



July, 2021



Connecting People in the Heart of Jesus

God accomplishes this mission in us and through us in weekly worship, Bible Study and other fellowship opportunities. God comes to us in the Word and the Sacraments to show us the love and new life he has for us in Jesus Christ. He gives us the opportunity to serve others and reach out with his love.

Join Us ~ Service times:

Traditional Worship:

Saturday 6:00pm ~

Contemporary Worship:

Sunday 9:00 am

About Us: St John Ministries

St. John Lutheran Church,

Battle Creek NE 68715

308 S. 2nd St.

Church 402-675-3155

School 402-675-3605

Childcare 402-675-4039

Email: churchsecretary@stjohnbc.net

Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church

Web Page: stjohnbc.net

Staff:

Senior Pastor : Rev. B.J. Fouts

Associate Pastor: Rev. Joseph Leech

Music Director: Mr. Steven Whitney

Business Manager: Katie Schnitzler

Admin Assistant : Diane Stoural



Thoughts from our Pastor

Grace, mercy, and peace to you in Christ, amen! As we wrap up summer and prepare for the start of school in August. We look forward to some opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Romans 10:14-15 asks the questions, "How can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have some upcoming opportunities to proclaim and share the good news of Jesus and to plant the seeds of faith in the lives of those who have not heard the gospel message. We are being sent out to be the proclaimers of the good news of Jesus while serving others during VBS, City Fest, and our Servant Sunday, August 22. We have opportunities to be the beautiful hands and feet of Jesus, ministering to the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of those whom we encounter during these ministry events.

This month we have two ministry highlights. First, our new teacher Steph Kollbaum and Jordan, her husband, have arrived and settled into their new home here in Battle Creek. Please see her bio elsewhere in the newsletter.

We also have our Rocky Railway VBS event, probably our biggest short-term outreach event of the year. We need volunteers of all sorts, shapes, and sizes. Those who cannot keep up with the little ones are needed as prayer warriors that the light and life of Christ take seed and root in the lives of the kiddos who are not already in Christ's kingdom and that their parents would also come to faith. We need some snacks, craft folks, and older youth to help the younger kiddos get from the train station to station as they explore and learn what God has for them.

Then in August, we have servant projects for volunteers. If you know of a community-based project or an older person in the congregation or community who could use a little help in the yard or some basic outside maintenance, please send them to chat with me. We already have four projects lined up and need about 15-20 people for those projects.

Go in the peace of the Resurrected Jesus. Amen
Graciously Called to serve,
Pastor Joseph Leech
Pastor of Human Care Ministries and Adult Education

In an effort to keep you informed on our Building Foundations of Faith Capital Campaign we will be posting the numbers monthly in the newsletters and bulletins.

As of June 21, 2021

Total Expense: \$1,175,698.71

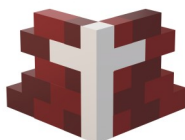
Total Raised: \$729,795.89

Pledges Remaining: \$17,595.00

Total Campaign Debt Remaining: (\$471,334.33)

** Total debt remaining does not reflect final payment to be made.*

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH



Praise God! The Ministry Match has been met!

To date \$ 28,429.57 has been given towards the \$20,000 matching funds challenge! You still have until July 4 to donate towards the giving fund that will be used for general expenses for our ministry. Let's see how far the Spirit takes us beyond our goal!

Thank you, Thank you to all who have contributed thus far!

2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

\$1,280,269 (6.9% increase) in proposed contributions

- ⇒ This requires \$3,441 (about \$287 per month) in annual gifts per household unit in order to fulfill the proposed contribution income.
- ⇒ That figure is up \$221 (\$18.50 per month) per household unit from last fiscal year.

\$153,141 (7.8%) total increase from 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget

- Personnel cost increases including:
 - ⇒ Salary for Maintenance Director (30 Hours)
 - ⇒ 3 additional full-time childcare staff
 - ◇ Added an additional classroom
 - ◇ Attendance Increased from 66—133 per week since 2019
 - ◇ Quality, Consistency, & Enhanced Spiritual Development
 - ⇒ Raises averaging between 0.94% - 3.75%
- Evangelism Budget Increase—Church Directory
- Stewardship Budget Increase—LHNE Student Tuition
- Additional increases project both inflation and interest expenses associated with the church's debt.



CHARITABLE GIVING

Looking for other ways to give?

St. John Ministries has brokerage accounts with Heritage Financial Services and Calmwater Financial. You can gift mutual funds or stock shares directly to our account. You still receive credit for the donation and the church benefits from the sale of the investments.

Contact Katie in the church office for account information and further instructions on how to gift your equities.



We are looking to expand our Technological Ministry Team!



