



Gods Work. Our Hands.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

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



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

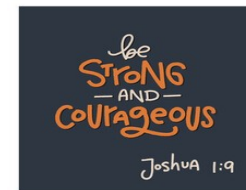
May 4th Confirmation

May 11th the children sing, please have them in their room by 9:10am

May 18th High School Recognition Sunday

To all our fallen heroes: your legacy lives on forever in the memory and heart of the nation. This Memorial Day, let's pay tribute to the heroes who gave everything for our nation. Their courage and sacrifice will always be remembered.

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



THE STORY

May 2025 St. John Lutheran Church

PO Box432 104 Central Avenue North Mapleton, MN 56065

Phone: 507-524-3615 * Email: stjohndlutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com * Facebook: St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

A Child and A Flower

The little town where we lived outside of Augusta, Georgia, was very small. There was an elementary school, flower shop, bank, minute market, family-owned restaurant, and many churches. We knew just about everyone in the community, and everyone knew our youngest son.

He was a friendly child with whitish blonde hair, always zipping around the neighborhood on his red bicycle. Every morning during the summer, he would get dressed, and off he would go for his morning ride. In his travels, he often stopped and talked with our neighbors.

One morning, after being on his bike for a while, he came in and asked me for a dollar. "What do you need a dollar for?"

"I want to go to the flower shop," he said. The flower was about a block away from our house. After that, he often went with me when I would stop and buy some seasonal flowers for the table.

We could buy a bouquet for only a dollar. I figured my son would buy some for me, so I waited for him to come home with his hand full of daisies-my favorites.

After a little while, I saw him peddling towards the house, but instead of stopping, he dashed right on by without even glancing my way. In his hand was a beautiful Shasta daisy.

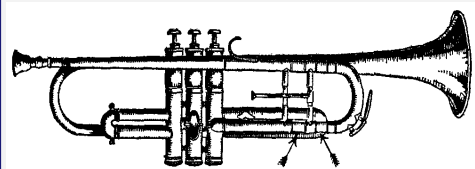
I wondered where he was going, and I watched as he parked his bicycle in our neighbor's yard down the street. We didn't know them very well. They were an older couple who kept pretty much to themselves.

He told me he had taken the flower to our neighbor when he came home. "That was sweet," I told him, "but what made you think of that?" "I heard someone say their son had died," he said, "so I thought I would take a flower to them."

Later, I talked with the neighbors, who told me it was their son's birthday. He had died the year before. It was a painful day for them. They were in their living room, grieving, when they heard a little knock. They opened the door, and a little boy was standing there, holding the beautiful daisy in his hand. He said, "I'm sorry that your son died." The neighbor told us it was the most encouraging thing they had felt. They said it felt like their son was comforting them.

I was fascinated that my 6-year-old son would think of something so important on his own. But it isn't surprising that children can often demonstrate to us the kindest ways to comfort others. When people are hurting, we often think we have to offer them advice on how to get on with their lives or do something big to let them know we care. But a child with a flower and a caring heart is sometimes all they need.

Deanna Landers



HEAR YE HEAR YE

***Please have all items in the office for the June newsletter by May 19. PLEASE and Thank you!**

A new calendar for 2025 is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway of the Education Lobby. This calendar is for the purpose of those who would like to reserve a space for some event. (These would need to be approved by the church council.) Other regular meetings will also be posted.

For more information, please see Anna in the church office.

We are looking for volunteers to be greeters, this is a fun way to share your time and talent aka the gift of gab ;) There will be a sign up sheet for this as well on coffee lounge/chapel lounge door or ask a council member.

Silverware and plastic containers are needed for the kitchen, if you have or go to thrift stores please check out the silverware section, we are short on forks in the kitchen.

Also we are in need of leftover containers. Thank you!

Confirmation Sunday is May 4th

Children sing on May 11th, Please have your child in their rooms by 9:10am

High School Recognition Day is May 18th during worship

WE HOLD IN PRAYER: Ashlyn Bennett, Ron Swift, Larry Albrecht, Loren & Marvel Peterson, Deb Herber, Kirsten Becker, Sybil Solting, Bea Kunz, Carol Annis and Gary Cooper

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS: David Treanor, Audrey Annis, Earlynn Simonson, Cheryl Bergemann and Bonnie Schultz

Prayers

Father, you know us early in the morning; you know us late at night. You know us when we're weak; you know us when we are strong, Father, remind us that you still care and that you still love us. Amen

Liturgist

Church Council

May

Josh Isebrand

Donna Pakannon

June

Royce Woitas

Brianna Carey

FAITHFULNESS

Stories of Two Americans who were awarded the Medal of Honor for making the ultimate sacrifice

