



THE STORY

JUNE 2023

St. John Lutheran Church

PO Box432 104 Central Avenue North Mapleton, MN 56065

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An Old Soldier's Pray

"Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

"Build me a son whose wishes will not take the place of deeds; a son who will know Thee...and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge.

"Build me a son whose heart will be clear, whose goal will be high, a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past.

"And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor, so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom and the meekness of true strength.

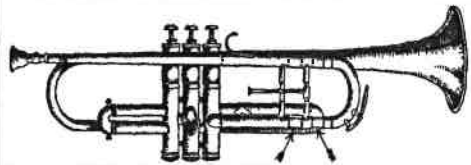
"Then I, his father, will dare to whisper, "I have not lived in vain'."

– Gen. Douglas A. MacArthur



In Search of Paco

There's a Spanish story of a father and son who had become estranged. The son ran away, and the father set off to find him. He searched for months to no avail. Finally, in a last desperate effort to find him, the father put an ad in a Madrid newspaper. The ad read: Dear Paco, meet me in front of this newspaper office at noon on Saturday. All is forgiven. I love you. Your Father. On Saturday 800 Pacos showed up, looking for forgiveness and love from their fathers.



HEAR YE HEAR YE

***Please have all items in the office for the May newsletter by June 17th. PLEASE!! Thank you**

If you receive "to go boxes" from Maggie J's , Panda Express or other restaurants, Please wash and bring to church. We are wanting to eliminate all Styrofoam being used in the church.

Quilting Ladies have wrapped up another year after making 654 quilts, lap robs and pillows. 513 were donated to 15 facilities and 8 miscellaneous. We always welcome gently used or new sheets and fabric.

Endowment Fund Scholarships

St. John Lutheran Church is offering scholarships to members of the congregation. Members must have completed a year/semester in an institution of higher learning, such as a vocational school or college, during the past year. The amount of these scholarships will be at least \$50.00 or more, depending on the number of applicants. Applications for the scholarships will be available in a tray outside Kayla's office door. You may also email the church and ask for a scholarship application, the application will be emailed to you. Anyone who has an interest is encouraged to fill out an application and return it to the Church office by June 17, 2023. Recipients of the scholarships will be determined in early July.

A Celebration of Life service for Ariel Glad will be held on Saturday, June 24th here at St. John's visitation 10:00am visitation, 11:00am service. Ariel passed away in February after a courageous battle with Pancreatic Cancer.

WE HOLD IN PRAYER: Ashlyn Bennett, Larry Albrecht, Ron Swift , Dick & Ann Kuball, Arleen Hanson, Michelle Birr Straumann, Gloria Schuett and Eloise Ward

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS: David Treanor, Robert Kregel, Cheryl Bergemann, Betty Borsoski, Arlene Tolzman, Betty Aschlager, Orville Halverson and Audrey Annis



Prayers

Nurturing God, by following you, we know you. Help us see your face as we live out your will. Amen

God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever . Amen

June Liturgist

Lisa Manthei

Church Council Members

June

Bev Raimann

Rita Caron

July

Gabe Duncanson

Paul Osmundson

PASTOR'S PAGE

And Now... the REST of the Story!

For over 50 years, Paul Harvey delivered the news, and would conclude his broadcast by describing a true event that had an unexpected twist to it. The 'rest' of the story was the part that most people probably didn't know. The twist was entertaining and informative.

For all of human history, God has delivered GOOD news, and included in that news is a truth that we too often ignore. The 'rest' of God's story is something we too often don't take advantage of, and that is, rest is good for us – it is a gift and a necessity

In the book, *Subversive Sabbath: The Surprising Power of Rest in a Nonstop World*, author A.J. Swoboda explains it this way:

Imagine what Adam and Eve learned about God's generosity from their first impression of him on their first day. Their first knowledge of God and the world God had made was that rest was not an afterthought — rest was of first importance....

Adam and Eve had accomplished nothing to earn this gratuitous day of rest. Sabbath is, in my estimation, the first image of the gospel in the biblical story. God's nature always gives rest first; work comes later... Karl Barth famously pointed out that the only thing Adam and Eve had to celebrate on that first Sabbath was God and his creation.

