



The St John Lutheran Newsletter is a monthly publication of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Volume 1 Issue 2

Weekly Schedule:

- Service 9:00 am
- Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:15am
- Confirmation 1:45pm
- Wednesday Ecclesiastes Study Meal 5:30pm Study 6pm
- Wednesday Scripture Study Coffee time 8:30am Study 9am
- Thursday every other week Fraternal Friends of Marty @ 7:00 pm

Special Activities:

- LWML February 2 @ 9:00am
- Board of Elders February 2 @ 6:00pm

From Pastor Beltz's Desk

The American Mind Meets the Mind of Christ: Vocation and Calling Part 1

Recently many folks in the congregation have mentioned being unsatisfied with their jobs. One of the most difficult questions we face is the question of what to do with our lives. Not simply employment, but what we do. There are so many options and choices. What is worse is that these choices are often in competition. For example, increasingly men want to be more present in the home, but also maintain high-powered careers and income. This hasn't always been the case, though.

For many centuries there was little choice about what to do and little conflict. Children grew up planning to do what their parents did. Life and "calling" were often already decided. Little needed to be figured out. But now, we must choose and there is increasing pressure to make the "right" choice. But what is the "right" or "best" choice? Is the best choice what I am passionate about as a young teen? Is it what I love to do in my 40's? What if I do not really enjoy doing anything? What if I love doing a bunch of different things? What is my calling? What am I supposed to do? What does God want me to do? Will he tell me?

As I have already mentioned, we often assign the word *Calling* to that thing we want to do, which we also feel or discern has

some sort of divine endorsement. When we talk about Calling it is important for us as Christians to understand that it does not simply mean the thing we are passionate about. Our Calling is also mediated by the circumstances God forces upon us in our lives, which are often our greatest struggles.

We do not regularly think that we are *Called* to be a child. Being a child is not something most children are passionate about. Yet, God deigns to force us into relation with others—parents, and we are often left to sort out those relations (good or bad) for the remainder of our lives. This is also the case with being parents. We're delusional to think our children are totally the produce of parental wills and desires. Again, God forces His will into our lives and forces us into relation to others. By an act of divine might we are made children and parents. What about citizenry? Why are you Americans? Iowans? By choice? Why not Sudanese? Why not in the 12th century? Here we are. In the lives we have. The homes, children, parents we have. Our Calling is not always, or in the first place, about our passions. It is, in the first place, about the Force of God's Will and Desire on our lives.

This reality puts a priority on certain Callings among us as Christians. It also helps us shape our daily lives and habits. One of the greatest struggles of the last few decades has been what Christians parents are to do with children on Sunday mornings, Church or Activities? This question seems to be rooted in Calling. What is my Calling as a parent? What might be my child's Calling? The answer to this question becomes clearer the more we are convinced that our daily lives are dictated by God and less by our own choice. God has surrounded us by circumstance. Those circumstances demand our attention and action. We are needed by a person (child) and we are forced to respond. It is certainly a major benefit when our passions are in line with these ordained circumstances, but our passions are not everything. They are subject to the circumstances God forces upon us. We are forced to respond and step-up. It means sacrifice. It means dedication. It means setting aside momentary pleasures to pursue a thing higher than the self. Our Calling isn't to do whatever we want. Our Calling is driven by circumstance and an immediate need which subject our wills and desires to the Divine. More next time.

Pastor Beltz

February Duties:

Elder

Marty George
John Haack

Altar Guild

Sam & Cassie Beltz

Acolyte

Brooklyn Vanderwilt

Ash Wednesday:

Julia Shmalcs

Processional Cross

2/20 Lauren McKain

Hospitality

2/5 John & Lisa Haack

2/12 Cassie & Charlotte Beltz

2/19 Lauren McKain &

Tama Knox

2/26 Carol Fynaardt

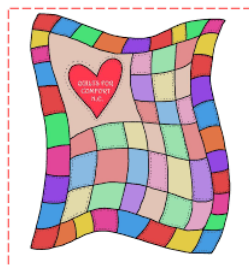
Cleaning

Strothman Family

A big THANK YOU to all members who served as organists, Hospitality servers, and cleaning crew last month. This is just another part of STEWARDSHIP in action at St. John.

