

March 2022

# St. John's Lutheran Church Church Bell



From the Desk of Pastor Clark



Throughout this sermon series “Thy Word is Truth”, we have been asking many questions. Then, we seek to answer those questions from the perspective of the world and then from the perspective of the Bible. As we have seen week after week, the answers given by the world and by the Bible are VERY different! In Hebrews 1:1-2, it states,

*“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.”*

Faith is believing what the Bible says regardless of what the world, satan, or even our sinful flesh tells us. Throughout the Bible, there were people who, though they were sinful, chose to trust God and His Word above all else.

*(Continued on Pg. 3)*

# St. John's Lutheran Church

302 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Buffalo, MN 55313

Phone: 763-682-1883

Fax: 763-682-1936

Noah's Ark Preschool: 763-682-1883

[info@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:info@stjohnsbuffalo.org)

*Sharing a changeless Christ in a changing world.*

[www.stjohnsbuffalo.org](http://www.stjohnsbuffalo.org)

## Staff:

Rev. Ryan Clark, Pastor

[pastorclark@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:pastorclark@stjohnsbuffalo.org)

845-549-0730

Rev. Chris Ryan, Assistant Pastor

[christophermryan2@gmail.com](mailto:christophermryan2@gmail.com)

Kelly Thole, DCE, Director of

Family Ministry

[kthole@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:kthole@stjohnsbuffalo.org)

Paul Nelson, DCE, Director of

Youth Ministry

[paul@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:paul@stjohnsbuffalo.org)

Katherine Clark, Dir. of Special Ministries,  
Assimilation & Small Groups

[katherine@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:katherine@stjohnsbuffalo.org)

Beth Langland, Office Administrator

[blangland@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:blangland@stjohnsbuffalo.org) or

[info@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:info@stjohnsbuffalo.org)

Noah's Ark Preschool

[noahsarkbuffalo@gmail.com](mailto:noahsarkbuffalo@gmail.com)

Jim Chapa, Treasurer

Amy Klemz, Financial Secretary

[financesec@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:financesec@stjohnsbuffalo.org)

Kathy Klemz, Board Secretary

## Worship Times:

Saturday 5:00 pm (contemporary)

Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 am (traditional)

KRWC 1360AM broadcast at 8:00 am

## Chairman of the Congregation

Jan Larson

## Board of Elders

[elders@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:elders@stjohnsbuffalo.org)

**Ryan Rutten, Head Elder**

Tracey Anderson

Bill Elletson

Dave Haggerty

Russ Hill

Tom Kortisses

Jed Larson

Tom Merrick

Matt Russell

Lee Ryan

Tony Sabraski

Dave Teske

## Board Chairs

Altar Guild: Dorothy Bowman

Education: Open

Outreach: Roger Strege

Fellowship: Open

Library: Cheryl Olsen/Shirley Elletson

Memorial Endowment/Investment:

Janice Marschel

Project Compassion: Sandi Baert

Decorating: Nicole Hills

Stewardship: Tim Vergin

Trustees: Scott Spadgenske

Women in Mission: Open

## Office Hours:

Mon-Fri. 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

## Newsletter Deadline:

Deadline for the March newsletter is **Monday, March 14th.**

**Bulletin Deadline:** Every Tuesday at midnight

(cont. from pg. 1)

Throughout our 2022 Lenten season, we are going to go “Back to the Bible” and take a look at some of these heroes of the faith from Hebrews, chapter 11. We hope you can join us beginning Wednesday, March 2 at 6pm for Ash Wednesday service.

God bless you,

Pastor Clark



### **“Giving Change to Make a Change”**



You may notice the golden envelopes by the offering plate each week labeled “Giving Change to Make a Change.” Donations received in these offerings go toward our Benevolence Fund. These funds are used to meet the needs of persons/families who reach out to St. John’s under dire financial situations. We often have Cub Foods and Holiday gas cards available for immediate needs. Pastor Clark meets and prays with individuals who request our help. Please consider using one of these “Giving Change” envelopes to occasionally donate. Don’t see the gold envelopes? Ask an usher.

BETH MOORE  
*chasing vines*



*Women's Retreat*

Friday, March 11th 6:30 - 9:30pm

Saturday, March 12th 8:30 - 2:30 pm

Cost: ~~\$25~~ Now only \$10!

