

HARVEST MINISTRY NEWS LETTER

May 2021

Pastor's Corner

²²By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another. –Galatians 5:22-26

Dear friends in Christ,
If you remember nothing else I've said I trust that you remember that you are a beloved child of God, called to love God and love one another. This is our identity and our calling in the name of Christ Jesus. And together we are a people of God in this time and place. A gathered body of the people of God is called a church today, and yet the Church (capital C) is much bigger than we are. The Church is the people of God of all times and of ALL places. This Church then is something that we ARE. We could say that the Church is also our identity if we are responding to our call to love God and love one another. This is the Church that we celebrate on Pentecost.

This Pentecost, May 23rd, we will conclude our one year of going through the narrative lectionary. The Pentecost text assigned to the narrative lectionary for this year includes a short piece from ax and much longer reading from the book of Galatians the scripture quoted above from the 5th chapter of Galatians is part of that much longer reading it is also likely familiar to many of you who routinely study your Bible. We often talk about the fruits of the spirit being love joy peace patience kindness generosity faithfulness gentleness and self-control. What we don't talk about as much is that how we have these fruits of the spirit is only and I mean only through our faith in Christ Jesus.

No matter how much one attempts to follow the law one cannot receive fruits of the spirit by following the law. It is impossible the Apostle Paul, the author of the book of Galatians, spends much of the book talking about the spirit. As you will find in many study bibles Paul's entire argument depends on the Galatians remembering their experience of the spirit of God's son. That experience of

Jesus was so powerful that they for the first time felt free. It is by the work of the spirit that Christ takes shape not only within the Galatians or the apostles or anyone else we can read about in scripture but in us. It is by the spirit that we live out our baptismal calling. It is by the spirit that we love God and love one another purely and only by the spirit.

Thankfully, it is not just the celebration of Pentecost or remember in our own baptism that we can remember that it is through our faith in Christ Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit that we receive these fruits of the spirit. Rather every time we send spend time dwelling in God's word the Spirit is working in and among us. And so while we have the laws, we are never able to follow the laws without dwelling in God's word and being open to the work of the Holy Spirit.

In short, God loves us unconditionally. Likewise, the only way for us to love others, and to increase our ability to love others, is to first receive God's love and live in and by the Spirit. When you look for the fruits of the Spirit in your own life, or in the lives of others, I caution you to remember that these fruits are literally fruits of God's HOLY Spirit. They are not fruits of following the law even if we could attempt to do so.

This is why I continually remind you that you are beloved children of God!
May you remember this today and always.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Tami Groth
Text or call: 608.385.9848
Email: tami.harvestministries@gmail.com

HARVEST MINISTRY NEWS LETTER

Harvest Ministry Community Prayer List (at time of printing):

Jamie Mohr Ummach, Danelle Sullivan, John (Buck) Jacobs, Jean Jensen, Roger Reinking, Nancy Merkel, Cohen Stoermer, Frank Huth, Daved Benna, Drew Berg, and Alissa Meyer.

Prayer list open to anyone and updated as information is shared (list frequently changes after the newsletter is published). Please contact Pastor Tami directly to request pastoral care visits as well as additions and corrections to the prayer list.

Please keep our homebound members in prayer including those in facilities:

Correctionville Specialty Care: LaVinna Wiese

Whispering Creek in Sioux City: Wilma Bollin

The Gardens Assisted Living, Cherokee: Frank Huth

Sunrise Retirement Community, Sioux City: Wilma Reinking

Reaching Pastor Tami in case of emergencies:

When in need of pastoral care, especially emergency pastoral care (for example: hospitalization, natural disaster, auto or other accident, transition to a different nursing facility or hospice care) please call Pastor Tami first. If pastor is unable to answer, please call TWICE in a row (during meetings her phone is appropriately silenced or on “do not disturb” and two calls in a row get her attention and deactivate “do not disturb”) **AND THEN LEAVE A MESSAGE IF PASTOR IS UNABLE TO ANSWER.** If you prefer, you can also send two text messages in a row to achieve the same result.

IF Pastor is unable to return your call quickly, then please call Janelle as the Care Coordinator (that is what the position is for). She will know either how to reach Pastor Tami or who to call while she is unreachable. Only if you, again after trying twice to reach Janelle, are unable to reach either of them or leave a message, should you THEN go on to call a council member. This is because a council member will likely not have information to help you unless Pastor has announced time away and has forwarded who is overseeing emergency pastoral care situations to the entire council. *This has been the existing policy for Harvest Ministry and streamlines communication efficiently. Just as pastors were not always reachable before cell phones existed there may be times still when there is a delay in response for various reasons (including screening calls during Sabbath hours); however, if you leave messages for Pastor Tami and/or our care coordinator, Janelle Lewis, they will get back to you as soon as possible.*

Harvest Ministry Care Coordinator: In an effort to streamline making contact with those covering pastoral care when Pastor Tami is on vacation or otherwise unavailable, Janelle Lewis is now serving as Care Coordinator. Pastor Tami will work closely with her to coordinate schedules as well as to be sure she has information regarding which area pastors are available to cover emergency pastoral care needs when Pastor Tami is away.