Would you like to be equipped with the skills to assist in overseeing the audio and visual systems during worship? Consider contacting Mr. Whitney for training on how to set up and operate the Sound Booth during worship, as well as give advice on how to address technological issues and how to effectively troubleshoot problems which may arise.

If you would like a better idea of what Sound Booth Technicians do, we invite you to come watch what happens during worship, or, if you have any questions, feel free to ask Mr. Whitney or Pastor Fouts. *You can join anytime, we will provide the training and provide for a trained tech to assist you the first few times.*

Please consider what God could do with just a little of your time and a willing spirit.

Team up with a buddy or have a family team! Tech ministry and usher service count towards high school service hours, and look great on a college or job resume.



A church usher is someone who helps ensure a smoothly running church service and who ministers to people in a variety of practical ways.

Ushers provide an invaluable service to the local church body. In many ways, the ushers are the “face” of the church, the first ones that people see when they arrive and the last ones they see as they leave. It is important that an usher be friendly, honest, and willing to serve. It is an honorable position in the church, requiring integrity, cordiality, and wisdom.

The heart of an usher is the heart of a servant, and he does his work for his Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:24). A church usher has a true love for the people of the church and a desire to promote an atmosphere of reverence and worship in the house of God.

If you are interested in helping out with ushering at St. John Ministry please contact Rex Volk at 675-8505 .

Join the sisterhood of the Altar Guild.

These are behind the scenes ladies who serve the Lord by cleaning, filling candles and preparing the Lord's Supper for distribution.

Hours and duties are flexible with your schedule.

If you would like to serve in this way, please call Carole Nelson

402-675-6865



WINGS—Women In Gods Service

The annual WINGS Salad Luncheon was held Thursday, May 27th. at noon in the St. John Parish Hall. 24 people, which included 9 guests, were present. Welcome and devotion was given by President Ann Koopman. We talked about our favorite flower and, no matter how diverse they are, God made each one for a purpose, as He makes all of us for a purpose. What gifts do we have and how can we use those gifts granted to us by God to help those around us?

Our featured speaker for the luncheon was Vicky Werner from Earl May Garden Center. Vicky brought many beautiful plants for us to look at and everyone went home with something new to plant in their own pots. Vicky also showed us some new varieties of plants and gave us many great tips on both flowers and shrubs.

Thank you to all that attended. Our next WINGS meeting will be held at 9 am on Thursday, July 29th. Any woman from the congregation is invited to join.

The Battle Creek Community Blood Drive will be at St. John Parish Hall Tuesday, July 6 from 12:00 to 5:30 pm.
Walk-ins welcome

Contact

Marlene Bomar—402-992-1561

or 1-800-733-2767

or go to www.redcrossblood.org

Appointments may be made the day of the drive.



**American
Red Cross**



Get INVOLVED

Since 1942 LWML Mites have brought in over 1 million dollars to mission projects. Mites will be collected in July and sent to the LWML District Office. Drop off your donations in the “BIG” Mite Box located on the table in the church entryway. There are extra boxes available for you to take home.

Pick a box up today.
Small change can make a
big difference.



**You're invited to attend
Stepping On Fall Prevention
Class** beginning June 29 at
the Elkhorn Valley Public
Health Department Norfolk
conference room. The class
will be held each Tuesday for
7 weeks from 3:00 pm to 5:00
pm. Free will donation, but
registration is required. Please
call 402-529-2233 or register
on line at [elvphd.org/classes-
events](http://elvphd.org/classes-events). Classes are located
at 314 N. 5th St. Suite 100 in
Norfolk.



1 Wayne Borchers	8 Karley Prauner	16 Lee Ann Cherington	23 Baron Buckendahl
1 Aiden Buckendahl	8 Ron Buckendahl	16 Bill Klein	23 Bailyn Hitz
1 Bonnie Lehmann	8 Elaine Murphy	16 Staria Martin	23 Michael Lauritsen
2 Richard Erickson	8 Alison Obst	16 Kyle Praeuner	23 Colby Kolm
2 Jon Klug	8 Nick Onnen	16 Jim Ridder	23 Megan Eckert
2 Amy Trowbridge	8 Josh Tillman	16 Nathaniel Roskeland	25 Donald Geyer
2 Darren Grant	9 Camron Anderson	17 Greg Young	25 Janet Spulak
2 Luke Grant	9 Austin Erickson	18 Daniel Carlson	26 Shawn Anderson
3 Betty Hofmann	9 Jenny Lyon	19 Marlene Bomar	26 Tony Anderson
3 Kim Schaffer	9 Hannah Tillman	19 Vickie Thomas	26 Kaisi Voelker
4 Jon Test	10 Vicki Ashker	19 Anthony Warneke	28 Mitzi Bredehoft
4 David John Werner	10 Kyle Klug	19 Arlene Zohner	28 Melissa Klug
5 Ella Allen	10 Jacob Rakowsky	20 Nathanael Fouts	28 Maddie Kuchar
5 Katas Huntley	11 Cassie Benter	20 Dennis Aldag	28 Karter Lingenfelter
6 Henry Geyer	11 Jami Frederick	20 Jim Bierman	28 Emma Petersen
6 Natalie Long	11 Jodi Stueve	21 Ryan Heller	28 Carolyn Prauner
6 Diane Lyon	12 Lauren Lutt	21 Kathy Humphrey	30 Luke Huntley
6 Royal Tiedtke	12 Josh Spulak	22 Elisabeth Fouts	30 Diann Acklie
6 James Voelker	12 Brooklynn Tegeler	22 Robin Otjen	30 Kristy Lutt
6 Joleen Zohner	13 Julie Suckstorf	22 Graysen Gauer	31 Phyllis Haase
7 Jim Wolf	14 Cejay Dahlberg	22 Will Hamer	31 Randi Jessen
7 Brian Wysocki	15 Stacey Aldag	23 Stetson Unkel	