*Includes snacks, Sat breakfast & lunch*

*Register Today!*

[stjohnsbuffalo.org](http://stjohnsbuffalo.org)



## LENTEN SCHEDULE



**March 2—Ash Wednesday,**  
5 PM Supper, 6 PM Service

**March 9, 16, 23, 30 & April 6—**  
5 PM Supper, 6 PM Service

**April 14—Maundy Thursday,**  
6 PM Maundy Thursday Worship

**April 15—Good Friday,**  
12 PM Devotional Service  
6 PM Good Friday Worship Service

**April 16—Easter Saturday,**  
5 PM Easter Saturday Celebration Service

**April 17—Easter Sunday,**  
6:30 AM Liturgical Easter Sunrise Service,  
7 AM Easter Breakfast,  
8 AM and 10:30 AM Resurrection  
Celebration Worship Service

### **Last Call for pictures!**

We will be wrapping up  
production of our directory  
later in March, but we WANT  
to include YOU! Please call  
the church office about

coming in to get your picture taken or  
submitting a portrait.



# March

## **Ushers**

8:00	Greg Buttenhoff, Don Lardy, Lee & Cody Ryan
10:30	Todd & Steve Jones, Beau Schmidt, Ben Schmidt, Zach Burns



## **Technology**

The	Jakob Annis
Sound	Tim Berteau
&	Robbie Ferdig
YouTube	Milt Hagen
Team	Dan Headley
	Harland Headley
	Trent Johnson
	Tom Kortisses
	Jill Marketon
	Ludovic Marquette
	Bill Morris
	Connor Spadgenske
	Bobbi Lindgren-Stevens

## **Contemporary Worship Team**

The	Deb Chapa
Team	Josiah Clark
	Pastor Clark
	Lee Claseman
	Aaron Kubasch
	LeAnn March
	Melissa Morris
	Paul Nelson

## **Organists/Pianists**

The	Lois Borner
Team	Deb Chapa
	Josiah Clark
	Penny Steele

## **Welcome Center Attendants for March**

Diana Ashwill  
Holly Bode  
Doreen Claseman  
Kathy Klemz  
Lorrie Lepinski  
Lynnette Smith  
Nancy Zumbusch

### **PEP**

### **Come join us!**

Enjoy some relaxed fun with **PEP (People Enjoying People)**. PEP meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month in the Fellowship Hall. We begin with a brief Bible study followed by a variety of activities which may include joke telling, cards and games. **In March we meet on the 1st and the 15th from 9-11:30 am.**

Coffee is served; come whenever you can; stay as long as you want. There is no regular commitment. The more the merrier.

## **Lenten Suppers**

Enjoy a good meal and good company!

**Served Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 pm**



**\*\* Free-Will Offering \*\***

### **Beginning March 2nd (Ash Wednesday)**

We will need cookies, bars or any other treat that you might be able to donate for each supper. If you can help, please call Paul Nelson @ 402-910-6530 or the Church Office. Funds raised support the 2022 Youth Mission Trip.

### **Lenten Supper Menu and Schedule:**

March 2 — Spaghetti by Youth Board

March 9 — Chili Cook-Off

March 16 — Taco Salad by Choir/PEP

March 23 — Potluck by the Elders

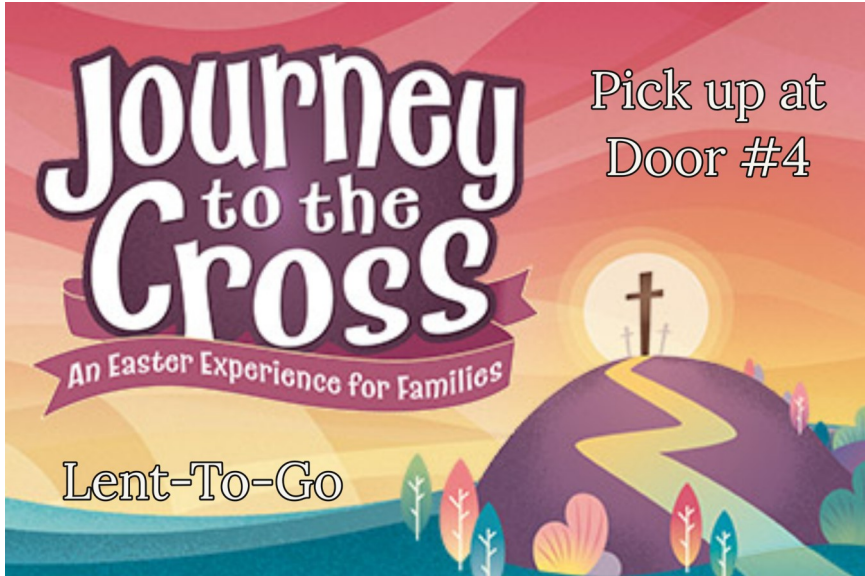
March 30 — Hotdish, Salad & Bread by WIM

April 6—Potluck by Church Council

### **St. John's Wish List**

Youth Director Computer	\$2,000
Classroom Chairs	\$1,000
Welcome Center Counters	\$2,000
Resurface Parking Lot	\$7,500
New Carpet	\$74,500
New Flat Roof	\$100,000





As we get ready for Easter and try to understand God's great big love for us through his Son Jesus, the season of Lent can be hard for kids to understand. So we invite your family to pick up our Journey to the Cross Family Kit.