Private First Class Anthony T. Kaho'ohanohano was born on July 22, 1930, in Wailuku, Maui, then part of the territory of Hawaii. His father and all five of his brothers served in the military. So it was natural that he joined the Hawaii National Guard after high school and then enlisted in the Army in February 1951. Kaho'ohanohano was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division in Korea. On September 1, 1951, the twenty-one-year-old was leading a machine gun squad near Chup'a-ri, just north of the 38th Parallel, when a large North Korean attack forced U.S. troops to retreat. Though Kaho'ohanohano was shot in the shoulder, he decided to return to his original position to provide firing cover as his company withdrew. His last words to them were, "I've got your back." Kaho'ohanohano faced the assault alone with his machine gun and grenades. When he ran out of ammunition, he grabbed a shovel and engaged the attackers in hand-to-hand combat before he was killed. Kaho'ohanohano's bravery inspired his company to launch a successful counterattack. They found him with the bodies of thirteen enemy soldiers. His bravery was initially recognized with the Distinguished Service Cross. His family and friends petitioned for Kaho'ohanohano to be awarded the Medal of Honor. In 2011, sixty years after Kaho'ohanohano made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, some thirty members of his family gathered in the White House as President Barack Obama recognized his valor with the Medal of Honor.

Lance Corporal Miguel Keith was born in San Antonio, Texas, on June 2, 1951. His parents divorced when he was a young boy. His mother remarried, and Keith moved with his mother and stepfather to Omaha, Nebraska. A former teacher remembered him as "never one to sit on the side lines and let others do it all." Keith left high school in January 1969 to join first the Marine Corps Reserve and then the regular Marines Corps. He arrived in South Vietnam that November and was assigned as a rifleman with the 1st Combined Action Group, III Marine Amphibious Force. In the early hours of May 8, 1970, Keith was wounded at the start of a surprise assault by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces on the village where his platoon lived. Despite his wounds, the eighteen-year-old ran toward the attackers, killing five. He was further injured by the shrapnel from a grenade blast. Bleeding heavily, Keith faced off against another twenty-five attackers, killing four and forcing the rest to retreat. However, an enemy soldier coming from another direction shot him in the back. He died thirty minutes later. Keith's bravery helped his fellow Marines and South Vietnamese soldiers hold off the attack. A bronze statue of Keith now stands in a south Omaha park. The USS Miguel Keith was commissioned on May 8, 2021.

FAITHFULNESS

Two Special Days in the Month of May: One for Life and One for Death

Prayer for All Mothers

God our Creator, we pray:

for new mothers, coming to terms with new responsibility ;

for expectant mothers, wondering and waiting;

for those who are tired, stressed or depressed;

for those who struggle to balance the tasks of work and family;

for those who are unable to feed their children due to poverty;

for those whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities;

for those who raise children on their own;

for those who have lost a child;

for those who care for the children of others;

for those whose children have left home;

and for those whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.

Bless all mothers, that their love may be deep and tender,

and that they may lead their children to know and do what is good,

living not for themselves alone, but for God and for others.

Amen

Remembering those Whom Memorial Day Honors

Private First Class Anthony T. Kaho‘ohanohano was born on July 22, 1930, in Wailuku, Maui, then part of the territory of Hawaii. His father and all five of his brothers served in the military. So it was natural that he joined the Hawaii National Guard after high school and then enlisted in the Army in February 1951. Kaho‘ohanohano was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division in Korea. On September 1, 1951, the twenty-one-year-old was leading a machine gun squad near Chup’a-ri, just north of the 38th Parallel, when a large North Korean attack forced U.S. troops to retreat. Though Kaho‘ohanohano was shot in the shoulder, he decided to return to his original position to provide firing cover as his company withdrew. His last words to them were, “I’ve got your back.” Kaho‘ohanohano faced the assault alone with his machine gun and grenades. When he ran out of ammunition, he grabbed a shovel and engaged the attackers in hand-to-hand combat before he was killed. Kaho‘ohanohano’s bravery inspired his company to launch a successful counterattack. They found him with the bodies of thirteen enemy soldiers. His bravery was initially recognized with the Distinguished Service Cross. His family and friends petitioned for Kaho‘ohanohano to be awarded the Medal of Honor. In 2011, sixty years after Kaho‘ohanohano made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, some thirty members of his family gathered in the White House as President Barack Obama recognized his valor with the Medal of Honor.

