

## An April Message from your Pastor ...

During the month of April, we will gather as God's people for worship, Sunday School, Circles, and Bible Studies. Please see the church calendar printed in the newsletter for all the events planned this month.

As the Season of Lent continues, Holy Week will soon be here. Palm Weekend is April 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. Maundy Thursday service is at 6:30 p.m. on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The ecumenical Good Friday service will be at Salem Lutheran Church in Sandwich at 7:00 p.m. Our Easter Vigil service is April 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Easter Sunday is April 20<sup>th</sup>. The Easter Celebration Service will be at 9:45 a.m. We remember Jesus' conquering death was and is special for all.

We're planning First Communion classes for Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. for 1 hour and First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for our young people receiving their First Holy Communion.

This Springtime, let us pray and give thanks through the words of Psalm 104:

*<sup>10</sup> You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow between the hills,  
... <sup>13</sup> From your lofty abode you water the mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.*



May you enjoy God's Blessings & Peace,

Pastor Chris

**Lenten Weekends Special Offering** will be donated to Habitat for Humanity in DeKalb and LaSalle Counties

**Lenten Wednesday Meals Offering** will be donated to Our Sharing Pantry

### Nail in the Fence

One day a father gave his son a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence.

He said, "You have done well son, but look at all the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like a knife drawn across the skin. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there. "

A verbal wound is as bad and often worse than a physical one. Friends are very rare jewels, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share words of praise and they always want to open their hearts to us. Be sure to let your friends, and friends-to-be, know you care.

# Rebekah Circle

**Date: Thursday, April 10th**

**Time: 1:00 pm**

**Lesson: Pray Always**

**Session #1: Persistence**

**Location: St. John's Fellowship Hall**

**Hostess: Connie Hamer**

**Please note date change for April Rebekah meeting because of Easter week**

# LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

April 22nd

**9:00 am to 3:00 pm and  
7:00 pm to 9:00pm Bring a Lunch**

April 23rd

**9:00am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch**

Thanks again for all the Personal Care Kit items and money that were donated. We delivered over 200 kits to the truck in Elgin and we will be doing more kits later this year. We have purchased some more towels that need to have all the tags removed from them, so if you would like a sit-down job, come to work days.

During April work days we will be continue cutting school bags and getting the packs ready for people to sew at home. There will be blocks to cut for the Piece Maker packets which go home to be sewn into quilt tops. The sewn quilt tops will be matched with a center and a back so they are ready for the tiers. Happy fingers will tie the quilts and pin the edges. Then the quilts will be sewn around and folded so they can be packed for transport to Elgin. We put together things that have come in for the Baby Care Kits so they can be sent as well. There are many jobs that need to be completed to get things ready for packing. I know we are all busy doing many things throughout the year, but can you give a little time to the LWR causes?

**GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!**

## St. John's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - March 9, 2025

Members present: Mary Carlson, Bob Fraley, Scott Horsch, Cindy Karp, Wayne Karp, Joanne Robinson, and Pastor Chris Schoon.

- ◆ Bob led devotions on prayer opportunities and quoted Paul from 1 Thessalonians, “Pray without ceasing”.
- ◆ Wayne called the meeting to order at 10:51.
- ◆ Joanne made the motion to accept the consent agenda. Mary seconded. Motion carried.
- ◆ Scott presented the treasurer’s report. He explained a new report called Statement of Activity which shows revenue coming in and expenditures going out for the month. He pointed out that we need to average \$18,000 to \$20,000 per month to meet our budget. He noted we are down for the month of February but is encouraged we will make it up as the year goes along based on past performance.
- ◆ Committee reports
  - ◇ Fellowship – There is a monthly Sunday social fellowship planned for March 16<sup>th</sup> and a women’s salad luncheon for May. August 3<sup>rd</sup> will be our church picnic.
  - ◇ Outreach – Jeanette has agreed to work with Mary on contacting those who have not been attending. They will continue to contact visitors and take communion to shut ins.
  - ◇ Finance – None
  - ◇ Missions/Stewardship – See report. Payments should be upcoming.
  - ◇ MOG – No report
  - ◇ Parish Education – Confirmation is on break through Lent. They are encouraging the kids to help with serving meals.
  - ◇ Property – Bob said he will paint the outside doors once the weather improves. The Sharing pantry is looking into purchasing a portable sign and upgrading the magnetic signs. Scott said the church has the money to upgrade the ballasts in our lighting and replace any bulbs as needed.
  - ◇ Worship – See report. No update on the piano situation.
  - ◇ Tech – A new microphone has been purchased for Pastor to use.
- ◆ Pastor’s report – See report.
- ◆ Jerry and Toni Lundeen thanked the church for letting them use the facility for their gala dinner. They were able to raise \$8800.
- ◆ A home school group has asked to use our building one day a week. After contacting insurance Wayne reported that insurance recommended no based on the group’s lack of insurance and fear of liability. Joanne made the motion to decline the use of the facility to the group. Cindy seconded. Motion carried.
- ◆ Mary made the motion to adjourn. Joanne seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:33.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 3-5-25