### In each kit you will find...

- Family Devotions that are short and interactive!
- Crafts and activities for all ages!
- Fun new ways to pray and talk to God!
- Lots of fun extras!

***Beginning February 27th, families can pick up a Journey to the Cross- Family Kit at Door#4.***



### Items for March:

For March, we will be collecting **combs and brushes!** Thank you for continuing to donate throughout the year so that we can fill our boxes for this wonderful mission outreach!







## TEACH ME TO PRAY MILESTONE



**March 13 & 20**  
**During Sunday**  
**School Hour**

### PRAY IN COLOR

Be sure to check out our prayer wall in the Family Life Center hallway this month. No problem is too big for God! You can give thanks & praise or just ask for help. God is always listening!



VBS Summer  
2022

July 25-28

Mark your  
calendars!





## March Birthdays

Tim Bohach	3/1	Erica Karels	3/13
Laura Dalchow	3/1	Leah Russell	3/13
Dawn Danielson	3/1	Andy Baumgard	3/14
Doug Larson	3/1	Maisie Hartfiel	3/14
Adam Mapes	3/3	Weston Holland	3/14
Jaxon Baker	3/4	Delaney Mastley	3/14
Brad Hoseck	3/4	Tom Rassat	3/14
Toni Kock	3/4	Harrison Parks	3/16
Stephanie Berg	3/5	Parker Ryan	3/16
Greg Kramber	3/5	Joseph Stevens	3/17
Trina Mastley	3/5	Tonia Swanson	3/17
Lillian Reil	3/5	John Berg	3/18
Heather Spike-Trattles	3/5	Becca Fischer	3/18
Brent Laine	3/6	Del Larson	3/18
Sam Marx	3/6	Levi Maas	3/18
Mavis Bonk	3/7	Melissa Schoen	3/18
Carl Bowman	3/7	Pahton Harvey	3/19
Austin Decker	3/8	Theresa Henson	3/19
Jesse Meyer	3/8	Morgan Holland	3/19
Mason Baker	3/9	Anora Korbel	3/19
Karl Johnson	3/9	Matt Russell	3/19
Dale Schmieg	3/9	Jim Marty	3/20
Michelle Dalchow	3/10	Claire Stregre	3/20
Brad Ordorff	3/10	Howard Bremmer	3/22
Debra Rand	3/10	Adelyn Ebeling	3/22
Rod Strengre	3/10	Tom Gerold	3/22
Jason Wedel	3/10	Duwayne Hagen	3/22
McKenzie Berg	3/11	Jenna Huikko	3/22
Tiffany Loebertmann	3/11	Lee Jochum	3/22
Chloe Lyver	3/11	Lois Muelich	3/23
Lowell Benson	3/12	Shane Bertsch	3/24
Lisa Flaschenriem	3/12	John Bremmer	3/24
Rod Holland	3/12	Mark Bremmer	3/24
Susan Kohn	3/12	Paul Henning	3/24
Rebecca Russell	3/12	Terri Kenmir	3/24

Millie Lambert	3/24
Hailey Loebertmann	3/24
Mateo Zea	3/24
Millie Lindsley	3/25
Karly Holland	3/26
Randolph Klatt	3/26
Hunter Tilbury	3/26
Lee Claseman	3/27
Ella Elfering	3/27
Mariana Zea	3/27
Doreen Claseman	3/28
Shirley Elletson	3/28
Kathy Forcier	3/28
Pastor Clark	3/29
Tom Elletson	3/29
Chrissy Franchuk	3/29
Lib Larson	3/29
Brian Loberg	3/29
Doris Neske	3/29

Ben Bonk	3/30
Josh Clark	3/30
Carol Cook	3/30
Kathy Klemz	3/30
Eldon Peterson	3/30
Alexandra Schwartz-Paden	3/30
Mirra Whitney	3/30
Herman Loeffler	3/31
Lucille Packard	3/31
Jacob Schmitz	3/31



## Anniversaries



Bill & Theresa Henson	3/9
Earl & Lue Graham	3/11
Jan & Lib Larson	3/16
Bill & Melissa Morris	3/20
Dave & Dayna Teske	3/25
Terry & Sarah Klaers	3/27
Bob & Amy Rumsch	3/31



# Noah's Ark Preschool

## *A note from the Director:*

Greetings from Noah's Ark Preschool,



I wanted to take a second to celebrate and share with our church family, some of the great things that have been happening at Noah's Ark Preschool and exciting things we have coming in the future. To say thank you to our St. John's family just doesn't seem like enough. Because of you, this school year has been a great one for Noah's Ark Preschool. From welcoming new families, to the growth of an additional classroom and addition of new staff, we have so much to be thankful for. We are grateful for the continued prayers and financial support our St. John's family has given to Noah's Ark as we strive to provide high quality care and education while sharing the love of Jesus to all those who enter our doors. Thank you for being a part of this mission field in big and small ways.

