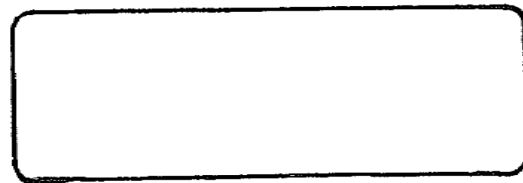




Gods Work Our Hands.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America



Presorted Standard
Non- Profit
Mapleton, MN. 56065
Permit No. 3

Staff

Pastor: Steve Berkeland

berkeland.stjohnslutheran@gmail.com

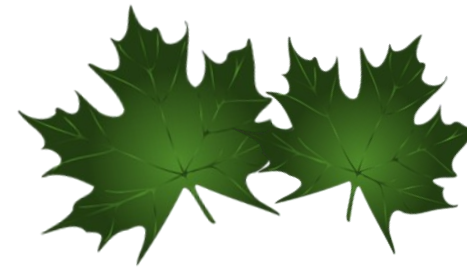
Office & Financial Administrator: Jill Zellmer

Church Custodian: Caryl O'Brien

Office

Office hours are 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, Monday through Thursday, and 9:00 AM-1:00 PM on Fridays.

July, 2020



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

104 CENTRAL AVENUE NORTH

MAPLETON, MN 56065

PHONE: 507-524-3615 EMAIL: stjohslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com

FACEBOOK: St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

Dear Friends of St. John's-

We ARE the Church. WE are the Church. We are THE CHURCH!

From a sermon I preached during June, you might remember me saying:

During the days of 'Stay at Home', 'Stay Sheltered', and 'Stay Safe', I have been grieving the loss of our ability to meet together at church, for times of worship and experiences of fellowship. I have NOT been grieving that the Church has been shut down... because it hasn't been! The church building- this beautiful facility – might be temporarily quiet and mostly empty, but the Church Body (you and me and every partner in the Gospel) can be alive and well and full of finding ways to carry out our primary purpose of sharing God's love through showing our compassion.

The world has been changed over the last few months, with:

- a global pandemic making our bodies sick,
- a heightened awareness of social injustice making our consciences ashamed,
- isolation rules making our relationships fragile,
- riots/job loss/a bear market making our wallets thin, and
- political and civil divisiveness making our stomachs queasy.

Add to that all of the 'regular' ways that sin and the evil one work their way into our lives and work their woes into our hearts, and we can see how the world's changes have made quite an impact.

The Church HAS NOT changed over the last few months (nor over the last 20 centuries). For the Church is:

- the Body of believers on earth,
- created in God's image,
- saved by Christ's life, death and resurrection,
- empowered by the Spirit of God within us,
- washed clean in a baptismal bath, and
- walking along the Way of the Lord.

We are not perfect, but we ARE called and claimed by God, to be God's hands and feet and voices. And THAT can have an impact on the world, because WE ARE THE CHURCH! And God has promised to be faithful to us, as we try to be faithful to Him.

Jesus promised to return to earth, in His full glory, and finish His work of completely redeeming all humanity and all creation. Until then, it is our privilege to do what we can to prepare this place for His arrival. And as we do that, please –

Be safe. Be kind. Be filled with God's peace. Be overflowing with God's love!

Pastor Steve

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PEACE BE WITH YOU

During the current StayHomeMN Order, the church office is not available for normal operations. We continue to broadcast worship services, which you can find on YouTube (search for St. John Mapleton) or use the link on our website: stjohnlutheranelca.com

St. John's staff continues to work limited hours in the office, and then also from home, so please leave a message on the church voicemail or send an email, and it will be read and answered as soon as possible. Feel free to send your offerings or correspondence to:

St. John Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 432
Mapleton, MN 56065

For immediate attention you can contact Jill 507-317-9485.
For pastoral needs, call Pastor Steve 507-399-1842.

We continue to pray for your health and safety and for the community's security and wholeness.

**God' Peace, Comfort and Courage Be With You,
And may God Bless You Today!**

ONLINE SERVICE INFORMATION

To view our online-services please go to:
www.stjohnlutheranelca.com. The link to watch online is located on the **HOME PAGE** or **EVENT PAGE**. There are also links available for you to download to access the bulletin/order of service and the weekly news insert for each service.