PASTOR’S PAGE

Dear Friends of St. John’s-

On the first Sunday of May, several young men and women from our midst will claim God’s promises of baptism as their own. To live in those promises most fully, they will commit to their intention to live as God intended them to live (the same charge parents accept on behalf of their children, when they are baptized). Claiming God’s promise and living as a child of God is something we can (should) do every day! Below I have listed those intentions, along with a scripture that describes how this has been ‘the way’ of the church since the beginning.

to live among God’s faithful people,

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Acts 2:44-45

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,

So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:41-42

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” Romans 10:13-15

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. John 13:14-15

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

Of course, this isn’t promising to be a perfect Christian. Rather it is claiming to do the best you can. And the Good News? You don’t have to rely on just your own effort, for you can trust the Lord to walk with you, grow in you and work through you. You, along with the Confirmand can answer the following question with the following response:

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

God’s peace be with you,
Pastor Steve

St. John Information

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.

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.

"He I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in." Revelation 3:20

He's Still Knocking

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in." Revelation 3:20

A picture I vividly recall from my childhood days in church displayed a large wooden door surrounded by green vines with a robed figure of Jesus standing outside. His hand is raised, obviously ready to knock. An important feature of the door is that there is no handle on the outside, indicating that it can only be opened from the inside. The message behind the painting is that Jesus waits outside our lives until we are ready to invite Him in into our lives.

But this morning I read these words, written in form and language far more common to our grandparent's ears than to our modern ears: "I bless thee for that knocking at my heart's door that warns me of thy waiting presence."

I wonder how many times during the day Jesus gently knocks to warn me of his waiting presence? Not a warning that danger is imminent (though that may be true), but to warn in the sense of putting me on the alert, giving me notice that he is ready to give counsel or send some special message of his love.

Today we more often hear the loud ring of a doorbell, not a gentle knock. Doorbells can be intrusive; knocks can easily be ignored. I need to listen carefully for the gentle knocks on the door of my heart. I don't want to miss his presence.

Jesus, thank you for consistently, insistently knocking at the door of my life. Help me tune my ears so that I don't miss even a whisper of your message.

By Marilyn Ehle
Used by Permission

FAITHFULNESS

In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday, though it is often called Decoration Day.

Other countries began to wear a single Poppy on Memorial Day and later included Veteran's Day to include all living and deceased veterans.

"We Shall Keep the Faith"

by Moina Michael, November 1918

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,

Sleep sweet ? to rise anew!

We caught the torch you threw.

And holding high, we keep the Faith

With All who died.

We cherish, too, the Poppy red.

That grows on fields where valor led;

It seems to signal to the skies

That blood of heroes never dies,

But lends a luster to the red

Of the flower that blooms above the dead

In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red

We wear them in honor of our dead.

Fear not that ye have died for naught;

We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought

In Flanders Fields.



Just a Little Humor

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

Principles of Motherhood

- 1. Motherhood ~~ If it was going to be easy, it never would have started with something called labor!
- 2. Shouting to make your children obey is like using the horn to steer your car, and you get about the same results.
- 3. To be in your children's memories tomorrow, you have to be in their lives today.
- 4. The smartest advice on raising children is to enjoy them while they are still on your side.
- 5. Avenge yourself ~~~ Live long enough to be a problem to your children.
- 6. The best way to keep kids at home is to make the home a pleasant atmosphere ~~ and to let the air out of the tires.
- 7. The right temperature in a home is maintained by warm hearts, not by hot heads.
- 8. Raising a teenager is like nailing Jell-O a tree.
- 9. Parents: People who bare infants, bore teenagers, and board newlyweds.
- 10. The joy of motherhood: What a woman experiences when all the children are finally in bed.
- 11. Life's golden age is when the kids are too old to need baby-sitters and too young to borrow the family car.
- 12. Any child can tell you that the sole purpose of a middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.
- 13. Grandparents are similar to a piece of string ~ handy to have around and easily wrapped around the fingers of grandchildren.
- 14. A child outgrows your lap, but never outgrows your heart.
- 15. God gave you two ears and one mouth ... so you should listen twice as much as you talk.
- 16. There are three ways to get something done: Do it yourself, hire someone to do it, or forbid your children to do it.
- 17. Adolescence is the age when children try to bring up their parents.
- 18. You know the only people in this world who are always sure about the proper way to raise children? Those who've never had any.
- 19. Cleaning your house while your kids are at home is like trying to shovel the driveway during a snowstorm.
- 20. Oh to be only half as wonderful as my child thought I was when he was small, and half as stupid as my teenager now thinks I am.
- 21. There are only two things a child will share willingly: communicable diseases and his mother's age.
- 22. Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.
- 23. Adolescence is the age at which children stop asking questions because they know all the answers.
- 24. An alarm clock is a device for awakening people who don't have small children.
- 25. The persons hardest to convince they're at the retirement age are children at bedtime.
- 26. Kids really brighten a household; they never turn off any lights.