LWML NEWS

LWML will be making quilts on Thursday, February 2nd @ 9am. If you enjoy sewing and would like to help. Please join us for a great time for fellowship. We will have a lite meal along with our monthly meeting All ladies of St. John are welcome to join us.



LWML Activity in 2022

St. John's Lutheran Women's Missionary League (AKA: LWML or Ladies Guild) would like to thank the congregation for supporting our projects in 2022.

With the congregation's help we were able to make donations to the following organizations. We appreciate your support as we "Serve the Lord with Gladness".

- District and National LWML Mite Projects
- Mahaska Health Hospice Serenity House Right Hand of St. John
- Youth of St. John
- Lutheran's for Life
- Orphan Grain Train
- Food Bank of Iowa
- Lutheran Family Services
- Concordia Seminary Student Support
- LCMS – Missionaries Charles Ferry and Cody Mock



INTAKE FORMS

We are working on updating church files. There is intake forms in the narthex to fill out. Please fill out an intake form for each family member, including children. Please return all intake forms in the basket marked intake forms. My Goal is to have things update so I can do birthday and anniversaries again. This will also help the office update addresses and phone numbers. Thank you for your help.



Please include in your prayers daily



Betty Blessum, Betty Loftsgard, Henry & Dolores Fynaardt, Lynn Karavitas and Ann Ohms;

For those in Ukraine, Russia, Uvalde and other places suffering from acts of senseless violence;

For those serving in our Armed Forces and for our Police Officers and Fire Fighters; may they remain safe in their service;

For the many that continue to struggle with isolation and loneliness;

For those directly and in directly affected by the conflict in Ukraine;

For the many who continue to struggle with natural disasters and bad storms;

For our Church, that God would continue to grant us new members and make us a good gift to each other and our community;

For us as a congregation to faithfully receive God's gifts this day.



What is the Lutheran Women's Missionary League?

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

It has as its "mission heart" thousands of volunteers who are daily dedicating their lives to making a difference in this world.

It is also “Lutheran Women in Mission,” a phrase that reflects the object of the LWML, adopted by the Board of Directors in January 1998.

It is women who are finding avenues to use their God-given talents as they meet the challenge to share the Gospel message.

It is composed of individual women and women's groups within congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, on campuses, in resident homes, or in other settings.

It provides individual membership to women in LCMS congregations with or without a group affiliated with the LWML. Women may have an interest in the mission and ministry of the LWML – and wish to be part of the organization – but cannot, for a variety of reasons, be part of a local group. Individual membership is designed for these women.

It seeks to develop and maintain a greater mission consciousness among the women of the Synod through education, inspiration, and service.

It places a major emphasis on the support of mission and ministry throughout the world by means of Mite Box offerings. These Mite Box offerings have funded over 100 million dollars in mission grants since the organization's inception in 1942.

The Mite Box



Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of “mites” — offerings above and beyond the support given to the congregation and the Synod. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program.

Mite Boxes are available from the district, zone, [through the LWML Catalog, and/or online](#). They are distributed to every woman in a group, and often to each member of the congregation. Mite Boxes ideally will be located in a prominent place where all who see them will be reminded to contribute regularly and pray for the grant recipients. Some congregations display a large version of the Mite Box so those who do not attend LWML events may contribute their mites.

Mite Box offerings should be gathered at LWML functions, preferably with a prayer or a Mite Box devotion. [Some resources are available as free downloads at *www.lwml.org*](#). Groups remit Mite Box contributions regularly to a designated district financial officer; individuals may send their mites to that same district financial officer.

Help support LWML by taking a mite box located outside the sanctuary and do the mite box challenge for February. (Challenge calendar on next page)