Jesus, God's Good News in person, made sure that we keep the truth about rest in mind, and made it clear that we can find true rest in him.

Come to me, all you that are weary, and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

As summer begins, my hope is that you will find in it, a time of rest:

- *a break from your routine,
- *a pause from your work,
- *a release from your burden,
- *a rescue from your weariness, and
- *a reunion with your Lord (for that is the ultimate gift that rest can bring).

And a great time to find rest is in worship... I pray that that will be a big part of the REST of your story!

God's rest and peace be with you!

Pastor Steve

St. John Information

CONTACT/CONNECT

Email: stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com

Berkeland.stiohnlutheran@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.

Items for the newsletter can be emailed to: thestory.stjohnlutheran@gmail.com

Spiritually Speaking

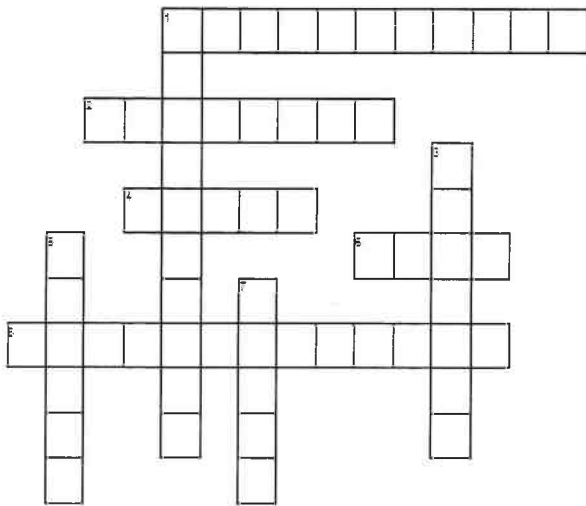
Please check out our congregation's Facebook page and "like" us. Check us out every few days and "like" some of the inspirational and encouraging pictures and share announcements about events with your friends.



This is one easy way to share information about our church and God's Word with others.

Answers can be found on back page

Beatitudes



www.churchhousepuzzles.com © 2011

ACROSS

- 1 Blessed are the _____: for they shall be called the children of God
- 2 Blessed are the _____: for they shall obtain mercy
- 4 Blessed are the pure in _____: for they shall see God
- 6 Blessed are the _____: for they shall inherit the earth
- 8 Blessed are those that hunger and thirst after _____: for they shall be filled

DOWN

- 1 Blessed are they which are _____ for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- 3 _____ are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- 5 Blessed are the poor in _____: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- 7 Blessed are they that _____: for they shall be comforted

E-Mail from God

Get set free

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. John 8:32

My Child,

>Truth is the most freeing thing in the world. When you know the truth and live your life by it, you don't have to make up any excuses or alibis.

When you live in a trufulway , you aren't saying to one person and then trying to remember what you said to whom. You can speak your mind and show your feelings without fear. You can simply be yourself and know It's enough.

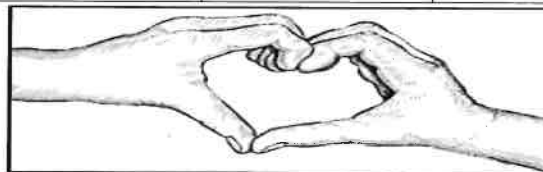
I want you to know the truth deep inside yourself, so that you don't have to waste your energy untangling a lot of lies, fibs and half-truths. I want you to experience the freedom that come with totally honest. Most of all, I want you to know Jesus.

He is the truth.

Your Father

JUNE 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Join us for Coffee Hour following Worship The Stories are amazing!!!				1	2	3
4 8:30 Worship Choir practice 9:30am Worship / communion	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 8:30 Worship Choir practice 9:30am Worship	12	13	14	15 6:30pm church council	16	17
18 8:30 Worship Choir practice 9:30am Worship / communion Canoe Practice 2:30-5:00 pm Bible School 5-7 Happy Father's Day	19 News Letter deadline	20	21	22	23	24 Ariel Glad Funeral Visitation 10:00am 11:00am Service
25 8:30 Worship Choir practice 9:30am Worship	26	27	28	29	30	



ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH—Council Minutes

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH The meeting was called to order by President, Julie Lux at 6:33p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church on May 11, 2023.