"See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands . . . "(Isaiah 49:16).

Faith Regional Health Services cordially invites those who have experienced the loss of a baby or child to attend this year's Butterfly Release Memorial Service.

The gathering will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 17 in the Bradford Spirituality Garden on our West Campus. If you are interested in participating or if you have any questions, please call Jim Wonnacott at 402-992-2468 or Patrick Roche at 402-644-7522.

Please RSVP by July 6.



Notice!

Due to Vacation Bible School the week of July 18, the St. John Ministries Council Meeting has been moved to Monday, July 12 at 8:00 pm.

New Testament Reading Challenge

Half way through 2021 and that means we are halfway through the New Testament Reading Challenge we started in January. If you are new to St. John or haven't seen this before, the Challenge is for us to read a chapter of the New Testament every weekday this year, and it works out that in doing so we get through the entire New Testament in one year. The calendar provided gives us an opportunity to be reading the same chapters together and praying intentionally for the same things each day. Additionally every morning, Pastor Fouts gives a short devotion on that days reading through Facebook Live. If you haven't already liked the St. John Lutheran Church Facebook page, doing so will notify you of the live broadcast every morning. Also, on that page you may go back and see devotions from the past 6 months as well. Even if you've missed all or part of the first part of the year, maybe this midpoint is a great opportunity to start a habit of daily time together in the Word of our Lord. (<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnBCChurch>)

New Testament Reading Challenge

Reading / Prayer Calendar - July 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
June 28, 2021	June 29, 2021	June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021	July 2, 2021
Read John 4	Read John 5	Read John 6	Read John 7	Read John 8
Pray for Schools	Pray for the Armed Forces	Pray for your children or nieces/nephews	Pray for your Pastor	Pray for blessings in worship

July 5, 2021	July 6, 2021	July 7, 2021	July 8, 2021	July 9, 2021
Read John 9	Read John 10	Read John 11	Read John 12	Read John 13
Pray for Teachers	Pray for the Government	Pray for your friends	Pray for Church staff	Pray for outreach in our community

July 12, 2021	July 13, 2021	July 14, 2021	July 15, 2021	July 16, 2021
Read John 14	Read John 15	Read John 16	Read John 17	Read John 18
Pray for School Administrators	Pray for the President	Pray for the Family	Pray for the lay leaders of the church	Pray for missionaries

July 19, 2021	July 20, 2021	July 21, 2021	July 22, 2021	July 23, 2021
Read John 19	Read John 20	Read John 21	Read 1 John 1	Read 1 John 2
Pray for VBS Leaders	Pray for VBS Students	Pray for VBS Volunteers	Pray for VBS Families	Pray for VBS Offering

July 26, 2021	July 27, 2021	July 28, 2021	July 29, 2021	July 30, 2021
Read 1 John 3	Read 1 John 4	Read 1 John 5	Read 2 John	Read 3 John
Pray for Students	Pray for Congress	Pray for your spouse or parent	Pray for the Church	Pray for the lost

June 13, 2021 Voters Meeting Minutes

In attendance were: Pastor Fouts, Pastor Leech, Ryan Heller, Jeff Borchers, Larry Moening, Katie Schnitzler, Justin Schnoor, Kelsey Schnoor, Jason Schmidt, Mike Anderson, Dennis Roewert, LaDonna Roewert, Nick Onnen, Mark Baumgartel, Helen Baumgartel, Rod Zohner, Arlene Zohner, Preston Sunderman, Cherie Werner, Brad Prauner, Patty Prauner, Carma Anderson, Christy Schmidt, Steven Whitney, Heather Whitney, Lauren Freudenburg, Ginger Howser, Randy Howser, Deborah Sunderman, Bob Buckendahl, Suzanne Buckendahl, Janice Aldag, Colby Kolm, Bryan Wysocki, Shelly Borchers, Rex Volk, Neal Acklie, John Werner, Richard Grant, Dennis Aldag, Gerry Preusker, Reid Ehrisman, and Lisa Ehrisman

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Jeff Borchers at 10:34 A.M. Pastor Fouts gave an opening prayer.

