



ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE HERALD

Volume 120, Issue 6

Welcomed in Christ. Called to community. Sent to serve.

June 2020

A Note from the Pastor...

Acts 2

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

For many Christians, the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 is imagined as the beginning of the Christian church. In a day and age when the church doesn't look or feel the way it did just a few months ago, how can we "restart" the church so that we all can experience the life-giving miracle of a God who is present with us and who is speaking our language? What I'm wondering is: how might St. John recapture that wonderful excitement of the church's first moments during this summer? Perhaps we can find moments of Pentecost simply by finding new ways of being church.

Church used to be defined as the place where we gathered to worship God on a regular basis and do an activity or two. Maybe, in our new season of what it means to be church, we have to learn to be St. John outside of our beloved building; we have to learn to be church in a "virtual way". For too long, church has been thought of as simply a building and its pastors. Now, it might be helpful to think of church as the entire group of people who are gathered together to worship God; even if gathered over the internet. Since our gatherings

are now virtual, being "the church" has taken on a new meaning. Church is no longer just buildings and pastors. As we enter our new Pentecost, our new season of growth at St. John, I hope we can live out the declaration that "St. John is not closed, but is open in ways we never imagined."

St. John's strength has always been its community. Now, we need to lean on this strength, and stretch ourselves to find ways to continue being St. John. With this in mind: you are challenged to consider gathering in virtual small groups to pray, to fellowship, to share, and to learn. As we do so, we will be doing Pentecost over and over again: i.e., each one of us will be bringing good news to those around us. And, we will begin to understand that all of us are St. John; each and every one of us. When you are willing to join a Zoom group for fellowship, or willing to call or write a friend or neighbor, or simply praying for people you know, you are the church. You are St. John. During this season of Pentecost, I hope that you will become more and more aware of this new idea of church so that, in the end, you can say, "I am St. John."

Peace,

Pastor Erick

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Worship & Fellowship

2020 Directory

In order to foster connections between our members during this time of quarantine and social distancing, the church staff will be distributing the remaining copies of the 2020 Directory. If you are pictured in the 2020 church directory and you haven't received your copy yet, the church staff will be delivering them to your home within the next couple weeks.

If you are not pictured in the directory and would like a copy (1 per household), please email Erin at office@stjohnfargo.com. We will do our best to get you a copy.

We encourage you to call or write to other members of St. John. There are lots of ways we can stay connected, even though we're apart!

Live Online Worship

Please join us for live worship on **Sundays at 9:30am** and **Wednesdays at 7:00pm**. There are two options for attending worship:

Facebook Live: To join us for worship on Facebook Live, you do not need a Facebook account, but you can create one for free at [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com). Go to [facebook.com/stjohnfargo/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnfargo/videos). If you're logged in with an account, you can click "like" under the big picture at the top. If you have any problems getting connected with Facebook Live, give Jeremy a call sometime during the week and he will be happy to help get you set up!

Worship by Phone:

Dial: 1-312-626-6799

It will ask for your meeting ID.

Dial: 972 2655 3666 then press #

It will ask for your participant ID.

Press #

It will ask for your meeting password.

Dial: 015727 then press #

It will tell you that you are in the meeting, and how many other people are listening by phone. In just a moment, you will hear the service. You will not be able to talk back. Thank you for joining us for worship!

Zoom Fellowship Hour

After worship on **Sundays (around 10:10am)**, everyone is invited to a virtual Fellowship Hour. This will be a time to talk, laugh, catch up, and maybe make a new connection! Attendees will be separated into virtual "tables" of 4 to 5 participants so we can try to have some real conversations (not just 100 people trying to talk at once!). Stay for 10 minutes or the whole hour, we all can appreciate a little bit more togetherness!

Fellowship Hour on Zoom:

Starting June 1, please use these updated instructions (you may also need to update your Zoom app):

Join the zoom meeting on your computer by copying and pasting this link into the URL box on your browser: **<https://zoom.us/j/96954699012?pwd=VmJSV3F0SzBoUURqQlITR1ZJaDBFZz09>** or by phone by following the instructions at the bottom. You can click on the link at [stjohnfargo.com](https://www.stjohnfargo.com).

Fellowship Hour by phone **UPDATED:**

Dial: 1-312-626-6799

It will ask for your meeting ID.

Dial: 969 5469 9012 then press #

(continued on next page)

Worship & Fellowship Cont'd

It will ask for your participant ID.

press

It will ask for your meeting password.

Dial: 502823 then press

It will tell you that you are in the meeting, and how many other people are also here for virtual fellowship hour.

New to Zoom?

If you have trouble logging into Zoom, feel free to call or email the church at 701-232-8521 or office@stjohnfargo.com. One of the staff can assist you.

Join the Facebook Group!

Want to join the **St. John Friends** Facebook Group?? This is a separate page from our public and formal "St. John Lutheran Church - Fargo, N.D." Facebook page. To find the group, log into Facebook and in the search bar, type in "St. John Friends." The group should pop up in your search results. Click on the group, and there should be an option to request to join. Once your request is approved by one of our Admins, you're good to go! This is a fun Facebook page because members may share more personal things about something in their family or at church. We include pictures of events. It's casual and "real."

