

# St. John's Lutheran Church



## Newsletter

Bryan Robertson, Pastor

June, 2020

*Have you remembered St. John's in your will?*

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Here is a devotion I shared with our church council at our last meeting, from Romans 1:7.

St. Paul writes: 7 To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This comes from the beginning of Paul's letter to Christians in the city of Rome. Paul is trying to make connections with the people there. And people there used this letter in church. Writing and reading letters like this was one way people did church and stayed connected back then.

And how did this letter get from Paul to the church in Rome?

Well, Paul first had to write it. And he likely didn't write it by himself, but had to hire a scribe do it, writing down every word he said. And then Paul had to send it by a person.

We're pretty sure he wrote it in Corinth, Greece. And Corinth, Greece is 616 miles from Rome and a 20 plus hour trip by car.

But there were no cars or post office in Paul's time. Letter carriers had to hoof it, ride it, or cart it. And about a third of the way there, they had to hop on a boat at a Greek port, and cross the Adriatic to Italy. And there were still a hundred or two miles left to go cross country.

That's 600 some miles with one person carrying a letter, just

to help people do church. They had to book passage on a boat, and hoof it alone for maybe four hundred miles. And for added danger on this journey, the person carrying this letter was most likely a woman, not a man. And her name was Phoebe.

And when she arrived at church after the journey, she'd also have to be the one to explain what Paul meant, if anybody had any questions. And maybe some of her listeners weren't very accustomed to hearing a woman speaking up in church.

Now, that all is quite a different way to do church than how we do it today, isn't it?

I mention this right now because "different" is the new normal for about everything we're accustomed to doing. Right now, we are even doing church in a different way than we're used to.

We have church council and committees doing meetings over the internet with the Zoom application. Our deacons have made over a hundred calls already to keep connected with our members. And Confirmation and Sunday School classes are also meeting on Zoom.

In addition to that, we only have a worship team of 8 to 10 people in the whole place on Sunday morning for our radio broadcast.

I'm just saying all this because doing church now is completely different than what we've ever done before. But church still happens in strange times like now: Jesus is doing good things among us. Jesus is doing good things through us. And the Holy Spirit is still with you now, and always.

Until we can gather together again in person, church is still happening. Thanks be to God!

**Peace,**  
**Pr. Bryan**

### *What's Inside*

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The other day, I parked my car downtown and stopped by one of our local businesses.

Our local barber had just opened up and was giving a very professional flattop to a lucky local customer. Our barber was all masked up. The hairdresser who shares the first floor with him was also wearing a mask. The customers for both businesses were doing the same. And before I took a seat in his chair, our barber took an extra step of sanitizing it with a good spray and wipe.

After weeks of many commercial businesses being shuttered or functioning in ways that greatly limit contact between people, some have received regulations on how they can open again. And those who have already been allowed to be open have received new regulations on how more people can gather under their roofs.

Our churches in Iowa, however, have not fallen under the same regulations as our local businesses, nor have they been subject to the same sanctions for breaking them. Rather, religious gatherings of people in Iowa are allowed to take place as long as “reasonable measures” are followed, ensuring physical distancing and proper hygiene.

In other words, we are left to decide what “reasonable measures” are for in-person worship in our county, community, and in our particular building. We are currently working to identify what these “reasonable steps” are at St. John’s, as well as how to implement them.

At our last council meeting, our leaders agreed to form a task force to work out how we can gather together for in-person worship and do so in a safe way.

We will seek available guidance from the federal and state governments. We will seek guidance from our own Lutheran synods and leaders. And we are also in communication with local Lutheran congregations and other churches in Waukon.

When our doors again open for in-person worship, we will have done our due diligence to keep those of you who worship in person as safe as possible. We will continue to broadcast our services for those of you who risk serious illness by gathering with other people. And we will let you know ahead of time what hygiene and physical distancing measures we will use once in-person worship resumes.

We have no manual for how we can again gather for worship. We simply have our God-given common sense, a love for each other, and the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. Keep our church in your prayers. Please pray for wisdom and inspiration for our leaders as they work to make in-person worship happen again at St. John’s.

**Pr. Bryan**

## *To Receive the Word ...*



Sunday morning worship services are on the local radio station. Dial in 103.5 FM (KNEI) at 8:30 am or log into [www.kneiradio.com](http://www.kneiradio.com) to worship with St. John’s.

You may now receive the newsletter via email as a PDF document. Contact the church office if you would like to be on this email list.