Rod Zohner moved to approve Mark and Helen Baumgartel as new voters. Second by Randy Howser. Motion carried.

Pastor Leech moved to approve the April 2021 voters' meeting minutes. Second by Jason Schmidt. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report by Katie Schnitzler: Discussed balance sheet, budget, receipts, and disbursements. A donor reached out to give a matching donation of \$20,000.

Trustees' Report by Colby Kolm: They discussed the church roof. It could have possible wind damage. They have contacted the insurance company and an adjustor came out. They are working with two different roofing companies - still waiting for bids.

Elders' Report by Jason Schmidt:

Transfers in include Mark, Johnana, and Maria Peterson, and Robert, Laura, Carsyn, and Maddox Loftis. Transfers out include Musy, Megan, Desirae, and Elijah Kilonzo, Jim and Dana Serres, Lynn Finkral, and Randy and Peggy Sellin. Randy Sunderman moved to approve the transfers. Second by Colby Kolm. Motion carried. COVID restrictions were discussed. They are working on updating the church's membership list.

Evangelism Report by Carma Anderson: The committee is getting ready for senior citizen fun days and the VBS meal.

Parish Ed Report No report

Parochial Ed Report by Nick Onnen: Excited to already have full teaching staff set for the fall and getting away from COVID restrictions. The school received \$78,000 in COVID funds from the government to be used for specific needs.

Childcare Report by Kelsey Schnoor: Enrollment is up and things are going well.

Stewardship Report by Rod Zohner: Their regular financial review was conducted. They discussed land, building and equipment records. The committee went over SMART goals and the committee's budget. Stewardship will be hosting a picnic in the park event.

Old Business: Nick Onnen gave updates on the capital campaign & project. They are waiting on landscaping around school grounds by new edition and a few other requirements.

New Business: Katie Schnitzler discussed the upcoming fiscal budget. Brad Prauner moved to approve the budget. Second by Rex Volk. Motion carried. (Approved budget attached)

Voters Minutes Continued

Ballots were conducted to elect new officers. Ballot results are as follows:

Childcare: Deanna Anderson and Ann Grant

Elders: Mike Anderson and Jon Baumgartel

Evangelism: Jill Baumgartel

Parish Ed: Christy Schmidt and Jessica Fouts

Parochial Ed: Amy Kuchar and Brett Freudenburg

Stewardship: Karen Grant and Justin Haack

Trustees: Josh Tillman, Bryon Anderson, and JB Houlden

Council Secretary: Nikki Houlden

Council Vice-Chairman: Colby Kolm

Council Chairman: Jeff Borchers

(Additional openings will be filled by appointment to include: Hannah Tillman to the board of Evangelism & Todd Roberts to the Board of Trustees. Arvid Warneke was nominated from the floor for the position of Trustee, but declined nomination/appointment.)

Dennis Roewert moved to elect Mark Baumgartel as an elder. Second by Bob Buckendahl. Motion carried.

There will not be a council meeting this month.

Neal Acklie moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Janice Aldag. Motion carried.

The meeting concluded with a prayer from Pastor Leech followed by the Lord's prayer.

The next church council meeting will be on July 19th. Minutes by Ryan Heller.

Pastor's Approach to the Divine Call, its doctrine and practice.

Brothers and sisters in the faith,

June 13, I announced that I had received a Divine Call to St. James Lutheran Church in Quincy, IL. I will be visiting Quincy the weekend of July 4, and I have committed to prayerfully deliberating and making a decision on or around July 5. This is now the 6th time in my pastoral career I have had the privilege of receiving a call to serve and the opportunity to deliberate regarding God's use of my abilities in His Kingdom. Each time I have this opportunity I take time to review the doctrine and practice of the Divine Call. This being the first opportunity I have had since entering ministry here at St. John, I wish to take this opportunity to share with you some of this review.

First: We believe that God issues calls. As with most things in the church today, He uses some type of earthly means to accomplish this. In most cases it is a congregation or calling body and their call committee and voters' assembly who serve as the Lord's agents to issue a call. Just as in 2016, the Lord worked through the voters' assembly of St. John Battle Creek to extend a Divine Call for me to serve in this congregation, so also the same Lord of the Church has issued an additional call to serve through another Church and their voters' assembly. Both of the calls I currently hold in my hands are calls from the Lord; and both of these calls are God's Will. It is not as if God has decided it is no longer His will for me to serve at St. John, not yet, anyway, but it is clear at this point that God would like me to serve in one of these two places. Earlier in my career, I was blessed with the opportunity to serve two separate calls simultaneously because the distance between the congregations and their willingness to partner, enabled that arrangement. Unfortunately, in this case, I cannot serve both of these calls, and so when the Lord leads me to choose between these two calls, I will have to decline/resign one of them.

