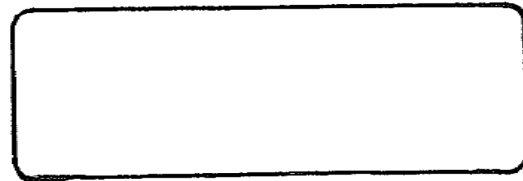




Gods Work Our Hands.

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**

stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com

**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.

**November, 2020**



## THE STORY (November 2020)

St. John Lutheran Church Newsletter

104 Central Avenue North

Mapleton, MN 56065

Phone: 507-524-3615 Email: stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com

Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

### THE STORY

#### I SMELL SOMETHING WONDERFUL!

Home-made baked bread, Sweet burning fall leaves, clean bedsheets dried on the clothesline, a beautiful floral bouquet, that new car smell, delightful fragrance of perfume, the rich aroma of incense: these aromas come to mind, when I think of something smelling wonderful. But they pale in comparison to the scent of Christ's love, and WE ARE PRIVILEGED to be the bearers of that saving smell to the world!

In the early Church, Paul was writing to Christians who were living in distress and with conflict. Paul wanted to remind them of the great gift that had been given to them, and as a result, the gift that they had to offer the world. And so he wrote:

***But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.***

2 Corinthians 2:14-1]

Right now, we are a people in distress, because of this horrible pandemic, with all the dis-ease and destruction it has brought about. And we are a people living in conflicted times, faced with political, racial and economic divisions. **However**, we are also a people who are the apples of our Lord's eye and the living Body of Christ! We currently cannot worship or fellowship or meet as we would like, but we can still spread the love of Jesus wherever we go, doing whatever we do. You see, we have the air of Kingdom heirs about us. And we **ARE** the sweet smell of love and kindness that God desires to permeate the world.

One of the symptoms that can afflict someone infected by COVID 19, is the loss of their sense of smell. Let's not allow this virus – or anything else- to take away from the world the sweet aroma Christ's victory. In the days ahead, let others see your faith in action, so that those around you will want to say...

**I Smell Something Wonderful!**

Peace Be With You All!  
Pastor Steve

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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## NEWS UPDATE!!

IN-PERSON WORSHIP has resumed and will continue to be an option for members. **ONLINE-SERVICES will continue to be broadcast, and will continue to be the recommended mode of worship, as it remains the safest.**

In person worship will require mask-wearing, distance-keeping and attendance -taking (for potential contact tracing). **IN-PERSON WORSHIPPERS will be asked to refrain from singing or speaking in unison, and there will not be communion, passing the peace or coffee fellowship.** For more details, which is now publicized, as well as the COVID 19 Protocols that St. John will be following, can be found at:

### 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

This event has been postponed to 2022. We will release more information next year.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Hip, Hip, Hooray!*

### Sunday School Is BACK!

Starting September 27th, Sunday school will be held in the church basement from 10:30-11a. We do have a few **rules we need to follow**, and here they are:

1. Parents must attend with their child(ren)
2. Families must sit together
3. All will need to wear a mask during the 30 minute lesson (*masks will be available at the church*)
4. Have Fun!

We will have Sunday School every other weekend until Thanksgiving, the dates will be:

- November 8th
- November 22nd

**PARENTS: If you would like to receive an email copy of the children's bulletin (gospel grams) for the Sunday's that we will not have Sunday school, please contact Jill in the office at 507-524-3615 or 507-317-9485.**

After Thanksgiving, we will share more details on the remainder of the Sunday School year. We are very excited to see everyone again - if you have questions please feel free to connect with a Parish Ed committee member or the church office.

Thank you,

Parish Education

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation class sessions will take place on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. If you have any questions pertaining to confirmation, please contact the church office at 507-524-3615. Any updates/changes to the schedule or time, will be sent out to parents via text message and by email. If you have not been receiving messages by either method, please contact Jill at 507-317-9485.

# 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 and Jill can assist you.

## BISHOP NOTES

In her October 19<sup>th</sup> letter to the people of the Southeast Minnesota Synod regarding the partisan nature of our conversations and apparent polarization of our society, Bishop Hassanally writes:

“As followers of Jesus we have a particular perspective on our identity and the ways in which we are called to live, act and interact in society. This perspective ought to be shaped, first and foremost, by encounters with the word of God.”

If you would like to receive a copy of the Bishop’s entire letter, please call 507-524-3615 or email us at: [stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com)

# EGIVING & RESOURCES

## EGiving & GivePlus Mobile

St. John's is excited to announce our eGiving (online giving) and GivePlus mobile option.