St. John's is on the web at  
[www.stjohnswaukon.net](http://www.stjohnswaukon.net)  
and Facebook [stjohns@waukon](mailto:stjohns@waukon)



**Zoom Sunday School will continue** through the summer once a month. June 14th at 9:45 am. The Zoom meeting ID and password can be found on the St. John's Lutheran Church Facebook page.

During this health emergency, we have relied heavily on our radio broadcasts to gather around God’s Word and to keep connected. Because we rely heavily on our sound equipment to do this, we have been paying close attention to quality of sound in our broadcasts and in our building. We believe that it is time to upgrade this system.

**We have asked DB Acoustics, the company that installed our current system around 20 years ago, to give us some options to improve it.** They have noted some faults and under performance in our system and have **recommended the following:**

a new equalizer with a digital processor; four new microphones to serve the choir, lectern and pulpit; an impaired hearing system that will connect with hearing aids, cell phones, and belt packs; and a cordless handheld microphone.

We are currently trying out two choir microphones to measure their performance. We believe their ability to pick up sound and our broadcast sound quality are much better than our current microphones deliver. If you are interested in getting further details on these possible improvements or would like to aid in their purchase, please contact me or our office for further information.

**Regards,  
Pr. Bryan**

**\*\*Scheduled activities subject to change based on Covid-19.\*\***

2020

<- MAY

JULY ->

# JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Radio broadcast service at 8:30am until further notice		Circles meet? 6pm Trustee meeting				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Radio broadcast service at 8:30am until further notice						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Radio broadcast service at 8:30am until further notice			no communion; until allowed at Good Sam & Evergreen Crt			
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Radio broadcast service at 8:30am until further notice						

## Radio Ministry



- June 7 In memory of Florence & Alice Hermeier by Rick Hermeier
- June 14 In honor of Lyle & Julie Schulte by Jill Schulte
- June 21 Anonymous gift from former member
- June 28 In memory of Norma Svendson by

### St. John's Music Department

#### Cherub & Youth Choirs

Vickie Larson, director James Bieber and Sue Blagsvedt, pianist. Members consist of Sunday School students from primary through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### Youth Bell Choir

##### James H. Bieber, director

Dalton Ellickson  
Hailey Houg  
Logan Houg  
Lynsey Houg  
Madelyn Marti

Olivia Marci  
Madelyn Moser  
Emma Palmer  
Madalyn Palmer  
Matthew Rozzell

Sarah Stock  
Brandon Teslow  
Hannah Teslow  
Peyton Vertheim

#### Senior Bell Choir

##### James H. Bieber, director

Sarah Bieber  
Sue Bieber  
Sue Blagsvedt  
Linda Groe  
Sarah Hagen  
Logan Houg

Vickie Larson  
Madelyn Marti  
Jon Payne  
George Pickett  
Nona Sawyer

JoAnn Sherman  
Kevin Stinn  
Chris Stuckman  
Sue Torkelson  
Matthew Rozzell

#### Senior Choir

##### James H. Bieber, director

Brian Bieber  
Sarah Bieber  
Sue Bieber  
Judith Engle  
Linda Groe  
Sarah Hagen

Greg Hagensick  
Linda Halvorson  
Vickie Larson  
Jon Payne  
Ann Rademaker  
Bryan Robertson

Nona Sawyer  
Kevin Stinn  
Chris Stuckman  
Dawn Teslow  
Sue Torkelson



## Music Ministry

A special thank you to Jon Payne, Randy Johnsen, Dolan Jones, Brian Bieber, and Dr. Greg Hagensick for their continued dedication of time and talent by rehearsing every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week to assure our congregation and the greater listening audience that we have special music during our radio broadcast Sunday services.

Since we were unable to have our annual Choir Dedication Sunday in May, an informal ceremony was held on Wednesday, May 20, to recognize and distribute the traditional engraved brass bells to our three graduating seniors in the Youth Handbell Choir. Bells were presented to Madelyn Marti with seven years experience, Logan Houg with seven years experience, and Matthew Rozzell with one year experience. Maddy, Logan, and Matt have also been full-time subs and members of the Senior Bell Choir as well. All three have demonstrated the ability to perform adult-level bell music and have been a tremendous asset to our Bell Choir program at St. John's. Maddy's future plans are to pursue a degree in psychology. Logan plans to attend UNI majoring in business. Matt will be leaving May 27 for training in the Iowa National Guard at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, and later attend Coe College.

2020 is a milestone year in recognizing our Youth Bell Choir Graduates which began back in 1978 when five seniors received their engraved bells. They included Gwen Goeke, Nancy Pickett, Kris Spiegler, Anne Tweitto, and Nyla Selberg. This year we are proud to present the 100th graduation bell to Logan Houg. His bell has the distinction of a #100 engraved on it. Recognizing our Youth Bell seniors has been a long-standing tradition at St. John's. In the future, we hope many more of our youth will join our Youth Handbell Choir as well and will aspire to be given this special recognition for their many years and hours of time and talents given to St. John's when they graduate.