MUGG Night

Men Under God's Guidance

All men are invited to a virtual MUGG Night. On **Monday, June 8 at 5:30pm** join us over Zoom for a time of fellowship. The link will be posted on the Facebook page, or email office@stjohnfargo.com or call 701-232-8521 to receive the link or instructions to attend over the phone.

Daily Devotions

A word of thanks to all the St. John members who have agreed to write a devotion or two for our community of faith during this time of social distancing! I believe I'm speaking on behalf of the congregation when I say that it has been a joy each morning to start most days with a devotion written by someone I know. We thank each of you for doing such a wonderful job of reminding us of God's presence with us through your heartfelt and thoughtful devotions. I hope you know it is deeply appreciated!

If others of our St. John community are interested in sharing a devotion please feel free to contact either Pastor Brian or Pastor Erick. Thank you to everyone who in big ways and little are sharing Christ's love with others. May God's peace and presence be with you all!

—Pastor Brian

Daily Devotions can be found at stjohnfargo.com or on our Facebook page. To get them emailed to you daily, please email office@stjohnfargo.com.

Coming Soon...

Some educational Worship Videos/or Zooms with Dawn!

Possibilities:

1. The Liturgical symbols and meaning of the Pentecost Season.
2. Look through the Hymnal
3. Possibly re-do/record "Singing Through the Church Year"
4. Maybe re-do the meaning of "The 12 Days of Christmas" even though it's not Christmas! (the half-year-Christmas!)
5. Submit your ideas or questions.

Please email the church office or Dawn if you have questions or ideas: dawn@stjohnfargo.com or office@stjohnfargo.com

Children, Youth, & Family



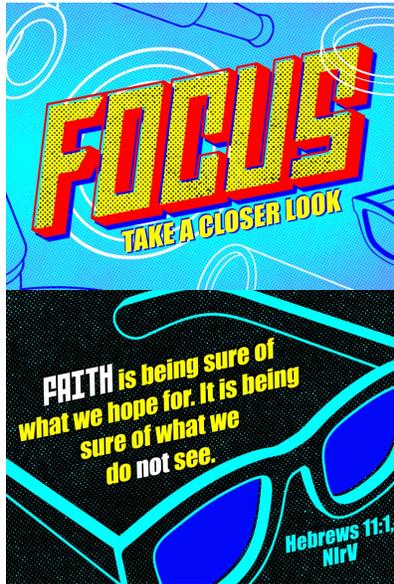
Cross+Walk Sunday School

Great news! We're continuing online Cross+Walk through June! Check out our new theme, "Focus: Take a closer look," where we'll talk about what faith is as we continue our journey through the book of Acts.

Erin and Jeremy will continue to post a video each Sunday morning through the month of June on the St. John Facebook page ([facebook.com/stjohnfargo](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnfargo)) and the St. John youth YouTube channel, where they will present the theme of the month and the lesson of the day with creative storytelling. We're looking for a kid volunteer each week to read the prayer and be included in the video. If you're interested, please contact Erin at office@stjohnfargo.com.

Subscribe to our YouTube channel! (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXrwmohWpPtMZbIfHODVAOw>) When you subscribe to the St. John Youth YouTube channel, your kids can easily find all of our past Cross+Walk and children's message videos. We might even post a few Cross+Walk song videos!

If you would like to receive an email each week with an activity you can do at home that reinforces the lesson, please contact Erin.



Online VBS Preview

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have tentatively postponed Vacation Bible School until August this year (see announcement below), but that doesn't mean we have to wait for the fun!

Please join Jeremy and Erin in the evenings on **June 7th-10th from 5:30pm-6:00pm** on Facebook Live ([facebook.com/stjohnfargo/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnfargo/videos)) for a time of songs, stories, and Bible fun! If you would like instructions sent to you for games and crafts to do with your family, **please sign up by emailing Erin at ebjerke@stjohnfargo.com by June 1st.**



Vacation Bible School

Tentative Dates:

August 2nd-5th*

From 5:30pm-7:30pm

with supper beforehand

*Plans may change due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we hope to be able to get together by August.

Volunteer Opportunity!

If you would consider helping with VBS, contact Erin at ebjerke@stjohnfargo.com

Children, Youth, & Family Cont'd

Congrats, Grads!

The following St. John seniors graduated this spring. We were able to hold a special worship service over Facebook Live on May 17 to recognize them. Youth Director Jeremy Maahs gave the sermon, and Eric Hawley, Maren Twedt, and Katie Wieers helped with the service.

Michaela Dockter

Eric Hawley

Daylan Jorgensen

Mackenzie Rhode

Maren Twedt

Katie Wieers

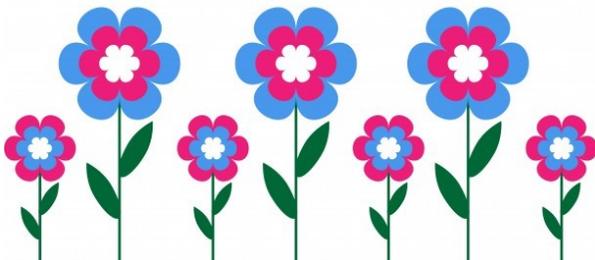


A Note from Jeremy...