Members Present: Aaron Annis (Secretary), Julie Lux (President), Josh Isebrand, Bev Raimann, Royce Woitas Rita Caron, Pattie Krengel, Al Albrecht(Vice President), Cathy Pluym, Gary Denn

Member Absent: Paul Osmundson, Gabe Duncanson

Non-Members: Mike Ward

Opening Prayer: (Pastor)

Secretary's Report: (see attached) Rita Caron motion to approve the minutes and Bev Raimann seconded. Motion carried.

Use of building: no requests received

Committee reports & Council representation:

(New Committee Members)

Parish Ed/Youth Committee: (Julie Lux) Having an ice cream social for the last day of Sunday School, 5/12/23. Three Sundays (June 18, July 16, Aug. 20) for summer VBS sessions. The theme will be water. Times are looking to be 5-7pm. Looking for help.

Mutual Ministry Committee: (Rita Caron) Bringing up to date with new members on mutual ministry.

Endowment Committee: (Mike Ward) Started receiving applications for scholarships, and planning to get scholarships out in the middle of July.

Worship Committee: (Pattie Krengel, Rita Caron, Josh Isebrand) Suggestion to have slides of song text for worship during solos.

Liturgists are set up for the next few months. This Sunday for Mother's Day will be made up of singing of songs by both the Senior choir and the Youth/Children's choir, along with a quilt being given out. St. John's quilters club. Choir will at Songs on the Lawn in August.

A piano is being donated from a member of the church. May 21st is WELCA egg bake. Patti's previous Pastor friend will be coming on June 11th to give Pastor Steve a break.

Church Life Committee: (Cathy Pluym, Julie Lux) Confirmation dinner was on May 3rd. It was a nice evening for the confirmands.

Food was great and many of the confirmands family and mentors were able to attend.

Stewardship Committee: (Mike Ward) No meeting.

Trustees Committee: (Gary Denn, Paul Osmundson, Gabe Duncanson, Aaron Annis) Still working on getting a hold of person for the roof

in the Narthex. Suggest to speak with insurance regarding the water damage. Branches have been cut down to clean up the parsonage.

Stair non slip tape will be replaced within the following week.

Deacons: (Al Albrecht, Patti Kregel, Paul Osmundson, Royce Woitas) There was a great showing last Sunday, 200 people, along

with 4 plus trays were used.

WELCA Committee: (Rita Caron, Bev Raimann) Egg bake coming up in two Sundays (5/21/23). Everything is up and ready to go. They could

use some extra muffins for the sale. Looking for some extra help for that day, cleaning up and serving. Saturday September 23rd, they

will be having a comedian/artist show from 10am to 12(noon). It will be open up to the public. Hoping to have it all in the basement of the church.

Pastor's report: Funeral this Saturday for Elaine Cramer. The Synod Assembly was in Mankato on May 6 (Pattie Kregel, Rita Caron, Pastor Steve attending). It will be held again next year in Mankato during the first weekend of the month of May.

Treasurer's Report: Updates on financials, where the expenses are in comparison to donations/offering. Al Albrecht made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Patti Kregel seconded. Motion carried.

Other

Narthex -

Need for additional inspection with improvement in weather - Shingles will need to be completely redone. Stone on the west side of the church is breaking away from the church.

Stairs work -

Speaker Meeting/Congregation vote - waiting to hear back from Scott about the Speaker. Reaching back out this week.

Prayer Garden - meeting was held on Sunday afternoon with Jeff Annis on how it will look. Project will be starting up soon. At this point, there is the potential for the project to be fully funded. More to come..

Adjourn: With no further business Josh Isebrand motioned to adjourn. Aaron Annis seconded. Motion carried.