YOUTUBE

You may also go to **www.youtube.com** and type in **St. John Church, Mapleton** to view upcoming & previous services.

UPDATES

We will continue to update you all as we receive new information. Listed below is where you will find updates during this time period:

Church Website
(www.stjohnlutheran.elca.com)
Facebook
Church Voicemail (524-3615)
Email Alerts (see details below)

CONTACT INFORMATION

*If you are interested in receiving updates via email, please let the Jill-Office & Financial Administrator know by emailing her at:

stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com

Please include your name and contact information in the body of the email.

YOUTH

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING THEME REVEALED

- The 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering will meet under the theme "boundless: God beyond measure." The theme is based on Ephesians 3:19, "I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is." Participants will explore how they can find themselves within the boundlessness of Christ's love.
- The Gathering will be held June 29-July 3, 2021, in Minneapolis. Visit ELCA.org/Gathering to learn more.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Have you ever thought about teaching Sunday School, well here is your chance. Parish Education is looking for a couple teachers to assist with the upcoming 2020-2021 Sunday School year. We have a classroom that does not have a teacher, classrooms that need a co-teacher and also room helpers for the different grades. Do you have a high schooler that has an interest in helping out the younger kids? This is a perfect opportunity!
- Parish Ed will work with teachers to give the lesson plans for the year along with music and fun activities. These lesson plans allow the teacher to be able to quick ideas for the Sunday lesson that are age specific and fun to do.
- Teaching is a great opportunity to give back to St. John. If you are interested please contact the church office or Julie Lux at jules_1125@msn.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

- Good Earth Village made the decision on Saturday, May 9th to cancel all VBS programing for the 2020 summer. The Parish Ed Committee choose to have the deposits given to Good Earth Village as a donation to their ministry, to help with the challenges the camp is facing right now.



COUNCIL

Name	Title
Jason Kregel	President/Youth/Deacon
Veronica Bruckhoff	Vice President/Church Life
Eric Garbes	Trustee
Josh Hengel	Tech Support/Worship Committee
Mike Sohre	Trustee
Lori Schweer	Deacon/Church Life
Jenny O'Rourke	Parish Education
Bob Decker	Youth Coordinator
Linda Henze	Deacon
Gary Denn	Trustee
Gabe Duncanson	Parish Ed/Youth
Diane Bailey	Secretary/Deacon

Council Members:
Jan– Jenny & Gabe
Feb– Eric & Gary
Mar– Lori & Bob
Apr– Veronica & Diane
May– Lori & Gary
June– Mike & Gabe
July– Linda & Josh
Aug– Jenny & Josh
Sept– Linda & Jason
Oct– Veronica & Diane
Nov– Mike & Bob
Dec– Eric & Jason

If you need to get in contact with a member on the council please call the church office @ 1-507-524-3615.



Here to help

COUNCIL MINUTES

*If you would like to receive a copy of the monthly Church Council Minutes please let the office administrator know by **calling 507-524-3615 or email her at:**
stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com

EGIVING & RESOURCES

EGiving & GivePlus Mobile

St. John's is excited to announce a new eGiving (online giving) and GivePlus mobile option. Through your contributions, the

message of faith can continue to be shared, giving people the strength and compassion needed to make it through difficult times such as these.

As God's people, made in His image, we are giving people. This eGiving service, Vanco, provides tools to make giving simple even when you're unable to attend church, and is safe and secure. Please go to: **www.stjohnlutheranelca.com** and click on the EGIVING TAB. To access the GivePlus Mobile option, please go to your app store on your device and download the GivePlus app to your phone.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

RESOURCES

Worship in the Home is available for each Sunday at **blogs.ELCA.org/Worship**.

Sign up for a **Daily Bible Reading** to be delivered to your email inbox.

Find a **full list of readings** for Sundays, festivals, and daily use is available from **ELCA.org/Lectionary**.

Visit **ELCA.org/PublicHealth** for additional information and resources related to the current COVID-19 crisis.

SYNOD LINKS

Synod Facebook Page: **<https://www.facebook.com/semnsynod/>**

Synod COVID-19 Resources: **<http://semnsynod.org/15628-2/>**

St. John Information

EMAIL METHOD

If you are interested in receiving information via email, please let the office know. The following information will now be available by email:

Newsletter

Weekly Bulletin

Weekly Announcement Insert

Contribution Statements

Please check out our congregation's Facebook page and "like" us. Check us out every few days and "like" some of the inspirational and encouraging pictures and share announcements about events with your friends. This is one easy way to share information about our church and God's Word with others.



