

# *Good News Journal August 2022*

## *St. John Lutheran Church of Cat Spring*

480 Ross Street Cat Spring Texas 78933 979-865-5444 [www.stjohncatspring.org](http://www.stjohncatspring.org)

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDEULE**

**9:00 am Adult Summer Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service**

#### **From the Desk of Pastor Stephanie Stark:**

Summer is ending. Kids and those that work in schools are gearing up to return to school, and for some, life will take on a new routine, or get back in the habit of an old one. Whether or not you are going back to school chances are you are still having to toil away at work or around your property. We never stop learning. We never stop growing. We never stop working, but sometimes all that knowledge, work, and growth feels like it was done in vain. Ecclesiastes talks about this very thing...

"I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me." Ecclesiastes 2:18.

So, why do we work? Why do we learn and try to grow? I think the answer is in verse 18...for those that come after us: our children and grandchildren; their children and those that come after them. We want what is best for them. We want to leave this world a better place than how we found it even when it feels like all of our hard work is done in vain.

Beloved, Ecclesiastes doesn't have any platitudes to make the work we do feel important, but it allows us the opportunity to bemoan our work. We are entitled to a bad day. We are permitted to be disgruntled with our jobs. Sometimes I don't want to think about the future people that I am leaving this planet to, and that is ok.

"What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? 23For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity." Ecclesiastes 2:22-23.

Maybe all of our life is vanity, but I have to think that God did not create all of this world in vain. We are God's children, called to care for all of God's creation. Not everything we do is done in vain as the writer of Ecclesiastes thinks. The children of the world depend on us to not make it so, but you do have the right to lament your work for time to time. Just remember, God loves you and so do I.

#### **WELCA visited Brookwood in July.**

They took a tour of the  
campus and had lunch .

L\_R

Rachel, Stephanie, Shirley,  
Glenda, Marissa, Pauline and  
Addilyn.



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### SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDEULE

9:00 am Adult Sunday School    10:00 am Worship Service

**Pastor Stephanie Stark**

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
|  | 1<br>St John<br>Quilting<br>Ministry<br>8:30 am<br><br>Staff Meeting<br>10:00 am                        | 2<br>St John<br>Prayer Shawl<br>Ministry<br>9:30 am | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   |
| 7<br>Adult Sunday School<br>9:00 am<br>Worship Service<br>10:00 am<br>Dittert Reunion<br>1-5 pm<br>Fellowship Hall                       | 8   | 9<br>Staff Meeting<br>10:00 am                      | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  |
| 14<br>Adult Sunday School<br>9:00 am<br>Worship Service<br>10:00 am<br><br>Blessing of the<br>Backpacks!                                 | 15<br>St John<br>Quilting<br>Ministry<br>8:30 am<br><br>Staff Meeting<br>10:00 am<br>Council<br>6:15 pm | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  |
| 21<br>Adult<br>Sunday School 9:00 am<br>Worship Service<br>10:00 am<br><br>EEG Association<br>Fellowship Hall<br>1-7 pm<br>Karen Landrum | 22<br>Staff Meeting<br>10:00 am   | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  |     |
| 28<br>Adult Sunday School<br>9:00 am<br>Worship Service<br>10:00 am  | 29<br>Staff Meeting<br>10:00 am   | 30  | 31<br>Confirmation<br>Pool Party<br>6:30 -7:30 pm |     |     |     |





# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

# August



Jolee Meiers



Marissa Divin



Addilyn Divin

Our campers had a fantastic week of exploring their faith in bible study, worship and many fun activities at Camp Chrysalis and LutherHill.



**GET YOUR TICKET AND COME ABOARD!**  
**THIS ROCKY RAILWAY IS HEADED TO**  
**ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY!**  
**A FOUR SUNDAY MINI SERIES**  
**SEPTEMBER 11 - OCTOBER 2 9:00-10:45**

Youth will come aboard our Railway for an extended Sunday school hour. Life can be rocky for kids. There are ups and downs, twists and turns. Come explore Jesus' power and how we can trust Jesus to pull us through life's rocky ups and downs.

Visitors and friends are always welcome!



