

# ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER

## JUNE 2019



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
821 Denver Street Schuyler, Nebraska 68661  
402-352-3550

office.stjohns821@gmail.com

**Our Mission: to witness and serve in the name of Jesus Christ**

**Ministers: the People**

**Pastor: Day Hefner**

**St. John's Reservation Book** If you have received approval to utilize the Church/Social Hall/Classrooms from the St. John's Church Council, please utilize the Blue Day Planner in the Church Office to block out your date and times.

### June Assignment

Head Usher/Greeter:  
Communion Assistant: Karen Henry  
Lector: Sharan Stoltenberg  
Green Team:  
Acolyte: Hope Borman



### June Birthdays

2 Betty Herde  
Bob Vrba  
3 Karen Henry  
4 Jim Folken  
5 Scott Dubsy  
7 Derrick Fendrick  
10 Gavin Bywater  
12 Sara (Dubsy) Fischer  
19 Sharon Schurman  
21 Donna Carney  
22 Linda Konz

### Anniversaries

4 John & Renee Sayer  
Richard & Carol Wolta  
17 Andy & Shanda Hall  
20 Tom & Viola Bender  
Gary & Tracey Kracl  
22 Cory & Natalie Petersen  
25 Mike & Lori Benesch  
26 Randy & Cindy Plummer  
27 Dan & Melanie Plummer  
29 Bob & Darli Vrba



## A Word from Our Pastor

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:1-4*

Being a follower of Christ in the early centuries of the church must have been bewildering and awe-inspiring and terrifying and exhilarating all at once. I've been thinking this a lot as I look at the festivals we'll be observing in June. These are days that celebrate the mystery and dynamism and awe of God at work, doing a new thing. On June 2, we will observe the day of the Ascension, on which Jesus was taken up into heaven, leaving his understandably consternated followers to wonder what on earth they should do next and when this "helper" or "advocate" Jesus promised to send would come. On June 9, the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit indeed shows up, ripping through the assembly of the believers like a violent wind, with fiery tongues that open the nascent church to the whole world. And on June 16, we will contemplate the Holy Trinity, the great cosmic mystery with which Christians have wrestled since the earliest centuries of the church.

What I find striking about all this is the way that new footsteps keep retracing older footsteps, adding new layers of meaning with each pass. This is especially true of Pentecost. The Christian festival of Pentecost is layered on top of the much older Jewish Festival of Weeks, or Shavuot. Shavuot is a celebration of the giving of the law to the ancient Israelites on Mount Sinai, and occurs fifty days after the Passover (a week of weeks, plus one day – "pentecost" comes from the Greek word for "fiftieth"). Just as God did a new thing by giving God's people the law to guide them, God did an even bolder new thing by pouring out the Holy Spirit upon God's people. Jesus told his people they would no longer need him to guide them, because they would have the Holy Spirit as their wisdom and guide.

This is the same Spirit which we inherit, and these are the same stories whose paths we travel year after year, adding our own layers of meaning by living out our call to be the body of Christ in this place. And I don't know about you, but I often continue to be bewildered and inspired and terrified and exhilarated by the call to follow Christ, by wondering and witnessing where God is at work in the world. I'm often left feeling restless and curious about where God will show up next, and about how God is working in my heart and in the hearts of our congregation. Who can know where the Spirit's calling will lead us? It is only up to us to trust that the call will come, to listen for it and follow when we hear it, and to see together what will we learn in this new cycle around the wheel.

Faithfully,  
Pr. Day



# WORSHIP IN JUNE:

All Services at 9:30 a.m. unless otherwise indicated.

## Sunday, June 2, Ascension Sunday

Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 97, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21, John 17:20-26

## Sunday, June 9, Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:14-17, John 14:8-17 [25-27]

## Sunday, June 16, Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Psalm 8, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

## Sunday, June 23, 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:1-9, Psalm 22:19-28, Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39

## Sunday, June 30, 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21, Psalm 16, Galatians 5:1, 13-25, Luke 9:51-62

*Year C focuses on the Gospel of Luke. The semi-continuous Old Testament readings are of prophetic proclamation chosen in chronological order and highlighting Jeremiah. The second, New Testament, readings are chosen mainly from Galatians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy and 2 Thessalonians.*



*St. John's Women of the ELCA "Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ."  
All women of St. John's are invited to participate in the activities of the Women of the E.L.C.A. WELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. There is a place for you in Women of the ELCA at St. John's. We're a community of women where fellowship, friendship, study, service and advocacy are nurtured.*

### **St. John's Women of the ELCA**

"Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ."

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

June 11 1:30. General Meeting with Bible Study

June 25 Quilting

June 30 Serve coffee fellowship

July 2 1:30 General Meeting with Bible Study

Aug. 8 Annual Salad Luncheon —SAVE THE DATE

### **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILTING**

**"THOSE WHO SLEEP UNDER A QUILT, SLEEP UNDER LOVE."**

Quilting in fellowship hall June 25 at 1:30

Quilting Lutheran World Relief mission quilts are a valuable tool to show God's love and compassion around the world. Help us help others. No experience is necessary. Quilts are ready to tie or there is fabric to be cut. If you would like to sew at home, we can provide the materials.



## Other news.....

**The Center** (Colfax County Senior Center) is currently looking for people interested in becoming Governing Board members. The board meets on the second Tuesday of every month and executive sessions, as needed. If you are interested please contact center manager Andy Davidson 402 352 5008.