As we begin to look to a new year, we also look forward to continued growth, this includes ushering in a new Preschool Director. It has been my privilege to be a part of Noah's Ark preschool these past 7 years. While this position is not part of my actual call to St. John's, this preschool has a huge piece of my heart and has allowed me to grow right alongside it. I am so grateful for the teachers I have worked with and the families I have gotten to know and love through these years. While I am not leaving St. John's, I am excited to return to my primary call as Director of Children and Family ministry. I look forward to this next chapter as our church and preschool continue to grow and all the things God has in store.

In the weeks and months to come, the preschool board will be sharing more about this job opportunity and the chance to join our staff. In the meantime if you want to know more or have interest, please contact Kelly at 763-682-1883 or [kthole@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:kthole@stjohnsbuffalo.org).



## NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL



# NOW ENROLLING

[stjohnsbuffalo.org](http://stjohnsbuffalo.org) | 763.682.1883

## **Two Opportunities for Thrivent Members:**



### **1) Eligible members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who have designated Choice Dollars:**

If you haven't already done so, be sure to direct your designated Thrivent Choice Dollars. New dollars are added to your account each quarter. Don't miss this opportunity to help support St. John's Lutheran Church or Noah's Ark Preschool. Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-THRIVENT and state "Thrivent Choice®." Deadline for requesting your yearly Choice Dollars is March 31, 2022.

### **2) Eligible members of Thrivent Financial Action Team Visa Cards:**

As a new year rolls over EVERY Thrivent member is again eligible to apply for TWO \$250.00 Visa cards to be used for a charity. Please contact Janice Marschel if you are willing to use your cards this year. She will help you with the process, which is very easy to follow. We have an ongoing list of projects to use these cards. Also, let her know if you have an idea of how you would like to use your cards.

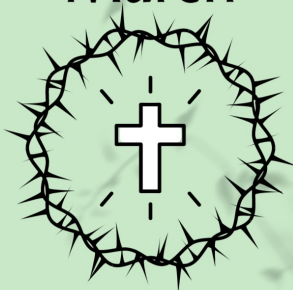
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## **St. John's Lutheran Mission \$ at Work**

Our Christmas offerings were distributed in the amount of \$1,916.00 to each of the following: Love INC, Noah's Ark, Lutheran High Mayer, Christ Community-Watertown, and St. James School-Howard Lake. Thank you for your gifts towards these recipients! Please keep these schools and mission groups in your prayers and give as generously as you can.



No youth group  
during Lent in  
March



## Youth Lenten Meals

Join us on **Wednesdays from 5-6 pm** for meals to support the youth mission trip (Free will donation). Youth are encouraged to help serve each meal, clean dishes, and other tasks. Sign up to help on the youth bulletin board. **Youth are also encouraged to bring their best chili to our chili cook-off on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>!** Prize and pride to the best chili!

3/2 (Ash Wednesday)-Youth Board: Spaghetti

3/9-Chili Cook-Off

3/16-PEP/Choir: Taco Salad

3/23-Elders: Potluck

3/30-LWML: Hotdish, salad, and bread

4/6-Church Council: Potluck





# Jr. High Board Game Night Sunday, March 20th 5-8 pm

Jr. High Youth are welcome to spend a Sunday evening playing some classic board games like Monopoly and Clue or maybe trying a new game like Settlers of Catan or Throw Throw Burrito! Snacks and drinks will be provided.



## Concordia St. Paul Kickball Tournament

It's back and time for our youth group to take on other youth groups in the area for the Concordia St. Paul Kickball Tournament on **Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-10 pm!** Those that need rides we will meet at church at 5 pm to go to the Concordia Dome at Sea Foam Stadium at CSP. We are limited to 10 participants in grades 7-12 and is coed (must have at least two of the opposite sex on the team). This is a free event! Family and friends are welcome to come cheer on our team!





## Electronics Show Fundraiser

Ham Radio electronics show is back on **Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>** at the Civic Center and our youth were invited to serve concessions from **7 am-1 pm**. Lunch will be provided for those helping. Youth can sign up to help on the bulletin board or online here: <https://bit.ly/3rR3tFh>

## Chili Cook-off!

Who makes the best chili in all the land? Is it YOU?



