

St. John Lutheran Church

CONNECTING PEOPLE IN THE HEART OF JESUS

Worship with Us

Chapel- Wednesday 8:30 am

Traditional Worship:

Saturday 6:00 pm

Blended Worship:

Sunday 9:00 am

What We Believe

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.

Contact Us:

St. John Lutheran Church
308 S. 2nd St.

Battle Creek NE 68715

Church- 402-675-3155

School -402-675-3605

Early Learning Center- 402-675-4039

Email: churchsecretary@stjohnbc.net

Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church

Web Page: stjohNBC.net

Who We Are:

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Lee Weander

Associate Pastor: Rev. Joseph Leech

Director of Music & Worship:

Mr. Steven Whitney

Interim Church Administrator:

Katie Schnitzler

Administrative Assistant:

Diane Stoural

ROMANS

A fourteen-week series on
Paul's letter to the Romans

A Sermon Series & Bible Study Beginning June 1

God is good , we are not, He has a plan!

The Book of Romans is the Apostle Paul's encouragement to the church in Rome in the face of persecution. Paul's primary theme in Romans is the essential gospel and God's plan of salvation and righteousness for all humanity.

Written during the Apostle's stay in Corinth, the book of Romans is a unique treasure in our New Testament. It's the first book primarily addressed to a Gentile Congregation, marking a significant shift in the early Christian community. This historical context adds a layer of depth to our study, allowing us better to understand the challenges and triumphs of the early church.

This summer, worship with St. John as we walk through one of the most foundational books in the Bible for the teachings of the Christian faith. The Book of Romans explains, step-by-step, why and how God saves us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Beginning June 1, this 14-week worship series will show God's truth for our lives as Paul proclaims our salvation through Christ's sacrifice in His bitter death and glorious resurrection. The victory that Christ has won for us spurs us to turn away from the darkness of sin and death and live steadfast under the cloak of His righteousness. In addition to worship, the pastors will host a weekly Bible Study on Sunday mornings following worship to dive deeper into the weekly themes and to further nourish and strengthen our faith in our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Help Spread the News!

On June 1 St. John will be starting a new sermon series studying the book of Romans. We want to personally invite all community members to worship with us! Would you like to be a part of this evangelistic endeavor?

We are looking for a group of volunteers (parents, grandparents, children, etc.) to walk the town on **Thursday, May 30, meet Pastor Lee at the church at 6:30 pm** and spread the word. Volunteers will be separated into groups and each group will take a section of town, going door to door to deliver informational postcards. You can walk, you can scoot, you can ride. There are no rules as to how you cover your route!! If you are able to participate please contact the church office by phone (402-675-3155) or email (churchsecretary@stjohnbc.net) or on the church website stjohnbc.net/church on the events tab. **If you cannot participate that night feel free to come on Thursday and pick up invitations to share at your convenience.**



~St. John Ministries- Connecting People in the Heart of Jesus~

June Voters' Meeting

Monday, June 3, 2024 @ 7:00 pm.

In addition to regular reports from Ministry Boards the agenda will include:

Election of Officers

Approval of Ministry Budget

(The proposed Ministry Budget is included in the paper copy of the newsletter or pick one up at the church office)

Vacancy update

There will be a lot of information to share please stay informed by attending the meeting.

Funerals:

Alice Elaine Miller

Alice was taken home to be with her Lord on April 25. Her funeral was here at St. John on May 1.

We were buried therefore with him (Jesus) by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4



Church Office Hours

Church office will be closed on Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day. Summer church office hours begin June 1: Monday –Thursday 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Fridays are by appointment.

Pastor Lee will be in office on Thursdays.

Through the summer months it is recommended to call ahead for meetings with the church office staff to ensure the person you want to speak with will be available.



INTERNATIONAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

**TWO PERSON TEAMS
THURSDAY NIGHTS IN JUNE & JULY
6:30 TO 7:30 PM**

**BATTLE CREEK CITY PARK
MEET AT THE SOUTH FIELD AREA
(ACROSS FROM THE PLAYGROUND)**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION CAN BE FOUND
AT THE CHURCH WEBSITE
WWW.STJOHNBC.NET/CHURCH**



If you, or someone you know, would like to become a member of St. John Lutheran Church a New Member Class will begin on June 2, at 10:30 am. We welcome all to attend this informational class on the Lutheran faith.

We are excited to announce the expansion of our spiritual care services at St. John Ministries.

We have recently started our Stephen Ministries program. We will be beginning our Stephen Ministries Training on June 14 and 15. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining this ministry and serve God by serving others.

If you are interested, please contact Ginger Howser for more information.
(402) 675-5006



Mission Statement: WINGS exists to honor and worship God, encourage and support women, grow in our faith together as we share the gospel and use the gifts He has given us to serve Him and others.



WINGS met on April 25, 2024. Pastor Leech gave a devotion based on 1Corinthians 12:12-27. He reminded us that we are all part of one body and asked what part we play in the ministry. We are to encourage one another. The offering of our Mites followed.

WINGS members adopted new shut-ins. The 3rd and 4th graders wrote their last pen pal letters to the shut-ins and members in care facilities for the school year. What a blessing the last few months, bringing joy to many. Patty Renner, Becky Ridder, and Deborah Sunderman helped with BINGO at the Community Pride Care Center in April. WINGS will make cards for the residents throughout the summer month. The kindergarten class prepares and colors cards for them during the school year.

On May 9th, WINGS provided and served cake to the graduating 8th graders and their families during a reception in their honor. Deb Eckert, Becky Ridder, Patty Renner, and Deborah Sunderman prepared and served continental breakfast and lunch for the Circuit Pastor's meeting on May 14th. Clean-up and organization of the church kitchen was done the same day.

WINGS is collecting the fronts of used greeting cards. These will be used at the District LWML convention in June to make crosses for missionaries. A collection tote is in the fellowship hall entrance. Stamps and Mites can be dropped off in the boxes provided on the LWML table in the Narthex.

Our next meeting is Thursday, June 27th, at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall classroom. All women are encouraged to join us as we serve God using the gifts He has given us.



Recipe of the Month:

Lemon Deesert

by Linda Lehman

Graham cracker crust in a 9 x 13 pan

- Mix together 2 cans of lemon pie filling and one 8 oz. container of cool whip.
- Pour mixture into pan and let set overnight.



Orphan Grain Train Volunteers

The need is great.

St. John volunteer day is the first Friday of the month at 10:00 am.

Prayerfully consider giving your time to help sort through donated items for shipping.



St. John Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, NE

Council Meeting Minutes- Monday, May 20, 2024

In Attendance: Reid Ehrisman, Colby Kolm, Katie Schnitzler, Christy Schmidt, Ann Grant, Karen Grant, Todd Roberts, Kelsey Schnoor, Nick Onnen, Vince Hoehne, Pastor Lee Weander, Neal Acklie, Sara Anderson, Tiffany Pokorny, Deanna Anderson, Nikki Houlden, Steven Whitney

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Reid Ehrisman at 8:14 pm. Reid opened with devotion and prayer.

Karen Grant made a motion to approve the April 22, 2024, council meeting minutes. Second by Christy Schmidt. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report by Katie Schnitzler. The same pattern continues financially - income continues to increase, but not at the same rate as expenses. The current operating debt balance is just over \$300,000. There is approximately \$112,000 in operating obligations to be paid by May 31, so that debt is likely to increase. Deanna Anderson motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Second by Karen Grant. Motion carried.

Trustees Report by Todd Roberts. The Trustees finished up some small projects around campus. They finalized their SMART goals for the coming year. They are finalizing the list of names to serve on the Trustee Board for 2024-2025.

Elders Report by Steven Whitney. Pastor Lee attended the last elders' meeting. The meeting discussed the budget and SMART goals for the coming year.