Youth programming is still up in the air because of social distancing. Keep a lookout for news about virtual youth groups and summer plans. We are still prayerfully discerning what to do about the possible late-summer trip and eventual plans to meet together. You are always welcome to give me a call or send me a message at 218-205-2698. God's peace to you as we navigate this new reality together!

Peace,

Jeremy



Cross+Walk Parent Small Group

We've had the opportunity to hold two meetings so far for parents of Cross+Walk Sunday School kids over Zoom. This is a time for parents to connect with one another and talk about what's on their mind, including the unique challenges of parenting an elementary schooler during the pandemic, and take time to center themselves.

We will continue to meet about once every two weeks in the late evening. For more information, please watch emailed announcements or email Erin at ebjerke@stjohnfargo.com.

Thank you to Kate Syverson for facilitating this group!

Cross+Walk Family Game Time

Please join us on Zoom for some fun for the whole family! On **Sunday June 14, from 4:00pm-5:00pm**, everyone is invited to join us for some Jackbox games. You'll need a computer or tablet to connect to Zoom and a smartphone or tablet to use as your game controller.

We'll post the Zoom link on the Facebook page, but if you'd like it emailed to you, email Erin at office@stjohnfargo.com.



What Have You Been Up To?

For this section, members and friends can send in photos or stories about what they've been up to during the pandemic. To submit yours for next month, email Erin at office@stjohnfargo.com.



A sign was displayed on the 5th Street side of the church building to encourage passers-by (left).

Photo submitted by Pat Pobst.

This how our Wednesday Bible Study group (right) has continued to meet. Zooming has been wonderful to use for our study, although, we have had a few bumps during the learning process! Ordinarily the study group would have come to a close [in May], but in these extraordinary times, we have decided to continue our study! I think we are all thankful for the fellowship we receive through this Bible Study.

—Judy Haugo



Announcements

St. John Foundation Meeting

If you have a project or a special need (or know someone in the community with a project that fulfills the St. John Foundation's mission), please consider making a funding request.

Funding request forms are available by email (SJFoundation.ELCA@gmail.com) or by calling the church office (701-232-8521).

The foundation board's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, and funding requests **received no later than June 9 at 5:00pm** will be reviewed at that time.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the St. John Foundation to support continued outreach giving!

Announcements

Asleson Scholarship

Asleson Scholarship

Any St. John member who is accepted at an ELCA college or university may apply to the St. John Foundation to receive this scholarship. The Foundation board manages the fund and will make disbursements. Application forms are available by contacting the St. John Foundation at **SJFoundation.ELCA@gmail.com** or the church office at 701-232-8521 or office@stjohnfargo.com. and must be submitted to the church office by **Tuesday, June 9, at 5:00pm.**

Scam Alert!

Please be aware that we have been receiving reports that some members' phone numbers are being "spoofed." When a number is spoofed, the message will appear on your screen as having come from that person, but in reality it came from someone else. Please be vigilant when responding to text messages or emails from fellow church members or staff, and if in doubt, always call.

As always, be wary of odd requests including but not limited to: being asked to purchase gift cards, giving log-in information, and sending bank account information.

If you have any question about the credibility of a request, always call the St. John Lutheran

Church office at 701-232-8521. Please continue to report instances of scammers to the staff.

Water Main Replacement

The replacement of the water main has been completed! The water is back on in the building, and landscaping efforts are underway.



Contact Us

St. John Lutheran Church

1710 5th Street South, Fargo, North Dakota 58103

701-232-8521

email: office@stjohnfargo.com

website: www.stjohnfargo.com

The Ministry Team of St. John:

All the People of God, along with

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Erick J. Thompson

Associate Pastor: Rev. Brian Hansen

Director of Music/Organist: Dawn Papenfuss

Youth Education Director & Office Secretary: Erin Bjerke

Youth Programming Director: Jeremy Maahs

Office & Finance Manager: John Bell

Facility Assistant: Jordan Erickson

St. John Christian Preschool Director: Jana Bruhschwein

Preschool Teachers: Kellie Knodel, Cheryl Dietz, Katie Mare, Katie Maple, Michele Wangen

Accompanists: Suzanne Schultz & Marcia Bettenhausen

Handbell Director: Jessica Westgard Larson

Articles accepted before

5:00pm on June 22 for the July 2020 *Herald*.

St. John Church Council

2019-2021	Amanda Holt	President
2019-2021	Charlotte Ronson	Vice President
2019-2021	Ron Twedt	Vice President
2019-2021	Gail Reiersen	Worship & Music
2019-2021	AJ Klein	Membership
2020-2022	Kate Syverson	Youth Education
2020-2022	Michael Westhoff	Social Concerns
2020-2022	Sadie Thompson	Youth Programming
2020-2022	Mike Williams	Property