Show your stuff at the Lenten supper on **Wednesday, March 9!**

If you want to bring some heat, please RSVP to Paul by Tuesday 3/8 at 402-910-6530.

brand new

## college / career LIFE Group

led by Pastor Chris Ryan

Starting FEB 20

6.45 PM

YOUTH ROOM

6 week study on spiritual disciplines for 18 - 25 yr olds



## 2022 Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

Monday, Feb. 28—Sunday, Mar. 10

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign is the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state and bring together community organizations, businesses, and faith communities to help stock nearly 300 food shelves state-wide.



If you would like to support our local food shelf, food donations may be brought to church and we will deliver them.

Monetary donations are accepted and appreciated!

**By mail:** P.O. Box 222, Buffalo, MN 55313

**Online:** [buffalofoodshelf.com](http://buffalofoodshelf.com) and click “donate now.”

**Through the PayPal Giving Fund:**

[www.paypal.com/fundraiser/hub](http://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/hub)—enter “Buffalo Food Shelf”, select “Minnesota” for the state—make your donation.

The more food and dollars donated to the Buffalo Food Shelf during the March campaign, the more “Food Fund” dollars they will receive from Minnesota FoodShare.

# Special Ministries & Life Groups



LIFE Groups March 2022			
Day/Time	Location	Facilitator	Topic
2nd/4th Tuesdays 9:15am	Church Rm 228	Katherine Clark	Women - <i>Jeremiah: Daring to Hope in an Unstable World</i>
Thursdays 6:30 AM	Perkins	Jed Larson	Men's Study - <i>Old Testament - Patriarchs, Prophets, and Kings</i>
Thursdays 6:30 PM	Youth Rm	Pastor Chris Ryan	Men's Study - <i>Acts</i>
2nd Saturday of the month	Culvers	Various Hosts	Saturday Supper Club - Dinner + Conversation!
Sundays 9:15am	Noah's Ark, Rm 121	Pastor Chris Ryan	Men's Study - <i>A Man's Guide to the Spiritual Disciplines</i>
Sundays 12:30 - 2pm	Conference Rm 229	Gary Nalavenko, Pastor Taylor, Bob Libsock, LeAnn Fremo	GriefShare - 13 week session [begins March 6th] (join any week during session)
Sundays 6:45pm	Youth Room	Pastor Chris Ryan	Young Adult Study (~18-25 yrs) [Begins Feb 20th]

Many LIFE Groups are taking a break during Lent. ALL are encouraged to come fellowship during Lenten suppers and find mid-week encouragement in the Lenten Services. Find more information about LIFE Groups on the website.

<https://www.stjohnsbuffalo.org/life-groups/>

**FREE FLIERS**

A new fellowship group for those with an empty nest or facing an empty nest soon

**JOIN THE FUN  
MEET NEW FRIENDS!**  
EMPTY NEST UP TO RETIREMENT AGE

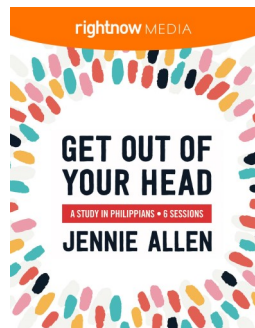
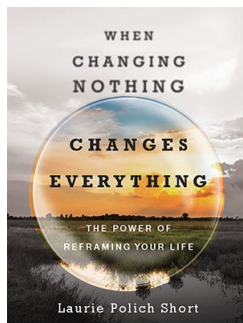
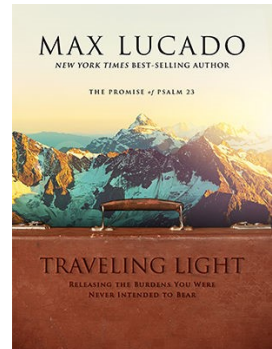
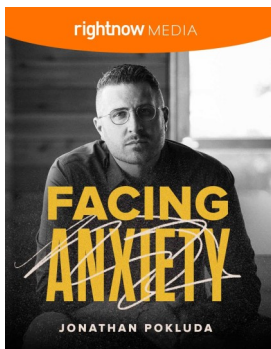
First event starting in April!  
Contact Verdeen or Beth Langland  
if interested!



## RightNow MEDIA

Are you taking advantage of the FREE MEMBERSHIP to RightNow MEDIA provided by St. John's? Visit the website to get registered if you haven't already! (<https://www.stjohnsbuffalo.org/resources/rightnow-media/>) Over 20,000 videos, Bible Studies, Kids Series, and Conference videos are available to you and can be viewed on mobile devices, computers, and smart TVs.