Evangelism Report by Sara Anderson. The Evangelism Board is working on goodie bags for individuals starting the new member class. They are planning an event during a baseball game as a rally for VBS happening this summer. Orphan Grain Train has a service day at the end of VBS week, and they are looking into how or if VBS could be involved with it. Evangelism is coming up with a plan to be involved at Battle Creek Fun Days and possibly have the coffee cart at worship in the park.

Parish Ed Report by Christy Schmidt. Parish Ed completed their SMART goals for next year. They are very thankful for a grant from ERPPD of \$250 to help cover the cost of VBS T-shirts.

Parochial Ed Report by Nick Onnen. The school had a closing chapel last week, and the end of the school year is done. All current St. John teaching staff will be returning so there is no need for new hires. The school staff continues to look for more opportunities to be involved in community events to grow the presence of St John. The school staff has decided that the school theme for the 2024-2025 school year will be "Rooted in Christ." The pre-enrollment for K-8 is up for the next school year. Parochial Ed will be reviewing the school handbook and athletic handbook at their next meeting. The school received a \$500 PATCH grant to build a Gaga ball pit.

Early Learning Center (ELC) Report by Deanna Anderson. The ELC also received a PATCH grant to replace some P.E. supplies. A donation from a private donor purchased more items for the "Jesus Time" box. The childcare rate increases will take effect on July 1. Since publishing the new rates there have been 19 children from 11 families that have left the ELC. Training and CEUs for childcare staff are being reviewed to make sure that requirements are fulfilled. The new AED has been installed at the ELC. A technology grant was received and provided 15 tablets, a color printer, a desktop computer, a keyboard, and a mouse. Currently, eighty percent of ELC families are enrolled in autopay. There is work being done to get all families enrolled or establish a pre-payment plan by check if they refuse to use auto-pay. The ELC has also been awarded a \$10,000 Beyond School Bells. This grant is designed to help support and enrich the after-school program at the ELC. The ELC board discussed their SMART goals and will work on finalizing them by the end of the month.

Stewardship Report by Karen Grant. The Stewardship board invited our representative from Elkhorn Valley Bank (Tara Buell-Korth), Chairman Reid Ehrisman, and Vice Chairman Colby Kolm to join their meeting. The group discussed the 2024-2025 budget, as well as the increasing operating debt. Tara recommended that we do not let the operating line of credit exceed \$500,000. The suggestion was to convert a portion of the operating debt to a long-term note. The group discussed and reviewed all information, but no changes were agreed upon at this time.

Old Business - None

New Business–

2024-2025 Proposed Budget - At the last council meeting, the proposed 2024-2025 budgeted income for the ELC was approved. After publishing the new rates some of the ELC families have found other options for childcare. The proposed 2024-2025 budget was adjusted to reflect these changes, which meant the proposed deficit increased by almost \$100,000. The Stewardship Board proposed three different options for the 2024-2025 budget. Option #1 is to leave the budget as it stands, proposing an estimated \$171,229 ministry deficit for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Option #2 is to work backward and offer \$100,000 in support for the ELC and then cut staff and families served to get to that number. Option #3 would be exploring the financial feasibility of the ELC becoming a separate entity. After much discussion, the Council thought that looking into option #3 might be the best-case scenario for both the ELC and the church. A task force will be developed to gather information and provide guidance in exploring the viability of separation. Deanna Anderson made a motion to approve the first quarter of the 2024-2025 proposed budget excluding any raises for staff and the creation of a task force to evaluate the feasibility of the ELC separating into its own 501(c)(3). Task force members are Deanna Anderson, Katie Schnitzler, Colby Kolm, Vince Hoehne, Kelsey Schnoor, and Tiffany Pokorny with assistance from Pastor Lee. The remaining nine months of the budget (including implementing raises) and the viability of the ELC separation will be re-evaluated at the October Voters meeting. Second by Christy Schmidt. Motion passed.

