



# THE STORY

May 2023

St. John Lutheran Church

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"As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem." The Good News: A mother's comfort is so great, that the Lord even compares his own willingness to comfort his people to theirs.

## Celebrate Family! Celebrate Mothers!

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

Mom's eighty-third birthday! I almost forgot. This could very well be her last birthday, so we better celebrate — to show honor to a wonderful mother, grandmother, and a faithful servant of God.

Quickly I phoned my sister-in-law and suggested we invite all our children, their spouses, and the grandchildren for an evening of fun at the seniors' hospital where Mom was living.

We made arrangements with the hospital to use the open area for the party, called all the kids and grandchildren, baked the cake, and packed forks, plates, and napkins. Whew! We made it. Most of the local family members were there. Her son and daughter wheeled her into the room as we sang "Happy Birthday!" She looked so frail and small in her wheelchair, but she was so pleased that we were there. I could see that it would not be long before the Lord would take her home to be with Him. That would be a great day for her.

What I remember most vividly about that evening was watching her as we began to sing her favorite hymns. Even though she wouldn't remember the party five minutes after we left, in that moment she was singing with us. She lifted her arms in praise to her Heavenly Father as we all sang her favorite, "God is so good! God is so good! God is so good, He's so good to us."

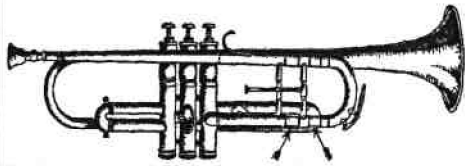
That party was in the middle of June. The Lord took her home in July.

When I think back to Mom's last birthday, I recall it being a very busy day. It would have been so easy to think, "She won't know the difference. Why bother?" But God put the thought of a birthday party in my heart, and I am so glad I made it a priority.

Celebrate family! You never know how long they will be with you.

Father, I thank You for Godly mothers and fathers. Thank You for family. Thank You for children and grandchildren. Show us ways to demonstrate that we love and appreciate them. Cause us to remember to celebrate. Amen.

by Katherine Kehler



# HEAR YE HEAR YE

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

\*Check out the puzzles in the free book section in the education lobby. Have puzzles you would like to donate, just add them to the shelf. Great pass time. New books have also been added.

\*Worship Choir wants your voice, Please join us for practice at 8:30am on Sundays, no experience needed. ; )

\*We invite you to share flowers for the altar area - to celebrate a special day/person or just to share some beauty with the rest of the congregation. Call the office for details. 524-3615

\*If you have "those snack sets" (plate and cups). And would like to store them somewhere else, WELCA would love to have them for future events. Questions please contact Rita.

\*Confirmation Dinner and rehearsal will be on May 3rd @ 6:00pm. Confirmation Service on May 7th @ 9:30am.

\* Sunday May 21st following worship WELCA is having a breakfast fundraiser please join us.

\* If you plan on using the church for anything please let the church office know, it makes for better communication. Thank you!!

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

**HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:** David Treanor, Robert Krengel, Cheryl Bergemann, Betty Borsoski, Arlene Tolzman, Betty Aschlager, Orville Halverson, Audrey Annis and Eloise Ward



## Prayers

Father, help us to forgive others—even as you have forgiven us—that we might not live burdened and shackled by yesterday's failures, but that we might live, constantly aware of your grace and mercy. Amen

God of peace, teach us what it means to be peacemakers. Help us to cultivate peace between others and you—in our neighbors, offices and school-rooms . Teach us the art of building bridges not walls. Amen

## May Liturgist

Josh Isebrand

## Church Council

### Members

### May

Josh Isbrand

Patti Krengel

### May

Josh Isebrand

Rita Caron

# PASTOR'S PAGE

*"I thank my God every time I remember you" Philippians 1:3*

Dear Friends at St. John's,

Most of the letters Paul wrote, whether to individuals or to congregations, begin with a word of **'thanks'** for the readers. That seems like a great idea to emulate, so let me say "I **thank** God for you!"

