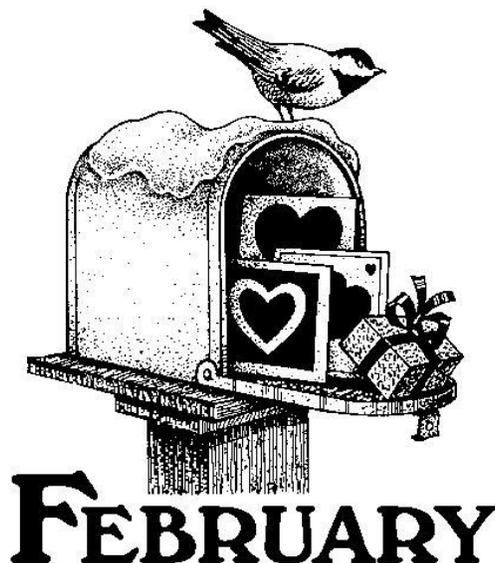




2019 Newsletter

A brief look at the month ahead:

- January 27—Annual Meeting with proposed 4 month budget
- February 3—Scout Sunday, pancake breakfast, 3rd grade class
- February 10—3rd Graders receive bibles
- February 12—Music and Worship, Executive and Mutual Ministry Meetings
- February 19—Council Meeting
- February 21—Community dinner
- February 22—Family Fun Night for Cornerstone Preschool
- February 23—Feed My Starving Children outing for Confirmation



A Word from the Pastor

I am a runner. The frustrating thing about long-distance running is that there is no other way to train than: “spending time on your feet”. The *encouraging* thing about running is that there is no other way to train than: “spending time on your feet”. It frustrates me, because I always want to be further along in my training than I am. It encourages me, because I know, in the end, that time on my feet will get me where I want to go {literally *and* figuratively}. It is a guarantee.

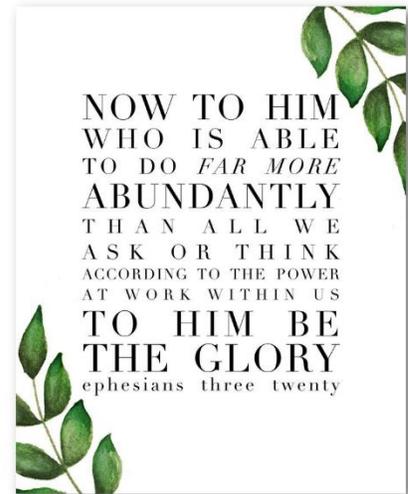
The same is true for this congregation. We need to spend time “on our feet”. That will be frustrating and encouraging at the same time. It takes work, trust, and commitment.

During the Interim ministry period this past year, you participated in the congregational vitality survey, which is a tool to assess the strengths and challenges of a congregation. You identified multiple areas that need improvement. You began that work during the transition/interim time. But there is still heavy lifting to be done. It a marathon, not a sprint.

We have work to do. Some of it is a bit mundane, like streamlining record keeping. Some of it is simple, like updating computers. Some of it is complex; like navigating healthier systems of being church together. This does not mean we are a ‘bad’ congregation, or a desperate, declining congregation. It does not mean that we aren’t doing amazing ministry. It does not mean this place isn’t filled with friendly, faith-filled, committed people. You are some of the friendliest, faith-filled, fun, committed people I’ve met on my ministry journey! It does mean, however, that we need to acknowledge that, we are not as healthy as we can be. But! The good news is this: we are guaranteed to become healthier if we do the work. Healthy congregations look critically at their culture and make adaptive changes where needed. Healthy congregations have a crystal-clear center and a shared identity and purpose. Healthy congregations trust their leaders and each other. And, like runners, healthy congregations aren’t afraid of doing the work of “spending time on your feet”.

I can’t think of another group of people I’d rather be sharing ministry with. You clearly love God and each other. You clearly seek to serve other people in Christ’s name. You worship beautifully and well together. You laugh {a great sign of health, by the way}. You seek God’s path.