You can contact Janelle on her cell phone at: 712.389.0199



HARVEST MINISTRY NEWS

Easter Season 2021 – We invite you to worship – AGAIN & AGAIN

Easter comes to us, again and again, even if we don't know what to make of God's resurrection ways. Again and again, the sun rises. And some days, that is enough.

We are continuing our worship reference for this Easter season! For more detailed worship resources, please contact Pastor Tami for a complete worship guide (available the night before the worship service). If we return to printed bulletins that can also be shared digitally. Each worship service will continue to be streamed from the church FB pages even as we continue to look for ways to improve our online worship experience.

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER, May 2nd

Acts 15:1-18 | Luke 2:29-32
Council at Jerusalem

7th SUNDAY OF EASTER, May 16th

Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29 | Luke 1:68-79
One in Christ

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER, May 9th

Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21 | Luke 18:9-14
Living by Faith
Mother's Day
St. John Confirmation Day!

Pentecost! May 23rd

Acts 2:1-4; Galatians 4:1-7 [5:16-26]
Luke 11:11-13
Fruits of the Spirit

Other worship Notes:

- St. John worship services live streamed & recordings found at: <http://www.facebook.com/stjohncushing>
- Salem worship services live steamed & recordings found at: <https://www.facebook.com/salemcorrectionville>
- **IF you would like to receive the worship guide via email directly, please send an email with that request to: Tami.HarvestMinistries@gmail.com**
- Announcements, Reminders and more at: <https://www.facebook.com/harvestministrychurches/>

Stewardship in a Time of Pandemic

During this ongoing time of being church together while apart, we continue to emphasize that the financial cost of answering God's call as a congregation remains nearly identical to previous years. We ask you to prayerfully consider how you can steward the resources you have been entrusted with while supporting your congregation at this time. If you are already tithing your income, perhaps you will be able to also tithe any economic govt. stimulus you receive or make other additional gifts. If you are not yet tithing, perhaps now is the time to begin

Any offerings made by check can either be mailed directly to the church address or given to a council member / financial secretary. This may also be the time when you would prefer to give electronically. Both churches are now set up to receive donations via [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give) online or via the app. At any time you can go to: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give and search for either St. John, Cushing or Salem, Correctionville and give a one time or reoccurring donation.

I invite you prayerfully consider your offering each time you join in virtual worship with our community just as you do each time you worship with us in our church buildings.

HARVEST MINISTRY NEWS LETTER

THANK YOU

Deepest gratitude for all of the prayers and support during my recent carpal tunnel surgery (and post-surgical infection that followed)! Your support and understanding mean more than I can say at a time when I cannot (yet!) use my right hand as I would like (most of this newsletter was done via voice to text dictation!). I am humbled as you continue to pray for and with me in this recovery time. –Pastor Tami Groth

Summer Coffee with Pastor Times!

Coffee with Pastor (and all of you!) will return this summer! Watch next month's newsletter as well as announcements everywhere for an update on what days we will gather this summer (and hopefully beyond!).



Coffee time

Blessing of Mothers

Gracious God,

in love you have given us the gift of mothers. Grant to each of them your power and grace.

Strengthen them in their mothering with tenderness and understanding, with compassion and joy.

Endow them with wisdom and knowledge so that they might teach their children how to live and how to love; how to seek and pursue that which is right and true; how to turn away from all that is hurtful and wrong.

Deepen their own faith so that they might instill in their children a love for you that will sustain and keep them their whole life long. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

First communion instruction -- while first communion instruction is always available there will be a deliberate effort to hold first communion instruction for families with children wanting to start communing this summer. Please contact pastor Tami to make sure you are aware of when the instruction times are so that we can include you and your family. Text or call 608.385.9848 or email Pastor at Tami.HarvestMinistries@gmail.com

You will note that I said "family" rather than simply "children." In recent years, our instruction materials are best used with the entire family. Additionally, this is a great time for parents grandparents or sponsors to join in and refresh their own learning around the sacrament of Holy Communion.

At what age do congregation members receive communion? (A pastoral informational note)

This is a frequently asked question not only in our congregations, but throughout the ELCA and many church denominations. Such a frequent question that it is included on the ELCA website under: Worship Formation & Liturgical Resources: Frequently Asked Questions. The answer they give there, as well as my own attempts to answer this question refer to the ELCA document: *THE USE of the MEANS of GRACE: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament*.

First communion can and does happen at many different ages throughout congregations of the ELCA. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's set of priorities for the practices of word and sacrament, *The Use of the Means of Grace*, notes that, "There is no command from our Lord regarding the age at which people should be...first communed" (38B).

My pastoral practice is to commune all those that come to the table seeking Jesus. With children this happens in conversation with parents. Just at parents bring their children to the Baptismal Font, parents also bring their children to the sacrament of Holy Communion when they decide to have their children receive communion.

In addition to more formal instruction times I am available to meet and discuss first communion with families and individuals as requested. In order to answer some immediate questions and concerns I have been receiving as well as to save time, I am going to share some great insights here in the form of an FAQ.

