



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

Volume 4 Issue 6

From the Desk of Rev. Samuel Beltz

What's This Church Thing about Anyway?

Weekly Schedule:

- Service 9:00 am
- Adult Bible Study/
Sunday School
10:15am
- Wednesday Coffee
Time 8:30am
- Wednesday Scripture
Study 9 am

Special Activities:

- LWM June 4 @
9:30am -noon
- Elders June 4@ 6pm

Why go to church? That's a question that needs to be answered. Not too long ago, most people didn't ask that question. It used to be the case that everyone went to church, or at least most people thought that going to church was an important thing to do. Church was part of everyday American life. For example, blue laws once restricted sales on Sunday in honor and respect for the day as a day of Christian worship. And even long after the laws were overturned, many people in our country assumed that going to church was important enough to close down their stores on Sundays even though the law didn't require it. In this way, the practice of going to church had a cultural backing. But we now live in a time when that backing has eroded.

Now that the cultural backing has eroded, the question "why go to church" has no obvious answer. For a long time in America, Christians did not have to give reasons for going to church. It was simply what everyone was supposed to do. Therefore, generations of Christians in America have never been hard pressed to answer the question, why go to church?

For the first time in American history, churches have had to convince people to come. Churches have had to market themselves by providing goods and services that consumers find important. For that reason, different churches have very different reasons for existing.

But why do we exist? What is our reason for being? Why would anyone come to St. John Lutheran Church?

God is at work among us, through Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit, to gather a people for himself. When we come together at church, we're given a message. It's a message that's been handed down from generation to generation since the time of the Apostles two thousand years ago. We call that message "the Gospel." The Gospel is the announcement that the man Jesus of Nazareth who ate with sinners and forgave their sins, who healed the lame, the sick and the blind, and who raised the dead, is Lord and Christ—that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God who rules over God's creation.

Every time we come to church, that message is given to us—it is given to us to believe, to hold fast to, and to cherish as our own. Through the proclamation of that message, through the waters of baptism, through the forgiveness of sins, and through the Lord's Supper, the announcement that Jesus is Lord becomes personal. Because he washes *us*, because he forgives *our* sins, because he gives *us* his body and blood as the new covenant, Jesus is not only Lord over God's creation, he is also *our* Lord. God is at work, through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus and in the power of the Spirit to make *us* his people—a people who have been called out of darkness and into his marvelous light; a people who are his treasured possession in Christ Jesus.

June Duties:

Elder

John Shmalcs

Altar Guild

Myrna Anthony
Betty McWilliams

Acolyte

Lincoln Duffy

Processional Cross

6/28 Evan Anderson

Greeter

Monica Pickett

Hospitality

6/7 Sarah Andreason &
Lisa Forschler
6/14 Rebecca Duffy
Cassie Beltz
6/21 Julie Rice
Majorie Roach
6/28 Brooklyn Vanderwilt
Evie Mc Kain

Ushers

6/7 Curt Jager
Gabe Hoy
6/14 Alan Pickett
Mike Forschler
6/21 Lawrence Smith
James Horn
6/28 Adam McKain
Nolan McKain

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

LWML NEWS

LWML will have a work day with quilting on June 4 @ 9:30am-noon

All Women are welcome to join us.

Mite box Sunday is the first Sunday of the Month. Please remember to bring your mites and put in the LWML box.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS








| | |
|------------------|------|
| David Fynaardt | 6-02 |
| Jan Poore | 6-02 |
| Bailey Barnhart | 6-03 |
| Brooke Wilkerson | 6-03 |
| Brent Fenton | 6-07 |
| Austin King | 6-09 |
| Bob Barnhart | 6-12 |
| Tara Crile | 6-15 |
| Rhiannon Horn | 6-15 |
| Eden Rice | 6-16 |
| Jacob Fynaardt | 6-17 |
| Margot Letzring | 6-19 |
| Alan Pickett | 6-21 |
| Rachel Carr | 6-26 |
| Zach Brecht | 6-27 |
| Ryan Carr | 6-28 |
| Beth Stout | 6-30 |

JUNE ANNIVERSARY

Jacob & Jennifer Fynaardt
6-06-09
Nate & Sarah Anderson
6-23-01



Please include in your prayers daily

-  Sean Strothman, Luke Letzring, Family of Rod Hacker, Karen Westercamp, Tamra Van Haafden and Ann Ohms.
-  **Prayers for the Mocks for: strengthening of relationships** at our local church with both existing and newcomers, **wise technology decisions** the improve effectiveness of both Luther Academy and the Eurasia Region, **language learning, activities and friendships** for Eva and Moriah
-  For those in Isreal, 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 good gifts this day.



