/03: Set up - Rod/Janet; Assist – Janet/Brenda
 - b.) 03/17: Set up - Brenda/Janet; Assist - Janet/Brenda
- 2.) Membership changes for the month of January 2024:
 - a.) Baptisms..... 0
 - b.) Transfers In 0
 - c.) Transfers Out..... 0
 - d.) Funerals/Visitations..... 1 Jean Youngerberg
 - e.) Inactive List 0
 - f.) Removal by Request..... 2 Curt & Diane Thram
 - g.) Requested Membership..... 0
- 3.) Worship Leader
 - a.) 02/18/24..... T.J.
 - b.) 02/21/24..... Rod
 - c.) 02/25/24..... Rod
 - d.) 02/28/24..... Rod

- e.) 03/03/24..... TBD
- f.) 03/10/24..... Brian
- g.) 03/17/24..... TBD
- h.) 03/24/24..... TBD
- i.) 03/31/24..... TBD

Discussed alternate worship leader/sermon delivery options, including Gideon's speaker, prepared messages, etc. Will reach out to Cooper to see if he is able/willing to lead worship on Palm Sunday and/or Easter Sunday.

- 1.) Joan Youngerberg funeral officiated by Chaplain Noel Wetter.
- 2.) Deacons would like to begin visiting members in nursing homes, hospitals, shut-ins, etc. to provide fellowship and communion. This would include those in surrounding communities. Would like to purchase pre-packaged communion wine/wafer cups for these visits.

m/s/c Dave Milbrath/Brian Meier

Pastor's Report: N/A Discussions:

- 1.) Dave M. initiated a conversation re: potential/future need for pastoral housing. No action taken at this time.

New Business:

- 1.) Our representative at the nursing home, Darwin Voge, mentioned that they would appreciate any donation we might offer for Bingo or other activities. A donation of \$10/month was suggested.
m/s/c Dave Milbrath/Rod Smith
- 2.) The Pastor from Food for the Poor Ministry: We have donated to their ministry previously. Decided to discontinue monthly donation.
m/s/c Dave Milbrath/Rod Smith.

Closing Prayer: All

Adjourn: Rod Smith/Janet Groff m/s/c

Next Meeting: 03/13/24 at 8:00 p.m.

Secretary, Brenda Krieger

Memorials received from Jan 1 to March 20, 2024

- ✝ Jean Youngerberg - \$313.50 with \$50.00 going to the St Johns Choir
- ✝ James Lindeman - \$538.50 with \$25.00 going to the St Johns Choir



The Minnesota FoodShare/March Campaign brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help keep over 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over \$18 million to March Campaign participating food shelves via the Minnesota FoodShare Food-Fund. 100% of donations received by Minnesota FoodShare during the March Campaign go into the Food-Fund.

2024 MARCH CAMPAIGN WILL RUN THROUGH APRIL 6, 2024.

Please consider making a monetary donation or food donation to the Springfield Area Food Shelf during this campaign. Collection boxes have been placed in the local churches in Springfield/Comfrey as well as the local Springfield Market. ***Please do not put cash donations in the collection boxes.***

Mailing address is:
Minnesota Food Share
PO Box 15
MN 56087

If you have questions, please call Shari Koll at 507-227-0386, you may also leave a message on the food shelf phone 507-723-3663.

**St. Johns Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 13, 2024**

In attendance: Rod Smith, Janet Groff, Todd Wells, Brenda Krieger, Randy Haseleu, Dave Milbrath, Brian Meier, Nick Anderson, Lynn Anderson, Gilbert Anderson, Brenda Anderson, Curt Saffert, Tracie Berg. Guests: Josh Palmer, Josh Anderson

Called to Order by Lynn Anderson at 8:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer: [Stayed due to Lenten service prior to meeting]

Secretary's Report: Reviewed. Addition as follows:

Moved to make the Choir Director a permanent member of the Music Committee. Remainder of report accepted as written. m/s/c Brian Meier/ Dave Milbrath

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Gilbert Anderson

- 1.) Balance of Accounts as of 02/29/2024:
 - a.) General Account \$85,545.10
 - b.) Dedicated Account \$111,908.71
- 2.) Financial reports reviewed and accepted as presented.