Second: The congregation alone has the right to call its pastor. District Presidents, Circuit Visitors, Vacancy Pastors, Call Committees, other pastors and even individual lay members may suggest or provide input into the call process, but the congregation alone has the right to call. When a congregation completes their pre-call survey, that District President prayerfully searches through the roster of all LCMS pastors and then compares their skills and the needs of the congregation so that he may suggest 10-20 names for the call list. Individuals within the congregation will also request to add certain names to that list and unless the district president has information to prevent them from considering that candidate he will include him on their call list. From there the congregation, through whatever means they usually use (call committee, elders, interviews, questionnaires, internet research, or casting lots) brings all or a portion of the list and recommendations to the voters of the congregation who then exercise their right to extend a call. The pastor does not "choose the call." In certain situations a pastor may request to have his name sent out more frequently (placed on call lists), or may request a certain area of the country or a certain type of ministry, but it is very rare that a pastor can place his own name on a call list. I would like to inform you that at this time I have not requested that my name generally be placed on call lists with more frequency. About a year ago, having been in service at St. John for four years, I was asked to update my status from "Unable to consider" to "Would Consider" a call. "Would Consider" is not the same as "Seeking" another call. Estimates show that there will be an exponentially increasing shortage of pastors over the next 5 years. If the Lord leads me to return/decline the call to Quincy, it is likely there may be another call. That is up to the Lord of the Church, and His congregations.

Third: We believe in the doctrine of vocation. Everything we get to do as God's children is in service to God. I serve God as a husband, father and as a pastor (not to mention teacher, friend, softball coach, citizen, football referee, etc.) We all have dozens of vocations and we are called to serve the Lord in each one of them. The banker serves the Lord just as well as the teacher; the garbage collector serves the Lord just as well as the pastor. As we know there are a variety of gifts and services but the same Lord works them in each of us. All vocations are equal in regards to whom we serve in fulfilling them, but our vocations are not equal in prioritization. In the order of creation, God establishes priorities for vocations. First I am a child of God. I am redeemed, saved, beloved by Jesus. Second are my vocations in family: husband, father, brother, uncle, etc. Third come my vocations to society/creation: I am a citizen. Finally come my vocations in employment: I am a pastor. In evaluating the Divine Call, I must understand that God does not ask me to sacrifice a more highly prioritized vocation for a lesser one. Just as the farmer who forsakes his relationship with Jesus for the sake of pulling in the harvest is to be rebuked, so is the pastor who forsakes his relationship with his family for the sake of the congregation he serves. As I have said before, 6,000 LCMS pastors could serve either of these congregations, but only 1 man is called to be Mr. Jessica Fouts, and only 1 man can be the biological father to my four children. This consideration cannot be overlooked in the Divine Call Process.

Fourth: The Lord's ways are not our ways. Maybe you have an opinion about this call, and maybe even you've expressed that opinion. As God opens doors for ministry opportunities, He also provides opportunities for pastors and congregations to re-evaluate their ministries, their skills, gifts, and priorities. My wife and I did not realize how much we valued Lutheran Schools for our children until the Lord opened our eyes through one of those previous 5 calls which was to a location without a school option. For me as a pastor, I take this time to evaluate what has been my pastoral practice and what skills have been refined in the last few years, how have I changed since I came to St. John? Am I now a better fit somewhere else? At the same time, wise congregations look at their ministry as well. If the Lord leads the pastor to leave, what impact has that pastor had on our next pastorate? If the Lord leads the pastor to stay, what exciting opportunities do pastor and people have together? Stay or Go, there are opportunities, both for pastor and people.

Finally, what do I need/want from you? A high school student, here at St. John did something in the last two weeks that I almost could have never imagined when I was that age. This student came up to me, apart from other people and told me not just whether I should stay or go, but told me why. By telling me the impact the Lord is accomplishing through my time of service here, that student gave me things to pray about and consider. What do I need from you? Your prayers and your encouragement. Pray for wisdom and discernment. If the Lord moves you into a conversation with me about the call and its process, let's discuss ministry, what has been happening at St. John and where you see St. John moving in the next year or five. The Lord has given me the blessing of two opportunities to serve His Church. I hope that this article has given you some prayer direction, as well as some insight into the calling process and my personal deliberative process. I welcome any and all conversations and questions, and I appreciate your prayers.