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All the things we do together have their purpose, their goal and their center in God's mission through Jesus and in the power of the Spirit—God's mission to make a people for himself in the proclamation of the gospel. We might come to church for many different purposes, and for many different reasons. But God has brought us together so that we might be his people—his saints—through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Story behind the Message

Every time we come through the doors of the church, we're given a message. We've already mentioned the "short" version of that message—that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God, Lord and Christ. But there's a much bigger story behind that message. It's the true and historical story contained within the Bible. We'll spend the rest of our time today getting the basic story straight. At St. John, we have a chart to summarize the most important elements of the story.

Read the following and build "the chart."

Genesis 1:1–2:25 (Creation)

Genesis 3:1–19 (The Fall)

Genesis 6–8 (Noah and the Flood)

Genesis 12:1–3 (Abraham)

Exodus—Deuteronomy (The Exodus)

2 Samuel 7:8–13 (David)

Temple #1

Isaiah 5:1–7 (Exile)

Isaiah 40:1–5 (Return)

Temple #2

Malachi 3:1, 4:1–6 (God Is Coming Back)

Matthew 3:1–6 (John the Baptist)

Matthew 3:13–17 (Jesus is Baptized)

Matthew 4:17, 23–25 (Jesus begins his work)

Matthew 9:1–17 (Conflict over Jesus' identity)

Matthew 26:57–68; 27:32–54 (Jesus' arrest and crucifixion)

Matthew 28:1–10, 16–20 (Resurrection and Commission to Baptize)

John 20:19–23 (Commission to Forgive Sins)

Luke 24: 44–49 (Commission to Preach the Gospel)

Sound Bite Theology

Why go to church?

The Good

Because God is at work there.

Because God has invaded his broken creation and started something new and at church we get caught up in it.

God is at work through Jesus and in the Holy Spirit to make a people for himself.

The Bad

I go to church to find structure in life.

I go to church to be a good person.

The Ugly

I go to church because it makes me feel good.

Pastor Beltz



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

As our church family grows, we're looking for new ways to support parents and care for our youngest members. Therefore, we are looking for volunteers to serve in the church nursery during Bible study hour. Our goal is to have one adult and one older youth scheduled each week. This allows one volunteer to step out to bring children to their parents when needed, while the other stays with the remaining children.

The more volunteers we have, the less often each person will need to serve — meaning everyone can still regularly attend Bible study.

This can also be a sweet opportunity for a you and your youth to serve together! If you're willing to help, please sign up on the nursery door or email the church office.



FRIENDS OF MARTIN LUTHER

Gathering

FELLOWSHIP • FRIENDSHIP • MALE CONNECTIONS

MEN OF ALL AGES are invited!

Join the Friends of Martin Luther for an evening of fellowship, friendship, and meaningful connections on

JUNE 12
@ 6:00 PM

This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with other Christian men, enjoy good conversation, encourage one another, and strengthen our faith community.

GOOD CONVERSATION

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

GROW TOGETHER

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”
— PSALM 133:1 —

We look forward to seeing you there!

Save the Date

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING

No Gifts JUST A CARD WILL DO

AUGUST 22 2-4 PM
EDDYVILLE FIRE STATION

FAMILY FUN UNDER THE SUN

JUN 17 PICNIC IN THE PARK
AT WONDER SPELEN PARK IN PELLA AROUND 530PM. BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC DINNER!

JULY TBD OSKALOOSA FIREWORKS
MEET UP BY THE DISCUS NET AN HOUR BEFORE (9PM) FIREWORKS

JULY 11-12 CAMP VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
AT CAMP IO-DIS-E-CA IN SOLON, IA

AUG 1 MINI VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
AT EDMUNDSON PARK IN OSKALOOSA 9AM-12PM FOR OUR YOUNGEST KIDDOS. (WILL NEED OLDER YOUTH VOLUNTEERS!) EVERYONE BRING A SWIMSUIT FOR THE POOL!

AUG 16 BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ
STAY AFTER CHURCH FOR A GRILL OUT, YARD GAMES, AND FUN BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS UP AGAIN! BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE.

June 2026

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| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---------------------|-----|--|---|----------------------------|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 LWML 9:30am - noon Elders 6pm | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15am Adult Bible Study | 8 | 9 | 10 8:30am Coffee Hour 9:00am Scripture Study | 11 | 12 Friends of Marty 6pm | 13 |
| | | | Bulletin Items Due | | LWML District Convention | |
| 14 9am Catechetical Review 10:15am Bible Study | 15 | 16 | 17 8:30am Coffee Hour 9:00am Scripture Study | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| | | | Picnic in the Park 5:30 Pella | | | |
| | | | Bulletin items due | | | |
| 21 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15am Bible Study | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| | | | Bulletin items due | | | |
| | HIGHER THINGS 22-26 | | | | | |
| 28 9:00am Matins 10:15 Adult Bible Study | 29 | 30 | 1 8:30am Coffee Hour 9:00am Scripture Study | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | Bulletin items due | | | |