This month, many wonderful programs and ministries will end for the summer, so that those involved can find some rest and refreshment before getting ready to return in the fall. Now, then, would be a good time to say **'thank you'** to all who make up our Sunday School – students, teachers, and helpers of all kinds. Bless you for your faithful serving and your eager learning. **Gratitude** is extended to all who have been part of the Confirmation ministry – students, teachers, parents and mentors – working together to grow in faith. **Appreciation** goes to the dedicated quilters, who spend time creating and sending comfort and relief to benefit people locally and globally (and congratulations, too, for being recognized with the Mapleton Sertoma 2023 Service to Mankind Award).

**Thank you**, too, to all of you who won't be taking a summer break – Council and Committee members, WELCA leaders and Circles, church staff, groundskeepers and food shelf servants. Of course, a special word of **thanks** goes to all who help make worship at St. John's such a faith-enriching experience, including musicians and technicians, deacons and liturgists, ushers and Altar Guild, and all who sit in the pews or worship online. Also, please know how much **appreciation** is felt for all of you who step in to do whatever is needed, whenever it is needed and for the so many ways so many of you show God's love to so many others.

If I missed any individuals or groups who add to the ministry of the Gospel at St. John's, please accept my apology and also accept my **gratitude** for what you do. But finally, and most importantly... **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

Thank you, dear Church!

Pastor Steve



# St. John Information

## CONTACT/CONNECT

Email: [stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com)

[Berkeland.stjohnslutheran@gmail.com](mailto:Berkeland.stjohnslutheran@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stjohnlutheranelca.com](http://www.stjohnlutheranelca.com)

Streaming: Go to [www.youtube.com](http://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](mailto: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.



## Genesis Bible Word Search



- ABEL
- ABRAHAM
- ADAM
- ARK
- BABEL
- BEGINNING
- BENJAMIN
- BROTHERS
- CAIN
- COVENANT
- CREATION
- DREAMS
- EGYPT
- EVE
- FAMINE
- FLOOD
- GARDEN OF EDEN
- ISAAC
- ISRAEL
- JACOB
- JOSEPH
- LIGHT

- MAN
- MOON
- PHARAOH
- RAINBOW
- SABBATH
- SARAH
- SERPENT
- SEVEN DAYS
- SIN
- STARS
- TREE OF LIFE
- WOMAN

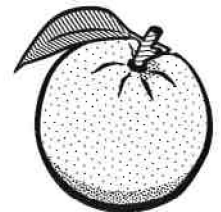
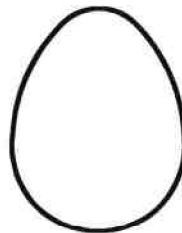


## Eggs, Muffins and Fruit...Oh My!!!

WELCA invites you to a breakfast fundraiser on May 21st, following worship. Proceeds will go to replacing items in the kitchen.

Egg bakes, muffins and fresh fruit will on the menu.

Come and join for some great food and even better conversation. See you then!!



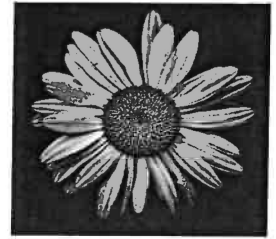
## Martin Luther Quotes

"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing

"God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does."

"Strange, though I am saved from sin, I am not saved from sinning."

# May 2023



**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

Join us for Coffee Hour following Worship  
The Stories are amazing!!!



**1**

Quilting 10:00am - 3:00pm

**2**

Quilting 10:00am - 3:00pm

**3**

Confirmation rehearsal and dinner 6:00 pm

**4**

**5**

**6**

Synod Assembly Mankato

**7** 8:30 Worship choir practice  
9:30am Worship / communion / 1st communion confirmation  
10:30am Sunday school

**8**

Quilting 10:00am - 3:00pm

**9**

Quilting 10:00am - 3:00pm

**10**

**11**

Church Council 6:30 pm

**12**

**13**

Elaine Cramer Celebration of Life 11:00am

**14**

8:30 Worship Choir practice -  
9:30am Worship / Children sing  
10:30 Sunday School Funday  
Mothers Day

**15**

Quilting 10:00am - 3:00pm

**16**

Quilting 10:00am - 3:00pm

**17**

News Letter deadline

**18**

**19**

**20**

**21** 8:30 Worship Choir practice  
9:30am Worship / communion / H.S. Senior Recognition  
WELCA BREAK-FAST

**22**

Quilting 10:00am - 3:00pm

**23**

Quilting 10:00am - 3:00pm

**24**

**25**

**26**

**27**

**28**

8:30 Worship Choir practice  
9:30am Worship

**29**

Church Office closed  
Memorial Day



**30**

**31**

# *ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH—Council Minutes*

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH The meeting was called to order by President, Julie Lux at 6:35p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church on April 13, 2023.