Call Process Update – All congregational member surveys have been reviewed and the information is being compiled to complete the self-study document. Once the document is complete it will be sent to the District President’s office. The call process will continue to move forward keeping the expressed needs of the congregation in mind.

Next Meetings–

Voters Meeting – Monday, June 3rd at 7:00 pm.

Council Meeting – Sunday, July 7 at 10:15 am (following worship)

Note: All Council meetings will be held on the 4th Monday of the month starting in August.

Karen Grant made a motion to adjourn. Second by Deanna Anderson Motion carried.

Closing prayer by Pastor Lee at 10:30 pm

Minutes submitted by Mandy Lewis.



Interested in learning more about your church's finances?

Simply grab a weekly church bulletin, where we regularly publish the financial updates to keep you informed.



St. John ministries would like to partner with you in prayer. Prayer request cards located in the church Narthex for confidential prayer. If you would like to pray with someone please call Cherie at 402-675-1265.



1 Nixson Otjen	6 Polly Unkel	12 Arren Ehrisman	25 Cody Borgelt
1 Robin Otjen	6 Zachary Zohner	12 Makenzie Kolm	25 Courtney Bredehoft
1 Alexis Anderson	7 Richard Beltz	12 Craig Nelson	25 Gregg Koopman
1 Shane Flanagan	7 James Brauer	13 Richard Grant	25 Rachel Schott
1 Bruce Grant	7 Caleb Erickson	13 Brix Kossmann	25 Dave Werner
1 LilyAnn Hawthorne	7 Dave Roker	14 Suttynn Schott	26 Wyatt Hamer
1 Randy Kossmann	7 Derek Zohner	14 Leslie Tiedtke	26 Todd Test
1 Karen Ruge	8 Robert Olsufka	14 Jenny Zohner	27 Andy Bera
2 Theresa Hawthorne	8 Regan Beck	15 Zach Bierman	27 Austin Klug
2 Rory Volk	8 Alexandria Austin	15 Craig Unkel	27 Zach Schulz
2 Susan Volk	8 Dennis Roewert	17 Myles Allen	27 Andrew Warneke
3 Chris Schurman	9 Amanda Holecek	17 Aaron Bowder	27 Callum Roberts
3 Ellyson Ottis	9 Jax Kerber	17 Keith Miller	28 Natasha Onnen
3 Orand Unkel	9 Kelli Vavra	17 Deanna Anderson	28 Tanner Koopman
4 Cara Hoehne	9 Vivian Lyon	18 Elyse Volquardsen	29 Spencer Prauner
4 Bev Prauner	10 Karson Reeves	18 Haley Belina	29 Brenda Hrabanek
4 Jenna Ruge	10 Jason Allen	21 Halle Borchers	29 Luke Stueve
4 Mike Warneke	10 Blake Borchers	21 Rachel Zohner	29 Hannah Test
5 Alison Fler	10 Alan Warneke	22 Lisa Ehrisman	29 Ryan Zohner
5 Skyler Kolm	11 Karen Preusker	22 Ryann Volk	30 Scott Miller
6 Brynn Griffith	11 Jacob Schmeckpeper	23 Rachel Brauer	30 Austin Pflueger
6 Stephanie Pflueger	11 Jason Schnoor	23 Gary Volk	
6 Marv Stahl	11 Sheila Stahl	24 Janice Prauner	

