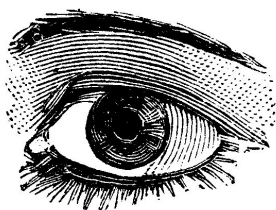




SAINT JOHN EVANGELIST

Newsletter

QUARTERLY / June, July, August 2025



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**The Holy
Scriptures
require a
humble
reader . . .
who constantly says,
"Teach me, teach me,
teach me!"**

Martin Luther

A Magnificent Hymn

Lutheran Service Book Hymn #781, "We Give Thee But Thine Own", brings into focus what Lutherans and Christians have confessed down through the years. That the crowning glory of God's acts of creation, Adam and Eve, were created to bear (God's) image within the creation (Gen.1:26-28). They were to be "stewards". This stewardship was worship and work. It was to be good, right, happy and holy.

Then darkness broke into the perfection of God's creation. Adam and Eve chose to eat forbidden fruit and idolatry darkened the mind, heart and soul of all human beings. A failed stewardship is idolatry and unbelief.

But the Creator was not content to leave the fallen stewards, then or today, in that darkness of sin. Jesus Christ, the "Light of the World", won the battle over Satan at the cross and the empty tomb. The fallen creation was redeemed along with His stewards. This "good news" recreated true stewardship in believers in Christ.

Our stewardship goal is more than just caring for God's creation. It now involves, with the help of the Holy Spirit, spreading the good news of who Jesus is and what He has done! Verse 5 says it all; "The captive to release, To God the lost to bring, To teach the way of life and peace, It is a Christ-like thing."

That is why the sinner/steward can sing, "We give Thee but Thine own. What-ere the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone. A trust, O Lord, from Thee". Our stewardship is from Him. Our stewardship is for Him. Our stewardship points other would be stewards to Him. This is the steward's song.

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, StewardCast e-newsletter, June, 2023



Worship With Communion

**Saturdays, 3pm
Sundays, 9am**

**Sunday Bible Study
10:30 - 11:30am**

**Monday Bible Study
6:30pm**

**Thursday Bible Study
1:30pm - 2:30pm**

**Father's Day Service /
June 15**

Saturday at 3pm & Sunday at 9am

**Independence Day, July 4
Patriotic Church Services**

Saturday at 3pm & Sunday at 9am

**Vacation Bible School
Great Jungle Journey, Part 2**



(See Page 6 for VBS News)

June 1st Voters' Assembly Summary

A quorum of church members were present to conduct the St. John Voters' Assembly agenda. The agenda results are:

Representatives from Brookens Construction presented information about the deteriorated condition of our shingled church roof. The roof is over 25 years old and showed damage from the last few hailstorms. Damage has been documented. We are awaiting the final decision of the insurance coverage available to us. The total cost of the roof replacement is approximately \$70,000, and if insurance covers our claim, we may only have to pay the current deductible of \$25,000. The voters approved moving forward with the roof replacement this summer, subject to the results of the insurance coverage. If there is a need to take out a loan to complete this project, another Voters' Assembly will be called.

There were no nominations for National Positions in our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod from our congregation.

The 2025-26 Church Budget was unanimously approved, with a total expenditures budget of \$412,809.60, an increase of 7.7% over last year. Most of this increase was due to large increases in our Church Insurance and Utilities amounts, as well as a 3% increase in compensation for our Pastor and staff.

Elections of Church Officers and Board positions were completed. For the 2025-26 election cycle, the Church Officers are: Jim Papala (President); Lois Lockwood (Secretary); and Donna Munnik (Treasurer). For a complete list of members of the various Boards see the Church office.

The Child Day Care Advisory Committee reported on a productive year of improving the Day Care's financial results, policies, and procedures.

Trustees reported on upcoming work including resealing the parking lots, elevator repairs, and the completion of lighting replacement projects, including ceiling tile replacement, etc. Special thanks to all the Trustees and the valuable volunteers who help with these projects around the Church.

Pat and Roy Lemmer reported on progress of the 2nd annual Vacation Bible School set for July 21-25, 2025.

An organizational meeting is set for June 10, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Come and learn more!

Minutes of this Voters Assembly will be available in our church office, along with copies of the approved budget and a complete list of Church Officers and Board members. Stop in the church office and CynDee will be glad to help!

God's blessings, Jim Papala, Congregational President

**Make us worthy , God we pray,
to do Thy service every day. Edgar A. Guest**

Lutheran Women's Missionary League



LWML will continue to meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10 A.M. We gather for a short meeting to collect donated mites (coins/dollars) and pledges for the Charles

Ferry family who are based in Taiwan. Chuck oversees all the missionaries and missions in SE Asia.

We will review our bank report and discuss scheduled LWML activities. Finally we will take an hour or two to cut fabric square kits for three different Quilting groups that have requested them. One is located in Hartford, one in Omro, and one in Milwaukee. All three groups sew the squares for Lutheran World Relief.

Check out the map on our new LWML Bulletin Board on the wall outside of the church office. The map shows where all of the quilts and kits have been sent around the world to those affected by natural disasters. We thank God for providing ways to aid our Brothers and Sisters in Christ who need help in crisis.