If Pastor's recent sermon about worrying stuck a chord with you, here are a few studies you might find helpful to keep casting your cares on the Lord:





## Grieving the Death of a Loved One?

Find support and healing at GriefShare. GriefShare is a video seminar series that features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics as seen from a Biblical perspective.



The group will meet **Sundays in Room 229 at 12:30 PM beginning Sunday, March 6th.** Contact Gary Nalevanko or Katherine Clark with any questions.



### Women in Mission “Mites Sunday”

Our Women in Mission will have a “Mites Sunday” once per month to provide monies for the mission grants voted on at the LWML Minnesota South District Convention. Please consider giving an offering in our Mites Offering box as you leave worship or take home a box of your own and turn back in! Last month = \$309.05 **Thank you!**







## Take a minute to visit our updated website!

It's purpose is two-fold. First, we want it to be a welcome mat for visitors who come to our "digital front door". The home page is geared for the first time visitor. Secondly, we want it to be a hub of information for members. Check the calendar, register for an event, find a LIFE Group, or watch a sermon or Bible study you missed! It will continue to be developed and a few things (like the sermon archive) will take a while to get moved over from the old site. Before you exit, leave a prayer request or praise report on the prayer wall!!



# Annual Voter's Meeting Minutes 1/30/2022

Call to Order: 9:15 a. m. by Jan Larson

Opening Prayer: Pastor Clark

Agenda: Reviewed and approved.

Pastor's Report: Along with Pastor's written report some highlights were: He really appreciates that Paul & Abi Nelson are here. Everything Paul does has a purpose. He wants to know the families of the youth group and he wants to support the church family. Stacy Rutten held a class on Giftedness. She posted 6 different gifts around the room and the Staff Member was to stand by the gift they had. There were 6 different gifts and there were 6 Staff Members in attendance—each one at a different place. New Member Class will be on February 5 with about 18 in the group. Grateful for the Debenture Program. Lent & Easter coming soon as Easter is late this year. Thanks to all who took time to have their pictures taken. There is still time to do that all you need to do is call the church office.

Children & Family Ministry and Noah's Ark: Kelly provided a written report.

Youth Ministry: Paul received help for his report from Vicar Ryan for the first part of the year and then reported the final 2 months on his own with highlights on the youth event from last July to Mexico, Missouri. The youth had many projects to do. This Summer the youth mission trip is to Rosebud Reservation. Mission trip cost is estimated at \$15,000. Heggie's pizza had record sales last year. Hoping this year will go as well. Youth will be helping with Lenten Suppers again this year. 7<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation is done for the year with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation on a pause until after Easter.

Special Ministries: Along with Katherine's written report some highlights were: assisting new members with getting connected-serving and/or in life groups. Reaching out to our visitors. Restarted the Youth

Board. Launching Website – January 2022. Staff Retreat, DCE call committee, & organ committee advisor. Snowbirds who still want to get their pictures taken should give the church office a call to set up a time. Outreach Board Events: Trick or Treat, Noah's Ark Parent Appreciation, Lunch for GriefShare. Outreach combined Evangelism & Missions. Life Groups this past year had 20 different leaders and 18 different studies. Some of the leaders were couples.

Secretary's Report: In the Special Ministries there is a sentence that says there is a newly formed Youth Group. The correction to that is it should read: Youth Board not Youth Group. With the amendment change a motion to accept the minutes with the change was made by Lois Borner and seconded by Tony Sabraski. Minutes were approved. Financial Secretary & Treasurer's Report: Reports presented by Jim Chapa & Amy Klemz. Reports were reconciled. General Fund through December 31, 2021 the Final Quarter:

Contributions	\$254,521
Expenses	\$236,387
Net Income	\$ 18,134

God has Blessed St. John's with a YTD surplus of \$69,589. Jim said that last year the Actual YTD total was \$750,000 and this year ended with \$866,681. This was through the Pandemic. This was a bountiful year. There is an over budget amount of \$7,000 approved by a motion from Penny Steele and seconded by Jed Larson to send this money to the District for Missions. A surplus of \$270K moved to earn interest. The Insurance Company looking to raise our premiums was shown a handbook about our Preschool. Being impressed by it our premiums were lowered. Breeze program brought in 19% for the 2021 year. A motion to approve the Financial Report was made by Bill Elletson and seconded by Ed Borner. It was passed. Thank you to Jim for all your work.