Celebrating June Wedding Anniversaries

June 1-Ron & Judy Smith

June 2 Ryan & Nicole Kuchar

June 2-Bill & Kathy Klein

June 4-Anthony & Jenna Preusker

June 6-John & Marlene Bomar

June 7- Scott & Diane Lyon

June 8- Josh & Taylor Rakowsky

June 9-Reid & Lisa Ehrisman

June 9-Trevor & Haley Belina

June 11- Gerry & Karen Preusker

June 13-Josh & Mary Eckert

June 14-Rich & Marisa Brauer

June 18-Jake & Mary Coles

June 19-Caleb & Rachel Zohner

June 20-Joshua & Erin Tiedgen

June 20-Kent & Theresa Hawthorne

June 25-John & Vicki Flanagan

June 25-Randy & Karen Halpin

June 26-Brett & Amy Freudenburg

June 26-Doug & Loretta Praeuner

June 26-Jordan & Stephanie Kollbaum

June 27-Bob & Kally Praeuner

June 28-Gary & Deb Borgelt

June 28 Steven & Heather Whitney

June 29-Dick & Pat Seelmeyer

June 29 Mike & Carma Anderson

June 30 Leon & LaRhea Voelker



May God bless you on your special day!

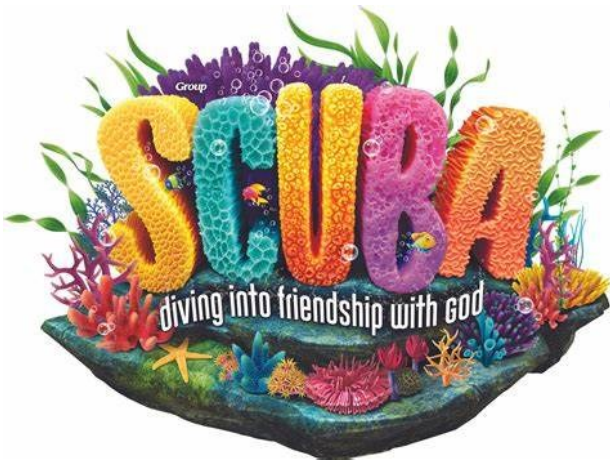
Call the church office to add or check your wedding anniversary date. We would love to pray for you.

Reading / Prayer Calendar - June 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
May 27, 2024	May 28, 2024	May 29, 2024	May 30, 2024	May 31, 2024
Psalm 137	Psalm 138	Psalm 139	Psalm 140	Psalm 141
Pray for Schools	Pray for the Armed Forces	Pray for your children or nieces/nephews	Pray for your Pastor	Pray for blessings in worship
June 3, 2024	June 4, 2024	June 5, 2024	June 6, 2024	June 7, 2024
Psalm 142	Psalm 143	Psalm 144	Psalm 145	Psalm 146
Pray for Teachers	Pray for the Government	Pray for your friends	Pray for Church staff	Pray for outreach in our community
June 10, 2024	June 11, 2024	June 12, 2024	June 13, 2024	June 14, 2024
Psalm 147	Psalm 148	Psalm 149	Psalm 150	Proverbs 1
Pray for School Administrators	Pray for the President	Pray for the Family	Pray for the lay leaders of the church	Pray for missionaries
June 17, 2024	June 18, 2024	June 19, 2024	June 20, 2024	June 21, 2024
Proverbs 2	Proverbs 3	Proverbs 4	Proverbs 5	Proverbs 6
Pray for Students	Pray for Congress	Pray for your spouse or parent	Pray for the Church	Pray for the lost
June 24, 2024	June 25, 2024	June 26, 2024	June 27, 2024	June 28, 2024
Proverbs 7	Proverbs 8	Proverbs 9	Proverbs 10	Proverbs 11
Pray for Janitors	Pray for Judges	Pray for expectant mothers	Pray for church support staff	Pray for all who are preparing for church work

Connecting people in the heart of Jesus. Serving the Lord's House in June 2024
 If you are unable to serve, please find a substitute and call the church office (675-3155) to co-