Lord's Prayer

Next meeting will be Thursday, June 15, 2023—at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted: Aaron Annis (Church Council Secretary)

“Faith is God’s work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that believers would stake their lives on it a thousand times.” Martin Luther

Just a Little Humor

If you are not allowed to laugh in heaven, I don't want to go there. Martin Luther

Get Rid of Dad?

The children begged for a hamster, and after the usual fervent vows that they alone would care for it, they got one. They named it Danny. Two months later, when Mom found herself responsible for cleaning and feeding the creature, she located a prospective new home for it. The children took the news of Danny's imminent departure quite well, though one of them remarked, "He's been around here a long time—we'll miss him."

"Yes," Mom replied, "But he's too much work for one person, and since I'm that one person, I say he goes."

Another child offered, "Well, maybe if he wouldn't eat so much and wouldn't be so messy, we could keep him."

But Mom was firm. "It's time to take Danny to his new home now," she insisted. "Go and get his cage."

With one voice and in tearful outrage the children shouted, "Danny? We thought you said Daddy!"

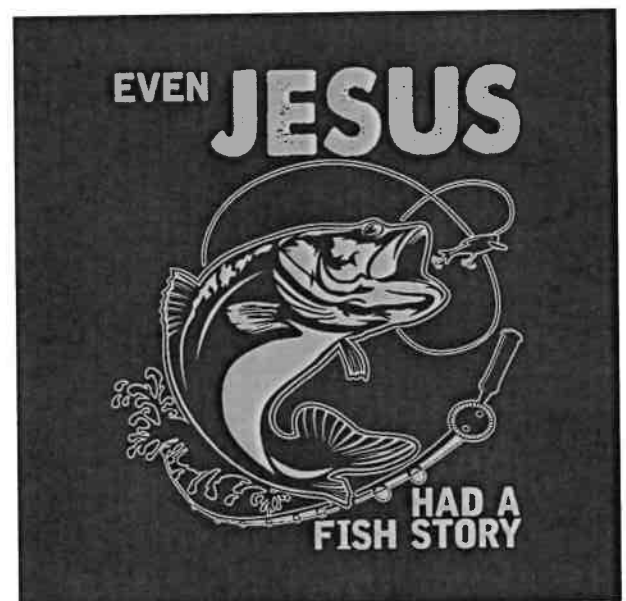
— Ken Board

Dad quotes and a joke

"I've been to war. I've raised twins. If I had a choice, I'd rather go to war." —George W. Bush

Happy Fathers Day, Dad! I wouldn't trade you for anything. Of course, nobody's offered me anything." —Melanie White

What did the buffalo say to his son when he dropped him off at school? Bison.



Daily Discipleship

Congratulations to the 2023 Confirmation Class!

On May 7th, 6 young men and women participated in the Affirmation of Baptism at St. John's. May God's blessings go with them as they begin the next part of their journey of faith. Enjoy some excerpts from the faith statements they provided:

Aaron Hull: Being happy is one of my long-term goals in life and my relationship with God makes me feel like I can accomplish that.

Madison Ward: my relationship with God can help me gain a deeper connection to the world around me.. I want to make the world a better place for God.

Kyera Springer: By trusting God and having faith in Him, He will lead me through my toughest times and always choose what's best for me.

Lily Swalve: You receive God's blessings and in turn, give some of those blessings back to others and care for others.

Addison Frank: God gives me something to live and work for. Having God in my life makes me a better person.

Brady Haas: God has allowed me to keep healthy mental state and has given me a good life.

We pray for all the High School Seniors, as they step into their future. On May 14th, St. John's member, Ethan Kramer, was recognized and congratulated.

Worship Committee

The committee met on 5-4-23. Items of discussion were: The liturgist schedule was reviewed, schedule as follows: May- Josh Isebrand family, June-Lisa Manthei, July- Kristin Duncanson, August- Mike & Annette Ward. Rita will work on finding liturgist for September.

Worship Committee would like to have the youth acolyte but will work towards getting youth ready by September. A service of music will be held on Mother's Day with all music groups participating. Additional music services are planned for the summer and again on Christmas Eve.

A special quilt drawing will be held on Mothers Day and Fathers Day. Thank you quilters!