Look for more details to come or talk with Christa

**Acolyte Schedule:** August 7 Jolee Meiers Aug. 14 Baylee Brandes Aug. 21 Marissa Divin Aug 28 Reese Reichardt



HOA Incorporated of Austin County  
Meals on Wheels  
915 Frydek Rd. Sealy, Texas 77474  
979.885.4188

May 2, 2022

St John's Lutheran Church – Cat Spring  
480 Ross St.  
Cat Spring, TX 78933

Greetings:

The Board of Directors for HOA - Meals on Wheels would like to update you on what your past generosity has helped provide. We are able to continue offering drive thru meals for our congregant clients due to continued COVID-19 health restrictions. We are still hoping to begin our congregant meals, games and other social opportunities in person soon. In addition, our home delivered service continues to expand with referrals from physicians and other healthcare services. Our volunteers are delivering approximately 3,000 meals per month throughout Austin County.

As the calls for services increase, our expenses increase as well. We respectfully ask you to consider HOA, Inc. as a beneficiary this year. Your past and continued generosity will allow our staff and dedicated volunteers to provide hot nutritious meals to our most needy and deserving senior citizens.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Bilski, Board Chair  
HOA Meals on Wheels of Austin County

### From the Desk of the Scholarship

#### Committee:

#### Reminder!

If you are a senior in high school this year and would like to apply for a scholarship for college next year, PLEASE fill out the **Attendance Cards** every time you attend St Johns!

**Please contact Cheryl Mellenthin at 979-732-5591 for more information.**

### *The Sealy Ministerial Alliance Announces*

## **GOOD SAMARITAN SHOP BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLEARANCE SALE**

Fill a bag of merchandise for \$5

Thursday, August 4 – Saturday, August 6 - 8am – 6pm

Thursday, August 11 – Saturday, August 13 - 8am – 6pm

**219 West Front Street in Downtown Sealy**

The shop will be closed from September – November for renovations

**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**



**Save the date!!!**

**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is**

**Sunday, September 11, 2022.**

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor..

**Jennifer Logan (713 408 6593) and Rachel Divin (281 750 1135) need your help!**

We will need to plan where our service projects will be. Do you have an idea of where we could serve our community? No job is too small. **Please reach out to Jennifer or Rachel in person, by text, or by call.** We want to complete service projects in Sealy, Bellville and Cat Spring. We want to find service projects for all members no matter their size, age, or athletic ability.

We are excited to show our community how much St John Cat Spring cares!

### **WELCA is collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief (LWR).**

There are blocks and little people that are labeled with needed school supplies, in the narthex and in the kitchen pass through.

**Please pick up an assignment,** and return it before the school supplies disappear from the local stores.

### **WELCA Giving Back for the Upcoming School Year !**

*WELCA wants to give our teachers a supply kit!*

We want to give teacher supply kits to not only our members, but to our family and friends.

Please email Sally with the names of your teacher friends and family.

**secretary@stjohncatspring.org**



★HAPPY★  
BIRTHDAY!

HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY

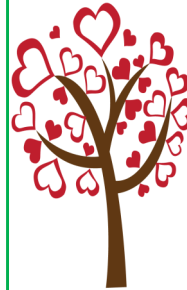
*Prevailing Prayer*

8-1 Heath Wendt  
8-2 Alan Walker  
8-3 Karen Landrum  
8-4 Chad Divin  
8-5 Jeremy Stark  
8-6 Ira Lapham  
Kenneth Blezinger  
8-7 Byron Simpson  
8-8 Randy Lange  
8-11 Denise Lange  
8-15 Breanna Brandes  
8-19 Ryan Reichardt  
8-21 Bonnie  
Hegemeyer  
Greg Lapham  
8-23 **Pastor Stephanie  
Stark**  
8-26 Pauline Lapham  
8-30 Chad Blezinger

8-3 Warren and Susan Severin  
8-11 Jacob and Amy Tipp  
8-22 William and Tamra Ordner  
8-27 Randall and Marsha Tipp

#### MEMBERS IN OUR CARE

**Argent Court –Brenham**  
Cecil and Carrie Froebel  
**Kruse Village-Brenham**  
Elaine Thielemann  
**Columbus Oaks**  
Marilyn Wendt  
**HOMEBOUND:**  
Katherine Ludwig  
Katherine Washburn



#### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

**SUNDAY, August 14th**

Bring your children with their back-  
packs to church and have them blessed  
before the school year starts !