At what age should my child begin participating in Holy Communion? Once a child is born into God's family [baptism], that child is welcome to participate in Holy Communion. This represents a change for many of us as parents that may have had to wait until Confirmation or other instructional opportunities before receiving Holy Communion for the first time.

How will I know when my child is ready? The Lutheran answer to the question of "readiness" is as simple as this: God is ready for us! Beginning at birth, children come to the communion rail every Sunday. At some point they begin to show interest in receiving Holy Communion. They hold out their hands for the bread, like those around them. Or they will begin to ask questions like: "Why can't I have some 'Jesus bread'?" When they do this, children are telling us that they already know something very important about this holy meal. They understand that to eat the bread and drink the wine means that they are a part of God's family. It is only natural that they do not wish to be excluded from such an important event. Their desire presents an opportunity to discuss Holy Communion with them.

How should I instruct my child when he/she begins to show signs of interest in Holy Communion? How we learn and understand things changes throughout our development. As we grow in years, maturity and life experiences, our understanding of Holy Communion deepens and changes. God calls us to teach children (and people of all ages) on a level that they can understand. Explaining what Holy Communion means should not be done just once, but on a regular basis. When we receive Holy Communion, we remember that Jesus gave his life for us on the cross. He shares this life with us each time we receive Holy Communion. This is why we say that we eat his body and drink his blood: because he gives us his life!

What other ways will my child learn about Holy Communion? First and foremost, children learn from attending worship. At worship, they can see and be a part of the service and begin to understand what they are seeing, hearing, and saying. Additionally, from your actions and discussions with your child, he/she sees that Holy Communion is important and that participating in Holy Communion is something you do on a regular basis.

Please note: Formal preparation is an important part of learning about Holy Communion that everyone is encouraged and expected to participate in. It is NOT, however, a requirement for receiving Holy Communion. Every baptized Christian is called to learn throughout life.

Additional notes: Making Communion open to all makes a strong witness to what we, as Lutherans, believe about God's grace. We believe that the gifts we receive in Holy Communion are given freely by God. That is, that God doesn't demand that we earn or deserve them as the "price of admission". They are gifts to which God calls us as God's people. God meets each of us where we are and brings us to where God wants us to be. All God asks is that we believe that these gifts are "for us." Communing younger children is Biblically sound, faithful to our Lutheran heritage, and clearly expresses the heart of the Gospel: the love of God given to all of us freely in Christ. It is an important way that we live out our mission together: To know Christ & make Christ known.

Jesus, our host at the table, told the disciples: "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." [Mark 10:15]

Day of Pentecost

Fifty days after Passover, Jews kept the Pentecost festival, which originally celebrated the wheat harvest but had become the commemoration of the giving of the law on Mount Sinai. As the fiftieth day of Easter, Christians maintained the festival, altering its focus to a celebration of the Spirit of the risen Christ in the church. In an oblique reference to Sinai, the fire of God's word is now on the foreheads of the faithful. In John's gospel, the Spirit brings the truth of God into the believing community. In current parlance, Pentecost concludes the Easter season and lasts one day; it is not an ongoing season (*ELW*, pp. 14, 37).

Images in the Readings for Pentecost Day (May 23rd)

Anthropologists describe **fire** as one of the markers of the human species. For tens of thousands of years, humans gathered around fire for light, warmth, protection, community, and better food. Many passages in the Bible liken God to fire. The Holy Spirit of God appeared on Sinai in flames of fire, which on Pentecost appeared on the forehead of each believer. Moses experienced God in fire; through fire the Israelites presented offerings to God; God led the people through the wilderness with a pillar of fire. Seraphim are fire-spirits, extensions of the divine. Yet fire is also a sign of divine judgment: the angel in Eden hides the tree of life from humanity with a sword of fire, and John the Baptist predicts that fire will consume the chaff. Fire both occasions human life and has the power to destroy. Think fire, think God.

The Hebrew noun *ruah* can be translated into English as "**spirit**," "breath," or "wind." Spirit is the most amorphous of these words. In Christian theology, the Spirit we experience is the Spirit of the risen Christ, a spirit of service, a spirit of love, a spirit of resurrection beyond death.

Notes on Images for Holy Trinity Sunday, May 30, 2021

Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday following Pentecost (which is a day, not a season), has been kept since the tenth century as a special celebration of the mystery of the triune God. The rite of Confession and Forgiveness in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (p. 94) begins in the name of the Trinity. The standard greeting with which to begin the Sunday liturgy (*ELW*, p. 98) proclaims the Trinity. Our worship concludes with a trinitarian blessing. We are privileged to stand within and under uniquely Christian phrases: we give to one another and we receive the grace, love, and communion of the triune God.

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

The concept of the Trinity challenged the church for centuries, and sometimes pastors and teachers still do mental and theological gymnastics to try to explain it. The Trinity, after all, is about loving relationships—among and between the persons of the Trinity, between God and humankind, and between Christians. We have been loved, rescued, and led by a nurturing, redeeming, and inspiring God.

"O eternal Trinity, my sweet love!

You, light, give us light. You, wisdom, give us wisdom. You, supreme strength, strengthen us.