**Council Members Present:** Aaron Annis (Secretary), Julie Lux (President), Josh Isebrand, Bev Raimann, Royce Woitas, Rita Caron, Pattie Krengel, Al Albrecht(Vice President), Mike Ward (Non member), Cathy Pluym

**Absent:** Gabe Duncanson, Paul Osmundson, Gary Denn

**Secretary Report:** Motion to approve minutes from Rita Caron, Patti Krengel second. Motion carried.

**Committee reports and Council representation: Parish Ed/Youth Committee:** (Julie Lux) Youth Easter breakfast went amazing. Over 150 plates were used during breakfast, great turn out. Sunday school students will sing on Mother's Day. Last day of Sunday school will be May 12th with activities for the whole family.

**Mutual Ministry Committee:** (Rita Caron) Meeting after church on April 23rd.

**Endowment Committee:** (Mike Ward) No meeting

**Worship Committee:** (Pattie Krengel, Rita Caron, Josh Isebrand) No meeting, but the church lent supper's were wonderful during Lenten season on Wednesdays. Went through four trays on Easter for communion and on Palm Sunday.

**Church Life Committee:** (Cathy Pluym, Julie Lux) Confirmation Super on May 3rd. Pasta and salad for the students. Pie Sunday, we had 20 pie's that were donated. Very good turnout.

**Stewardship Committee:** (Mike Ward) No meeting.

**Trustees Committee:** ( Gary Denn, Paul Osmundson, Gabe Duncanson, Aaron Annis) City came by and picked up branches in the parking lot and along the road.

**Deacons:** (Al Albrecht, Pattie Krengel, Paul Osmundson, Royce Woitas) Royce is the new deacon and started on Maundy Thursday.

**WELCA Committee:** (Rita Caron, Bev Raimann) Having an egg bake brunch after church on May 21st. Looking for more roasters to be donated to bake as well as dishes for the kitchen. This will be on High School Senior Sunday.

**Pastor's Report:** There's a laptop next to the copier for all to use. Once a month the local pastors get together organized by Pastor Steven. Rita Caron and Patti Krengel will be going to the Synod conference at Mayo Clinic Event Center in downtown Mankato on Saturday May 6th. As a church, we give a donation as a congregation to the Synod, St John will maintain the same giving amount this year as last year. Church Directory pictures will be on September 21, 22, 23, more information to come this summer for planning, sign up and more from the church office and the Church Life committee.

**Treasurer's Report:** Updates on financials, where the expenses are in comparison to donations/offerings. We will be getting a credit for the stairs that need to be fixed. Josh Isebrand motioned to approve the Treasurer report, Albrecht seconded. Motion carried

Al Albrecht seconded. Motion carried.

Rita Caron motion to pay the Synod benevolence. Patti Krengel second. Motion carried.

**Other:** Money made from Lenten Supper, proceeds went to Loaves and Fishes.

**Printer:** Mike talked to Kayla about the printer. The lease on the printer is up and we need to decide on new leasing options. Total cost for our current printer as to what the new prices will be. The costs of color copies verses black and white as there is extra expense with color copies. We can either get 35 copies per min or 45 copies per min lease. The new printer is anticipated to be cheaper than the one in the office. Prepare for an email vote before our next meeting. Looking to go with the cheaper copier option.

**Prayer garden:** Jeff Annis presented to the congregation a design for the prayer garden. In the memorial fund is a designated dollar amount set aside for the prayer garden. The remainder of the funds will need to be raised.

**Water damage in Narthex:** Need for additional inspection with improvement in weather, wanting Luke Samuleson to inspect a specific section on the roof of the Narthex. We did get a quote from another company, but there could be additional cost. Plenty of water damage along the wall. Julie Lux will talk with Gary Denn this week to see if he can get ahold of Luke and see if he can go and look at the roof. Gary will talk to Kayla about talking to insurance on the roof.

