

**ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER**

**May 2020**

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

*Email : office.stjohns821@gmail.com*

*Web page: stjohndlutheranschuyler.wordpress.com*

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

***Ministers: the People***

***Pastor: Day Hefner***



***May Assignments***

**Head Usher/ Greeter:** Karen Henry

**Communion Assistant:** Jalaine Vavricek

**Lector:** Lori Benesch

***Important news.....***

**We miss you, Worship and coffee fellowship!** We know it is hard not to be able to come to church and worship together. One of our instructions is to stay connected. You can stay connected with your church family by going to the St. John's web site: [stjohndlutheranschuyler.wordpress.com](http://stjohndlutheranschuyler.wordpress.com). If you click on Virtual Church you will find instructions, Worship Online, Resources, Previous Live Videos, and be able to watch services streamed on the public Facebook page at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Reach out and stay connected with someone in our church family or your family or a friend. Let us know if your church needs to be doing something for you. God bless you. Be patient! Stay Home and Be Safe!

Strength! Courage! Don't be timid; don't get discouraged God, your God, is with you every step you take."

Joshua 1:9

*Your Evangelism and Social Ministry Team*

**We are deeply humbled by your generosity and your commitment to St. John's.** The offerings you have given since we were asked not to worship together have helped to deepen our impact on others' lives. We are so grateful for those of you that have increased your gifts and have continued your partnership in our kingdom building service in the name of Jesus Christ. You will find several ways of giving your offerings on our web site: [stjohndlutheranschuyler.wordpress.com](http://stjohndlutheranschuyler.wordpress.com). Peace be with you!

"Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am."

Philippians 4:13

*Your Finance and Stewardship Team*

### Graduating Seniors:

With the Coronavirus pandemic, we are unsure when St. John's Lutheran Christian Education Committee will be honoring our 2020 graduating high school seniors. This year we have 2 students who will be graduating from High School from St. John's Lutheran Church. When we have a date to honor our 2020 seniors from St. John's, please join us in honoring their achievement.

**Logan Nelson** will graduate from Howells-Dodge Consolidated High School on June 27 and will be attending Northeast Community College in Norfolk, NE majoring in Agronomy. St. John's Lutheran Church Christian Continuing Education Grant for \$200 will be awarded to Logan!!!

**Haylie Swanson** will graduate from Schuyler Central High School some time the summer of 2020. St. John's Lutheran Church Christian Continuing Education Grant for \$200 will be awarded to Haylie!!!

We wish Logan and Haylie much success during their college years and hope they will come and attend Worship Service at St. John's Lutheran Church when they are back in the Schuyler area.

ST. JOHN'S YARD SALE **POSTPONED** until further notice. We will NOT have the yard sale on May 29 and 30th as stated in the April Newsletter. NO DONATIONS will be accepted until further notice. If you have already left items at the church, that is okay we will store them for future use.

The Church Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. on May 13



Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 11-12

We are coming up on the festival of Pentecost once more, on the very last day of May this year. Pentecost is basically a celebration of the church's birthday – born in a rush of Spirit in wind and flame. That Spirit drew believers together in ways they never imagined – with people they never imagined! – and then sent them out on the wildest journeys to the far corners of the earth.

As I was thinking about what to write for this month's newsletter, I looked back at last year. Pentecost was in June and I wrote a little bit about the history of Pentecost – as well as the two festivals that surround it, the Ascension and Holy Trinity – and its origins in the Jewish Festival of Weeks. I wrote about how it is the same Spirit that unites us with the believers that came before us, and how each year, each generation, that passes through the cycle adds new layers of richness and meaning.

I was thinking about last year's floods when I wrote that, how all the flooding shaped the way we heard the promises of scripture – especially the story of Noah and the flood – how it shaped the way that we as a church related to our community and expressed our faith. Yet as intense as the floods were, of course, they pale in comparison to how drastically the present crisis has upended our lives.

Rather than the floods of Noah, this year I can easily imagine that one of the first biblical images to come to mind for what we are experiencing might be the plagues of Egypt! However, the place my heart keeps coming back to is the theme of exile. Our ancestors in the faith knew well the pain of exile – the pain of wandering in the wilderness, longing for home, not knowing when they would return. My heart aches with the pain of exile.

I can imagine you share this pain as well. Perhaps it's showing up as frustration or annoyance or sadness or anger, but underneath it all is the pain and fear of loss, and the uncertainty of what the future will bring and how soon it will bring it. We are exiles from life as we knew it. I grieve not being allowed to gather with you all as we did before – last year we celebrated Pentecost with a communal potluck meal; but this year, who knows if we will even be able to gather? We have already had to celebrate the holiest days of the year in social isolation. And my heart goes out to those who had been looking forward to celebrations of graduations and proms and birthdays, Mothers Day and Memorial Day.

But our exile will not last forever. And as we wander through a wilderness of Facebook Live and Zoom meetings, of homeschool and hand sanitizer, of face masks and fear, I think we would do well to remember that, in the scriptures, the wilderness is always a place where God shows up. God is with us here. The same Spirit that burned on the lips and in the hearts of the first believers burns in us – uniting us not only with those who came before us, but also with each other, and with our siblings in Christ around the globe. We face this time of exile and crisis united as one body in the Spirit, even when we are apart. We are not alone. God is with us. And God will bring us through to the other side of this.