Today, eternal God, let our cloud be dissipated so that we may perfectly know and follow your Truth in truth, with a free and simple heart." —*Catherine of Siena*

[Catherine of Siena, *The Prayers of Catherine of Siena*, ed. Suzanne Noffke, op (New York: Paulist, 1983), 105.]

Prayer / Spiritual Practices Corner

This month I want to again share several resources available to use in your personal prayer and devotion time. Some of them have a small cost while others are free. If you have some favorite resources, please share them with me so that I can share them in a future newsletter. And remember that your Celebration bulletin inserts, ELW hymnal, and our printed devotionals at both churches are great resources already available to you.

- https://www.moravian.org/daily_texts/

For almost a year now my daily scripture readings have included reading the Moravian Daily Texts. I've gone on at length about them in a previous newsletter, so here I will just give the website link, and share that you can have them delivered to your email inbox each day, use a smart phone app (my preference), or even go to their Facebook page daily. In addition to the scripture readings there is a daily prayer that I often appreciate.

- <https://dwellapp.io/> Dwell is probably the most expensive scripture app I have ever purchased. Dwell is also the most valuable scripture app I have ever purchased. It is an app that lets you listen to scripture in many different ways and in many different translations using voices from around the world. My favorite option is to set a particular scripture reading or set of chapters on repeat, for me this is often the scripture I will be preaching on that week, but you can do it in order to have your own lectio divina anytime.
- <https://everydaysanctuary.com/about> Sanctuary is my newest prayer and scripture app on my phone this Spring. Look at the website for more information for this app that combines specific prayer practices and scriptures. The app creators state that their purpose is to "help busy people have a satisfying faith practice in 5 minutes." The app is also free and daily reminders can be set.
- <https://www.cph.org/portals/>

You may be familiar with the printed portals of prayer booklets. You may also be interested in the digital edition of portals of prayer that includes features such as reading the daily devotion aloud to you, sharing prayers with others, saving your favorite devotions, searching by keyword, and manipulating the size of the text. Available for computer desktop and mobile phone apps.

- <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/category/daily-grace>

From their website: Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace by signing up for a daily email message. You can also download the newly updated app for your IOS and Android devices. (You can also simply go to this website and read directly.)

- <https://odb.org/mobile-resources/>

The Our Daily Bread app is the free mobile version of their daily devotional. The app includes audio options and links to the scripture texts referenced in the devotions. You can also make notes and share items from the devotion.

- <https://www.jesuscalling.com/app/>

The popular printed devotional also has a mobile app that includes the full devotional text and scripture texts, full search capabilities, the ability to take notes, and more. Exploring the *Jesus Calling* website also provides additional resources, including video and podcasts (audio).

We bless and honor our graduates!

- **St. John will recognize high school graduates on May 16th during Worship**
- **Salem will recognize high school graduates on May 2nd during Worship**

I invite you to pray for all graduates and join us in praying:

Gracious God, you bless your servants with many achievements. We give thanks especially today for the milestones that these graduates have attained. As they begin new phases of their lives, may they know your love in all the experiences they have.

Bless the parents of these students, who have raised their children and nourished them in Christian faith. Give them strength in your holy presence, and give them many joyful reunions with their sons and daughters, those who are leaving home to go far away, and those staying close by. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

We extend a blessing to our graduates:

Go out into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the suffering;
honor all people;
love and serve God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

bac·ca·lau·re·ate: a religious service held by some educational institutions before commencement, containing a farewell sermon to the graduating class.

Baccalaureate is a farewell celebration delivered to the River Valley graduating class of 2021 by the churches of our communities. It is a spiritual ceremony that celebrates the achievements and accomplishments of the senior class and reflect on their futures before graduation. It is an inspirational send off for our seniors so they can receive prayers and blessings as they prepare to go out into the world.

The ceremony will be an opportunity for you to enjoy musical performances as well as the chance to listen to encouraging and inspirational words from seniors and pastors from various churches within the River Valley School District, along with a blessing ceremony to honor all seniors. A reception will follow the ceremony for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Baccalaureate will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7:30 pm in the River Valley Junior/Senior High School Auditorium at Correctionville, Iowa. All seniors, families, friends and public are invited to attend a wonderful ceremony of faith, family, community, and friends.

We believe this Baccalaureate ceremony will be an important, memorable opportunity to reflect, offer thanks, look ahead, and be inspired. Please attend and support the River Valley Class of 2021.

HARVEST MINISTRY NEWS LETTER

May 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate the strong, loving women in your life. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we see thousands of Iowa moms through their journey to build the brightest future for their children.

We see moms turning to LSI Behavioral Health Intervention Services to ensure their child is receiving the coping skills and behavioral supports they need to thrive. In our Early Childhood Services, we see first-time moms who are eager to join our parenting education classes and support groups. In 2020, LSI's Early Childhood programs provided support to more than 1,097 families of young children. We are so inspired to hear their stories and see their hard work pay off as they raise our next generation. As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember how many Iowa moms are being empowered because of your support. If you are looking for a way to honor your mother this year, please consider making a gift in her name to LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and Facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Wrapping Care Around Iowa Children

Martha and Marti first became foster parents in September of 2018, after their biological children expressed that they wanted to provide foster care as a family. They decided to become licensed through LSI Foster Care and Adoption and soon after, they welcomed a sibling group of three into their home.