**St. John's** yard sale Friday June 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> . Bring your items anytime and leave them in the last Sunday school room. Any questions talk to Lori or Mike Benesch. Thank you all for your donations.

**Christian Education committee** will meet Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. June 12, 2019.

**You are invited** to join with the St. John's family on Sunday June 9th to celebrate the feast of Pentecost. After worship we will enjoy a "**Pentecost Potluck**" and everyone is welcome. Each family unit is asked to bring one meat dish and one other dish. The other dish could be a salad, dessert, fruit or vegetable dish. Table serve and drink will be provided. May the "spirit" move you to attend this yummy food and fellowship event.

**Evangelism/Social Ministry** Committee will meet after the Pentecost Potluck on June 9, 2019.

**Next Church Council Meeting** will be Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. June 12, 2019. Please note the time change and everyone is welcome.

**Mobile Food Bank:** Starting in June, St. John's will be hosting a mobile food bank for the Schuyler area community in partnership with the Schuyler school system and Schuyler Ministerial Alliance. This will take place the second Thursday of every month; the first event will be on June 13th, setting up at 2pm to open to the community from 4-6. There are lots of ways to help!

- Volunteer to help with setup and/or distribution
- Donate boxes and bags that can be used to carry out food items
- Lend a wagon or something else that can be used as a shopping cart, to help people move through the line and pick up food

If you are interested in helping out with the mobile food bank, please talk to Pr. Day!

**Other messages for St. John's bulletins, newsletters, etc. Please use the email:**  
[office.stjohns821@gmail.com](mailto:office.stjohns821@gmail.com) OR call the Secretary's office to leave messages.

**Here's a delicious and easy recipe.**

### Dulce de Leche and Banana Almond Milk Smoothie

#### Ingredients

- 1 medium frozen banana - cut in half
- 2/3 cup plus 2 tablespoons dulce de leche OR 1 recipe cajeta
- 2 1/2 cups Almond Breeze Unsweetened Original (or for extra creaminess use Almond Breeze Unsweetened Almondmilk Cashewmilk Blend Original)
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Pinch of sea salt
- Lightly toasted and crushed almonds

#### Directions

1. Place all ingredients into the well of a blender and blend until smooth. Add more almond cashew milk for extra creaminess or dulce de leche depending on thickness preference and blend again until smooth.
2. Finish each smoothie with a small sprinkle of crushed honey roasted almonds and serve immediately.



**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting  
April 10, 2019**

Meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm by Council President, Mike Benesch. Council members present were Jalaine Vavricek, Pastor Day Hefner, Bob Svoboda, Chellee Nelson and Vicky Borman. Absent was Larry Konz and John Sayer.

**Devotion/Prayer:** Chellee Nelson gave a devotion pertaining to lent.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the March 13, 2019 Congregational Council meeting were presented. A motion was made by Vavricek and seconded by Benesch to approve these minutes. Motion carried.

**Open Forum/Correspondence:** None

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Day presented her report for March (see attached).

**President's Report:** Benesch will purchase a floral arrangement for Administrative Professionals Day.

**Christian Ed Committee Report:** See attached written report. The committee has reviewed bylaws. A few of the antique children's chairs will be put on Auction Time to see if there are any interested buyers.

**Finance & Stewardship Committee Report:** The March financials were presented.

**Property Committee Report:** Bell Tower outlet has been repaired. Benesch will obtain a quote for putting down hard surface flooring in the living room of the parsonage. New recycling containers were purchased. Church and parsonage yard clean-up was completed. Pastor wants to keep the garden area at the parsonage. Water fountain needs some work so water doesn't spray everywhere.

**Worship & Music Report:** Has met 2 times since last council meeting. Hymns are planned through July. Holy week preparations are under way.

**Evangelism & Social Ministry Report:** Vavricek reported on the Schuyler Elementary Family night that St. Johns participated in. Jars of pop tabs that were at St. Johns were given to the Schuyler 4<sup>th</sup> Grade class. Progress is being made on the red book. Newsletters and yearbooks will be sent out this week. Committee is keeping in contact with members; delivered Lenten meal to Sharan Stoltenberg and invited the Swanson family for Lenten meal. Pastor will conduct training in June for those wanting to give communion to the home bound. The committee will host coffee fellowship on May 5.

Svoboda made a motion, seconded by Pastor Day to approve the committee reports. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** A 6:30 pm meeting will be held on April 11 with Jed Brunken, Columbus Electronics and the property committee regarding the projector system. Ideas will be collected for a potential bid. Evangelism, property, finance, worship and music still need to review bylaws. Pastor Day presented a \$62.99 quote for a 2 TB external backup that she would like to purchase. Borman made a motion seconded by Benesch to purchase the backup drive.

**New Business:** Vavricek made a motion, seconded by Borman to have 100% of the Lenten offerings go to the Nebraska Synod Flood Relief Efforts, a change from a previous discussion and vote. Motion carried. Pastor Day made a motion, seconded by Svoboda to approve membership of Sue Healy. Motion carried. St. Johns was contacted by Bill Comley regarding St. Johns hosting a monthly mobile food pantry. Benesch made a motion, seconded by Svoboda to approve this. More details to come. Council will host the Easter Vigil reception on Saturday, April 20.

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment:** Svoboda made a motion, seconded by Nelson to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm. Motion carried.