**Elementary to College!**

#### THOSE IN OUR PRAYERS

Melvin and Johnnie  
Klatt  
Greg Klatt  
Gloria Tipp  
Tomas Divin  
Mike Mueller  
Billy Schaffner  
Allan Boehm  
Cindi Harrison  
David Wilkenson  
Debbie Haidusek  
Fay Rice  
Susan Boyett  
Robert Klar  
Melinda Brod  
Richie Butler  
Colin Brock  
Deana Keller  
Paulette Miller  
Deanna Ling  
Diane Cook  
Sharon  
Glenn Whitehead  
Debbie Reichardt  
Barbara  
Beverly White  
Dennis Mauney  
Bubba Bencal  
Rebecca Cole  
Jerry Hennecke



#### Confirmation Student's

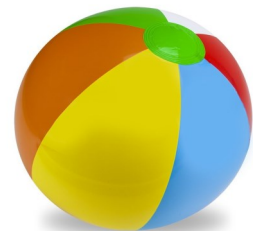
#### Pool Party !

August 31st 6:30—7:30 pm

At the Logan's House

*Bring a Towel and  
Snack to Share*

***Cant Wait to See You There***



### August 2022 Worship Service

#### Ministry Schedule

##### Readers

8-7 Marissa Divin  
8-14 Nancy Hartmann  
8-21 Chris Beckendorff  
8-28 Confirmands

##### Acolyte

8-7 Jolee Meiers  
8-14 Baylee Brandes  
8-21 Marissa Divin  
8-28 Reese Reichardt



### Worship Attendance

| Date | In Person | Online Views |
|------|-----------|--------------|
| 7-3  | 64        | 84           |
| 7/10 | 68        | 33           |
| 7-17 | 53        | 28           |
| 7/24 | 48        | 41           |



### August 2022 Council On Duty

August 7th- Melissa and Sharon  
August 14th- Jennifer and Kyle  
August 21st- Jennifer and Ruth  
August 28th- Melissa and Ryan

### August 2022 Altar Flowers

8-7 Haugen, Herzog, Rabius  
8-14 Open  
8-21 St John Youth  
8-28 Chris Beckendorff

### August 2022 Altar Guild

*Christa Klar*

*Lacy Dittert*

*Melissa Schmidt*

### Back by Popular Demand !

#### *The Chosen Season 2*

*Returning Monday, September 19th*

*Details and Sign Up Sheet Coming Soon*

*All Are Welcome !*





## St. John Lutheran of Cat Spring, Tx

Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2022

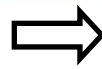
| ASSETS                                   | TOTAL               |
|--|---------------------|
| Current Assets                           |                     |
| Bank Accounts                            |                     |
| AUSTIN COUNTY STATE BANK - CEMETERY OP   | 15,622.46           |
| Citizen's State Bank                     | 36,491.52           |
| Citizen's State Bank - Buidling/Property | 364.12              |
| Citizen's State Bank - ELCA Benevolence  | 540.00              |
| Citizen's State Bank - ELCA Disaster     | 150.00              |
| Citizen's State Bank - LYO               | 7,277.40            |
| Citizen's State Bank - Music Fund        | 493.84              |
| Citizen's State Bank - Prayer Shawl      | 592.52              |
| Citizen's State Bank - Scholarship Fund  | 2,805.24            |
| Citizen's State Bank - Sealy Pantry Fund | 0.00                |
| Citizen's State Bank - Thrivent Choice   | 3,573.00            |
| Citizen's State Bank - Wedding Fund      | 1,833.05            |
| Citizen's State Bank-Cemetery            | 0.00                |
| Citizen's State Bank-Memorial Fund       | 7,288.77            |
| Citizens State Bank - Patio Fund         | 0.00                |
| Citizens State Bank - WELCA              | 0.00                |
| Citizens State Bank-Community Care Fund  | 6,765.54            |
| Citizens State Bank-Senior Day           | 1,089.19            |
| <b>Total Citizen's State Bank</b>        | <b>69,264.19</b>    |
| Citizens State Bank MM                   | 51,263.27           |
| ELCA Endowment E272908                   | 232,127.13          |
| ELCA Endowment E272909                   | 27,440.48           |
| ELCA Endowment E273030                   | 50,000.00           |
| Industy State Bank- CD Cemetery          | 74,297.07           |
| Petty Cash                               | 100.00              |
| <b>Total Bank Accounts</b>               | <b>\$520,114.60</b> |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>              | <b>\$520,114.60</b> |

