

Volume 121, Issue 5

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

May 2021

A Note from the Pastor...

As our response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to improve our lives, we begin to think about how our new normal will look at church and in our communities. Adapting to our new realities might be difficult for some of us, but as Christians in some ways we've already been given new realities.

God has made us a new creation through the gift of the Holy Spirit in our baptism and through Christ's promise of presence in our lives. Our identity as Christians means that we are able to encounter the world in ways we may not have believed possible. I would even argue that we have not really considered what God's gift of grace does in our lives.

When we think about our "new normal," we might dwell on the changes that will happen, and how we will miss how things used to be. It is so easy to get caught up in complaining about what we've lost. In doing so, we will miss all of the gifts that God gives us, and miss an opportunity to enjoy the abundant life that God hopes for us. As God's "new creations" we can look at the world with the eyes of faith, and understand that while life is not what we expected, or maybe even hoped for, God is with us. When we see with the eyes of faith, our world looks different; not better or worse, but full of promise instead of out of control. As we live into our new normal, may God's rich blessings surround and uplift you in our ever-changing world.

Peace, Pastor Erick

Worship Schedule

May 2nd - May 26th

Sundays: 9:30am (online & in the sanctuary)

11:00am outdoors (weather permitting*)

Wednesdays: 7:00pm (online & in the sanctuary)

*If there is rain, high wind, etc. in the forecast, we will cancel 11am worship by Saturday at 10:00pm.

Summer starting May 30th

Sundays: 9:30am outdoors (weather permitting**) and online

Wednesdays: no Wednesday worship this summer

**If there is rain, high wind, etc. we will move 9:30am worship into the sanctuary.

Check out our **YouTube channel** for past worship services and Adult Forums: https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCZa08spQYBITOcC8lWnbcOw/playlists

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Worship & Fellowship

You're Invited to In-Person Worship!

Sundays at 9:30am (indoors) and 11:00am (outdoors—weather permitting) and Wednesdays (through May) at 7:00pm (indoors).

We look forward to continuing to have people in the sanctuary for worship! If you would like to attend, please sign up on our Google Form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/ e/1FAIpQLSc5dYYI8klt7t1Rx6AzW059N7pYnnD3I SXBIqPqsh0e1MwRTA/viewform or call the office at 701-232-8521. Registration is appreciated, but not required.

We will contact you with more information. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing.

We will continue to offer worship on Facebook Live and Zoom for those who prefer to join us online.

Music Notes

by Dawn Papenfuss, Director of Music

Thank you to the choir members and instrumentalists who have been participating in worship on Wednesday evenings during this Easter season. We have been learning a new liturgy and teaching it at our online Wednesday service. We hope to use this in the near future. Thank you to Dave Adams, the Campus Co-Pastor with his wife, Kim, from Concordia/ NDSU for teaching us the liturgy and preparing readings.

Wednesday worship in May: Everyone is invited to come to the worship services.

SPECIAL MUSIC. If you are interested in doing

special music this summer, you can "perform" it inperson, or pre-tape it. I want to encourage people who want to be involved to let Dawn Papenfusss know. Preferably use my personal email: Idpapenfuss@gmail.com, but I will be on my church email at least 1-2 times a week.

Reminders for St. John Groups

While low Covid numbers in our community allow for some groups of a few people to meet in the church building, we encourage all groups at St. John to meet via Zoom unless this limits their ability to meet or do their work (such as handbells, quilters).

Please continue to socially distance even while masked.

Please contact the office with questions.

Volunteer Opportunities

Audio/Video Volunteers for Worship

We're looking to put together a "tech team" for worship. Whether you're a skilled audio/ video technician or have no experience at all, there is a place for you on the team.

Scripture Readers and Assisting Ministers

Each week, we have an opportunity for someone from the congregation to read scripture or pray the Prayers of the Church. You may choose to send in a pre-recorded video or come to the church to read in-person.

<u>Ushers</u>

Each week, we have opportunities for both adults and youth to serve as ushers. Ushers greet people as they enter the building and help people find seats, if necessary.