"Our kids really wanted to look into foster care as a way to be able to help others as a family," Martha says. "Everybody had to sacrifice and pour in, and everybody was needed and brought something to the table."

The siblings stayed with the family for almost two years, until the opportunity came for them to find a forever home through adoption. Over the years, the siblings had become bonded to Martha and Marti, as well as their extended family and friends. The siblings are currently in the process of officially being adopted by a family close to Martha and Marti, so they can continue to stay connected to the important relationships they built in foster care.

The family has found a passion they can all share, and it's making a difference in the lives of Iowa children.

"We always explain fostering as 'good' and 'hard.' You never want to take one away from the other, because it's both. It's the hardest thing we've ever done, but it's the best thing we've done," Martha says. "We've had the privilege of having the kids in our home and you have the responsibility and the privilege to take care of them in their time of need."

SALEM NEWS

Unapproved Minutes

SALEM LUTHERAN COUNCIL MEETING

March 16, 2021

The council met with the following members present Kent Herbold, Nancy Clausen, Bryan Paulsen, John Hoppe, Janet Byers, Brent Reinking, Kevin Byers and Pastor Tami Groth

Kent called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Pastor Tami read the Passion story starting at Mark 15:16. The council discussed what they noticed/wondered.

Correspondence: None

Nancy read the minutes from February's meeting. Janet moved to approve the minutes; John seconded. Motion carried.

John gave the treasurer's report from February. The capital improvement fund has \$4988.31. The general fund had an opening balance of \$2058.07. There was a payroll posting adjustment of \$2993.00 bringing the opening balance to \$5051.07. There were deposits of \$2353.87 and expenses of \$4802.29 leaving a balance of \$2602.65. Nancy made a motion to approve the treasurer's report; Brent seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reminded everyone of the March 31st LIFT event. Janet had only had one response for helping; a few members of council said they would help. "What's Your Story?", a churchwide mission happening, will take place via Zoom on Saturday, March 20th from 9:30-11AM. Pastor discussed confirmation and coming out the pandemic gradually (resuming in person visits, etc.). Due to the chicken dinner, Pastor Tami asked if the council wanted to have communion on the 21st. The council decided no communion that Sunday. Pastor Tami said that we should talk about looking forward in our goals so we can discuss at the semi-annual meeting. She mentioned hybrid worship (online and in-person worship). Brian Aman has agreed to be on the mutual ministry committee. Pastor asked if anyone from Salem had stepped forward to attend the virtual synod assembly. The deadline to register is the end of March. No one had volunteered as of meeting time. Janet moved

to approve Pastor's report; Bryan seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Well, Septic and Chlorine Systems: Quarterly sample has been taken and results are back.

Harvest Ministry/Congregational Vitality: Janet said the Pastor Tami's workman's comp coverage has been taken care of by Harvest Ministry.

Chicken dinner was discussed. Plans are falling into place. A text will be sent to remind members and to seek help the day of the dinner.

Clark has not heard back from Joel on the media stage. Bryan said he would get with Clark to make plans.

New Business:

Pastor Tami had some questions from the annual report to the ELCA that the council answered.

There was some confusion at annual meeting time as to who was going off Harvest Ministry council. Janelle Lewis also went off this year but has agreed to serve another term. John moved and Kevin seconded to appoint Janelle Lewis to the Harvest Ministry council. Motion carried.

The front door was discussed. We need to replace the front door with one that has a center post. Also, the floor in the immediate area of the door where water has gotten in, will need replaced. We will try to use non designated memorial funds for the project.

Internet for the church was discussed. We need to seek someone who can provide internet access. Kent said he would talk to Extreme Air and see if they had options for us. Kevin said he would reach out to Frontier and see what they offered. We need to find out the difference between personal vs. business plans and what the upload and download speeds are.

Kent said that Deidre would like to remove the carpeting from the parsonage kitchen and install plank/laminate flooring. She would cover the cost of the project. The council agreed that it would be ok for her to do so.

Our next meeting is April 20th at 6:30 PM.

Brent moved for adjournment and Kevin seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Nancy Clausen

SALEM NEWS



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April Service Helpers

Deacon and Trustee and Communion Assistants:

Deacon: Janet Byers

Trustee: Troy Bottorff

Prayers for Salem families and friends:

5/2/21 - Jerry Townsend; Mark and Anna Vestweber;
Joel Volkert; Alesha, Ashlyn and Brennen Wamberg

5/9/21 - Terry, Kelly, Bret, Jared and James Weaver;
Peter Zellmer

5/16/21 - Brian and Jenifer Aman; Megan, Colt, Mya
and Jay Baldwin

5/23/21 - Lonnie Baker; Natalie and Alison Bauer;
Lois Bauer; David and Starla Benedix

5/30/21 - Marie Benedix; Tate Benson; Andrew,
Allison, Drew and Caleb Berg

May Birthdays

1 Betty Meister

2 Jennifer Paulsen

3 Karen Burnham

7 Dave Reinking

21 Kayden Bottorff

22 Todd Bottorff

24 Mark Burnham

24 Brice Bollin

28 Braden Reinking

30 Kenzie Beeson

30 Nancy Clausen

May Anniversaries

3 Lewis and Janet Byers

25 Darwin and Kathy McGhee

25 Brent and Sandy Reinking

29 Dennis and Joan Reinking

Offering for April

\$3904.00



Senior Recognition on Sunday May 2

Mason and Maddie Paulsen and Cole Reinking will be presented their quilts from Salem. God's blessings for a Christian life.