Sanctified to Serve,

Rev. B.J. Fouts



Connecting people in the heart of Jesus

Spiritual Growth Assessment – Congregation Report

Every day McDonalds sells 6 million hamburgers. The local burger joint probably sells 50 a day. Which one makes better hamburgers? The difficulty with the business of church ministry: how does the church count success? The church cannot count success by attendance, baptisms, membership or any of the traditional, secular methods because as the Scripture tells us, “men will acquire for themselves teachers to suit their own passions;” and “we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block.” If the church is “successful” at Her mission, She will drive unrepentant sinners away from Her midst. Measuring true faith and repentance are simply impossible in the “invisible” or “hidden” Church. For the congregation to make the best use of time and talent, in an effort to provide metrics for ministry, St. John Lutheran Church is experimenting with the Spiritual Growth Assessment process.

The Spiritual Growth Assessment uses a self-reporting assessment from the church's members to report on various aspects of Spiritual Growth. Recognizing that spiritual growth and development is a process not an accomplishment (a journey not a destination,) individual Christians are asked to assess their own personal spiritual growth at a specific point in time. Collecting a self-assessment approximately every six months allows the church leaders to look for trends over time and evaluate ministry efforts.

So far the assessment has been recorded twice, the summer/fall of 2020 and the spring/summer of 2021. In the previous round, only 17 respondents completed the assessment. In the second data collection period, 25 respondents returned the assessment. This is too small of a sampling size to accurately evaluate data received. The next sampling is scheduled for December 2021/January 2022, and the goal is to receive at least 50 responses.

Below is the summary report. Mild to slight improvements reflect a slight-edge growth in areas of worship & Bible Study; while mild to slight deteriorations reflect a potential short-coming in evangelism and fellowship. Improvements in the area of Stewardship indicate a tremendous growth period. The final question of the assessment, attempting to grasp the overall mission and ministry, during this sampling period shows a deterioration. The previous results may have been skewed higher due to the novelty of the assessment.

The sampling size is approximately 9% of the average attendance. While this number falls within the national average for survey results, the true percentage (2.6%) of members who completed the assessment is too small a number. Recommended Goals: Encourage and solicit greater number of responses at the next data collection point.

See next page for data

Results from Spiritual Assessment:

For questions 1-16 a Likert Scale is used. 1=Strongly Disagree; 5=Strongly Agree

I feel the conviction of God's law during worship.

Previous: 3.82

Current: 4.08

Trend: Mild Improvement

I feel the joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ during worship.

Previous: 4.35

Current: 4.36

Trend: No Change

I engage in Bible Study opportunities with fellow believers.

Previous: 2.18

Current: 2.79

Trend: Improvement

I am applying the truths of Scripture in my everyday life.

Previous: 3.53

Current: 3.64

Trend: Slight Improvement

I spend at least 15 minutes before or after church relating to my fellow church members.

Previous: 2.50

Current: 2.80

Trend: Mild Improvement

I invest time in Christian relationships outside of my immediate family.

Previous: 3.24

Current: 3.29

Trend: Slight Improvement

Faith conversations are a part of my social interactions outside of church.

Previous: 3.12

Current: 3.04

Trend: Slight Deterioration

I look for opportunities to show Christian love in service to others.

Previous: 3.88

Current: 3.64

Trend: Mild Deterioration

I volunteer in service to the kingdom of God through my congregation.

Previous: 3.18

Current: 3.24

Trend: Slight Improvement

I seek to show love to those who are often considered outcasts by our society.

Previous: 3.41

Current: 3.32

Trend: Slight Deterioration

I am confident in sharing God's Word with others.

Previous: 3.59

Current: 3.44

Trend: Slight Deterioration

I invite others into faith conversations.

Previous: 2.65

Current: 2.76

Trend: Slight Improvement

I invite others to participate with me in church activities

Previous: 2.47

Current: 2.44

Trend: No Change

I give of my time and talents in my congregation.

Previous 3.18

Current: 3.44

Trend: Mild Improvement

I joyfully tithe at least 10% of my income.

Previous: 2.75

Current: 3.36

Trend: Improvement

I allow Biblical principles to establish my life's priorities.

Previous 3.59

Current: 3.92

Trend: Improvement

At this moment, how would you honestly rate your connection to God. 1=low & 10=high

Previous: 7.588

Current: 7.320

Trend: Mild Det

What a year to be able to put to a close!

- We were blessed to be able to add four new full-time teachers in 2020-2021. Two of whom replaced retirees. One filled the position left by a teacher who was married and moved to be with her husband, and one filled a new position.
- Our nine grades (preschool to 8) utilized 18 different spaces as we navigated adapting to COVID scenarios.
- We were able to accommodate to hosting lunch onsite for the first time, ONLY because of the gracious volunteering of numerous individuals.
- We moved several classrooms, but six saw new permanent locations. Our middle school moved into our new wing as we closed out 2020.
- We completed our "Building Foundations of Faith" building project and added four new classrooms and a set of restrooms.