You’ve agreed that you want strong leadership from your pastor. You’ve indicated that you want some changes, and I’ll continually remind you, that with change, there will be some conflict. In and of itself, conflict is not negative—God created us with uniqueness, so there will be conflict; we just need to be healthy in how we respond to each other when it occurs. It gets messy sometimes, we hurt feelings sometimes, but the thing is: we are a Christian community that is grounded in forgiveness and grace. So, we ought not be afraid of change, of trying new things, OR of going back to old things if needed. We need not be afraid of making mistakes. We need not rush. We need only to trust that God has a preferred future for us. We can do this! God will guide and provide. You do so many things well, so let’s build on that and become even clearer about the race that is set out before us. All to God’s glory alone. I thank God for you every day! Pastor Kari Bahe



It is Annual Meeting Time. On January 27th at 12:00 in the fellowship hall of St. John Lutheran Church we will make “resolutions”. But, these are different than the ones that fail by February. Together, we will pray, talk, and RESOLVE to be about the work God is calling us to in 2019-2020!

Looking back over this past year, we will celebrate what has been accomplished. Looking forward, we will be filled with anticipatory hope in God’s future for St. John. We know who holds our future! That is cause for celebration.

I invite you to join with me in prayer for our Annual Meeting. Let’s be bold in planning for the years ahead. Let’s dare to be people who count on God’s abundance. After all, God’s vision is far greater than our sight. God’s future is far brighter than our dreams. God’s future...is...our future. I can’t wait to see where we are going!

Annual Reports can be found on our website, or printed versions on the credenza under the TV in the Narthex!

Cornerstone’s Church Corner

Cornerstone Christian Preschool will be talking about Zacchaeus during the month of February!

We are looking for volunteers to read a story to our class once or twice a month. It can be one of your favorite stories or one that we have in our classroom! Please see Lori or contact her by phone at 763-856-4561 x14 or zimmermanccp@yahoo. Thank you!

On February 22nd, Cornerstone will be hosting a "Family Fun Night" for all of our wonderful families. We would welcome any and all volunteers to help in the kitchen serving supper, helping with a craft or assisting with a game. The fun begins at 6pm and goes until 7:30. We welcome any amount of time you can help us out with! Thank you for your continued support! Feel free to complete the form on the back table and place it in the Cornerstone mailbox or contact Lori via phone or email. Lori Schleif



CRADLE ROLL

God has entrusted us with the care of our children, what a wonderful gift! As parents, we are asked to look towards the Lord to guide us in teaching and nurturing the faith of the next generation. Sharing our faith with our children is a blessed way to begin their own faith development. The Holy Spirit will work through your words, songs and prayers. Tomorrow’s faith begins today.

Please welcome Hazel Anderson who was baptized in January to Cradle Roll!

Mark your Calendar:



Sign up in the Narthex to volunteer at CAER in Elk River
for Monday, February 18 and Wednesday, February 20 from
12:15-3pm.

Free Monthly Community Dinner: February 21, from 5-7pm in Fellowship Hall.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Angie Hendrickson, Elaine, Julianne Raymo, Leah Wilson, MJ, Ruth Fagerman, Jack Hagberg.



How will our pastor run our worship services without ushers, lectors and communion helpers? Sign Up Today!!
(Bulletin board across from the Church Office.)

PLEASE sign up to sponsor altar flowers! The sign-up sheet is on the wall across from the Church Office! There are lots of empty spaces, get them while they are available!

Mitten Tree: Once again the amazing people of St. John and friends contributed over 200 hats, mittens and scarves to our annual St. John Mitten Tree! The items were divided up and delivered to Westwood and Zimmerman Elementary, Passing the Bread and CAER. Thanks to you many children will stay warm this winter!! You are all blessings! Deb Christensen

Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers for February on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays! Starting at 11am. Sign up is on the Board across from the office. Call Curt Grams for more information 763-441-9100

Boy Scouts Pancake breakfast on Sunday, February 3rd from 8:30am-10:30am. Free will donation will be collected.

3rd graders receive their bibles on February 10th at 10:30am worship service.

Parents and Students will meet on February 3rd in the Sunday school classroom at 9:10am with Pastor Kari Bahe to learn about their bibles. Look for more information from Sunday School Superintendents!

**St. John Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
December 18, 2018**

Attendees: Pastor Kari Bahe, Dawn Bourdeaux, Kathy Fore, Gina Kadlec, Karen Kaehn, Will Potter, Eric Roensch, Cheryl Schrader, Jennifer Schurrer, Carolyn Schwab

Absent: Kim Forster, Gary Luebben

Kathy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Devotions: Kathy

Eric made a motion to approve the agenda; Jennifer seconded the motion. Motion carried

Jennifer made a motion to accept the November 20, 2018, Council Meeting Minutes; Karen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

An additional \$100 was donated to Cornerstone for the playground project. They are currently short \$142 of the \$4000 needed for the playground.