If interested, please call the office at 701-232-8521, email office@stjohnfargo.com, or sign up on Signup Genius.

Worship & Fellowship Cont'd

Live Online Worship

We've had wonderful online attendance for worship throughout the pandemic. St. John will continue to offer online worship on **Sundays at 9:30am** and **Wednesdays (through May) at 7:00pm**. There are three options for attending worship remotely:

1. Facebook Live:

To join us for worship on Facebook Live, go to **facebook.com/stjohnfargo/live**. A Facebook account is not required.

2. Worship on Zoom:

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=VmJSV3F0SzBoUURqQIITR1ZJaDBFZz09

Or you can go to zoom.us (or open your Zoom app), click on "join a meeting" and enter the following when prompted:

Meeting ID: 969 5469 9012

Passcode: 0EJFf7

3. Worship by Phone:

Dial: 1-312-626-6799 (long distance rates may apply)

It will ask for your meeting ID.

Dial: 969 5469 9012 then press #

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 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! If you would like to stay for fellowship time, please stay on the line.

Did You Know?

You can dial into any of our Zoom meetings by telephone. Instructions for dialing into worship and fellowship are in the left column, but if you would like to attend any other Zoom meeting by telephone, please call the office at 701-232-8521 during business hours and we will give you the proper dial-in information.

Zoom Fellowship

Between worship and Adult Forum on **Sundays** (around 10:10am-10:40am), everyone is invited to a virtual Fellowship time.

For Fellowship, please use the same Zoom information as listed in the "Live Online Worship" article on this page to log into Zoom on your computer or to call in by phone.

MUGG Night

Men Under God's Guidance

All men are invited to a virtual MUGG Night. On **Monday, May 10 at 5:30pm** join us over Zoom for a time of fellowship.

Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/92245069933? pwd=NzRxN0VyNW1JLzVpOUV0QkhkelprUT09 Or Meeting ID: 922 4506 9933; Passcode: mugg Questions? Call Joel Kangas at 701-235-5924

Women & Wine

All women are invited to join us for food, drinks and fun! **Thursday, May 20 from 6:30pm-9:00pm on Zoom.**

Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/95590638372?
pwd=ZHdkb2kwNVFTMktRYm5MV2FQNUIrUT09
Or Meeting ID: 955 9063 8372; Passcode: wine Questions? Call Julie Staigle at 701-361-1824

Worship & Fellowship Cont'd

"Living with Anxiety" Group

Monday, May 3 from 6:00pm-7:00pm on Zoom. We'll wrap-up our learning series on anxiety on May 3 and decide how we want to proceed.

An estimated 31% of Americans deal with anxiety at some time in their life. This study is an introduction to anxiety. It will investigate the different types of anxiety and teach techniques that will help manage stress and anxiety along with recognizing negative thought patterns and how they contribute to anxiety. The goal of this group activity is to promote general mental health. If you'd like to catch up on the presentations, they'll be posted on our **YouTube channel**: https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCZa08spQYBITOcC8IWnbcOw/playlists

Zoom Link:

https://zoom.us/j/96837833525? pwd=TFBodHRWWVJ5STBRaGJITjB3Y1IXUT09 Meeting ID: 968 3783 3525; Passcode: anxiety

Monday Backyard Yoga

Backyard Yoga begins May 3 to October 4 **Mondays at 10:00am in Gini Duval's yard.** No cost. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Gini Duval's: 807 Park Drive, Fargo email: yogagini38@gmail.com

Daily Devotions

A word of thanks to all the St. John members who have written devotions for our community of faith during this time of social distancing!

If you are interested in sharing a devotion, please contact either Pastor Brian or Pastor Erick. Thank you for sharing Christ's love with others!

—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, OR to get them mailed to you weekly, please call 701-232-8521.

Bible Studies & Education

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 10:30am on Zoom.

Please join us for this pastor-led Bible study as we dive deeper into the text for the coming Sunday.

Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/91458607719?
pwd=cFY1NkkrNFZUcitRRkZ3L1g3V0dOdz09

Or Meeting ID: 914 5860 7719

Passcode: 0cMCqZ

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesdays at 2:00pm on Zoom.