Through these challenges, and many more, God was faithful! We also thank God for your faithfulness to His ministry here through you. As we encountered uncertainty after uncertainty, the St. John congregation and community were steadfast in supporting our mission. We thank God for you!

Looking ahead

Our school theme for 2021-2022 is "Created to Serve" based on Ephesians 2:10. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

We excitedly anticipate learning about how that God created us, and the different ways He can use our unique gifts to further His kingdom.

We welcome Mrs. Steph Kollbaum to our teaching line-up. Steph is a Nebraska native who is a 2015



Meet Mrs. Kollbaum

Hi everyone! My name is Stephanie (Steph) Kollbaum, and I am most recently from Idaho. Kind of a fun fact, I was born in Idaho, but moved a lot as a kid. Eventually, we ended up in Deshler, Nebraska, which is where I called home for 12 years. After graduating from Concordia University of Nebraska in 2015 and marrying my husband, Jordan, in Utica, Nebraska, we moved to Pocatello, Idaho, where I taught for 6 years. While we were there, we had our son, Theo, the day after Christmas in 2018. He is now a busy, curious, loving 2.5 year old with lots of ideas and opinions!



My family and I enjoy doing a lot of things together, including being outside (hiking was a big thing in Idaho, as was exploring nearby lakes!), DIY projects, and watching movies - especially Disney movies - together! Before Theo was born, Jordan and I enjoyed doing a variety of theater productions together (which is actually how we met, back in 2013). Personally, I love reading new books, writing, riding horses, and swimming when I'm not planning for new lessons/activities to teach or digitally designing my dream home!

We are excited to be in Battle Creek for so many reasons - first, we have family in Madison and Lincoln (and also Des Moines and St. Louis), so being closer to family is a huge plus for us. Second, we are glad to be in small-town culture - Jordan and I both grew up in rural areas, so it feels like we are home again among the corn and the bean fields. We are looking forward to getting to know everyone, and to becoming part of the St. John family!



Youth and Family Ministry

ALL ABOARD! VBS is Coming

Rocky Railway is making its way to Battle Creek! Children 3 years old to going into 6th grade are welcome aboard! Join us Sunday, July 18 through Thursday, July 22 from 6 pm to 8 pm. We are also looking for a variety of volunteers! Babysitting in the nursery will be available for children under 3. Go to stjohnbc.net on the church page to sign up your child or to volunteer!

Vacation Bible School is fast approaching!

We will be offering a free meal each day before VBS. A list of food donation needs for these meals has been posted on the table in the parish hall, or go to stjohnbc.net on the church page to sign up.

We ask that you bring in perishable items such as buns, hamburger & hot dogs either frozen or closer to, or on the July 18 to prevent spoiling.

VBS Meal will begin each night at 5:15 pm for volunteer's and workers and 5:30 pm for families.

Sunday: Pancakes –Elders

Monday: Tacos– Stewardship

Tuesday: Mexiburgers-WINGS

Wednesday– Chicken Nuggets –Evangelism

Thursday– Hot Dogs-LIGHT

Thursday-Juice and bars will be served following VBS



God's Story opening hearts.

Summertime Devotions & Activities

While we take a break from Sunday School in the summer, we don't take a break from growing in faith. Our faith continues to grow through the Holy Spirit as we read the Word, worship together, and have intentional conversations about Jesus.

Click on this link to discover

[Keys for Kids](http://keysforkids.org) or go to keysforkids.org

This is a faith filled devotion and activity resource for you and your child to explore. An app is also available for easy access. For adults there is [LHM Daily](http://LHMDaily.com) or LHMDaily.com from the Lutheran Hour Ministries daily devotional.

The church office will be closed Monday, July 5 for the July 4 holiday.

In case of a pastoral emergency contact Pastor Joseph Leech 507-687-4219.



Evangelism Collection for July is for St. John Pre-School.

Our classroom has a plethora of Kleenexes, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, watercolors and Clorox wipes, so we will not be needing any of those items. Thank you so much,

Jill Baumgartel– Pre-School Teacher

Preschool wish list: Baby wipes, single hole punch (16), stickers, 3 bags of sand for the sensory table, plastic caps from water, Gatorade or pop bottles, clothes pins, rubber bands, empty spools of thread, Walgreens gift cards for printing out photos, empty toilet paper and paper towel tubes, random nuts and bolts & play clothes and hats.

Collection bin is located in the parish hall entryway.