ST JOHN NEWS



May

Lector: Annie Albers
Ushers: Church Council
Altar Care: Annie Albers



Steve Galvin, Noelle Jacobs, Casey Lindsay,
Matthew Lundt, Austin Williamson, Sean Witcomb



Women of the Church
Esther Circle
Wednesday, May 5th @ 1:30
Bible Study: Group Discussion
Hostess: Sandra Johnson

Women's General Meeting
May 19th @ 1:30

"Connection with Nature" Kate Koskovich
Hostess: Sandra Johnson
Stewardship Project: Fabric Kits



The ladies are quilting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month starting at 9:00. Anyone interested in helping is welcomed.

May Anniversary

- 12 Travis & Nicole Deeds
- 29 Frankie & Brandon Deeds
- 30 Jessica & Kyle Baldwin
- 31 Gary & Nancy Merkel

May Birthdays

- 01 Vincent Susie
- 04 Steven Mohr
Megan Reinders
- 06 Matthew Lundt
- 12 Cody Porter
Gracie Volkert (Paulsen)
- 13 Janelle Lorenzen
Kevin Smith
- 14 Jered Jepsen
- 15 Jackie Heyer
- 16 Casey Krager
- 17 Cody Kurtz
- 18 Kristi Krager
- 19 Kymber Jepsen
Angela Putensen
Danya Wilde
- 20 Melissa Young
- 22 Elaine Droegmiller
Alysa Georgopoulos
- 24 Cauy Thomas
- 26 Joan Croxell
- 27 Kyle Krager



Happy Mother's Day
to the Mothers in
our congregation.

ST JOHN NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes
April 19, 2021

Call to Order: President Marshall Lundt called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Members present: Marshall Lundt, Lana Lundt, Marcia Schemmel and Jessica Baldwin (not enough for quorum)

Additions to the Agenda: June 6, 2021 will be the last day Pastor will livestream Church from her cellphone, will possibly look into purchasing streaming camera, suggestions were made to use some memorial money

Secretary's Report: Reviewed

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed

YTD balances are as follows: church checking account \$9941.13, building fund \$22,417.95, and church savings \$40,008.26, church expenses March \$7051.32, church income March \$9218.00.

Pastor's Report: N/A

Committee Reports:

Harvest Ministry: Workman's Comp. Ins. is all good now, all covered.

Worship: N/A

Education: Easter Pageant for Joyful Noise students will be Sunday during service

Task Force: Funeral Services were held for Betty Stoneking and Connie Dau

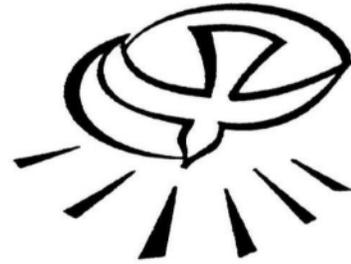
Business:

- 1. Stair Carpet: has been installed**
- 2. Scholarship Approvals:** Kylie Williamson
- 3. Senior Honor Sunday-**Kylie Williamson, Eric Johnson, Austin Lewis, Levi Volkert will be held May 16th
- 4. Baccalaureate:** May 19, 2021 at 7:30 pm River Valley HS auditorium
- 5. Confirmation:** Tate Heilman, Aubrey Galvin, Braxton Galvin, Keegan Volkert, Kaden Volkert, Corey Jepsen, Xavian Deeds-May 9th
- 6. First Communion Class Interest-**was discussed will be in contact with Pastor and families to set up a class
- 7. Covid 19 Discussion-**tabled until next month in order to be able to vote
- 8. Confirmation Class Service Project:** Linda Mathers asked if Confirmation students could help rake around the Church, Linda would supervise-Lana to text Pastor
- 9. Will look into live streaming camera possibility-**tabled for now

Next Meeting: May 17, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Adjournment: Lana made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Council Secretary, Jess Baldwin



2021 Confirmation Sunday: May 9th
Confirmands are:

**Tate Heilman, Cory Jepsen,
Keegan Volkert, Xavian Deeds,
Audrey Galvin, Braxton Galvin,
Kaden Volkert**

Youth Camp Information!



COVID-19 and CAMP

Safety has always been the top priority for all of our campers at IOLBC. As we look towards this summer, we are learning from other camps both regionally and nationally who successfully held camp last summer without COVID outbreaks. One thing we can tell you for sure, we plan to OUTSIDE as much as possible this summer! So, if your kid is in desperate need of a week without screens, camp is the place to be! **Information on back table or Contact Church Council if interested in going to Camp.**

ST JOHN NEWS

ST. JOHN WOMEN of the ELCA
April 21, 2021

The Women of St. John met on April 21 at 1:30 p.m. 15 members and 1 guest, Kate Koskovich, were present. Pres. Cheryl Todd introduced our speaker, Marcie Schemmel. The program was "Quilts from the Underground Railroad".