THEY SHALL SEE GOD: <i>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God (Matthew 5:8)."</i>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Rest your eyes and say a prayer of thanks for them. Donate 75¢	Make your annual eye exam appointment. Donate 25¢	Sing "Open My Eyes That I May See". Donate 40¢	Put on sunglasses and go for a walk. Donate 50¢
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
List five names or attributes of God! Donate 95¢	Read Mark 8:18 Donate 35¢	Look through your favorite photo album. Donate 60¢	Look out the window. Do you see His sunshine? Donate 30¢	Clean your eyeglasses. Donate 90¢	Bring a new picture book to a small child. Donate 20¢	Visit shut-ins and bring them valentines. Donate 85¢
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Play "Peek a Boo" with a baby. Donate 50¢	Thank God for the people you see around you! Donate 25¢	What is the color of the eyes of someone you love? Donate 95¢	Read Genesis 9:13-17. Donate 40¢	Read the first chapter of a new book. Donate 50¢	Random Acts of Kindness Day. Help a friend. Donate 25¢	Bake your favorite recipe. Share it with a friend. Donate 80¢
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Share your favorite Gospel story with a child. Donate 55¢	Read about God's work through the LCMS missionaries. Donate 40¢	Bring a cup of 'eye opening' coffee to a friend. Donate 60¢	Ash Wednesday! Read an LWML Lent devotion. Donate 45¢	Read Matthew 5:16. Donate 20¢	Read about the upcoming 2023 LWML Convention! Donate 75¢	Sew an eye-glass case for Most Ministries. Donate 25¢
26	27	28				
Offer a prayer for your congregation. Donate 65¢	Eat an eye healthy dinner. Donate 35¢	Read Matthew 13:16. Donate 55¢				



Youth News



The Youth will be playing Dodge Ball on Sunday February 12th @ Vanderwilt Gym. Watch the bulletin for time



Early Bird camp registration is open. Take a look at the different camps at www.campiodiseca.org. The camp does offer scholarship to those in need. Also the church does have some money left from last year for scholarships.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Andy Antolik	2-02
Carol Fynaardt	2-07
Karen Antolik	2-09
Diane Nicholson	2-10
Evie McKain	2-10
Madison Smith	2-10
Mark Anthony	2-11
Joan Wefer	2-19
Beth Fenton	2-19
Janet Hertz	2-21
Maelee Antolik	2-24
Tamra Knox	2-25
Lawrence Smith	2-26
Beckett Vanderwilt	2-26
Ken Bowie Jr.	2-27
Derys Schultze	2-27

These may not be up to date at this time.

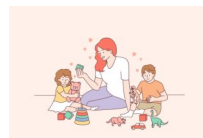


Will be offering two conferences this year. One in Carbondale, IL July 18-21 or San Antonio, TX July 25-28. This Conference is for youth heading into high school or high school students. If you would like information see Pastor Beltz or go to www.higherthings.org. This is a great opportunity for youth to meet other youth growing up Lutheran as well.

Free Babysitting

February 18th
4-9pm

Meal and snacks will be provided.
Free will donations.
Questions please contact Sue George or Lisa Haack



Special Voters Meeting

February 5th

Following church service



Women's Bible Study

We will start a women's Bible study on the 3rd Saturday of the month @ 9:00am. We will be a CPH Bible study focused on the book Song of Songs.

Please let Cassie know if you would like to attend so what she can order the appropriate number of the study guides.

Sunday School

will be practicing hymns during opening.
We would like to go sing to shut ins on March 12th after Sunday School.



Bridal Shower

*In Honor of
Tamara Knox*

February 8th
5:30pm

Hosted by St. John Church

All ladies of the church are invited to attend
Registered at Amazon Wedding Registry—Tammy and Marv



Ann Ohms

I was born August 22, 1936 in Oskaloosa at Mahaska Hospital. We lived in rural What Cheer. I went to country school, sometimes riding my Shetland pony Babe. March of my 3rd grade we, my parents & I, moved to rural Eddyville and I graduated from Eddyville High School in 1954. That fall I went to Iowa State College, I'm old...it wasn't University yet... and at a Campus 4-H meeting in March 1955 I met Max Ohms. March 1958 I was confirmed at Memorial Lutheran Church, Ames. We graduated from Iowa State June 14, 1958. At a ceremony prior to graduation I pinned his 2nd Lieut. bars on him. He had completed 4 years of Air Force ROTC. Eight days later, June 22, 1958 we were married (I gained a big family as Max was the next to the youngest of 9 children) in the Methodist Church, my home church, at Eddyville.

September 1958 we went to San Antonio TX where Max was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base for 9 weeks and then to OK to Clinton-Sherman AFB at Burns Flat OK. He was stationed there from November 1958 to May 1962. We returned to IA and lived in Coralville where he was the Johnson County Farm Bureau Fieldman. After that he sold feed, then we farmed for 11 years and in 1977 he began seed sales.