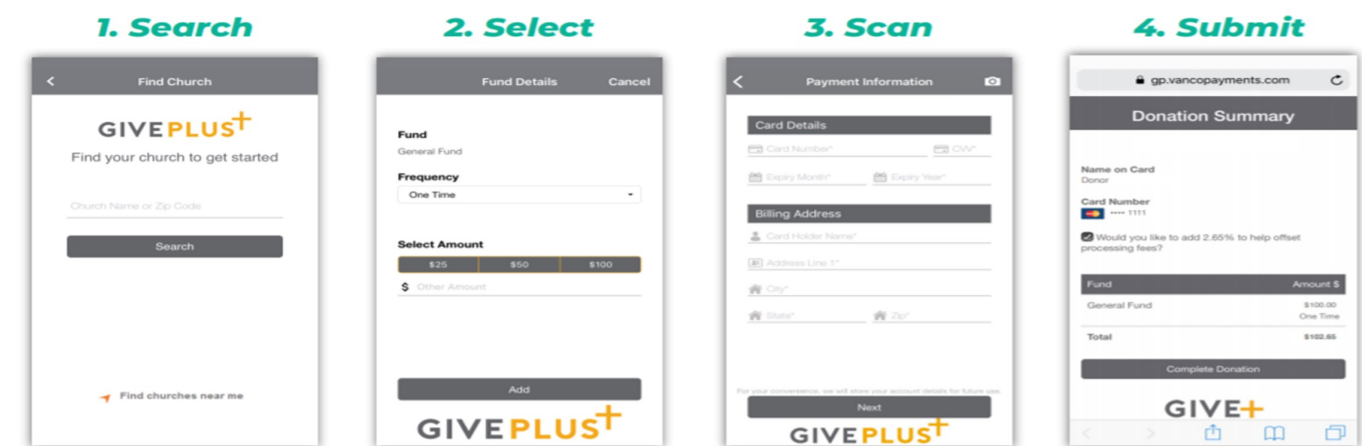
Through your contributions, the message of faith can continue to be shared, giving people the strength and compassion needed to make it through difficult times such as these.

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](http://www.stjohnlutheranelca.com) and click on the EGIVING TAB.

To access the GivePlus Mobile option, please go to your app store or google play on your device and download the GivePlus app (for free) to your phone.

### *How to Use GivePlus Mobile*

Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for “GivePlus” to download the app for free.



Enter your church's name or ZIP code and click **Search**. Select your church and click **Give Now**.

**Select** a fund, enter your donation amount and click **Add**.

**Scan** or enter your credit/debit card or bank account information.

Review and click **Complete Donation**.

*Thank you for your continued support and generosity!*

# 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: Nov. 23rd**

**Bulletin & Insert Info Deadline: by Thursday afternoon every 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 YouTube and type in St. John, Mapleton.**

**From there you can watch any services.**

## 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.

## 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](mailto:stjohnslutheran.mapletonmn@gmail.com)



### **For Your Reading Pleasure.....**

We have a large quantity of books that are free-for-the-taking! Located by the education until lobby entrance. Please feel free to stop by and take a look! **Anyone entering the church building is required to wear a mask.**

## POINSETTIA'S

WELCA will be putting on a Poinsettia sale again this year for the members of St. John's. For purchasing info, pricing, plant sizes, and to sign-up, please call the church office at 507-524-3615 or 507-317-9485 to reach Jill. **All orders must be placed by November 8th.**

# St. John Information

## QUILTING

Quilting has now resumed and is scheduled weekly on Monday's and Tuesday's from 10:00a-3:00p. All are welcome to attend!

**We are requiring that anyone entering the church building is following the COVID 19 guidelines and wearing a mask.** Due to the lack of quilt sales this year, we would like to offer some quilts to anyone who is interested in purchasing. Please visit our website at [www.stjohnlutheranelca.com](http://www.stjohnlutheranelca.com) to view the images of the quilts for sale. You may find those images right on the home page.

**Please contact Ariel Glad at 507-508-3183 or Deb Hendrickson at 507-317-6692 for purchasing info.** The quilts are numbered on the images, so please let Ariel or Deb know the specific number on the quilt you are looking to purchase when contacting them. If you are interested in taking a peek at the other quilts not listed, please feel free to come during quilting hours which are listed above.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee met on October 1. Topics of discussion included ideas and plans for the next few months of worship services. As part of the worship for All Saints Sunday, Nov 1, we will celebrate those you have been baptized, new members in the church, and those who have left us to be among the saints.

We plan to celebrate Thanksgiving as a community by hosting both an in person and online service at St Johns on Tuesday, Nov 24 at 6:30 p.m.. Details are still being worked on. Musical groups from the surrounding churches will record their selections so we don't have too many singers in the front of the church. Area Pastors will take part in the worship service either in person or by recording. The service will be online at the same time as the in-person service. Please attend if you are wanting to do so.