Date	Time	Elders	Ushers	Sound Booth
Sat. June 1	6:00	Borgelt/Wedekind	Schwede/Volk	Volk
Sun. June 2	9:00	J Baumgartel/Prauner	Ridder/Zohner	Borchers/Kirby
Sat. June 8	6:00	Kossmann/M. Baumgartel	Schwede/Volk	Volk
Sun. June 9	9:00	J Baumgartel/Sunderman	Tillman/J. Werner	Andersons
Sat. June 15	6:00	M. Baumgartel/Wedekind	Knull/Schwede	Volk
Sun. June 16	9:00	Prauner/Zohner	J. Borchers/Volk	Brauer
Sat. June 22	6:00	Borgelt/Kossmann	Schwede/Volk	Volk
Sun. June 23	9:00	Wedekind/Zohner	J. Borchers/J. Werner	Huntley/Kuchar
Sat. June 29	6:00	M. Baumgartel/Borgelt	Knull/Volk	Volk
Sun. June 30	9:00	Howser/Prauner	Tillman/Wolf	Wysocki/Freudenburg



St. John Vacation Bible School 2024 July 21-25

Registration is open to children age 3 through entering 6th grade and volunteers. Register online at www.stjohnbc.net on the church page/events. VBS counts towards high school volunteer hours!

How can you help?

Pray that people would get involved and that children would come! Volunteer during VBS week. Donate supplies and/or food for the family meals the week of VBS. Help decorate and create the Scuba atmosphere.

Happy Father's Day!

Super



Breaking News



↓ READ MORE ↓

We are asking 6 (or more) Super-Moms to bring treats and help serve coffee on Father's Day, June 16, following worship.

Sign-up on the Sign-up Genius or contact Super-Mom Erin Wragge

St. John Lutheran School News

They grow up fast, don't they? I remember when our oldest was born. We were eager to bring him home, but he didn't pass the car seat test, so we had to wait. While the nurses and doctors could watch our baby, Mrs. Onnen and I invested in our sleep. When it was finally time to go home, I remember putting him in the car seat and thinking, where are all the nurses and doctors? Surely, they aren't going to trust us with this human by ourselves. I felt unequipped.

It's not a great feeling to feel unequipped. While St. John Ministries dove into "The Story," we learned about several heroes of the faith. These people, who had resumes that would intimidate anyone, were also great reminders that God can use anyone.

For instance, Moses was a great hero of faith. He was the first to receive the Ten Commandments. He ordered Pharaoh to let his people go. Can you imagine the bravery to approach a king and demand that he free 600,000 Israelite slaves, not just once but over and over? What a hero of faith! I could never be like Moses.

David was another larger-than-life character. When all the trained Israelite soldiers refused to fight Goliath, David stepped up to win for all of Israel. He later went on to be a great king who was a direct ancestor of Jesus. What a great hero of faith!

Gideon is another of my favorites. He defeated the Midianite army over 100 times the size of his own.

These heroes of faith are remembered for their accomplishments, but again, after reading through the story, we see they weren't all that different from you and me.

When God first called Moses to speak with Pharaoh, Moses protested. "I'm not an eloquent man and I'm slow of speech!" Essentially, he was saying, "I'm unequipped!" Yet, he obeyed God's calling and led over 600,000 men, not counting women and children, to freedom.

David was completely overlooked. When Samuel came to Jesse and said, "One of your sons will be the next king," one by one Jesse presented each son. Finally, Samuel said, "Are you sure this is all you have?" "Well, I guess there's David." Even his own father thought David was unequipped!

Gideon saw the size of the Midianite army and said, "God, are you sure? If you really want me to do this, show me a sign." God gave him a sign, so Gideon said, "God, if that was a sign, give me a sign that that was a sign." Sounds like my kind of guy. Maybe my faith isn't as weak as I thought. God actually agreed with Gideon and said, "You're right, you're not equipped with the right army. Tell your men if they're even a little scared to go home." Gideon reluctantly agreed. Gideon again saw the size of the army and said, "God, are you sure about this?" God said, "You're right, tell your men to go to the river. If they lap the water up like dogs, those are my kind of people. Send the rest home." Three hundred men were left. Gideon had to be thinking, "God, are you crazy? It isn't humanly possible to defeat..." and God would have responded, "Now you're getting the picture."