## Around Here . . . . .

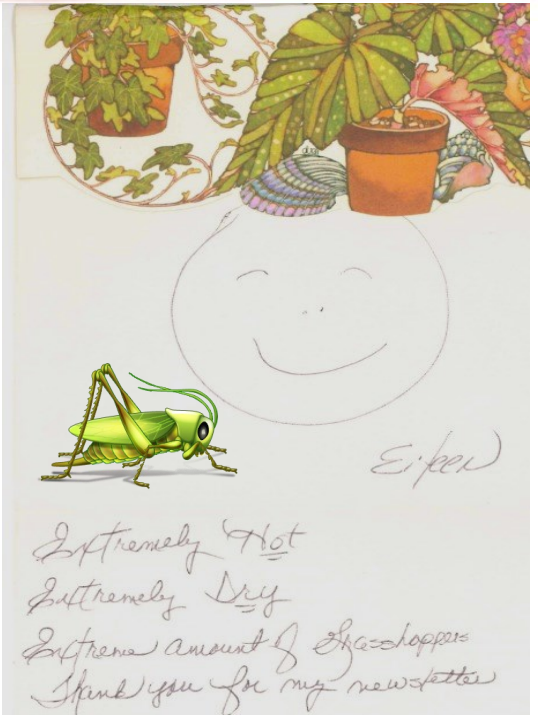
This is a New Ulm Enterprise feature about your friends and neighbors around here ...



Cheryl Mellenthin of Cat Spring received an Honorary Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Kansas State University on May 13. Cheryl founded PUPS - Prevent Unwanted Pets 19 years ago. Since that time PUPS has helped spay and neuter over 38,000 dogs and cats for people who cannot afford to pay for it on their own in nine counties west of Houston. Cheryl also donated a mobile spay/neuter unit to Kansas State University. The students in the College of Veterinary Medicine travel to animal shelters throughout Kansas and southern Nebraska, and have spayed and neutered over 32,000 dogs and cats.



From  
Eileen  
White,  
who  
moved to  
LaVernia,  
Texas,  
home of  
the  
Grass-  
hopper !!



Dear Pastor Stephanie and friends at St. John -  
Thank you for your \$2,100 gift to defray seminary debt. Because of your generosity, we exceeded our \$50K goal, raising \$78,000, our largest assembly offering ever.

P.S. Let me know when I might come out on a Sunday.  
Thank you!  
Bishop Mike



St. John Lutheran Church-Cat Spring  
Council Meeting Minutes  
July 11, 2022

**The meeting was called to order at 6:22 p.m. by Jennifer Logan.**

Pastor Stephanie Stark presented the opening devotional from 1 Kings 19: 10-13. We often see God in the big, bold, and/or destruction but Elijah found God in the silence. She asked everyone to ponder and reflect in silence for one minute on what our hopes and dreams were for the church. Responses included hopes that Pastor would stay for a long time, happiness that members have started coming back to church, and exponential growth of the congregation and youth. Also, that members would heal and have a positive attitude in the congregation including more participation in church activities and volunteers to help with youth teaching and activities. Finally, that the church body would grow incorporating current congregation members and new families from the surrounding communities.

Members present were Pastor Stephanie Stark, Jennifer Logan, Melissa Schmidt, Kyle Eckhardt, Ryan Reibenstein, and Sharon Meiers.

Ruth Walker was absent.

Guests included Jheri Sell and Jamie Hoffman with Church Mutual Insurance Company. Christa Klar was unable to attend because she is at camp this week with one of the youth.

Motion made by Sharon, seconded by Ryan to approve the agenda with the addition of advertising discussion under new business. Motion passed.

The June 2022 meeting minutes were read and approved by email. Motion made by Ryan, seconded by Melissa to approve the minutes as read. Motion approved.