Present: Pastor Schoon, Toni Lundeen, Julie Horsch,  
Lois Spizzirri and Cindy Karp.

We began our meeting with prayer at 11:00 am.

Hymns and organists are all scheduled through the end of April.

The season of Lent has begun. This past week was Ash Wednesday. 25 people were served our first Lenten meal. There were about 50 people in church for the service.

The UCC has been invited to join us for meals and services throughout Lent.

A new Paschal candle has been ordered by Diane.  
Thank you Diane for ALL you do for us!

On 3-9-25 the Sunday School children will be burying the Alleluias and on 4-27-25 they will be participating in the service.

On the weekend of May 3rd and 4th Pastor will not be here.

We closed our meeting at 11:30 am.

In God's Service  
Cindy Karp



*But*  
**GODLINESS**  
with contentment is  
great gain.  
*ℱ*



**1 Timothy 6:6**



# READING BUDDIES

**TUESDAY, APRIL 29TH**

**Sign up in the Welcome Center to read with Wendy Merkel's kindergarten class.**



# APRIL DOOR OFFERING

The Stewardship committee has decided to change the emphasis of some of our Door Offerings. It was decided to make April's Door Offering for the St. John's Capital Fund. After the building loan was paid, the Capital Fund has not been receiving the same amount of monies as before. However, there are still expenses that need to be paid with Capital Fund monies plus we need a little "cushion" in case we have some emergency. The church building, the parsonage and even the last addition are all at least 15 years old, and repairs need to be made. Some of the items on the agenda for the Capital Fund are the sealcoating of the large, back parking lot, restriping of all the parking spaces in the parking lot and around the church and special washing of all the white stone on the church. We all know that owning property costs money and it is no different with the church. It may be a leaky sink or something much larger that are needing attention, but everything comes with a cost. None of us would be happy if we didn't have heat in winter or air conditioning in the summer. That could happen if we have a break-down of equipment. Please be generous to the door offering for April and remember the Capital Fund in your regular giving.

**Emphases for the following months are as follows:**

**March – Sunday School**

**April – Capital Fund**

**May – LWR Baby Care Kits**

**June – Midwest shelter for Homeless Vets & Blood Drive**

**July – Worship & Altar Guild Committees**





## Hang onto **'IT'** until June!

Dear St. John's Congregation,

We are asking that you hold onto your blood until June when once again St. John's will be hosting our blood drive on **Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2:30-7:00p.m.**

We tried very hard last year to reach the goal of 15 units. After many phone calls and some very generous dedicated people, we **MADE IT!** Several people who couldn't donate on our drive date went to a Versiti site, donated, and had it credited to the St. John's drive.

Versiti Blood Center of IL was founded in 1943. Based in Aurora, Versiti serves 63 hospitals in a 12 county area and collects 155,000 units annually. Versiti's core values include do right always; strengthen the team (US!); find a better way; and make results happen. They recognize that the gifts of blood and life are precious.

**1 bag = 3 saved lives**

At critical times, we depend on our brothers and sisters for this life-saving gift. Many health and eligibility questions are answered on Versiti's website (<https://www.versiti.org>).

Walk-ins are always welcome.

