



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 8

**Weekly Schedule:**

- Service 9:00 am
- Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:15am
- Wednesday Coffee Time 8:30am
- Wednesday Scripture Study 9 am
- 2nd & 4th Thursday Fraternal Friends of Marty @ 5:30 pm
- Women's Bible Study 3rd Saturday of Month @ 9am

**Special Activities:**

- Elders August 3rd @ 6pm
- LWML 9:00am - 1:00pm

**From Pastor Beltz's Desk**

**Christianity as Social-Cultural Club with Religious Conviction**

For a long time, Christianity was normal in the Western World. You were a weirdo if you did not go to church or claim affiliation to a particular tradition. Now things have changed.

Christianity is no longer normal, and the social-cultural dominance of Christianity has collapsed. One difficulty for many Christians is coping with this collapse. What do we do? Do we fight back? Do we lament and move on? More than that, what is actually changing? One thing that has changed and is continuing to change, is that younger generations of Christians are moving toward higher levels of religious fervor and conviction than previous generations.

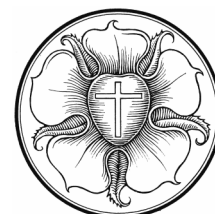
Barna Group, an American evangelical religious research group, has been keeping track of religious trends in North America for some time. What they are finding and reporting is that over the last three decades less and less folks are becoming and staying Christians. However, the young folks who are becoming and staying Christians are doing so with a higher emphasis

on traditional Christian ceremony and deep religious convictions. This is true across religious expressions. In Islam and Judaism young people are flocking to the "old" expressions of religious conviction and ceremony. Among Catholics the largest growing demographic are young families with many children desiring a return to the old Latin mass, incense, and high liturgies of the pre-Vatican II era. Lutherans are not any different. Younger generations are not as Christian in number, but when they are Christian, they are Christian in a way that hasn't really been seen in the West for a long time.

One great issue this generational divide is creating is the way "church" is conceived of and practiced. For example, I have heard stories from St. John and many other Churches about folks teaching Sunday school who weren't members of the Church, or preachers from other traditions coming into the building to preach or share a message, ecumenical services where multiple congregations all communed together. The general idea behind these practices was that denominational divides are like ice-cream flavors. We each have our own tastes, but it's all

ice-cream in the end. This way of thinking elevates a social principle above a religious principle. The challenge is that you cannot really have those principles in competition. They must be in harmony and symbiosis. Church is social, but it must never be social at the expense of our convictions and public confessions. And our confessions and convictions must not be used as a bludgeon. From our convictions and confessions, a social identity grows and a social network organically arises and from our social connections we grow together to love and cherish our religious convictions and practices all the more. This is what it means to be a Christian Congregation.

*Pastor Beltz*



**Elder**

Marty George

**Altar Guild**

Pastor Beltz  
Cassie Beltz

**Acolyte**

Addison Shmalcs

**Processional Cross**

8/20 Lincoln Beltz

**Greeter**

Judy Webb

**Hospitality**

8/6 Lauren McKain &  
Tama Knox

8/13 Sue George

8/20 Rebecca Duffy

8/27 Carol Fynaardt & Fran  
Katko

**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 ladies will have their monthly meeting on August 3 at 9am –1pm. The ladies will be putting together school kits. All ladies are welcome to attend.



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.

**Mite Bytes**









Hope for the Hopeless  
Life Ministry, LCMS Office of National Mission  
\$5,000

Because Lutherans understand that God created all human life, values each person, and wishes for each person to live the full life that He has given, they are unique Christian witnesses serving people who are feeling despair and hopelessness. Pastors, church workers and lay leaders may be trained to be able to recognize the warning signs of people who are in despair and at risk of taking action to hurt themselves or end their own lives.

This grant provides funding for curriculum and resources developed to provide a Christian response to mental illness that includes an emphasis on the Gospel and sharing Christ with psychological sensitivity. Pastors, church workers and lay leaders will have access to be equipped to share the hope of the Gospel with people who are feeling hopeless and despairing of earthly life to prevent the wish to die by suicide.



**Please include in your prayers daily**

-  Sue George and family, Betty Blessum, Betty Loftsgard, 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.



**MEMBERS**

I have been asking several members to submit a bio about your family to the newsletter. Some of you have done a great job as others have not responded. If asked to submit a bio please respond to let me know that you can or cannot do this so I can ask someone else. As it is nice to learn more about our congregation.



**PASTOR HOME VISITS**

Pastor would like to start doing pastoral home visits. There is no reason for them other than to check on his flock. So if asked please make time for him or to schedule a time please e-mail the office at [office@stjohnnosky.org](mailto:office@stjohnnosky.org).

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- Sarah Fynaardt 8-02
- Charlotte Beltz 8-04
- Benjamin Fenton 8-06
- Lorie Jager 8-12
- Michael Pierson 8-12
- Alan Katko 8-16
- Paul Fenton 8-17
- Dolores Fynaardt 8-17
- James Hoy 8-17
- Elizabeth Wooster-Pierson 8-19
- Brooklyn Vanderwilt 8-21
- Krusor Horn 8-22
- Ann Ohms 8-22
- Addison McKain 8-24
- Ashlyn Fynaardt 8-30
- Tom Bowie 8-31
- Cody Mock 8-31

These may not be up to date at this time.

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

- Curt & Lorie Jager  
8-4-1978
- Luke & Melissa Letzring  
8-08-2009
- Alan & Fran Katko  
8-19-1967

**Bulletin announcements due by end of the day on Wednesday of each week.**

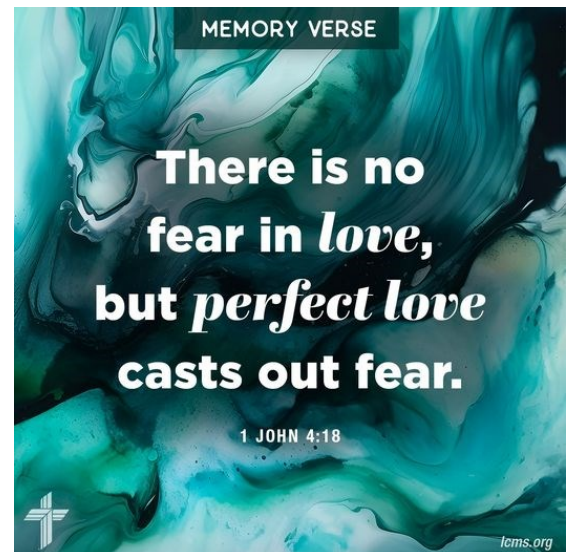
**Newsletter items due by the 20th of each month.**



Sunday School Starts  
September 5  
Following Church Service

Also following service

Adult Bible Study will be starting the study of Revelations



# August 2023

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 LWML 9am-1pm Elders 6pm	4	5
6 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15am Bible Study <b>Mite Box Sunday</b>	7	8	9 8:30am Coffee Time 9am Scripture Study  <b>Bulletin items due</b>	10 Friends of Marty 5:30pm	11	12
13 9am Matins 10:15am Bible Study	14	15	16 8:30am Coffee Time 9am Scripture Study  <b>Bulletin items due</b>	17	18	19 9am Women's Bible Study
20 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15am Bible Study	21 <b>Newsletter Items Due</b>	22	23 8:30am Coffee Time 9am Scripture Study  <b>Bulletin items due</b>	24 Friends of Marty 5:30pm	25	26
27 9am Matins 10:15am Bible Study	28	29	30	31		