May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <small>Mapleton Community Home Service 10:30am</small>	2	3
4 <small>8:30 Worship Choir practice 9:30am Worship / communion / Confirmation service 10:30am Sunday School/ coffee hour</small>	5	6	7	8 <small>Church Council 6:30pm</small>	9	10
11 <small>8:30 Worship Choir practice 9:30am /Worship /kids sing 10:30am coffee hour MOTHERS DAY</small>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 <small>Worship Choir practice 9:30am Worship / communion /High School Senior Recogni- tion 10:30am Sunday School/ coffee hour</small>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 <small>8:30 Worship Choir practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am coffee hour</small>	26 <small>Memorial Day</small>	27	28	29	30	31

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH—Council Minutes

. April 2025 Church Council Meeting Minutes

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH The meeting was called to order by President Royce Woitas at 6:30 p.m. at St John Lutheran Church on April 10, 2024.

Council members present: Brent Fischer, Bev Raimann, Royce Woitas(President), Aaron Annis, Brianna Carey, Pastor Steve Berkeland, Scott Schweer(Non-Member) and Donna Pakannon, Julie Lux, Rita Caron, Josh Isebrand (Vice President). Absent: Sunni Neegaard.

Opening prayer: Pastor Steve Berkeland

Secretary’s Report: Motion to approve the secretary’s report by Julie Lux. Seconded by Jen Marzen. Motion carried.

Use of building: On April 27th, a baptismal family has been asked to use the kitchen.

Committee reports & Council representation:

Parish Ed/Youth Committee: (Julie Lux, Brianna Carey) Started to plan their last day of Sunday School, which will be May 4th. Bingo and games are looking to be the big event for their last day. Still working on which days to pick for VBS.

Mutual Ministry Committee: (Rita Caron, Sunni Neegaard) No meeting.

Endowment Committee: (Scott Schweer) No meeting.

Worship Committee: (Donna Paakkonnen, Josh Isebrand) No meeting.

Church Life Committee: (Julie Lux, Jen Marzen, Bev Raimann) April 30th will be the confirmation dinner. All Council members are welcome to attend. The pie social was a hit. Roughly \$300 donations were collected.

Stewardship Committee: (Scott Schweer) No meeting.

Trustees Committee: (Aaron Annis, Matt Marzen, Brent Fischer) Al came out and oiled the Bells so they should be more easy to pull. The gutters were cleaned out on the North, South and West side of the Sunday school rooms. Two broken coat hangers were fixed in the narthex. The pipe that Gary cut off by the confirmation pictures was sanded and more putty paste was added to clean it up. Letting it dry before putting a fresh paint job to cover everything back up. We had water in the basement, which was caused from leaves being caught on the tile outside.

Deacons: (Royce Woitas) We are expecting a busy next few weeks with Easter.

Church Basement Ladies: This Saturday the ladies are going to the Mn.River Conference gathering, starting at Pastor’s report: May 30 and 31st the Synod Assembly in Mankato will be held. Please let Pastor Steve know if you want to go. The ductwork has been cleaned out at the Parsonage. Still working on finding a phone for the Pastor's office.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Schweer gave detailed information on the church's finances. Motion to approve the treasurer’s report by Josh Isebrand. Seconded by Brent Fischer. Motion carried.

Other:

There was a plugged tile on the south side of the church. Jetter Clean came out and tried to clean it out. They couldn’t get it all cleaned out. Seems to be a broken piece or stones that are making a wall in the pipe.

Cleaning the carpet down in the basement needs to be done.

The committee discussed the signs out on highway 22 and 7. At this time, we will not be adding new signs for the church.

After Easter is completed, there will be a cleaning party for the kitchen.

Adjourn: With no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Rita Caron. Seconded by Bev Raimann. Motion carried.

Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Annis, Council Secretary.

Next meeting will be Thursday May 8, 2025 at 6:30pm.

Council Duties for:

April: Bev Raimann and Rita Caron

May: Josh Isebrand and Donna Pakannon

June: Royce Woitas and Brianna Carey

July: Brent Fischer and Donna Pakannon

August: Jen Marzen and Matt Marzen

EMAIL FROM GOD

IT’s AN INSIDE JOB

My Child,

The world you live in is much more interested in what you look like on the outside than what’s on the inside of you. I’m just the opposite. I check out your heart.

I see the scars where you’ve been wounded by mean words and bad attitudes. I see your hopes– the ones you’re afraid to reach for– and the dreams that haven’t come true.

But if you’re willing to let Me move in with you, I’ll bring Jesus and all the power of the Holy Spirit with Me. I want to make you stronger and more positive. Believe Me, when We move in, good things will begin to happen. The thee of Us work together as a team to heal the hidden part of you. This is an inside job!

Your Healer,

God