Newsletter Deadline: 25th this month
Bulletin Deadline: Thursday (each week)

STREAMING THE SERVICE

What a blessing to be able to worship together, even during this stay-at-home time. Stay connected and current with the St. John Lutheran YouTube channel where you can catch all the latest announcements as well as be inspired with the morning worship service.

Just go to You tube and type in St. John, Mapleton.

From there you can watch any services.

CONTACT/CONNECT

Email: stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com

berkeland.stjohnslutheran@gmail.com

Website: www.stjohnlutheranelca.com

Streaming: Go to www.youtube.com (type in St. John's Mapleton in the search box). From there you will find all the services.

UPCOMING SERVICES

***No in-person Worship until further notice.**

Online Services only.

***Please go to www.stjohnlutheranelca.com to access our online services.**

The "Watch Live Services Link" is available on the HOME PAGE or the EVENT PAGE.

LARGE PRINT INFO/COUNCIL MINUTES

If you would like a **large print copy of the newsletter** or a copy of the **complete council minutes** please let the office know by calling **507-524-3615** or sending an email to:

stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com

*** There will be a First Communion Workshop, for parents and children (any age, decision for family to make) who are interested in preparing to start receiving the sacrament. A date and time for this event is yet to be determined. We will keep you posted once that has been decided on.**

St. John Information

WELCA

-Still looking forward to fundraising for church projects...brunch, fall sale, snowflake dazzle, etc...more details to follow!

-Greetings to everyone! I miss you all so much. Here are some updates from Caryl and myself. The dining room is done. There is new carpet and new curtains. It looks fabulous! We also got rid of all the heavy dishes in the kitchen. A family came to get them all and will hopefully put them to good use. Thank you to all who helped pack those up!

The new dishes are in place and take up only one cupboard! So therefore we have 11 empty cupboards to fill up!! Thank you to the person who donated our new plates. Caryl and I also cleaned out the drawers and cupboards in the kitchen All the drawers and doors are labeled so we know what goes where. When we cleaned out, we found a lot of things that need to be gone!

As soon as church re-opens, we will have a big sale/free-will-offering to get rid of all these pieces. Please come and look even if you don't need another thing! :) We are hoping we can all gather soon but until then please take care of yourself and each other!

**Blessings,
Rita**

QUOTE

All right, who misses hugs? Just remember that by quarantining you are doing your part to keep everyone safe! The regular social etiquette practices no longer apply in the best interest of the greater good. It's a big shift, but we can do it together.



SHOWCASE

We are looking for angels to be showcased in our hutch, located in the dinning room. If you have some to donate/give to the church that are 7 in to 9 in tall, please drop off during the a.m. hours! For more questions pertaining to this please call the church at 507-524-3615.

PHOTOS

We miss your smiling faces at church! Please send us some photos of yourself/your family during the current stay-at-home order! We will broadcast them during Sunday Worship. Please send to:

stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com

Council Letter

At the church council meeting on June 11th, council members discussed the re-opening of the church for in-person worship. The decision has been made to continue with worship online through June. Worship online has been working well, and we hope that everyone has had the opportunity to view it.

Under the Executive Orders of Governor Tim Walz, the church must establish, implement, and post a Covid19 Preparedness Plan in order to re-open. We cannot have in-person worship without an infection prevention plan or without precautions and guidelines in place. The church council and the Worship committee have reviewed much guidance from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), MDH (Minnesota Department of Health), and the ELCA Synod itself. We are also discussing what precautions and guidelines other local churches are putting into place.

Some of the many precautions that have been suggested by the above organizations for our consideration are...