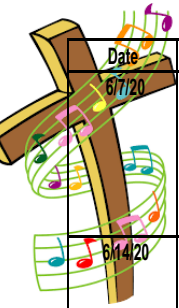
In spite of not being able to have a formal Sunday morning Choir Recognition Service this year, it does not in any way diminish the degree of thankfulness and gratitude I wish to express to each and every one of our Senior Choir members, Senior Handbell Choir members, and Youth HandBell Choir members, along with the Children's Choir members directed by Vickie Larson, and accompanist Sue Blagsvedt for sharing your precious time and talents at St. John's to the Glory of God.

**James H. Bieber – Organist/Director of Music**

St. John's Volunteer Duty List

Jun 2020

Date	Service		Greeters	Readers	Comm. Asst.	Comm. Prep.	Acolytes	Ushers
6/7/20	8:30 AM	E	Geneva Rice/Leone McKee	Matt Teslow	Bob Joachim, Kathy Hay	Chris Ellickson	Ushers	V & D Thorstenson
		W	Ross & Leah Stammeyer Fam		Bonnie Roe	Dawn Teslow		D & W Sanderson
	10:00 AM	E		Bailey Sherman	Sarah Bieber	Evonne Kistler	Ushers	Karlon Gruel
		W				Jill Mirich		Sherman Family
6/14/20	8:30 AM	E	Mark Stock Family	Dan Headington			Ushers	
		W	Dan Headington Family					Same as 6/7
	10:00 AM	E					Ushers	
		W						
6/21/20	8:30 AM	E	Bill & Sue Blagsvedt	Sue Blagsvedt	Kevin Stinn, Nona Sawyer	Jan Piffner	Ushers	
		W	Jon & Gloria Payne		Karen Soper	Colinda Roderick		Same as 6/7
	10:00 AM	E		JoAnn Sherman	Emily Baade	Sandy Deal	Ushers	
		W				Mary Jackson		
6/28/20	8:30 AM	E	Verland & Ellen Lenth	Karen Grimstad			Ushers	
		W	Joan Moody/Marilyn Henkels					Same as 6/7
	10:00 AM	E		Jan Piffner			Ushers	
		W						



So what do we do in June? Well, our June Birthday Party activity at the Good Samaritan Home has been canceled. Our Circles did not meet in May when there would have been time to plan for the Birthday Party. Plus, the Good Samaritan Home was not sure they would allow the Party in June; therefore, when I called them in May, they said not to plan on the Party taking place. Will our Circles meet in June? At the time of this writing, I do not know if we will be allowed to meet at the church or not. That will probably be discussed more at the end of May or the first part of June, so watch for further announcements about that in the future.

My feelings are that it has been great to have our radio church service on KNEI on Sunday mornings. However, it is a bit sad for me, for I am so use to being in church all morning being a part of the congregation for at least one service, teaching eighth-grade Sunday School students during the Sunday School hour, and then listening to a second service while I work on church-related women's projects or Sunday School preparations or filing choir music or filing bell choir music. While at home, the beauty of the music sometimes brings tears to my eyes making me want to be in church even more to sit among the congregation and hear God's word and to visit with our St. John's families. I am sure that I am not the only one who wishes to be back in our sanctuary.

In the meantime, please remember to be giving to your

### St. John's Women Serving and Socializing

Thankoffering container for that special offering that we collect in November and to your Pennies for Presents container that you may eventually bring to church for several months before we purchase Christmas gifts for children whose needs are reported to the Allamakee County Relief Office.

Please pray for peace, for the safety of our military men and women, for people suffering from natural disasters all over the world, and for Christians everywhere. Plus, pray that the coronavirus stops spreading, that the death of people because of this virus stops immediately, and that a successful cure and/or vaccination is discovered sooner than was thought possible!!