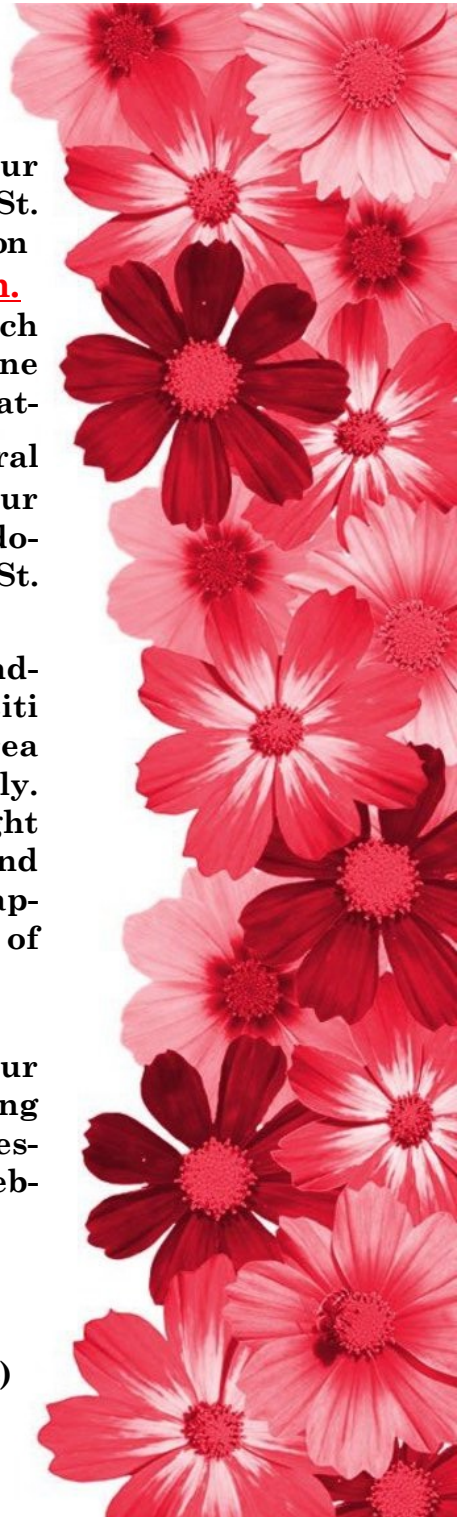
Appointments can be scheduled by:

Calling 800-786-4483 (Versiti)

Calling 815-498-3667 (our church office)

E-mail: [donate.il@versiti.org](mailto:donate.il@versiti.org)

*Please, please help if you can as we'd love to keep this ministry going!*



**EVERY DROP WILL HELP!**



# MEETING

## **Stewardship Committee**

8:45am Tuesday, April 1



## **Property Committee**

10am Wednesday, April 2



## **Rebekah Circle Meeting**

1:00pm Thursday, April 10



## **MOG Committee**

7:00 pm Tuesday, April 1

## **Worship Committee**

1:00pm Wednesday, April 2



## **Church Council**

10:45am Sunday, April 13



## **Altar Guild**

6:30pm Tuesday, May 20





# APRIL

## *birthdays*

Anita Milligan 04/01

Lily Horsch 04/01

MaryAnn Hulton 04/03

Larry Rogers 04/04

Sondra Bone 04/04

Jim Gletty 04/07

Phyllis Zoellner 04/11

Jim Beal 04/12

Lance Davenport 04/12

Jeffery Denault 04/13

Stella Gardner 04/15

Jackie Harmon 04/16

Erik Johnson 04/17

Julie Horsch 04/17

Bette Otto 04/20

Nancy Strever 04/28



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<h1>April</h1> <h1>2025</h1>		<b>1</b> 8:45am Stewardship & Missions Meeting  7:00 PM MOG MEETING	<b>2</b> 9am Lenten Breakfast @ Federated Church  10:00am Property Mtg. 1:00pm Worship Mtg.  5-6PM LENTEN MEAL 6:30PM ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
<b>6</b> 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9am Lenten Breakfast @ Federated Church  5-6PM LENTEN MEAL 6:30PM ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
<b>13 PALM SUNDAY</b> 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45 Worship w/Noisy Offering  10:45am Church Council Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>20 EASTER</b> 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45 Worship SS Students "unbury" Alleluias Easter Egg Hunt after worship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>LWR Workday</i> 9:30am-3pm 7pm-9pm	<b>23</b> <i>LWR Workday</i> 9am-3pm
<b>27</b> 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45 Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  10:00am Reading Buddies	<b>30</b>