Everyone is welcome to join us! We are currently studying "A Journey through Genesis" led by Pastor Brian.

Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/93602092643?
pwd=MndGcW5KdlBzVkRhS0Z6T29UY0Zudz09

Or Meeting ID: 936 0209 2643

Passcode: 4pvdMA

Bible Studies & Education Cont'd

St. John Book Club

This is the monthly book club that is made up of St. John members and non-members alike. We meet the first Monday of each month over Zoom, with a different book to discuss each time. New members are always welcome! Please contact Jane Nissen (701-235-0436) for more information, including the Zoom login.

Book Schedule: (7:00pm on Zoom)

May 3: The Story of More by Hope Lahren

June 7: Choose books for next year

Book Club with Pastor Erick

2nd & 4th Monday at 7:00pm and 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 1:00pm on Zoom.

New members always welcome! This book club explores topics of social inequality and racial injustice. We will meet twice per month this summer, starting in May.

On May 10th & 11th, we will start our new book: Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask by Anton Treuer.

If you need help getting a copy of the book, please contact the office at 701-232-8521 or office@stjohnfargo.com

Meeting Dates and Readings (tentative)

May 10 & 11-- Intro up to page 25 (stop before "What is the real story of Columbus?")

May 24 & 25-- page 25 ("What is the real story of Columbus?") to page 50 (stop before "What is Indian Religion?")

June 14 & 15-- page 50 ("What is Indian Religion?") up to page 86

June 28 & 29-- page 86 to page 128

July 12 &13-- page 128 to end of book

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/

<u>j/88082819369?</u>

pwd=VIIVOXRNbTc1UEd2dmkyOER3NW9xQT09
Meeting ID: 880 8281 9369; Passcode: 215273

Care for Creation Group

Spring Theme: "How Regenerative Agriculture Can Reverse Climate Change"

Check out our upcoming events:

All events will be outside at the church if possible and will be Covid safe; distancing and masks required.

Family Outdoor Movie Night: "The Biggest Little Farm"

Wednesday, May 12th from 6:00pm-8:00pm on the church lawn

Adults and kids 9 and up will enjoy this visually stunning true modern farm tale of how a California couple are virtually creating an oasis in the desert. Rated PG.

Outdoor Movie Night: "Kiss the Ground"

Wednesday, June 2nd from 6:00pm-8:00pm on the church lawn

This truly hope-filled documentary brilliantly explains the climate-saving power of regenerative agriculture, and how we all can help support it.

The Big Finale: Gabe Brown Presentation

Sunday, June 13th from 1:30pm-3:30pm

See page 9 for more information.

Children, Youth, & Family

Congrats, Confirmands!

On Sunday, April 25th, six ninth graders at St. John affirmed their baptism at the Confirmation service:

Nora Becker Bjorn Kielty

Alexa Hansen Kellen Kloster

Alexander Hovdenes Kolby Nissen



In-Person VBS: Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for August 1st—4th, 5:30pm-7:30pm

With Covid numbers decreasing in our community,

it looks like we're right on track to hold in-person VBS in August!

Registration will be open soon—keep watching announcements.

We will follow all Covid policies set by the church council.

Volunteer Opportunity! If you're interested in helping with VBS, please email Erin at ebjerke@stjohnfargo.com

Cross+Walk Sunday School

Our last day of Cross+Walk this spring is **Sunday**, **May 2**. Please join us on **Zoom from 10:30am-11:00am** for a fun review game!

Zoom link:

https://zoom.us/j/99393027078? pwd=VS85NmZPT2JLSTZEekJ1dWI5c0pvUT09

Meeting ID: 993 9302 7078; Passcode: Crosswalk

I want to thank all of our Cross+Walk Sunday School families for making the best of this year. It's been super encouraging to me that families have been willing to adapt and do faith formation at home and over Zoom! Thank you for trying this new format, participating in the virtual Christmas program, meeting on Zoom for Milestones, Coloring Time and Family Game Time, and writing to each other as Family Pen Pals.