Elders Report: Ryan Rutten reported that Russ Hill, Matt Russell, and Tom Merrick have been added to the Elder board. They are replacing Kyle Bjork, Gabe Licht, and Mark Saunders. A list of Members removed & received are printed in the packet. A motion was made by Janice Marschel and seconded by Jan Larson. Elders are in contact with members who haven't been seen recently and have found that COVID is keeping some of them away. Fellowship Board has an opening for anyone. Submit your names to Ryan Rutten. What effectiveness does the Liturgical Service have? There are 2000 baptized; Active: 500. The Elders are striving to have every member be present at Church for enriching their faith walk. Removing inactive members only at their request.

Proposed Mission Projects: For 2022 the Mission Projects have stayed the same as last year for the Lenten Season. Special days through Lent are Ash Wednesday; Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, & Easter have envelopes. There is also Thanksgiving & Christmas. Two other offering opportunities are Josh & Whitney Smith Missionaries and LOVE, INC. previously approved. New projects this year are Wrapped in Love, Buffalo Mission & St. Cloud Pregnancy Resource Center. Donations of clothing for children through adult. ST. John's provides the sock and underwear & the rest is donations. Thrivent Action cards can be utilized by each member in Thrivent being able to get up to two cards a year to use for an event. The envelopes that read "Give change to make a change" is a great ministry for those who are looking for help. A motion was made to approve these missions by Bill Cook and seconded by Ed Borner. It was passed.

New Business: 1) Synod Convention sent a letter about bumping the triennial forward one year due to the Pandemic. There was some discussion and it was decided to approve by a motion from Jim Chapa and seconded by Penny Steele. 2) There is a need for

lights in the choir room. Jim Marty got lights working. Thank you for a phenomenal job. 3) Budget went up \$2,000- \$3,000 for this year due to Paul Nelson coming & Vicar Ryan becoming a Pastor.

Old Business: None at this time.

#### REPORTS:

Trustees: Report as printed. Scott Spadgenske added there are new estimates for repair. Put together a list for upkeep by members. Spring/Fall Cleanup by members. Six members came to volunteer to hand out Trick-or-Treat bags.

Evangelism: Combined with Missions to form an Outreach Group

Stewardship: Tim Vergin reported that the debt to the building has been paid off through paid and renewed Debentures. IRA's used to donate to Principle of Debt Reduction don't get taxed. Payoff debt in under 10 years. Thank you to Tim as Chairman and that he talked to everyone for raising funds for the Debenture Program. Thank you to Jim Schleif for getting the original fund raising started.

Missions: As written.

Memorials/Gifts: As written.

Gift/Estate: As written.

Women in Mission: Along with Priscilla McKenzie's written report some highlights were: A Blood Drive is scheduled in June. Those who have or had COVID are really needed for their antibodies. Think about giving blood. The blood bank is in desperate need.

Project Compassion/Health Cabinet: Report as written. The Prayer Shawls are in need of being stocked again. Anyone who can knit or crochet is asked to help. All supplies are in the History Center upstairs. Use the pattern provided or you can use one of your own.

Technology: Written report provided

Other Business: A reminder to come to the concert tonight at 4pm.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Clark

Meeting Adjourned: 10:20 a.m. with attendance of 45 voting members. Respectfully submitted by Kathy Klemz

# Board Meeting Minutes 1/18/2022

Call to Order: Jan Larson

Open with Prayer: Pastor Clark

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Janice Marschel, seconded by Dave Haggerty and unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report: Sermon Series "Thy Word is Truth" continues now studying "Christ". There has been positive feedback. Confirmation finished Confession/Absolution study and will begin Baptism. New Member class will be on February 5. A wedding will take place on Saturday, January 22nd. Sunday Bible Class is looking at Worldview Material and responding to things in our culture. Visitation list is full as Pastors continue to see members from the Shut-in list. Thank you to Jim Marty for hanging the Board. Funerals for Alvin Elfmann and Ralph Faue recently held. For now a lull in Baptisms. PEP continues with Pastors taking turns with leading the group. St John's is working on picture taking for a new Directory. Two new elders have joined--Russ Hill and Matt Russell. Still in prayer for a Fellowship chair. Elders continue to connect with those who haven't been seen since COVID time. Coming event is the Ordination of Vicar Chris Ryan as Pastor.

Vicar's Report: Similar to Pastor's report with Confirmation and Preaching. SMP work continues with intensive study at St Louis, January 10-14. Continued work with Old Testament Overview. Bible Study with Thursday Men's Group on Acts, Sunday Men's Group on Spiritual Disciplines, College Life Group in February, PEP Group with Difficult Bible Passages. Shut-in and House call visits are going well. Ordination Service on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm.