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>3</b> 9:00am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast <b>9:00AM FIRST COMMUNION CLASS</b> 5:00pm Worship</p>
<p><b>10</b> 9:00am Bible Study  1:00pm Rebekah Circle</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast <b>9:00AM FIRST COMMUNION CLASS</b> 5:00pm Worship</p>
<p><b>17</b> 9:00am Bible Study  <b>6:30PM MAUNDY-THURSDAY WORSHIP @ ST. JOHN'S WITH FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION</b></p>	<p><b>18</b>  <b>7:00PM GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP @ SALEM LUTHERAN - SANDWICH</b></p>	<p><b>19</b>  5:00pm Easter Vigil Worship</p>
<p><b>24</b> 9:00am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> 5:00pm Worship</p>

# The Parents Corner

I received my first book of prayer when I affirmed my Baptism and I have been collecting prayers ever since. I recently found one that reminded me of different times of my life.

My Dad was an internal auditor for Walgreens and very good at his job. Eventually, Chuck Walgreen sent him away from the office to stores across the nation to evaluate why they were not performing as expected. “Inventory” and “audit” were part of my childhood vocabulary.

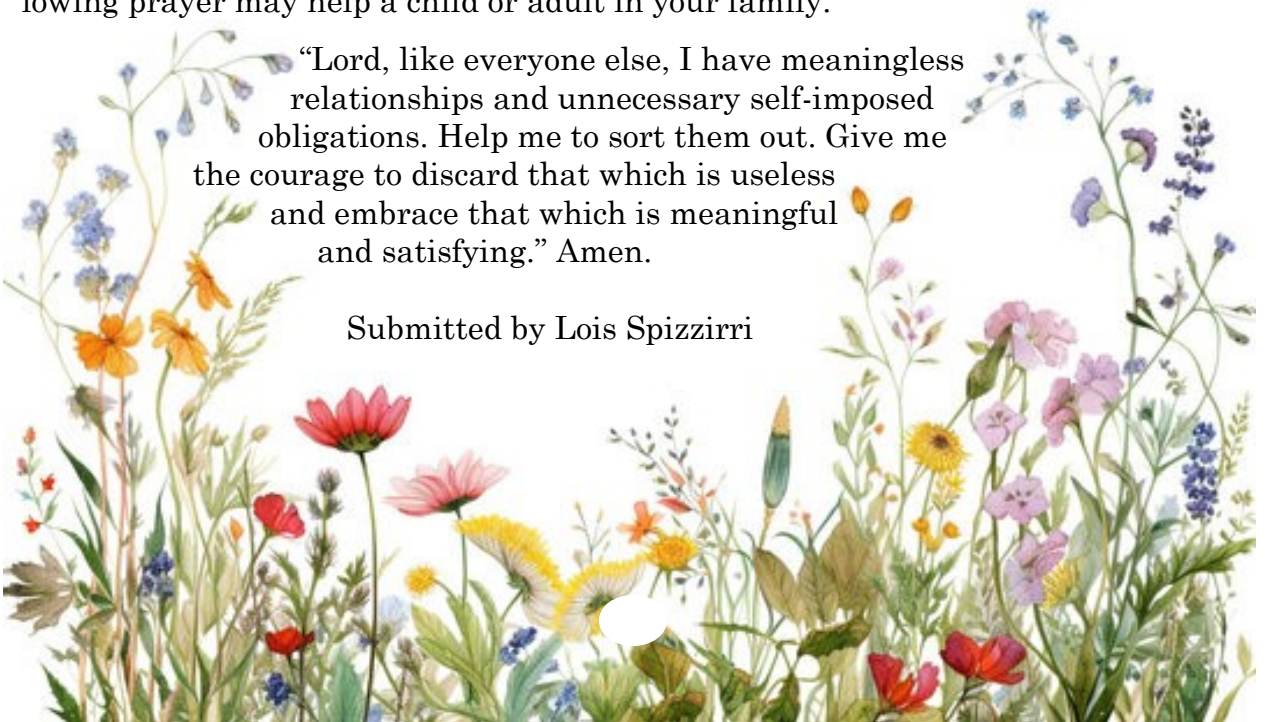
My first full-time job was for a company that sent every employee to classes to learn how to evaluate their job to eliminate unnecessary actions and reports. (They do tend to proliferate.)

Later, as a Girl Scout leader, each year I evaluated if each troop member had improved on her journey to become the best person she could be. I tried to be as unbiased about my own children as I could be.