We joined St. John March 1970. We moved on a Saturday and my mother had called Dolores Fynaardt to see what time church and Sunday School were, and we were there the next day. Our 3 children, Roger, Beth and Caryn were confirmed here, Beth and Brent and Caryn and Lawrence were married here, Brent was baptized here and Brent and Lawrence both confirmed here. Our 5 grandchildren, Katie, Sarah, Benjamin, Paul and David were baptized and confirmed here, as well as greats, Madison, Ella and Brody baptized here. Madison was confirmed here last spring. Wesley was baptized at St. Paul's in Marion, where Pastor Williamson was serving, having been here for many years. I played the organ for 4 years at Holy Cross, Anita and have played at St. John a few times. Granddaughter Katie Smith and I were treasurers of the voters for 4 years. I was the secretary for 10-11 years and then volunteered for quite a while until Covid.

I worked in 4-H for many years and Max & I were the Senior King & Queen of the Southern IA Fair in 2010. I have written for newspapers since January 1979 and am still writing. I like to read, thru the years I have done a lot of sewing, enjoy being outside, go to Cyclone FB games, (we had season tickets for @ 20 years) or watch Cyclone bb & fb on TV. I love to spend time w/my family.

I have had many addresses: rural What Cheer, rural Eddyville, rural Lewis, San Antonio TX, Clinton OK, Cordell OK, Dill City OK, Coralville, rural Iowa City, Marshalltown, Cameron MO, rural Anita, rural Bridgewater, rural Oskaloosa, rural Cedar, rural Eddyville.

The years Max worked for Garst Seed Co., we had many trips, wives included: Mpls., Kansas City, St. Louis, Nashville, San Antonio, Orlando, Reno, Las Vegas, Hawaii and England.... lots of fun.

Max died August 2022 and his funeral was held here at St. John. I continue to live in the home in Eddyville we purchased in summer 2009, perfect for old folks... one floor, no steps, no basement, attached garage and out of the flood plain. And in-town family is most attentive to my needs :)

Caleb George

I was born July 7, 2000 In Fort Madison. I have two sisters, an older sister named Hannah and a twin sister Lauren who is younger than me (no we are not identical). I grew up in New London, Iowa. I loved to go bike riding, when it was warmer of course. I was also a football manager for our school for two years, I was also the basketball manager/videotaping for a year. Also during school we had a TV news station that played every Friday. During the week we would write scripts, and Thursday produced. I graduated from New London High school in 2018. After graduating I was working at McDonald's as a shift manager, while I was working there for 5 years. I then enrolled in Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge, Iowa. I study radio and T.V. broadcasting. During classes I did a top 20 countdown on our college radio, as well as talking about events and other cool information for the listener to hear. I was also in charge of making sure our school radio website was up to date. I also videotaped sporting events for the college and area school. My graduation was during Covid so I didn't have graduation in person. Later I got a job at Wal-Mart. I am currently living in Fremont, IA and seeking to find a job in radio broadcasting. In my leisure time I enjoy spending time with my dog Radar and gardening.

St John' Evangelical Lutheran Church

Reverend Samuel Beltz

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February 2023

www.faithsonshine.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:30am Coffee Time 9:00am Scripture Study Bulletin items due	2 LWML 9-2pm Elders 6pm	3	4
5 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15 Special Voters Meeting /Bible Study/ Sunday School 1:45pm Confirmation	6 5:30pm Meal 6:00pm Bible Study	7	8 8:30am Coffee Time 9:00am Scripture Study Bridal Shower 5:30pm Bulletin items due	9 Friends of Marty 7pm	10	11
12 9am Prayers and Preaching Service 10:15 Bible Study/ Sunday School 1:45pm Confirmation Youth Dodgeball @ Vanderwilt gym	13 5:30pm Meal 6:00pm Bible Study	14	15 8:30am Coffee Time 9:00am Scripture Study Bulletin items due	16	17	18 9am Women's Bible study Free Babysitting 4-9pm Newsletter Items Due
19 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15 Bible Study/ Sunday School 1:45pm Confirmation	20 5:30pm Meal 6:00pm Bible Study	21	22 Ash Wednesday 8:30am Coffee Time 9:00am Scripture Study 5:30pm Ash Wednesday Service 6pm Meal Bulletin items due	23 Friends of Marty 7pm	24	25
26 9am Prayers and Preaching Service 10:15 Bible Study/ Sunday School 1:45pm Confirmation	27 5:30pm Meal 6:00pm Bible Study	28				