Gail Stanton started the program by reading an anonymous poem, "My Quilts". Even though the happenings in life may make your quilt threadbare, it will let the face of Christ shine through.

Marcy began her program by introducing us to Ozella McDaniel Williams in "Quilt Code of the Underground Railroad". Using the quilt code many slaves escaped to the North from 1830 - 1860. There were a network of safe houses, stations, and conductors. Harriet Tubman went south 19 times and helped 300 slaves to Canada. 100,000 escaped through the Ohio Crossroads.

The story of Quilts Code gave them visual maps to freedom. 10 different patterns were used and hung on fences. 1. Monkey Wrench- prepare. 2. Wagon Wheel- get provisions. 3. Bear's paw- follow bear tracks in spring. 4. Crossroads- Cleveland, Ohio. 5. Log Cabin- safe house. 6. Shoofly- actual person. 7. Bow tie- dress in formal manner. 8. Flying Geese- follow geese north. 9. Drunkards Path- be alert and use zigzag pattern. 10. North Star- guide to freedom. What an interesting history few people know! Thank you so much, Marcie.

After the program Vicki Nippert served a colorful spring dessert- cherry or chocolate pudding topped with Cool Whip with a vanilla wafer in a clear cup. Sesame crackers and mints were enjoyed.

At 2:50 the meeting came to order. With president Cheryl Todd presiding. The minutes were read and approved. Sandra Johnson gave the treasurer's report for March. Bal. Fwd 3/01/2021- \$698.19. Income- \$69.00. Expenses- none. Bal. 3/31/2021- \$767.19. Elaine Droegmiller made a motion to approve the

report and Geri Susie seconded it. Motion carried.

Correspondence: A letter was received from Mid-Sioux Opportunities asking donations.

Bills: none

Old Business: Stewardship basket for LWR will be in back of church.

New business:

- Cheryl took a care package to CSADV in church's name. CSADV is in need of paper products and cleaning supplies. If you purchase some, she will transport them.
- Discussion was held on our 125th anniversary.

Our next meeting is May 19, 2021. The program is "Connecting with Nature" by Kate Koskovich. Hostess is Sandra Johnson. Sandra read the devotions. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Ruth Durham, secretary.

Thank You

The family of Connie Dau would like to thank everyone for your prayers and concerns throughout Connie's illness and for the cards, memorials and condolences. Also, thank you to Pastor Tami for being with her during her last days and the service you provided.

A huge **THANK-YOU** to Linda Mathers and the Confirmation class for taking the time and energy to do some clean-up around the church property.

ST JOHN NEWS



We will be recognizing our senior's during the service on May 16th

**Levi Volkert, Eric Johnson,
Austin Lewis, Kylee Williamson**

bac·ca·lau·re·ate: a religious service held by some educational institutions before commencement, containing a farewell sermon to the graduating class.

Baccalaureate is a farewell celebration delivered to the River Valley graduating class of 2021 by the churches of our communities. It is a spiritual ceremony that celebrates the achievements and accomplishments of the senior class and reflect on their futures before graduation. It is an inspirational send off for our seniors so they can receive prayers and blessings as they prepare to go out into the world.

The ceremony will be an opportunity for you to enjoy musical performances as well as the chance to listen to encouraging and inspirational words from seniors and pastors from various churches within the River Valley School District, along with a blessing ceremony to honor all seniors. A reception will follow the ceremony for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Baccalaureate will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7:30 pm in the River Valley Junior/Senior High School Auditorium at Correctionville, Iowa. All seniors, families, friends and public are invited to attend a wonderful ceremony of faith, family, community, and friends.

We believe this Baccalaureate ceremony will be an important, memorable opportunity to reflect, offer thanks, look ahead, and be inspired. Please attend and support the River Valley Class of 2021.

**Baccalaureate will be held Wednesday
May 19, 2021 at 7:30 pm in the River
Valley Junior/Senior High School
Auditorium in Correctionville.**



Caroline Elizabeth Grace was born on March 26th to Devon Lewis and Jade Peterson. Congratulations!!!!

St John Contact Info:

Marshall Lundt, Council President: 712 389-1288

Pastor Tami: 608 385-9848; email:

tami.Harvestministries@gmail.com

Newsletter contact info: Elaine Droegmiller/ Church

Secretary 384-2545

St John

May 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 Worship w/HC 10:00 Fellowship	3	4	5 1:30 Esther Circle 4:15 Confirmation	6 6:30 Harvest Ministry Council meets @ St John	7	8
9 Mother's Day Confirmation Sunday 9:00 Worship w/HC 10:00 Fellowship	10	11	12 9:00 Quilting	13	14	15
16 9:00 Worship w/HC Senior Recognition 10:00 Fellowship	17 Church Council meets @ 6:30	18	19 1:30 Women's General Meeting 7:30 Baccalaureate - River Valley High School	20 Newsletter Items Due (AM)	21	22
23 9:00 Worship w/HC 10:00 Fellowship River Valley Graduation	24	25	26 9:00 Quilting	27	28	29
30 9:00 Worship w/HC 10:00 Fellowship	31 	WORSHIP ASSISTANTS: Lector: Annie Albers Alter Care: Annie Albers				