This may well be the strangest year around the cycle that any of us have ever lived (I really hope I don't have to eat those words in 2021). But God's got this. And the same Spirit that roared through the first assembly of believers on a rush of wind and flame continues to send us in mission in new and strange ways, and – though we are near or far – to bind us all together in the one body of Christ.

Faithfully, Pr. Day

**All Services at 9:30am unless otherwise indicated.**

**Sunday, May 3 Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

**Sunday May 10 Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

**Sunday May 17 Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

**Sunday May 24 Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11, John 17:11

**Sunday May 31 Day of Pentecost**

Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, John 20:19-23



**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. Would you consider joining a group where fellowship, friendship, Bible study and service are nurtured? Gather Magazine is the WELCA publication that we use it for our monthly Bible Study and the articles are very good reading. They also have a Facebook Group.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

If possible: May 5 1:30 General Meeting and Bible Study

May 26 1:30 Quilting

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILTING**

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

May 26 , 2020

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.

## Reminder



- We would love to support and pray for you as needed. Contact the church office at 402-352-3550 if you are going to the hospital. Contact Jalaine Vavricek at 402-352-5883 or 402-615-1485 for prayer requests for the Prayer Chain.
- Please let us know if you would like someone added to **In Our Prayers** or removed when prayers have been answered.
- If you wish a card be sent from our congregation to anyone **In Our Prayers**, give Gail Fickle their name and address personally or leave it in her mailbox at church.
- If we have overlooked your birthday or anniversary, please let the church office know so we can celebrate you.
- **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.

### Birthdays

17	Pastor Day Hefner
18	ViviAnne Sayer
19	Harold Druempel
29	Logan Nelson
31	Viola Bender Diane Fendrick



### Anniversaries

9	Scott & Denise Dubsky
14	Adrian & Janelle Rocha
17	Rick & Diane Fendrick
24	Larry & Linda Konz

### Need Rides

Need a ride on Sunday morning? If the roads are looking bad or you're not feeling up to driving but still want to be at church, please give one of these folks a call by 9am on Sunday morning:

- Lori Benesch — 402-615-0414
- Diane Fendrick — 402-615-0516
- Vicky Folken — 402-615-1504
- Jalaine Vavricek — 402-352-5883 or 402-615-1485

If none of these folks are available, try Pastor Day at 402-369-0279 and she will try to deputize a driver!

# May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship at 9:30 Stay Home & Stay Safe.	4	5 General Meeting and Bible Study- 1:30p.m. Women of the ELCA	6	7	8	9
10 Worship at 9:30 Stay Home & Stay Safe	11	12	13 Council Meeting- 7p.m.	14 Mobile Food Bank 4-5:30p.m.	15	16
17 Worship at 9:30 Stay Home & Stay Safe	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Worship at 9:30 Stay Home & Stay Safe	25	26 Quilting-1:30p.m.	27	28	29	30
31 Worship at 9:30 Stay Home & Stay Safe						

**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting  
February 12, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Council Vice-President Jon Knutson. Members present were Pastor Day Hefner, John Sayer, Chellee Nelson, Karen Henry and Rick Fendrick. Absent was Jalaine Vavricek.

**Devotion/Prayer:** Pastor Day gave the devotion.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the January 8 and January 26, 2020 council meetings were presented. A motion was made by Pastor Day and seconded by Henry. Motion carried

**Open Forum/Correspondence:** A Thank You card was provided by Pastor Day, signed by Council to be given to Esme for her services as secretary.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Day submitted her report for January (see attached). Discussed Training Disciples materials. Pastor informed council that a separate board of directors was formed for the Food Pantry. Mobile Food Pantry is Thurs. Febr. 13<sup>th</sup>. Council members to do the first Lenten meal on Wed. March 4<sup>th</sup>, menu will be decided after Shove Tue.

**President's Report:** A President's report was supplied to Council members prior to meeting by Vavricek (see attached).

**Christian Ed:** No report. Henry said she will be getting together with Lori Benesh to set up a Christin Ed meeting.

**Finance & Stewardship:** Finance report was presented by Nelson (see attached). A favorable report on the numbers so far this year.

**Property:** Light stains on the ceilings of the library and nursery have been cause by ice damming on the roof. A remedy will be addressed at a later date.

**Worship & Music:** Pastor Day provided a report (see attached). Discussion on getting the monitors in the sanctuary going. Knudson said he may know someone who could help us get them up and running.

**Evangelism & Social Ministry:** A report was supplied to Council prior to meeting by Vavricek (see attached).

Motion to accept all reports : Sayers, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** Committee's to furnish Lenten Meals. Council evaluation of Pastor Day was reviewed.

**New Business:**

- Bob Svoboda's and Mike Benesch's resignation from council.
- John Sayer's resignation from nominating comm.
- Appoint Bob Svoboda & Mike Benesch to nominating comm.
- Appoint Jalaine Vavricek as delegate to Synod Assembly
- Move Brad Benesch from active to associate membership.

All actions were accepted by council.

- Lenten offering will go to the Food Pantry.
- New secretary applications will be received. Work hrs. will be 12hrs. per wk. Mon.-Thurs. Start at \$12.00 per hr. 3mo. trial.
- Council Member Strategies: Tabled
- Council Retreat tentatively set for July 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment:** Motion by Sayer, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried at 6:26 pm. Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting March 11, 2020 @ 5:00 pm.

Reports in boxes by March 8<sup>th</sup>.