Slides showing the lyrics for special music will be included each service.

An ecumenical service at Heritage Park is planned for October 8 th . This will take the place of the regular service on that date. In case of rain, the service will be held at the school.

Next meeting will be held on June 1 st at 6:00 PM.

With no further business, the meeting closed with the Lord's prayer and adjourned.

Denise Nienow

FAITHFULNESS

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Open to all Sunday School age students Pre-K (age 3) - 6th grade as of the 23/24 school year.

Held at St. John Lutheran Church

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Snack will be provided

Please RSVP

via the Google Form that was emailed out or email stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com

SUNDAY, JUNE 18 | NOAH'S ARK

SUNDAY, JULY 16 | JONAH AND THE BIG FISH SUNDAY,

AUGUST 20 | WALKING ON WATER

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FAITHFULNESS

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP

God Creating the Father

When the good Lord was creating fathers he started with a tall frame. And a female angel nearby said, "What kind of father is that? If you're going to make children so close to the ground, why have you put fathers up so high? He won't be able to shoot marbles without kneeling, tuck a child in bed without bending, or even kiss a child without a lot of stooping." And God smiled and said, "Yes, but if I make him child-size, who would children have to look up to?"

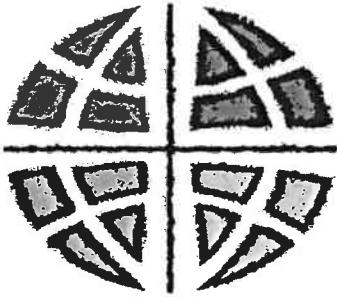
And when God made a father's hands, they were large and sinewy. And the angel shook her head sadly and said, "Do you know what you're doing? Large hands are clumsy. They can't manage diaper pins, small buttons, rubber bands on pony tails or even remove splinters caused by baseball bats." And God smiled and said, "I know, but they're large enough to hold everything a small boy empties from his pockets at the end of a day...yet small enough to cup a child's face in his hands."

And then God molded long, slim legs and broad shoulders. And the angel nearly had a heart attack. "Boy, this is the end of the week, all right," she clucked. "Do you realize you just made a father without a lap? How is he going to pull a child close to him without the kid falling between his legs?" And God smiled and said, "A mother needs a lap. A father needs strong shoulders to pull a sled, balance a boy on a bicycle, and hold a sleepy head on the way home from the circus."

God was in the middle of creating two of the largest feet anyone had every seen when the angel could contain herself no longer. "That's not fair. Do you honestly think those large boats are going to dig out of bed early in the morning when the baby cries? Or walk through a small birthday party without crushing at least three of the guests?" And God smiled and said, "They'll work. You'll see. They'll support a small child who wants to ride a horse to Banbury Cross, or scare off mice at the summer cabin, or display shoes that will be a challenge to fill."

God worked throughout the night, giving the Father few words, but a firm authoritative voice; eyes that saw everything, but remained calm and tolerant. Finally, almost as an afterthought, he added tears. Then he turned to the angel and said, "Now, are you satisfied that he can love as much as a Mother?" The angel shuteth up.

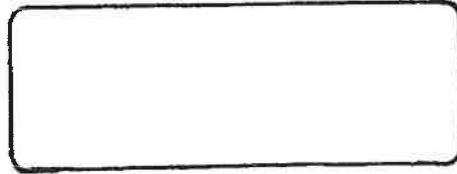
– Erma Bombeck



Gods Work Our Hands.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

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Bits and Pieces: In other words things to remember ;)

Answers to crossword puzzle: Look up Matthew 5:13 ;)

Remember to sign up for Bible School, more information is inside the newsletter.

Endowment Scholarships are due June 17th

Quilting Ladies have wrapped up another year after making 654 quilts, lap
robs and pillows. 513 were donated to 15 facilities and 8 miscellaneous. We
always welcome gently used or new sheets and fabric.



WELCA would like to thank all who participated in serving, brunching and bringing
the egg bakes for the WELCA Breakfast in May.

Great fun, Great food and most of all great conversation.

Compassion.. Commitment.. Community.. In Christ!