- Churches must communicate with members, that anyone experiencing symptoms of illness stay home. No exceptions.
- If a family member or person living in your home is feeling unwell, all family members and occupants of the house should stay home.
- No singing in unison and no speaking in unison during the service (Singing and speaking in unison further propels the moisture in breath--which is how Covid19 is spread. It has been identified as one of the riskiest behaviors for transmission. A cloth mask is unlikely to protect you or your neighbor during congregational singing.) (Creative music worship will be implemented.) (Small groups or single performers may still provide music if safely distanced from the congregation and from others in the group.)
- Signs will be posted reminding members to maintain 6-foot distance between one another.
- One family per pew with occupied pews at least 6 feet apart.
- Maximum church capacity should be kept @ 50% (or 200 people). (If more than 200 people wanted to attend, we would never discourage it--we would have to consider having 2 services.)
- Only one entrance to the building will be used, and one separate exit.
- All people in the building (over the age of 2) will wear masks to protect others.
- A specific and thorough cleaning plan will be in place.
- No coffee hour after church in the chapel lounge.
- At risk church members should be reminded to stay home (and the congregation should reach out to them in other, safe ways.)

-Continued on next page

Council Letter

- Having a service registration list (guestbook) for contact tracing purposes.
- Hand sanitizer, tissues, & garbage's will be easily available.
- Whether or not Sunday School can happen safely will be discussed.
- If we are to have communion, a safe way to proceed will need to be implemented.
- Hymnals may have to be removed temporarily.
- Pew cushions may have to be removed temporarily.
- If there is evidence of Covid19 spreading in our faith community, stopping in-person worship is advised.

Our safety guidelines and rules will be shared with the Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf.

We will be working on this list and other needed items in June for potential in-person worship in July. Please contact church council members if you have suggestions or want to be involved in getting ready for in-person worship.

Thank you for your understanding of our cautious approach. We are looking forward to your feedback.

We are planning for a social gathering (6 ft. apart) in early July.

Best regards,

Jason Krengel

President

St. John's Lutheran Church

Mapleton, MN

A Special Congrats To:

Jordan & Jenny O'Rourke on the birth of their new son, "**Caleb Michael Richard O'Rourke**", who was born on June 20, 2020.

Tyler and Chelsea Hunstad on the birth of their new son, "**Trey Daron Hunstad**", who was born on June 22, 2020.

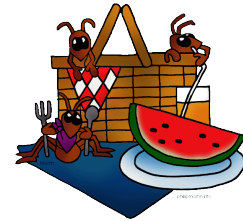


St. John Info

OLD FASHION PICNIC

St. John's will be hosting an "Old Fashion Picnic" on Sunday, July 19 at 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Heritage Park Shelter. Please bring your own food, drink, chairs or a blanket.

Hope that everyone can come and share fellowship!



WORSHIP GATHERING UPDATE

On May 23rd, Gov. Walz eased some of the restrictions that have kept us from gathering in person for regular weekly worship. That is good news, but the freedom to gather does not take away the risk in doing so. The leadership and staff at St. John's will be meeting, thinking and planning for the next, safe steps to take, and any decisions will take some time to implement, along with making any necessary changes to the building.

PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS to stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com so that you can be notified as/when decisions about worship are made and changes take place.

The Endowment committee would like everyone to know that we are now accepting applications for scholarships. There are two main requirements:

First, the scholarships are for expenses **you have incurred, in the school year 2019-2020**, at an institution of higher learning, such as a vocational school, college or university.

Second, applicants must also be a member of St. John Lutheran Church, in Mapleton.

If you qualify, or know of someone who qualifies, the applications are located in a tray outside Jill's office door. Since the Church is only open during the mornings, Jill will email an application to anyone who requests it, simply call or email the church and ask for a scholarship application. There is also an application available on the church website www.stjohnlutheranelca.com which may be downloaded and emailed back to the Church office.

We are asking that the scholarships be returned by July 31st.

Graduating Seniors

SENIORS

Jake Garbes, Ryan Albrecht, Bryan Bennett, Caitlyn O'Brien, Emma Fischer, Treavor Pearson & Bryan Merritt.



We wish you nothing but the best with all your future endeavors! Congratulations to you all! If you would like to send a card to our graduating seniors, their information is below.

Ryan Albrecht

59503 State HWY 30
Mapleton, MN 56065

Jake Garbes

16 Marples Ave.
Minnesota Lake, MN 56068

Bryan Bennett

129 Savannah South.
Mankato MN, 56001

Caitlyn O'Brien

13221 613th
Mapleton, MN 56065

Emma Fischer

PO Box 441
Amboy, MN 56010

*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams!"
- Elenor Roosevelt*