It was never about Gideon's army. If two armies of equivalent size battled one another, nobody would have seen God. We would have had no testimony to read about in the Bible. It wasn't the fact that Gideon was attacking an army with one that was one-quarter the size of Battle Creek. It wasn't about the size of the army at all. It wasn't that David was the weakest and was overlooked. It wasn't about Moses' ability or inability to speak. It was about their God. God doesn't just call the equipped; He equips the called.

God knows you. He knows your weaknesses, your insecurities, and your imperfect faith. He knows everything about you. The Bible tells us He knows the very number of hairs on your head, yet He uses you to go and tell HIS story.

What is God calling you to do that you don't feel equipped to do? I'm not saying you need to quit your job to become a pastor or move to a foreign country and become a missionary. I am saying to be bold in your faith and take a step forward in sharing HIS story. Start reading through Scripture. Find a small group Bible study to learn more. Lead your family in reading through a devotion every night. Have a conversation with someone else who is unequipped and point them to Jesus. What is God calling you to do? Who is He calling you to go and tell His story to? Maybe you have someone in your head but you don't know them well enough... or maybe they know you too well. They were there that one time...

There's one more thing we're unequipped for. We're unequipped to live up to God's perfection. But luckily, it's not about us. It's about Him. It's about God's son, Jesus, who took our place, so that when God sees us, He sees the perfection of Christ. All God asks in return is to live a life that tells HIS STORY.

IMPACT ST. JOHN STUDENTS IN 3 EASY STEPS



01
ASK YOUR TAX
PROFESSIONAL FOR YOUR
PROJECTED 2024 STATE
TAX LIABILITY



02
CONTRIBUTE HALF TO
OSN VIA THE LINK,
DESIGNATING ST.
JOHN AS THE
RECIPIENT SCHOOL



03
DET A DOLLAR FOR
DOLLAR BACK ON YOUR
2024 TAXES



givehope.nebraskaopportunity.org/donation

IMPACT ST. JOHN **DIRECTLY** IN 3 EASY STEPS



01
ASK YOUR TAX
PROFESSIONAL FOR YOUR
PROJECTED 2024 STATE
TAX LIABILITY



02
CONTRIBUTE **UP TO**
100% TO ST. JOHN
EARLY LEARNING
CENTER



03
DET A DOLLAR FOR
DOLLAR BACK ON YOUR
2024 TAXES



www.stjohnbc.net/credit

IMPACT ST. JOHN **DIRECTLY** IN 3 EASY STEPS

1

After getting your 2024 projected STATE tax liability from your tax professional, fill out the CCTC-A Form.

2

Contribute to "St. John Early Learning Center" and get a receipt (Form CCTC-R) from the church office

3

Upload your both forms to:
revenue.nebraska.gov/businesses/child-care-tax-credit-act

SAVE THE CCTC-R FOR YOUR 2024 TAXES

Dear St. John Ministries Members,

You now have an opportunity to lower your state income tax liability AND benefit St. John Ministries. You can do this by contributing to the Opportunity Scholarship Fund

(OSN) at <https://www.nebraskaopportunity.org/giving>.



Summer Chapel

Wednesday
9:00 am in the
sanctuary

It's all about
Jesus

EARLY LEARNING CONNECTION



IMPORTANT DATES:

- May 27 - ELC
Closed for
Memorial Day
- June 3 - ELC
Closed for staff
development

Looking Ahead:

- July 4 - Closed for
Independence Day
- August 2 - Closed
for All Ministry
Training

SUPPORTING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN NEBRASKA: HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In Nebraska, the foundation for a child's lifelong learning, behavior, and health is laid in the early years. Recognizing this critical period, the state has implemented various policies and initiatives to support early childhood education. Parents and the Battle Creek community play a vital role in these efforts, and there are numerous ways they can get involved and support local programs like St. John Early Learning Center (ELC).