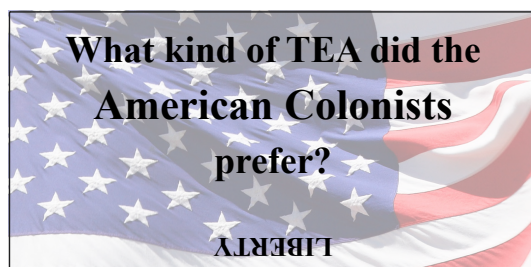
We extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to help in our cutting squares project.

Our next regular Tuesday meetings are scheduled for:

June 17 at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.

July 15 at 10am.

August 19 at 10am.



LWML Convention Notes



The 41st National LWML Convention is being held in Omaha NE on June 26-29. Delegates will be choosing a new set of Mission Grants for the 2025-2027 Biennium. We are so thankful that LWML Mite donations for the 2023-2025 Biennium are able to FULLY pay all 31 Mission grants totaling \$2,350,000.00! All Glory to God!

Mark the calendar for the South Wisconsin District Fall Retreat on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 26-27, 2025. It will be held close to us in Brookfield. The speaker is author, Donna Snow. Several of our St. John members will be attending. Give one of us a call if you would want to attend and ride along with us.

The LWML Zone 1 Rally will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2025 at St. John, Cudahy! We will be hostesses for this rally. We will serve a breakfast before the rally so we will need a good response for this. It will be fun!

2025 Confirmands

On Sunday, April 27th, Pastor DeVries confirmed three young adults. This is the first time since 2020 that St. John Church has witnessed a Confirmation. The confirmands are Jonas Bedard, Marcus DeVries and Madison Montenegro. We pray they continue their Christian communion.



New LED Lights + Ceiling Tiles in Child Day Care Rooms

Board of Trustee members and volunteers helped install new LED lighting and ceiling tiles to replace old fixtures in St. John Child Day Care classrooms. Trustees hired C-R Electric to bring Day Care lighting up to code and meet standards for the Wisconsin Young Star Program. The new ceiling light panels increase room brightness and reduce electricity costs. Ceiling tile work was done by Bob Weber, church volunteers and Child Day Care family helpers.

A new phone networking system has been installed throughout the church. The upgrade will result in cost savings and more efficient communication.

Mark Simmons and Bob Weber replaced the south elevator sump pump. The sump pump, installed in 2000, had stopped working.



Anne Brandstrom, Bob Weber



Pete Brandstrom

Dorcas Goes “Country Western”

The 2025 Dorcas Society’s Woman Celebration was well attended. This year’s “Country Western” theme was replete with Country Western music and Country Western style food. Live Country Music songs were performed by Johny Martini.

Thank you to the women who helped with so many things to make it a big success. Thanks also to Pastor DeVries and the men volunteers who helped set up tables, served as waiters and cleaned up after the event. A big thank you to Lori Grant who made all the centerpieces for the tables. Thank you also to SaDonna Antonia for the cactus plants that adorned the tables.

Dorcas has ordered a new outdoor sign to advertise our annual Bake & Craft Fair. The Dorcas members want to thank Donna Polzin for making arrangements to order the sign.

The June Dorcas Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 6:00pm. Dorcas Society officers will provide dinner. We will also be collecting personal care products for Project Concern. These items include soap, body wash, combs, deoderant, Etc. Project Concern also welcomes donations of socks of any size or color.

NOTE: There will be no meetings in July and August. The September meeting will be on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 6:00pm.

Paulette Schmadl, Dorcas Society President



Social Concerns Thanks Advent / Lenten Dinner Sponsors and Volunteers

A time-honored tradition at St. John is gathering for pre-service dinners during the Advent and Lenten seasons. In the last year, nine dinners were held with an average of fifty people in attendance at each. The dinners have been sponsored by the Elders, Dorcas Society, Social Concerns, Handbell Choir, and the Buttke family and generously subsidized through Thrivent grants. One of the most popular dinners is the annual potluck when we get to sample specialties from our member's kitchen. No one goes away hungry, that is for sure! The Social Concerns board is very thankful for our sponsors and diners, and we look forward to seeing you the next time dinner is served. Bon Appetit!



Trip to see “Oklahoma” Matinee at the Fireside Theater: Seats have been reserved for the **Saturday, September 20, 2025**, matinee showing of the popular musical “Oklahoma”. Watch weekly church bulletins for more details and make your plans to attend!

Victory for Freedom to Confess



On June 30, 2023, the United States Supreme Court published an important ruling on the case of 303 Creative v. Elenis. Lori Smith, a Denver, Colorado graphic artist and web designer, was required by Colorado state law to promote messages with which she disagreed. Five years prior, the Court vindicated Masterpiece Cakeshop owner Jack Phillips for refusing to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple because of his religious beliefs. In the Jack Phillips case the U.S. Supreme Court decisively ruled in favor of free exercise of religion. However, the opinion failed to address the question of free speech. The 303 Creative v. Elenis decision changed all that.