Youth Ministry: Paul Nelson reported Winter Lock-in for December 29-30 6pm-6am "Cast All Your Anxieties" with 20 youth in attendance. Recent Grads

Brunch at Forget Me Not Café with 6 young adults present. Youth Roller Blading was cancelled- not enough interest. Paul attended a National DCE conference Jan. 11-14. Theme was "For All Generations". Jr. & Sr. High Bible Studies continue on a regular basis. Noms with Nelsons meeting with families are being scheduled with January appointments. Nelsons are willing to extend meetings in February. Events coming: Junior High Sledding, Heggies Pizza orders, Junior High at River City Extreme, FMSC, Sr. High Escape Room/ Whirlyball, Summer Mission Trip to Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Children & Family Ministry: Activities Past: December 19 The Littlest Watchman- Sunday School Program with 300+ in attendance. December 24- Family Service at 5pm. This service was interactive. There was no Sunday School 12/26 & 1/3. January 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday School will begin the M&M tubes project ending in February. All the quarters will be used to provide food for kids around the world- the program is Feed My Starving Children. Events coming: Summer VBS will share programs & supplies with other churches. Family Game Night- Bingo on January 28. All ages are invited. Jan. 23 & 30- Preschoolers & Parents are invited to join in "My Church" class during Sunday School hour. During February the Sunday School wall will be about prayer. Put up a color ribbon that represents something on your heart: families, friends, sickness, pets. Journey to the Cross- Lent to go: pick up your packet of activities & use them each day or once a week through Lent.

Noah's Ark: The students displayed their art work in the Coffee Commons in December. Staff & Students were excited to share what was learned. Christmas Program: December 22<sup>nd</sup> in the

Sanctuary. No School Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>—Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>. Parent/Teacher Conferences on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>—26<sup>th</sup>. Registration for 2022-2023 will begin with current families first, then the congregation and community beginning in February. Kelly is working on registration packets. Special Ministries: New Member Class meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Postcards & email invitations have been sent. So far there are 6 signed up. Serving Opportunities: Volunteers are needed for specific dates/tasks. Let the office know if you are interested. Website in the works to be launched by January 25<sup>th</sup> at the latest. Directory News: Pictures are being taken on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> for a new “in house” directory. Thanks to our photographers: Jodi Baumgard, Abi Nelson, assistants Lori Mussell, Lib Larson, Bonnie Elfmann & Beth Langland. Fellowship Chili Supper was January 9<sup>th</sup> with 50 people in attendance. GriefShare finished their first cycle & planning to start another in March. Vicar Chris is starting a young adult Life Group for the 18-25 year olds. There are currently 9 Life Groups in session. Financial Secretary & Treasurer’s Report: Jim Chapa reported a fabulous month. A motion to accept reports as written was made by Dave Haggerty, seconded by Janice Marschel. Motion carried. Debentures are doing well. General Fund Actuals for Dec: Contributions: \$119,016 Expenses: \$89,256 Net Ordinary Income: \$29,760 Missions: \$24,848. Jim has done a fantastic job with the finances. Thank you. Amy says things are going well & is mailing out statements not picked up. New Business: Once Vicar Chris is ordained, as an Associate Pastor he can attend any meeting. SMP has Vicar on a call designating Pastor Clark to be Senior Pastor. Pastor Clark calling the District to find out. Old Business: There is talk about more

liturgical services. The Elders have been asked to pray about this.

## **BOARD & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Elders: Russ Hill & Matt Russell have joined the list of elders. Buffalo Covenant Church is planning to start a school. Kathleen Schlink asked about Scholarship Guide for Lutheran Church?

Trustees: Pastor & Vicar splitting the areas for greeting. Another Welcome Center Area needed for when parents drop off their children.

Evangelism/Outreach: Missions will be expanding the giving opportunities & to pray for August Mission Month. Mission giving is a part of the Evangelism/Outreach.

Stewardship: A Big Thank You to Tim Vergin for his efforts at getting the funds he was asking for.

Fellowship: Looking for someone to chair this board.

Library: No report.

Women in Mission: Involved with donations at Lenten time, Easter time, Thanksgiving, & Christmas. There are two projects added: Wrapped in Love, Buffalo Mission & St Cloud Pregnancy Resource Center. Gifts to the LCMS ministry are used for Armed Forces, Campus Ministry, & Missionaries in various countries around the world. We remain strong in our Christian Education commitment providing assistance to our schools & LOVE, INC. Technology: Ludovic reported that Pastor Clark has a new microphone for Bible Class.

Project Compassion: At the next meeting Valentine Cards will be signed. Decorating: Nicole says huge thanks to all who helped take down Christmas Decorations. She is also looking to purchase Lenten & Easter Banners to keep things seasonally fresh.

Closing Prayer: Vicar Chris Ryan

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Klemz



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