**Thank you for MAKING TIME and TAKING TIME for our privileges and responsibilities at St. John's.**

*Sue Bieber, President*

#### May Statistics

Baptisms: none

Funerals: none

Weddings: none



# 2020 JUNE

<- MAY

JULY ->

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1 Olivia Dougherty Marilyn Henkels Ben Rausch Brent Roe	2 Janice Allison Kristina Libbey Carl Thornton Darold & Deb Berger (A) Brian & Beth Heydn (A)	3 Cindy Fiet Kayla Nuehring	4 Jonah Larkin Marissa Martins Suzy Pierson Sarah Rosonke Shirley Thompson Marcus & Alyssa Bell (A) Glenn & Karen Grimstad (A)	5 Kyle Halse Stacy Stock Gladys Triggs	6 Leah Stammeyer Emily Baade
7 David Berger Joyce Thornton Daren & Jennifer Dietrich (A)	8	9 Charles Bieber Jill Bieber Ava Bossom Olivia Bossom Mary Moody Ernie Osland Brad & Kim Yohe (A)	10 Jean Bossom Michael Williams	11	12 Jerry Goeke	13 Brysen Hills Jeremy Troendle Josh Tweedy
14 Greg & Ann Hagensick (A)	15 Creed Nuehring	16 Adrick Christensen Beth Heydn Aaron & Adrienne Gerst (A) Carissa & Jacob Howe (A)	17	18 Alexis Martin Vic & Jean Stuckman (A)	19 Kayden Copp	20 Sandy Deal Chris Engstrom Adam Hansen Olivia Rathbone Derek Wicks John & Marian Bauercamper (A) Tom & Bev Leiran (A)
21 Kirby Jones Brad Larkin Ken & Rose Beardmore (A) David & Audrey Berger (A)	22 Dave & Rhonda Bahr (A) Lyle & Brenda Kurth (A)	23 Lyla Hanson Carmen Lee Chester Schlake Karen Soper Alan Tweedy	24 Carol Moe Darrell Stone Ann White	25 Nolan Hanson Sharon Roe Ernie & Donnalee Osland (A) Bill & Jill Pooch (A)	26 Mason Bell Lyle Stock	27 Nathan Meyer Harlan & Carole Yohe (A)
28 Hillary Cook Cole Horgen Doug Joachim Dylan O'Neill Ann Rademaker John & Sharon Roe (A)	29 Joe Jackson Steve Welper Wayne & Nona Stone (A)	30 Colin Bieber Sadie Bucheit Gloria Payne Deb Sickles	1	2	3	4

## **\*\*Hymns for June at St. John's\*\***



### **June 7 First Sunday after Pentecost**

#### **No. 413 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty**

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

#### **No. 412 Come Join the Dance of Trinity**

During Distribution No. 414 & 415

#### **No. 543 Go, My Children, with My Blessing**

### **June 14 Second Sunday after Pentecost**

#### **No. 532 Gather Us In**

First Lesson: Exodus 19:2-8a

Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:8 [9-23]

#### **No. 686 We Give Thee But Thine Own**

#### **No. 798 Will You Come and Follow Me**

### **June 21 Third Sunday after Pentecost**

#### **No. 449 We Know That Christ Is Raised**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Second Lesson: Romans 6:1b-11

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

#### **No. 65 Take My Life, That I May Be**

During Distribution No. 471 & 497

#### **No. 661 I Love to Tell the Story**

### **June 28 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

#### **No. 598 For By Grace You Have Been Saved**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Second Lesson: Romans 6:12-23

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

#### **No. 779 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound**

#### **No. 848 Give to Our God Immortal Praise!**

## **\*\*Circle News**



**SARAH** Circle

**MARY** Circle

**RACHEL** Circle

**DORCAS** Circle



**\*\*Subject to cancellation based on Covid-19**

## *Book Nook*


Nothing to report



## **Church Council Highlights**

Actions taken at the  
May 19 Church Council Meeting

- ~ Automatic door opener installed
- ~ Discussion of Youth & Family Coordinator position
- ~ Financial assistance for seminarian student discussed
- ~ Have received bid from DB Acoustics for sound system

 Thank you to the volunteers who have quietly slipped onto the church property to mow the lawn; a time consuming job! Thank you to the volunteers who came in to mark & identify shut offs for pumps & water supply to the fixtures. We appreciate everything you have done for us and thank you for your service to our church!

Automatic Door Opener installed for use  
with east side door in parking lot.



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## .....and finally

**The LYO** would like to thank everyone that worked, provided food or attended the first 3 Lenten Service casserole supper. Special thanks to Linda Groe for continuing to make the jello for these suppers and our janitors for setting up the fellowship hall! Unfortunately, we were not able to have the last 3 suppers or Easter breakfast but we look forward to continuing the tradition of fellowship next year.

**We are working with the Council and Pastor Bryan to reschedule the Graduation breakfast for sometime this summer so that we may honor our graduates.** Thank you again for everyone's continued support of the youth in our congregation! **We hope everyone is staying healthy and we look forward to seeing everyone in the near future!**

If you're going to summer Bible Camp, please let the Church Office know as soon as possible.



**Thank  
You!**