Christmas in July! Orphan Grain Train and Grace Lutheran Church have teamed up to collect toys and clothing to fill Christmas boxes. Their goal this year is to share 1500 gift boxes so more children can hear the Christmas story. Take a tag from the July tree located in the parish hall entryway and return your purchased items under the tree by July 31. If you would like to donate an entire box of items a list of ten items has been provided. Would you or your organization like to help pack the boxes? Contact Kelly Asbury for the date & time 402-371-3521. You can help these children know they are precious child of God and that Jesus is the greatest gift of all!

To learn more about the Orphan Grain Train Christmas Boxes and the story behind them go to the Orphan Grain Train website/Christmas Boxes.

Connecting people in the heart of Jesus. Serving the Lord's House in July 2021

If you are unable to serve, please find a substitute and call the church office (675-3155) to correct the bulletin.

Date	Time	Elders	Ushers	Sound Booth
Sat July 3 Sun July 4	6:00 9:00	Nicolay/Anderson Praeuner/Sunderman	Volk/Acklie Borchers/Wolf	Volk Borcher/ Kirby
Sat. July 10 Sun. July 11	6:00 9:00	Howser/M. Baumgartel Freudenburg/Ehrisman	Volk/Acklie Ridder/Zohner	Volk Tillman
Sat. July 17 Sun. July 18	6:00 9:00	Nicolay/ J. Baumgartel Freudenburg/Howser	Volk/Acklie Werner	Volk Brauers
Sat. July 24 Sun. July 25	6:00 9:00	Anderson/ M. Baumgartel Sunderman/Ehrisman	Volk/Acklie Anderson/Werner	Volk Zohner/Hamer
Sat. July 31	6:00	Freudenburg/J. Baumgartel	Volk/Acklie	Volk



Join us!

Weekly Service times:

Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:00am

Bible Studies:


Tuesday 7:00 pm
Wednesday 9:30 am
WINGS Women
Bible Study

Parish Hall Classroom

308 S. 2nd Street
P.O. Box 87
Battle Creek, NE 68715

Phone: 402-675-3155
churchsecretary@gmail.com
Web: stjohNBC.net
Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church

July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 	5 Church Office Closed	6 12:00-5:30 pm Battle Creek Blood Drive	7 3:45 Leadership Team Meeting	8	9	10
11	12 8:00 Council Meeting	13	14	15	16	17
18 5:30 Free VBS Meal Parish Hall 6-8:00 VBS	19 10:00 Altar Guild Meeting	20	21 12:00 Leadership Staff Meeting	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 9:00 am WINGS Meeting	30	31



Connecting People in the Heart of Jesus

Lutheran High Northeast – July 2021



2010 N. 37th Street

Norfolk, NE 68701



@LHNEagles

(402) 379-3040 www.LHNE.org

@LHNEagles



Plans for 2021-2022

It is not too late to sign up your son or daughter for enrollment this fall. We look forward to being “Led by the Spirit”, which is the school year theme based on the fruits of the Spirit found in Galatians. We would love to take time to meet and discuss the opportunities waiting for you at LHNE. Financial aid is available, and we are here to meet and give tours throughout July. Please call or email for more information.

LHNE Beef Blast 2021

Mark your calendars for Beef Blast 2021 – Sunday, August 29th. This will be a memorable event as we will also celebrate the 25th Anniversary of LHNE. We hope to make this a special day honoring those who began and sustained this vital ministry in Northeast Nebraska!

Plans for a New Addition at LHNE

Following the positive results from the planning study, the Board of Directors and Delegates have approved the campaign to pursue new additions to the current building. The new construction includes a dedicated space for the Agricultural Education program and a new science lab/classroom. The new space would allow for:

- Engagement in small/large animal care and treatment.
- Increased participation in safe, hands-on science labs.
- Students to evaluate various seed hybrids and fertilizers.
- Students to analyze soil samples and cultivate an appreciation for agronomy.
- Knowledge development of small engines in design and troubleshooting.
- Student development of a wide range of MIG/TIG/Stick/OA welding skills.
- Safe use of woodworking power equipment for building projects.

The new edition would also allow LHNE to repurpose the existing science lab into a multi-curricular classroom and would include a restroom to service both gyms and the Fine Arts wing.

Upcoming Events

**July 1 – FFA Clean up
Madison Co. Fairgrounds**

July 19 – Blood Drive

**July 19 – Dance Camp
begins for LHNE
dancers**

Aug 4 – Registration Day

Aug 10- New Student

Orientation

Aug 11 – 1st Day of School

Aug 29 – Beef Blast

LHNE Eagle Classic Thanks!

We would like to thank everyone who was able to attend this year's Eagle Classic Golf Tournament and enjoy the fellowship and fun while also helping to support LHNE.

Booster Club

If you are a current LHNE parent or have a child who is entering LHNE this fall and are interested in becoming a Booster Club Member, please call our office for more information.

~Educating for Life ✝ Proclaiming the Faith~