Please know that we will continue to practice social distancing and mask wearing for all of the services in person at St John. Synod guidelines also ask that we refrain from singing and speaking out loud. The first Sunday of Advent is Nov 29. We will have our annual Hanging of the Greens by the Altar Guild as part of the service.

If there are families who would like to take part in the lighting of the candles, similar to last year, please let Pastor Steve know. This is a wonderful way to mark the Advent season. Our music leaders have begun preparing a Christmas Cantata for Christmas eve. More information about the rest of the Advent Sundays, and the Christmas season will be in the December newsletter and bulletins. Other discussion included how other congregations are partaking in safe communion during this pandemic time. The Worship Committee and the Council will continue to monitor the synod guidelines and talk about ideas for safe communion.

## WELCA COMMITTEE

Greetings everyone. Just a few updates for you. All the "Pastor Pictures" are up and on the basement wall across from the kitchen. Thank you to Colleen Carey for helping me with that project. It has been in the works for about 5 years and is finally done. Thank you to Caryl and Dick for hanging them all up. We need a picture of Pastor Jan if anyone has one let me know. It can be 5x7 or 8x10. The Book Art left over from the South Eastern Minnesota River Conference in April, will be given to our shut in/homebound people. Thank you to all who bought the pieces. All the money goes back to the synod.

Leah Frank has a spread sheet of our treasury and Welca has \$4,510.74, and Quilters have \$162.37. Thank you to Leah who has done a wonderful job being our treasurer for so many years. New flooring will be coming in the next few weeks in the Brides room and both bathrooms in that area. Anyone up for a fundraiser???? It has been brought up to do a new cookbook and to maybe sell cake pans with names on them. If interested in any of these projects let me know. Stay safe everyone and I can't wait until we can have a real meeting again!!! **God Bless, Rita**

# Stewardship Campaign

**“Empowered by God — Responding by Grace”**

“Now as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you — so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking” (2 Cor. 8:7).

In October’s article as part of this year’s stewardship emphasis, we saw how God is our Source, how all that we have comes from Him, how He empowers and enables us, and how we respond by grace through faith. We also saw that like the earliest Christians, we are to first give ourselves to the Lord as good stewards of the grace of God. Sometimes, when stewardship is mentioned, people wrongly conclude that giving money is all that is involved. Not so. Giving **does** include our financial resources, but it goes far beyond money and actually encompasses three primary resources.

First, there is the matter of our time. Time is one resource that is given to everyone equally. All of us have twenty-four hours in every day. No more, no less. How we use our time reflects accurately what is a priority in our lives. Some people have made TV a priority in their lives. They might not admit it, but by totaling the amount of time they spend in front of the screen, it would be hard to draw any other conclusion. Others have made sports a priority. How can we tell that’s true? Again, by the amount of time they spend pursuing sports. The key question is this: How much of the 168 hours available to each of us every week is spent with the Lord or in service to others?

Then there is the matter of our talents, an area in which all of us have not been gifted equally. Some have been gifted by God to work with their hands, with machines, or with computers. Others excel in their ability to communicate orally or via the printed page. The effective outreach of the Gospel at St. John’s is made possible only when God’s people who are part of this fellowship use their combined talents for God’s glory and for the good of this ministry.

Finally, there is the matter of our treasure. Don’t be confused. Money cannot buy salvation. Money cannot buy eternal life. Money can’t even buy security which God alone provides. But how we use money is an indication of our priorities. Think about the process: God owns everything. According to Psalm 24:1, “The earth is the Lord’s.” God has never given up his claim of ownership to the world, but instead desires to have us return a portion of what He has entrusted to us through our giving.

Giving is not to help “poor God”. Giving is not because God needs anything from us. Giving is God’s way of growing Christians. Every time we give for God’s glory from hearts that have been filled by God’s love and grace, we give away a little of our selfishness. Every time we give of our resources, we grow in grace and in our walk with Christ. As you consider your life during this time of stewardship emphasis, will you excel in the “grace of giving” by first giving yourself to the Lord? Will you then respond by grace through giving your time, your talents and your treasure to be used by God through St. John’s ministry?

As you consider your response to these questions, and as you seek the Lord’s direction concerning your giving in the next few months, please remember these simple yet profound words:

Only one life, ‘twill soon be past;  
only what’s done for Christ will last.

# Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>All Saints Sunday</b> Worship @ 9:30 a.m.	2 Quilting 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes 3:00-6:00 p.m.	3 Quilting 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	4 <b>Confirmation 6:00-7:00 p.m.</b>	5 <b>Worship Mtg. @ 6:00 p.m.</b> <b>Parish Ed Mtg. @ 6:30 p.m.</b>	6	7 Loaves & Fishes 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
8 Worship @ 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30-11 a.m.	9 Quilting 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes 3:00-6:00 p.m.	10 Quilting 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. <b>Mutual Ministry Mtg. @ 5:30 p.m.</b>	11 <b>Confirmation 6:00-7:00 p.m.</b>	12 <b>Council Mtg. 6:30 p.m.</b>	13	14 Loaves & Fishes 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
15 Worship @ 9:30 a.m.	16 Quilting 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes 3:00-6:00 p.m.	17 Quilting 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	18 <b>Confirmation 6:00-7:00 p.m.</b>	19	20	21 Loaves & Fishes 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
22 <b>Empowered By God Responding By Grace Sunday</b> Worship @ 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30-11 a.m.	23 Quilting 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes 3:00-6:00 p.m.	24 Quilting 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. <b>Ecumenical Service @ St. John, tentative time 6:30 p.m.</b>	25 <b>No School</b> <b>No Confirmation</b>	26 <b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b> <b>(office closed)</b> <b>No School</b>	27 <b>(office closed)</b> <b>No School</b>	28 Loaves & Fishes 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
29 Worship @ 9:30 a.m. <b>Hanging of the Greens</b>	30 Quilting 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes 3:00-6:00 p.m. <b>No School</b>					

# Council

## ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

### COVID 19 PREPARATION PLAN

#### St. John Staff Protocol

Staff does as much work from home as possible, coming into church as necessary and communicating with mutual ministry and other staff about schedules.

Staff must stay home if exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19. Communication to mutual ministry must take place in the event of symptoms, so cleaning of the work area can take place.

Staff must follow CDC recommendations and while at work, specifically, but not limited to:

- follow social distance of 6 feet at all times
- wash hands regularly following CDC guidelines
- clean work area daily

wear mask in the church or be ready to wear mask in office setting in event of communication with visitors or other staff

#### Cleaning Protocol

Custodian to follow cleaning procedures and materials that meet EPA criteria for use against COVID-19. Disinfecting of bathrooms, table tops, light switches and any other high touch areas will occur several times each week.

Any person using common use office equipment such as the copier should clean at the end of use.

Phones and other disposable office equipment such as pens, paper, etc should not be shared if at all possible.

If a staff member or visitor or visitor becomes ill, sanitizing and cleaning guidelines as outlined by the CDC website will be followed.

#### Communication

All staff will be trained on COVID-19 protocols. A copy of this preparedness plan will be available on the St. John website. Ongoing information will be communicated to all members via newsletter, email, social media, etc.

Signage for all members and visitors of the building will be in place to communicate latest CDC, MDH and other guidance.

#### Worship Protocol

Members are encouraged to participate from home as services will continue to be available on St. John website and YouTube, both live and streamed later.

Members are encouraged to participate from home as services will continue to be available on St. John website and YouTube, both live and streamed later.

Attendance at indoor services will be limited to 120 people in the worship center and 30 people in the basement. This doesn't include the worship team.

# Council

Members and visitors must follow the following in order to have the safest in-person worship as possible:

- Holy Communion will not be offered at this time, and we will continue to observe a holy fast, feasting instead on God's Word and the communion of the Holy Spirit
- Do not come to church if you have any COVID-19 symptom, or have been close to any person exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, or have tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days.
- Attendance will be taken in case of positive COVID-19 for contact tracing.
- Bring and wear a mask
- Must follow 6 feet social distance guidelines and follow seating rules. Worship bulletins will be placed on pews to assist members with seating safety (at both ends of every third pew). Family groups may sit together. Several pews in the front will be left empty as buffer between the worship team and the congregation.
- Must not sing or recite words out loud (basically follow the service passively)
- Bulletins will be pre-placed in pews
- Offering plates and hand sanitizer will be in clearly marked designated locations
- Fellowship before and after the service is encouraged to be outside following appropriate social distancing, and will not include coffee or food.
- Basement will be open for parents with children for the service as an option

Microphones will not be shared. Worship team will be allowed to not wear mask while speaking and singing. All other rules apply to the worship team as other members.

Funerals and funeral visitation will occur at the direction of the funeral home director direction, following the same general safety practices as above and limitations on attendance numbers.

Weddings and baptisms will occur, following the same general safety practices as above with limitations on attendance numbers. The front pews will be used by family/wedding party/baptismal party. This will include as many pews as necessary to accommodate this group. Two pews will be left behind them as a buffer.

Family/wedding party/baptismal party, will be allowed to not wear masks while participating in the service and while having pictures take.

All other church use will be reviewed by the Church Council on a case by case basis.

Posted 10-09-2020

(This document will be changed as necessary, to maintain the healthiest practices possible)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

#### Building Usage Guidelines

- Sign up with the church office, for room, date and time
- Maximum meeting group size is dependent on room (see office for details)
- Must wear a mask and keep 6 feet apart from one another
- Leave the room with the provided disinfectant before leaving
- Have a Blessed Day!