m/s/c Brian Meier/ Dave Milbrath

Board of Education Report: Presented by Brenda Anderson

- 1.) VBS: St. Johns hosting. Planning meeting date TBD. Primary need is for help with setting up. Looking into partnering with St. Paul's. Biggest concern is having enough volunteers from both congregations. Suggestion made to possibly use Confirmation students as volunteers.
- 2.) Special thanks to Josh Palmer for helping with A/V.
- 3.) Sunday School students will sing on Palm Sunday.
- 4.) Sunday School will not be held on Easter Sunday Last day of Sunday School will be April 28th. Sunday School Teachers' appreciation and Baccalaureate gifts will be presented on April 28th.
- 5.) This year's HS Seniors will again participate in worship on Baccalaureate Sunday.
- 6.) Coffee hour servers for April 28th: Board of Ed. & Church Council will serve.

m/s/c Brenda K./Lynn A.

Board of Trustees' Report: Presented by Dave Milbrath

- 1.) Discussion regarding Grinnell Mutual Insurance. No change at this time.

Board of Deacons' Report: Presented by Rod Smith

- 1.) Communion assignments for March/April:
 - a.) 03/17: Set-up - Janet; Serve: Todd, Randy
 - b.) 3/24: Palm Sunday – No Communion
 - c.) 03/28 (Maundy Thursday): Set-up – Todd; Serve: Brenda, Randy
 - d.) 3/31: Easter 7 a.m.: Progressive Communion
Set-up – Janet; Serve: Pastor Carl (from St. Paul's) Rod, Brenda
 - e.) 04/07: Set up - Rod; Serve: Janet, Brenda, Randy
- 2.) Membership changes for the month of February 2024:
 - a.) Baptisms..... 0
 - b.) Transfers In..... 0
 - c.) Transfers Out..... 0
 - d.) Funerals/Visitations..... 1 James Lindeman (March 17, 2024 – Noel Wetter)
 - e.) Inactive List..... 0
 - f.) Removal by Request..... Curt and Diane Thram; Phil & Phlayne Gil and Jakob
 - g.) Requested Membership..... 0
- 3.) Worship Leader
 - a.) 03/17/24..... Rod Smith
 - b.) 3/20/24 Lent..... Rod Smith
 - c.) 03/24/24..... Formatted service

d.) 03/28/24..... Maundy Thurs.
e.) 3/29/24..... Good Friday
f.) 3/31/24..... 7 a.m. service
g.) 4/7/24 Gilbert Anderson

Rod Smith
Rod Smith
Pr. Carl Billings from St. Paul's

Other Discussion:

- 1.) Deacons recognized that Phil & Phlayne Gill and son Jakob requested transfer of membership to St. Raphael's Parish.

Pastor's Report: N/A

Discussions:

- 1.) Discussion held regarding the continued tradition of wearing robes to serve communion. Opinions shared: Suggestion made that if attire is appropriate – robes are not needed. *No formal change was made at this time. Youth communion assistants must be confirmed to assist during communion.

Old Business:

- 1.) As reported by Dave Milbrath – Update on the St. Johns and St. Paul's joint committee meeting
 - a.) Continued discussion regarding St. Johns and St. Paul's sharing/pairing for some activities.
 - b.) St. Paul's will welcome our St. Johns student for the fall confirmation classes if St. Johns is still without a full-time pastor.
 - c.) Options for summer services discussed
 - d.) Ecumenical service in the park discussed
 - e.) VBS planning pending
 - f.) Joint activities for youth and adults – bus trip to the Banquet in Sioux Falls, Set up a food packaging event (e.g., Feed My Starving Children in Springfield or at a satellite location; put on a sauerkraut supper jointly
 - g.) Next meeting of the joint committee will be mid-April for continued discussion.

New Business:

- 1.) Luther League will NOT be serving breakfast on Easter Sunday due to the time change to 7 a.m. for worship. (there will not be a second service that day.)
- 2.) Stewardship committee needs to be meeting quarterly with recommendations for projects and benevolence disbursement brought to the Church Council for approval.
- 3.) Deferred to the Stewardship committee: a request from Pr. Jennifer Bennet for donations in support of the upcoming mission trip to Latvia.

Closing Prayer: All

Adjourn: m/s/c All

Next Meeting: 04/10/24 8:00 p.m.