We hope to see you all in person in August for VBS and in the fall for Cross+Walk Sunday School!

-Erin Bjerke, Youth Education Director

Photos Wanted!

We want to see photos of you with your Milestone gifts from this year, with projects you did during Cross+Walk Sunday School, or just pictures of your family from this year!

Please submit your photos to Erin at ebjerke@stjohnfargo.com. These will be shown in the sanctuary and online during worship this summer.

Milestones Ministry

Upcoming Milestones:

Most Milestones take place on Zoom immediately after Cross+Walk Sunday School at 11:00am.

Please use the Cross+Walk Zoom link.

2 & 3-year-old "Prayer Pillows": May 2

12th Grade "Senior Recognition": May 16

First Communion (any age): Postponed to fall. Keep watching *The Herald* for more information.

For more information, please contact Erin at ebjerke@stjohnfargo.com or 701-232-8521.

Children, Youth, & Family Cont'd

Kids' Coloring Time

Tuesdays from 3:30pm-4:15pm on Zoom.

We'll continue meeting for the month of May, then take a break for the summer.

Erin will be hosting a time for kids (age 3 - grade 5) to get together over Zoom and color! Erin will email out a coloring sheet each week that you can print, or you can use your own. This will be a time to catch up with each other and hang out while we do something creative.

Here is the Zoom link: https://zoom.us/

j/98851753584?

pwd=alB3WmlhVEoxWnQ2UlpBd2lzL3ZoQT09

Parent Small Group

Next meeting: Monday, May 10 from 8:30pm-9:30pm on 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 during the pandemic, and take time to center themselves and pray.

Here is the Zoom link: https://zoom.us/

j/91826363600?

pwd=MWV5VExidVF5bTFvSkhaY2RCU0ptdz09

Family Pen Pals

This has been a great Covid-safe way for St. John families to get to know each other this year! I encourage you to keep writing to your Pen Pal Family this Summer:)

Families with children from age 3 through grade 5 are invited to participate. You can still sign up for Family Pen Pals by emailing Erin at ebjerke@stjohnfargo.com.

-Erin Bjerke, Youth Education Director

High School Youth Group

All youth grades 9-12 are invited to join Jeremy on Zoom on **Wednesdays from 7:30pm-8:30pm**. This will be a time for hanging out and playing games.

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6740785715

Please contact Jeremy with questions: jeremy@stjohnfargo.com

6th-8th Grade Confirmation

Wednesdays from 6:00pm-6:50pm on Zoom.

Confirmation Schedule

May 5 End of Year Review

Confirmation Zoom Meeting Link:

https://zoom.us/j/94444353487? pwd=YmNpa05XMXE2eDkvZGpyS0NPZmpLQT09

Or Meeting ID: 944 4435 3487

Passcode: confirm

Family Game Time

Please join us on Zoom for some fun for the whole family! On **Sunday May 2 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.

This will be our last Game Time before summer!

Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/93085213181?
pwd=emlKd0FONkNsajJURzl5ZWJseGx1dz09

Or Meeting ID: 930 8521 3181; Passcode: 0gvESG

Announcements



Preschool News

Preschool has been home to an assortment of animals this spring. We hatched baby chicks. Preschoolers enjoyed watching the life cycle from eggs in an incubator to cute fuzzy chicks and the final days of them jumping out of the pen, signaling time to return to the farm. Caterpillars, ladybug larvae, and praying mantis pods joined our Russian tortoise, Tilly, and Geckomole, the gecko. Finding a warm day to release the butterflies posed a bit of a challenge. We anxiously await the hatching of the praying mantis egg case. Let us know if you are interested in hosting a preschool exchange pet for the summer. Tilly and Geckomole are looking for a summer placement.:)

-Jana Bruhschwein, Preschool Director

St. John Foundation Phyllis Asleson Scholarship

If you are a St. John member and will be attending an ELCA college or university in the fall, please consider applying for this scholarship!