May 2021 - Salem

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 5th Sunday of Easter Fellowship 9:30 10:30 Worship in Sanctuary @ Salem	3 Pastor's Tami's Sabbath	4	5	6 HM Council Mtg @ St John @ 6:30	7	8
9 6th Sunday of Easter Fellowship 9:30 10:30 Worship in Sanctuary @ Salem	10 Pastor's Tami's Sabbath	11	12	13	14	15
16 7th Sunday of Easter Fellowship 9:30 10:30 Worship in Sanctuary @ Salem	17 Pastor's Tami's Sabbath	18 Salem Council Mtg @ 6:30 pm	19	20 Newsletter Items Due	21	22
23 Day of Pentecost Fellowship 9:30 10:30 Worship in Sanctuary @ Salem	24 Pastor's Tami's Sabbath	25	26	27	28	29
30 Holy Trinity Sunday Fellowship 9:30 10:30 Worship in Sanctuary @ Salem	31 Pastor's Tami's Sabbath		Salem Contact Info Kent Herbold.....712-260-2395 Council President Newsletter Contact Clark Byers Email cabetal@wiatel.net		Salem Lutheran Web Site: http://salemlutheraniowa.com/ For additions to the bulletin contact Pastor Tami by Thursday at tami.harvestministries@gmail.com Text or call: 608.385.9848	

Daily Lectionary and Bible Readings for May 2021

Read assigned scriptures, taking time for meditation after each. Then, offer personal prayers/petitions. Close with the Lord's Prayer.

5/1 - Sa: Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 9:7-15; Mark 4:30-32

5/2 - Su: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

5/3 - M: Psalm 80; Isaiah 5:1-7; Galatians 5:16-26

5/4 - Tu: Psalm 80; Isaiah 32:9-20; James 3:17-18

5/5 - W: Psalm 80; Isaiah 65:17-25; John 14:18-31

5/6 - Th: Psalm 98; Isaiah 49:5-6; Acts 10:1-34

5/7 - F: Psalm 98; Isaiah 42:5-9; Acts 10:34-43

5/8 - Sa: Psalm 98; Deuteronomy 32:44-47; Mark 10:42-45

5/9 - Su: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

5/10 - M: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 7:1-11; 1 Timothy 6:11-12

5/11 - Tu: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 11:1-17; 1 Timothy 6:13-16

5/12 - W: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 11:18-21; Mark 16:19-20

5/13 - Th: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

5/14 - F: Psalm 47; Exodus 24:15-18; Revelation 1:9-18

5/15 - Sa: Psalm 47; Deuteronomy 34:1-7; John 16:4-11

5/16 - Su: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

5/17 - M: Psalm 115; Exodus 28:29-38; Philippians 1:3-11

5/18 - Tu: Psalm 115; Numbers 8:5-22; Titus 1:1-9

5/19 - W: Psalm 115; Ezra 9:5-15; John 16:16-24

5/20 - Th: Psalm 33:12-22; Genesis 2:4b-7; 1 Corinthians 15:42b-49

5/21 - F: Psalm 33:12-22; Job 37:1-13; 1 Corinthians 15:50-57

2/22 - Sa: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 15:6-11; John 7:37-39

5/23 - Su: Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

5/24 - M: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Joel 2:18-29; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

5/25 - Tu: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Genesis 11:1-9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

5/26 - W: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 20:19-23

5/27 - Th: Psalm 29; Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20; Romans 8:1-8

5/28 - F: Psalm 29; Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 8:9-11

5/29 - Sa: Psalm 29; Isaiah 5:15-24; John 15:18-20, 26-27

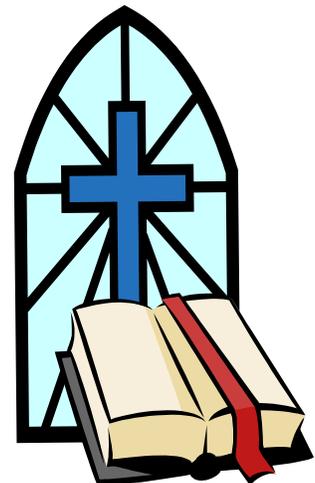
5/30 - Su: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

5/31 - M: Psalm 20; Numbers 9:15-23; Revelation 4:1-8

A Daily Ritual: Make the sign of the cross, saying: "In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen." Light a Candle, if so desired. Then say one of the two prayers below:

Luther's Morning Prayer: "I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your Dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger: and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your Holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen"

Luther's Evening Prayer: "I Thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your Dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day: and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen."



St. John Lutheran Church
Salem Lutheran Church/Harvest Ministry
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Harvest Ministry Newsletter

May 2021

Harvest Ministry Council

Janet Byers.....Chairman
Annie Albers.....Treasurer
Cheryl Todd..... Secretary
Danelle Sullivan..... Member
Marci Schemmel..... Member
Janelle Lewis..... Member