Jamie Hoffman with Church Mutual Insurance presented and reviewed the Property Coverage, General Liability Coverage, Crime Coverage, Professional Liability Coverage, Professional Liability Coverage Part Claims Made, and Hired and Non owned Automobile Liability Coverage Declaration Pages. The insurance was paid in June 2022. There were questions about the amount of coverage on the Parsonage since it has been updated and about liability with transporting youth to outside activities. Jamie will run a current cost estimate analysis due to all the improvements in the Parsonage. She also explained that paid church members and Council members who transport children are covered by not only their personal insurance but also by the Church Mutual Insurance coverage. In addition, she recommended getting a waiver signed before volunteers transport youth or other members on activities occurring away from the church.

Ruth was unable to attend the meeting, so Jheri Sell presented the Treasurer's report including a statement of activity for June 2022. The total revenue for June was \$ 19,038. Expenses were \$ 21,668 so we were \$ 2,630 short for the month. Motion made by Melissa and seconded by Pastor Stephanie to accept the report as presented. Motion passed.

Pastor Stephanie Stark reported that she joined the Camp Hope Writing Team and is excited to be writing the Worship curriculum for 2023. This camp was started over 30 years ago and can be found in churches across the globe. More information can be found in her Pastor's Report. She participated in a luncheon at Delores Dittert's house with the ladies that plan the Senior Serve lunches.





Christa was unable to attend the meeting since she is at Camp Chrysalis, so Pastor reported for her. Christa is working on Rally Day and the Rocky Railroad themed Sunday School/VBS program that starts September 11<sup>th</sup>.

There was not a Cemetery committee report from Ken Wienken this month.

The House and Grounds report was presented by Ryan and Kyle. Kloss Electric came out and installed 17 LED lights in the Fellowship Hall. He looked at the kitchen, classrooms, and hallway to work on a bid for replacing those lights as well. There was a sponsor that donated the materials for the seventeen lights that were just installed so the final cost will be less than the original bid. The dishwasher in the parsonage is up and running now. The stovetop needs to be on a 40-amp breaker but is operating on a 30-amp breaker currently. They will look into fixing this in the near future.

**Old Business:**

The 2022 Church Directory is almost done. Christa and Sally are working to complete it. Pastor reported that it is close to completion.

The fireproof safe was installed this past week in the storage building. Its final placement is pending. It may be moved into the Fellowship Hall in Classroom 4 if there is room.

We are still waiting on ladders tall enough to clean the ceiling fans and area above the altar. Jennifer will forward an article that was sent to her about cleaning using extension poles and cloths that may be helpful.

Jennifer got clarification that the scholarships provided by the church do not need to be reported on 1099 because they are gifts from a non-profit organization. Full scholarships and those from other organizations fall under different rules and need to be reported. Motion was made by Jennifer, seconded by Pastor Stephanie to continue as we have always done without a 1099 for scholarships given. Motion passed.

Jennifer has four addresses to give to the prayer shawl committee. Motion made by Ryan, seconded by Sharon to provide the additional addresses to the committee once the church directory is completed.

Jennifer looked at risers to raise the altar cross. She found white linen cloths that can be placed over the books being used now. Jennifer will donate them to the church. Motion made by Ryan, seconded by Melissa to use the white linens to cover the books and raise the cross when the flowers placed on the altar are too tall.

**New Business:**

Jennifer checked into advertising costs for our church. Jeff Brandes with Visual Promotions has offered to give us a 40% discount on 8ft by 4 ft banners. There are two options for advertising in the Sealy News. The Faith page ads are \$18-\$36 per week or the Business Directory page ads are \$30-\$40 per week. Possible areas to hang the banners were discussed. Other opportunities for advertising include the Fantasy of Lights and the Austin County Fair. Advertising will be tabled until the next meeting.

**August Council Assignments-**

August 7<sup>th</sup> - Melissa and Sharon  
August 14th - Jennifer and Kyle  
August 21st - Jennifer and Ruth  
August 28th - Melissa and Ryan

The August 2022 calendar was reviewed. The only addition to the calendar is on 8/21/2022 Karen Landrum will be using the Fellowship Hall from 1:00pm-7:00pm. No council is needed for this event. Motion made by Jennifer, seconded by Sharon to approve the calendar with this addition. Motion passed.

**Everyone joined in the Lord's Prayer.**

**Motion was made by Ryan and seconded by Kyle to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted, Melissa Schmidt**

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN  
of Cat Spring, TX  
480 Ross Street  
78933



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