Pastor's Report:

Pastoral acts this month include two baptisms. There will be a new member class starting some time before Lent. Topics discussed at the Stewardship meeting were goals and education. To date, a total of 63 pledge cards have been received in the amount of \$134,950.

Treasurer's Report:

Jennifer reviewed the updated Financial Transaction Policy to council members. Karen made a motion to accept the Financial Transaction Policy; Cheryl seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The balance in the checking account as of 12/6/18 is \$16,682.22. The credit card balance was \$268.33 and has been paid in full.

Council went over the 2019 budget. Areas of discussion included the sound system and education. We also talked about limiting the number of fund raisers that are held at St. John. Council agreed to present a shorter budget, January through April, at the Annual Meeting, with a Special Congregational Meeting to be held in the future.

Karen made a motion to extend the meeting 15 minutes; Jennifer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jennifer made a motion to have a Special Congregational Meeting to discuss our financial mission on Sunday, April 14, 2019, following the second service; Will seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council will meet on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. Executive to follow.

Dawn made a motion to allow Dan Hackbarth, coordinator of the youth work camp, be issued a St. John Lutheran credit card; Eric seconded the motion.

The Personnel Committee will send an email to council on what areas they feel additional staff is needed.

Eric received a quote to sealcoat the driveway. The cost for one coat is \$6800. To have a second quote applied, it is an additional \$2400. The estimate to have the boiler serviced is \$630. The quote will expire in January.

Eric, Cheryl, and Dawn will work on setting up the call-in number for the annual meeting in January.

Dawn made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Jennifer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

St John Lutheran Church Town Hall Meeting
January 20, 2019

Cheryl Schraeder - Welcome everyone. We are all a family and we share the good times and bad times as a family.

All members received a letter in your mailbox on the upcoming Annual Meeting. At the Annual meeting we will be having participation by electronic communication. Please limit side conversation, hard for everyone to hear. Will have two microphones for the participates to hear on the conference call.

If you have any questions for our Treasurer, please share. Want to have our Treasurer prepared to answer the questions.

- Why a 4-month budget – short because of pledges.
- Costs for community dinner & different outreach events. Cost we pay on our insurance.
- Timeline in place for congregation to see when receiving the information on full budget.
- Have a budget for 2019 and 2020. Understand the 2020 budget can change.
- Does each area have a budget? Example Building & Grounds, Education, Worship & Music, etc.
- One Bank Account. How will it work. Are their restricted funds? Line items for the budget items.

Pastor Kari give some information on why the 4-month budget. She is new on board and the timing coming on. Not doing a rubber stamp from the past. To dream and believe where God wants us to go. What are the priorities as a congregation? Looking at the surveys from the call committee. Need to look at all our missions, as well as the maintenance of our church. Example our parking lot needs to be redone and looking at 2 years out and costing \$10,000.

The Annual Report is available in the Narthex for your review.

We have had two resignations. Sabrina our office manager and Melanie our accountant. Thanked Sabrina for her service and today is a celebration of her and her service at St John. Pastor Kari asked the Personal Committee that we have a 90-day period to review the positions. Learn from both and look to the future structure. People are stepping up in different areas. Some of the work is very detailed. Kari Steinbrecher will help with the accounting and IT areas. Eric has done an amazing job in IT. We need to put more money into our IT area and better items in place. Will be looking at the office hours for the 90-day period and will communicate to the congregation.

Cheryl talked and showed the Possibilities for you to serve God book. It is a work in progress. Develop a form to outline all the different opportunities to serve in our congregation. Cheryl show the form for usher and what is all involve for serving in this position. Each of us are given different gifts and talents. Our worship services on Sunday and Wednesday need to have ushers, greeters, communion server and lector in place prior to the day of worship. Need to have rotation of cycle.

Any idea's or comments for our Church? Pastor Kari stated it is an exciting time. We have lots going on. Change is difficult for some and energize others. Need to pull in some of our non-active members into active role. Building on our great foundation. Comment that Pastor is visiting, and each person is important. Have not had for a while.

Cheryl talked about why she chose St John Lutheran Church. Everyone is friendly and inviting.

Our next Church Hall meeting is in March. Please let Cheryl know if you have a topic you want to discuss.

Thank you everyone for attending.