**Speaker meeting/congregation vote:** \$14,500 expense was approved from the congregation. Council is going to have the Narthex inspected before moving on the speaker system to ensure the building needs are addressed prior. Work to make a decision to make a motion on waiting to pay for the speaker.

**Stairs:** Need to pull up the anti slip and put down new tape on the stairs and will receive credit. Trustee's will be in touch with Nordass Flooring regarding how to put the tape down on the stairs.

Quick Book will need to be updated for a new lease on May 31st for Kayla in the office.

Council Duties for year 2023:

Adjourn: With no further business from Josh Isebrand seconded by Royce Woitas. Motion carried.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Next meeting will be Thursday, May 11, 2023—at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted: Aaron Annis (Church Council Secretary)

## *Just a Little Humor*

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

### Delicious

Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother.

The first said, "I built a big house for our mother."

The second said, "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver."

The third smiled and said, "I've got you, both beat. You know how Mom enjoys the Bible, and you know she can't see very well. I sent her a brown parrot that can recite the entire Bible. It took 20 monks in a monastery 12 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$100,000.00 a year for 10 years, but it was worth it. Mom just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot will recite it."

Soon thereafter, Mom sent out her letters of thanks: "Milton," she wrote the first son, "The house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house."

"Marvin," she wrote to another, "I am too old to travel. I stay home all the time, so I never use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude!"

"Dearest Melvin," she wrote to her third son, "You were the only son to have the good sense to know what your mother likes. That chicken was delicious."

### Oh No!

For weeks a six-year-old lad kept telling his first-grade teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house.

One day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year old was obviously impressed, but made no comment. Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event.

The teacher finally sat the boy on her lap and said, "Tommy, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?"

Tommy burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mommy ate it!"

**Happy Mother's Day to every Mother with children and fur babies!!!!**



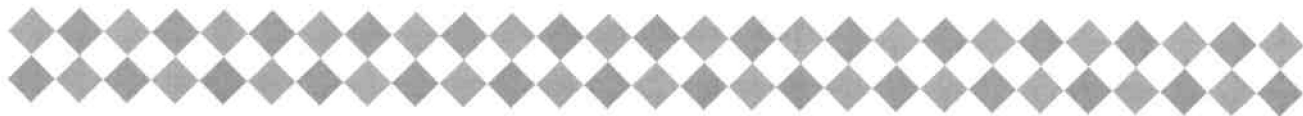


# ***Endowment Fund Scholarships***

*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.*



## ***FIRST COMMUNION***

*The following young people will receive their First Communion at St. John's, on May 7:*

*Evereett Birr*

*Lillyan Birr*

*Levi Carey*

*Abby Engelen*

*Allie Engelen*

*Mason Engelen*

*Lana Krengel*

*Elsie Neegaard*

*Grace Sohre*

*Brooklyn Spence*

*We keep them in our prayers as they begin their journey of accepting Jesus' invitation to meet him at the Altar and to walk with him for life.*



# FAITHFULNESS

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP

## The Day the Swimming Pool Opens

On June 21, 2006, in the Nuristan Province of Afghanistan, Staff Sergeant Jared Monti's sixteen-man patrol came under fire. One of his men was wounded and fell over a ridge into what the soldiers described as a "death zone."

Despite an intense firefight, he tried three times to save the soldier. On his third try, Jared was killed. He was posthumously awarded America's highest honor for heroism, the Medal of Honor.

Paul Monti started an organization in his son's memory called Operation Flag for Vets. Their volunteers recently planted 57,000 flags at the Massachusetts National Cemetery.

Paul drives Jared's pickup truck, the military decals still on it. He explained: "It's got his DNA all over it. I love driving it because it reminds me of him, though I don't need the truck to remind me of him. I think about him every hour of every day."

A Nashville songwriter heard this story and turned it into a song that country singer Lee Brice recorded. "I Drive Your Truck" earned Song of the Year honors at the 2013 Country Music Awards. As of this morning, the YouTube video had more than twenty-eight million views. I urge you to watch it on this Memorial Day.

### **"The fate of unborn millions"**

On August 27, 1776, George Washington addressed his soldiers before the Battle of Long Island. This was the first major battle after America declared her independence.

Gen. Washington stated: "The time is now near at hand which must probably determine whether Americans are to be freemen or slaves . . . The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army. Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us only the choice of brave resistance, or the most abject submission. We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or die."