In 2023, the highest court in the land decisively ruled that compelling a person “either to speak as the State demands or face sanctions for expressing [his or her] own beliefs” is an “impermissible abridgment of the First Amendment’s right to speak freely.” Jack Phillips and Lorie Smith have secured for all Christians explicit constitutional protection to live and speak truly. Their victories relieve countless Christians from overt threats to their freedom to be faithful in the marketplace. Thanks be to God for their brave steadfastness!

“Reprinted with permission of the LCMS.” Free to be Faithful Newsletter, 2023 LCMS / Edited for space constriction.

Contentment is discovering the value of what God has already given to me.

Child Day Care Classrooms Have New Lighting

The Child Day Care staff want to thank the volunteers who worked in the classrooms after the new LED light panels were put in place. Working on replacing ceiling tiles were Anne and Pete Brandstrom, Bob Weber and Matt Giese (day care parent) and his son. Everything looks great!

In April we had our annual Scholastic Book Fair. We were able to get 53 new books for the classrooms, 28 of which were donated by Day Care families and church members. We also received \$369 in Scholastic Dollars, which we will use for classroom items and books for the children as part of their Christmas gifts.

The Kringle sale has brought in \$1,550.00. Thank you Kringle purchasers. We will use the proceeds to do improvements in the outdoor play area. We need new edging where there are bushes and repairs on the gazebo that covers the sand area.

In June, we will have our annual Family Fun Night on Wednesday, June 11. The children will be looking forward to all of the fun activities that come with summer, such as water play, picnics and field trips. Some of the field trips will include trips to the farm, the zoo and the movie theater. We wish everyone a safe and fun summer!!

Karen Erickson, St. John Child Day Care Director



Save the date! The Third Annual Generations of Blessings will be September 7, 2025

There will be a special generational worship at 10am. A picnic lunch will follow worship service. Enjoy games, crafts and generational pictures. Invite family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. More details will be in printed in August church bulletins.

Sponsored by Evangelism and Stewardship Boards

Get Ready For Vacation Bible School 2025



Member #1: *Is the VBS Jungle Journey - 2025 program the same as last year?*

Member #2 Jungle Journey (part II) will be even better!

VBS - 2025 is 5 mornings, Monday through Friday, 9am to Noon, from July 21 through 25. We plan to use many of last summer's stunning decorations, revisit the "life changing" Bible lessons about Creation; Corruption (disobediance); Catastrophe (Noah); Confusion (Tower of Babel); Christ; Cross and Consummation (Fulfillment of all things). The 2025 activities will be enhanced, and snacks changed up. VBS week will end with a non-Communion celebration service in the church and a free luncheon afterward. As last summer, lots of people are being recruited to help.

#1: *Are we still reaching out the community?*

#2: VBS is meant for our few Sunday School children, our Child Day Care children and also to reach out to our older members' grandchildren, children who may be living close to our members and for our children's friends. We also invite children in nearby neighborhoods who are not going to any church or Bible school.

Lutherans For Life at Ozaukee County Fair



The Ozaukee County Fair is one of the last FREE summer fairs in the midwest. Since 1859, the Fair has been offering residents and visitors live music, a full midway, food and exhibit vendors, fireworks and 4-H and livestock exhibitions.

Since the 1990s, the Ozaukee County Lutherans For Life Chapter has been participating as a vendor in the Commercial Marketplace building. Lutherans For Life materials, give away items and other supplies are donated by a chapter member.

Susie Pipkorn, President of Ozaukee County Life Chapter, said, "It's a great outreach to our community . . . to reach people who may be unchurched or pro-choice."

If you visit the Ozaukee County Fair this summer, plan a visit to the "Lutherans For Life" display. The fairgrounds are at W67 N866 Washington Avenue in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. lutheransforlife.org

New Summer Bible Study: JOIN THE TOUR: KNOW THE BOOK!

A New Bible Study Is Starting **June 5th at the 1:30pm time on each Thursday!**

All Scripture is important, and INSPIRED, so that each original WORD of the Old and New Testaments IS THE WORD OF GOD!

Our new Bible Study will tour the TOTALITY of the Scriptures. However, like any "Tour", this Study will stop longer at some "places" than others.

First, the Tour will take a "Mile High View." just skimming, the whole Biblical Horizon to the Who, What, When, and Why of the 66 Books of the Old and New Testaments. Our Tour will make stops along the way to highlight special stories and particular verses to expand our knowledge and appreciation for the whole of Scripture.

As we travel, our GPS (*GOD POSITIONING SYSTEM*) will show us the path to connect to the very special sites that reveal the Foundational Truths of Lutheran Christianity: The Trinity; Salvation by Grace through Faith; the Law and the Gospel; the Sacraments; What it Means to be a Christian.

Each person on the Tour must have your own Bible; a pen, a pencil, a highlighter and a 3 ring binder Or these will be provided.



New September Bible Study: "THE TRUTH PROJECT"

Coming in September 2025: Focus on the Family's "The Truth Project". This 13 week video based Bible study will be followed by "The Engagement Project" in 2026. When we know the Truth revealed in God's Word, how do we share that Truth with those we love? These two video based studies will help us grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus and then share it with others.