Applications are due before the Foundation's June meeting and can be found on the St. John website: http://stjohnfargo.com/ministries/st-johnfoundation/

Stephen Ministry

Loneliness is prevalent in these viral times and can be exacerbated by other issues. Stephen Ministry can help.

What is Stephen Ministry again? Christ-Care to people who need it, request it and smile again during the process.

The St. John Stephen Ministry team consists of 10 people. Currently they have 6 Care Givers available and all have Care Receivers. They met outside last spring and by phone this winter. Stephen Ministry is considering offering another training session for Stephen Ministers soon. Because some of you may have more time now in this pandemic, you may be interested in attending virtually. Let Pastor Brian (701-212-5214) or Sue Erickson (701-541-0847) know.



AmazonSmile

Did you know that you can donate to St. John by shopping on Amazon.com? It's easy! When you do your Amazon shopping, just go to smile.Amazon.com and choose St. John Lutheran Church as your charitable organization. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St. John!

Announcements Cont'd

Care for Creation Group

The Big Finale: Gabe Brown Presentation

Continued from page 5

Sunday, June 13th from 1:30pm-3:30pm

Nationally recognized speaker and Bismarck native Gabe Brown, featured in *Kiss the Ground* (June 2nd), will be discussing and answering questions about the benefits of the regenerative and holistic farming methods he's used on his North Dakota farm and ranch since 1993. Brown's success story shows how these methods provide both a clear answer to reversing climate change, and an exciting new path forward for farmers interested in reducing risk, increasing profit, and exploring more ways to improve and protect their land.

For more info see the St John Care for Creation Facebook Group or email questions to Bethany at anybeth@gmail.com.

All events will be outside at the church if possible and will be Covid safe; distancing and masks required.

Events are free and open to the community, please invite others!

—St John Care for Creation Group

St. John Church Council

2019-2021	Amanda Holt	President
2019-2021	Charlotte Ronson	Vice President
2019-2021	Ron Twedt	Vice President
2019-2021	Gail Reierson	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



Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly

Synod Assembly will be August 14th-15th, 2021.

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

St. John Christian Preschool Director: Jana Bruhschwein

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

Shelley Krosbakken, Jami Olson, Sophia Lucht

Accompanists: Suzanne Schultz & Marcia Bettenhausen

Handbell Director: Jessica Westgard Larson

Articles accepted before

5:00pm on May 20th for the June 2021 Herald.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
May 2021	21					-
St. John Lutheran Church	Church					
Last Day of Cross+Walk Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship (Facebook Live, Zoom, In Person) 10:10 AM - 10:40 AM Fellowship (Z) 10:30 AM C+W Sunday School (Zoom) 11:00 AM Outdoor Worship (WP) 11:00 AM Prayer Pillow Class (Zoom) 4:00 PM Family Game Time (Zoom)	3 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM "Living with Anxiety" Group (Zoom) 7:00 PM St. John Book Club (Zoom)	4 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Quilting (P) 10:30 AM Bible Study (Zoom) 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM Kids' Coloring Time (Zoom) Worship & Music Committee	5 2:00 PM Wednesday Bible Study (Zoom) 5:00 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg (Zoom) 6:00 PM Confirmation (Zoom) 7:00 PM Wednesday Worship (Facebook Live, Zoom, In Person) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM High School Youth Group (Zoom)	9		∞
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9:30 AM Worship (FB Live, Z, S) 10:10 AM - 10:40 AM Fellowship (Z) 11:00 AM Outdoor Worship (WP) 30 9:30 AM Outdoor Worship (weather permitting) (also on FB Live & Z) 10:10 AM - 10:40 AM Fellowship (Z)	24 7:00 PM Book Club with Pastor Erick (Zoom) 31	9:00 AM Quilting (P) 10:30 AM Bible Study (Z) 1:00 PM Book Club with Pastor Erick (Zoom) 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM Kids' Coloring Time (Zoom)	2:00 PM Wednesday Bible Study (Zoom) 7:00 PM Wednesday Worship (Facebook Live, Zoom, In Person) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM High School Youth Group (Zoom)	27	78	29