Every once in awhile, I try to stop and take stock of my own life. Perhaps the following prayer may help a child or adult in your family.

“Lord, like everyone else, I have meaningless relationships and unnecessary self-imposed obligations. Help me to sort them out. Give me the courage to discard that which is useless and embrace that which is meaningful and satisfying.” Amen.

Submitted by Lois Spizzirri



## **Church Staff**

### A. Administration

- i. Office Secretary: Julie Horsch

### b. Business

- i. Financial Recorder: Mike Hamer
- ii. Treasurer: Scott Horsch

### c. Facilities

- i. Building Superintendent: Diane Wold

### d. Worship

- i. Accompanists: Jessica Ortega, Toni Lundeen, Becky Stephens, Margaret Page

## **Church Council**

President: Wayne Karp  
Vice-President:  
Secretary: Bob Fraley

## **Congregation Council**

Mary Carlson  
Connie Hamer  
Cindy Karp  
Joanne Robinson

## **Lutherdale Bible Camp Representatives-2025**

Karol Grandgeorge, Nancy Miller

## **Synod Assembly Representatives-2025**

Karol Grandgeorge & Steve Schoon

## **Cemetery Ministry Team**

Bob Fraley, Glen Reuter, Doug Stahl

## **Endowment Ministry Team**

Marion Gaffney, Mike Hamer, Ward Hearn, Wendy Merkel

## **Finance Ministry Team**

Chuck Hoepe,  
Bob Mueller, Joanne Robinson

## **Memorial and Other Gifts Fund Team**

Kathy Anderson, Connie Hamer, Linda Johnson,  
Jerry Lundeen, Nancy Miller, Anita Milligan

## **Church Ministries & Organizations Contacts**

Altar Guild

CROP Walk: Mark Lee & Mike Hamer

Growing Hope: Jerry & Toni Lundeen

Global Missions: *In need of leadership*

Habitat for Humanity: Karol Grandgeorge

Hearts & Hands: Stella Gardner

LSSI Christmas Hope Chest: Karol Grandgeorge & Julie Horsch

LWR Projects (Mission Quilts, Baby Care Kits, School Kits,

Personal Care Kits, Sewing Kits): Karol Grandgeorge

Meals on Wheels: Mark Lee

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans: *In need of leadership*

Our Sharing Pantry: Chuck Lee

Prayer Chain: Karol Grandgeorge

## **Parish Education**

### **Confirmation**

- a. Primary Instructor—Pastor Chris & Scott Horsch, Maury Killey
- b. St. John's Congregational Council

### **3N1: 7—12 gr. Youth Ministry:**

Coordinators: Jason & Kim Boczko

from Salem Lutheran Church, Sandwich

Youth Ministry Connection from St. John's—Julie Horsch

**Esther Circle:** Jeanette Pfeifer

**Rebekah Circle:** Connie Hamer

**Sunday School Coordinator:** Nancy Miller

## **Chairpersons/Ministry Summaries**

*(Listed alphabetically by ministry)*

**Cemetery Ministry:** Bob Fraley

Oversees the care of the church cemetery, maintenance and improvements.

**Communications Ministry:** Bob Fraley

Seeks to improve communication with members and the community.

**Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry**

Plans activities and recreational outings to promote friendship and fellowship in our congregation and community.

**Finance Ministry:** Scott Horsch

Proposes the budget and administers incoming and outgoing funds.

**Outreach Ministry:**

Reach out to the community by welcoming new neighbors with bread, hosting/participating in community events, following up with visitors, and bringing God's love to St John's 'special members' from cradle roll through the homebound.

**Parish Education Ministry:**

Oversees Sunday School Program, Summer Bible Day Camp, and youth related activities.

**Property Ministry:**

Oversees the care of the church facilities and grounds, maintenance and improvements.

**Stewardship /Missions Ministry:**

Provides opportunities for members of our congregation to use their gifts and resources, which includes raising funds for special projects. Provides a variety of opportunities to do God's Work with Our Hands. Organizes activities, publicize events and coordinate participation. Please join us in any way that works for you.

**Worship Ministry:** Cindy Karp

Striving to provide Spirit filled worship opportunities in an atmosphere of hospitality.

# Newsletter of St. John's Lutheran Church April 2025

Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



**We're on the Web:**  
[www.elcastjohns.com](http://www.elcastjohns.com)

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