Secretary,
Brenda Krieger

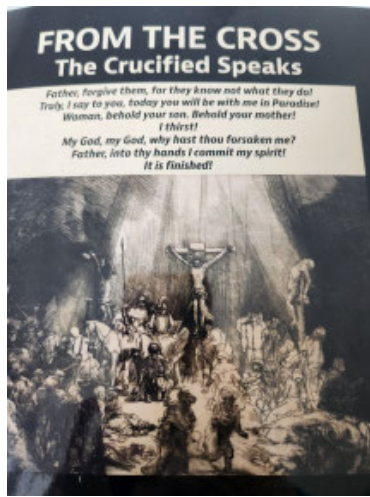
Bridal Shower

All are invited to an open-house bridal shower in honor of Jessica Moe, bride-to-be of Kyle Bailey. June 8 from 1-3 p.m. in the St. Johns Church fellowship hall. Jessie is the daughter of Ken & Kayla Moe. Their wedding will be held on August 24, 2024 in Fargo, ND.



BIBLE CAMP

Lake Ingham Bible Camp and Lake Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp information is up in the Fellowship Hall on the Sign-up Board. Check it out!



The book "From the Cross, The Crucified Speaks" written by Pastor Engebretson is available. This book is a reflection on Jesus's physical, mental, and spiritual distress, while also interpreting the saving meaning of Jesus's final words from the cross. The book views the horror of Good Friday through the lens of Easter and emphasizes that Jesus's death on the cross was not a pitiful tragedy but a joyous victory. The purpose of the book is to help us appreciate what Jesus has done for us, to increase our faith and gratitude. It is ideal for both the Lenten journey and Holy Week.

The book includes Pastor Engebretson's personal stories, hymns, and illustrations, making it an excellent read. He served at St. John's from 1994-2000.

The book is available for purchase for \$10.00. There are order forms in the church library if you would like to make a purchase. If you have any queries or questions, please talk to VerJean.



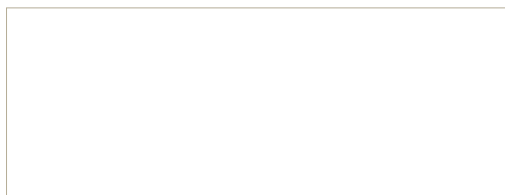
The Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus is excited to present their annual spring dinner show on Monday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Springfield Area Community Center. The show promises to be a great evening of food and music, featuring talented singers from various communities in southwest Minnesota.

Tickets for the show cost \$30.00 per person and include dinner catered by Tommy's, served by the chorus members. Please note that only advance tickets will be sold, and they can be purchased from F&M Bank (507-723-4800), the Springfield Advance-Press (507-723-4225), or from chorus members until Monday, April 1. There will be no tickets available for purchase at the door, so make sure to get yours in advance!

The chorus comprises several singers from the area, including Gary Renner, Jeff Krueger, and Charlie Tews, who are all residents of Springfield. Other area singers include Nathan Hesse from Comfrey, Jim Gode from Sanborn, and Craig Steffen from Lamberton.



Open House Baby Shower for Jacob & Laura Anderson will be here at St Johns Fellowship Hall on April 20th from 9-11am. Invitations will be sent to immediate family members only. Proud grandparents are Lynn and Nancy Anderson.

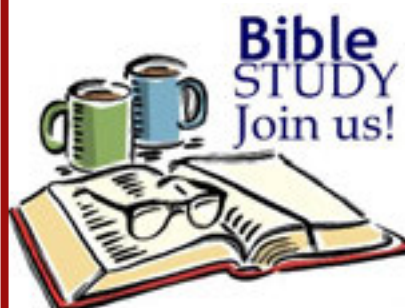


place
POSTAGE
Here

ST. JOHNS
LUTHERAN CHURCH
224 Mary Ave
Springfield, MN 56087



Nursing Home Bingo is the 3rd Friday each month. Volunteers can sign up on the lists by the offices.



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!

Bible study Thursday mornings is now available via Zoom. Contact the church office, and we will need your email address to get you linked in.

CAN YOU HELP?

Missing years of Confirmation: thank you to those who have looked and sent in photos for the missing years. But we are still missing the following years-2011, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. If you have a photo you can share, please send to church email: springfieldmn@gmail.com along with the kid's names.



Did You Know?

Did you know you can re-watch the Sunday services on the local Springfield station? The service airs on Sundays at 7PM and Thursdays at 8PM. Check it out!

Do you want to play or learn how to play 500, Sheep Head, or Pinochle? Join the senior cards event every Thursday at the Community Center from 1:00 to 3:30 PM.