We are now part of the "unborn millions" whose lives are indescribably different because of the soldiers who died to purchase our freedom and those like Jared Monti who died to preserve it.

### **"That's the day the pool opens"**

Washington, DC, will host America's largest Memorial Day parade today. But we don't have to be in our nation's capital to participate in this day of national observance.

We can display an American flag, which is to be at half-staff until noon today. Military.com also suggests that we visit a local veterans' cemetery and/or war memorial; take cookies, books, or movies to a nearby veterans' hospital; watch a movie and learn about famous battles of the past; and ask our children to create a card or picture to be sent to a soldier serving overseas. In addition, we can participate in the National Moment of Remembrance.

# FAITHFULNESS

## DAILY DISCIPLESHIP

Continued

Two decades ago, children touring Washington, DC, were asked what Memorial Day means. They responded, "That's the day the pool opens." A Gallup poll showed that only 28 percent of Americans knew the true meaning of Memorial Day.

As a result, the National Moment of Remembrance was begun by presidential proclamation in the year 2000. All Americans are asked to pause at 3:00 pm, wherever we are, for one minute of silence. Major League Baseball, NASCAR, the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, and the Liberty Bell are among today's participants.

### "Stones of remembrance"

Remembering our past is a biblical principle and priority.

The Jewish people still gather each Passover to remember the day they were liberated from Egyptian slavery (Exodus 12:21-28). After they crossed the flooded Jordan river, the people gathered twelve "stones of remembrance" from the river bed to build a "memorial forever" (Joshua 4:1-10). Jesus taught us to take the bread and cup of the Last Supper "in remembrance of me" (1 Corinthians 11:24-25).

Why is remembrance especially important in these days?

When we remember the valor of our past heroes, we are inspired to emulate their courage in serving our nation and her people today (cf. Hebrews 12:1). When we remember our unity in waging our war for independence and world wars for democracy, we are inspired to serve and sacrifice together for our good and God's glory (cf. Acts 4:32).

When we remember the grief of Paul Monti and all whose loved ones we memorialize today, we are inspired to pray for them with compassion (cf. John 11:35). And when we remember the price Jesus paid for our salvation, we are inspired to love him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbor for whom he died (Mark 12:30-31).

In fact, such remembrance is so important that every day should be Memorial Day.

### "Ever mindful what it cost"

"The Star-Spangled Banner" was not officially adopted as America's national anthem until 1931. Before that, the song "Hail, Columbia!" served in this capacity for many events. Joseph Hopkinson (1770-1842), a lawyer and congressman, wrote it for the inauguration of George Washington. It is played today whenever the vice president enters an event.

The first stanza:

Hail, Columbia! happy land!

Hail, ye heroes, heav'n born band!

Who fought and bled in Freedom's cause,

Who fought and bled in Freedom's cause,

And when the storm of war was gone,

Enjoyed the peace your valor won.

Let independence be our boast,

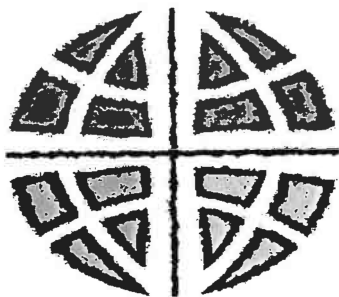
Ever mindful what it cost,

Ever grateful for the prize,

Let its altar reach the skies.



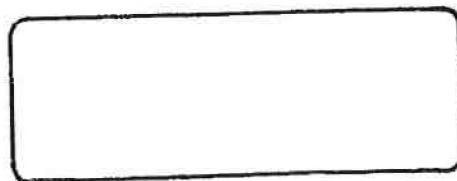
May we be "ever mindful" what freedom cost, this day and every day



Gods Work Our Hands.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

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

**MAY DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR**

**May 3 – Confirmation Dinner and Rehearsal 6:00pm**

**May 7 – Affirmation of Baptism Celebration (Confirmation) 9:30am and 1st Communion**

**May 13 – Elaine Cramer Celebration of Life 11:00am**

**May 14 – Mother’s Day, Music Worship Sunday**

**May 14 – Sunday School Family Funday, Last day of Sunday School until fall.**

**May 21 – H. S. Senior Recognition / WELCA breakfast following worship.**

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