Nebraska's Commitment to Early Childhood Education

Nebraska is dedicated to improving early childhood education through several key initiatives:

- **First Five Nebraska:** This organization works to promote quality early childhood experiences for all Nebraska children. They focus on policy advocacy, community engagement, and building public awareness about the importance of early childhood education. Their efforts include influencing state policy and providing resources for parents and educators.
- **We Care for Kids:** This campaign highlights the importance of early childhood care and education. We Care for Kids aims to ensure that every child in Nebraska has access to high-quality early childhood programs. The campaign provides valuable information for parents on selecting quality childcare and understanding the impact of early education on their child's development.
- **Parent Ambassador Program through Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative:** This program empowers parents to advocate for early childhood education in their communities. Parent Ambassadors receive training and resources to effectively communicate with policymakers, share their stories, and mobilize other parents to support early childhood initiatives.

Getting Involved: Supporting St. John ELC

Parents at St. John ELC can take several steps to support early childhood education and get involved in broader advocacy efforts:

- **Stay Informed and Engaged:** Keep up-to-date with early childhood policy changes and initiatives in Nebraska by following organizations like First Five Nebraska and We Care for Kids. Their websites and social media channels provide valuable information and updates.
- **Participate in the Parent Ambassador Program:** Consider joining the Parent Ambassador Program through the Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative. This program equips parents with the tools and knowledge to advocate for early childhood education at local and state levels. As an ambassador, you can share your experiences, engage with policymakers, and encourage other parents to join the cause.
- **Volunteer and Attend Events:** St. John ELC often hosts events and activities that require parent involvement. Volunteering your time not only supports the center but also helps build a strong community around early childhood education. Attend workshops, meetings, and advocacy events to stay connected and informed.

ALL ABOUT EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (CONT.)

- **Advocate for Funding and Resources:** Engage with local and state officials to advocate for increased funding and resources for early childhood programs. Share your child's positive experiences at St. John ELC and emphasize the importance of investing in early education.
- **Support and Promote Quality Initiatives:** Encourage other parents to prioritize quality when selecting early childhood programs. Share information about what makes a program high-quality and why it matters for children's development. Your advocacy can help raise the standards for early education across the state.

How the Battle Creek Community Can Participate

The Battle Creek community can also play a significant role in supporting early childhood education:

- **Community Partnerships:** Local businesses and organizations can partner with St. John ELC to provide resources, funding, and volunteer support. These partnerships can enhance the quality of early childhood programs and ensure that they have the necessary tools to succeed.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Community leaders can spearhead campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of early childhood education. By sharing information through local media, social platforms, and community events, they can help inform and engage more residents in supporting early education initiatives.
- **Hosting Community Events:** Battle Creek can host events focused on early childhood education, such as informational sessions, workshops, and family-friendly activities. These events can provide parents with valuable resources and strengthen community ties around the cause.
- **Economic Support and Investment:** Local governments and businesses can prioritize investments in early childhood programs. By funding scholarships, improving facilities, and supporting training for early childhood educators, the community can ensure that every child has access to quality early learning experiences.

Parents and the Battle Creek community are powerful advocates for early childhood education. By staying informed, getting involved, and supporting initiatives like those offered by First Five Nebraska, We Care for Kids, and the Parent Ambassador Program, you can make a significant impact. Together, we can ensure that every child in Nebraska has access to the quality early education they deserve, starting right here at St. John ELC.

Your involvement today helps build a brighter future for all children in our community and drives economic growth and stability. Let's work together to support and enhance early childhood education in Battle Creek and across Nebraska.

MINISTRY CORNER

- **Church Services:**
 - Saturday, 6:00 pm
 - Sunday, 9:00 am
 - Education Hour, 10:30 am
- **Scuba VBS - July 21-25**

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Summer camp alert! Calling all future scientists, artists, and adventurers entering kindergarten through 7th grade! Head over to stjohnbc.net/elc to sign up for the coolest summer fun ever!

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Nikki Haack, Support Staff



Nikki joined the St. John ELC team in 2023. She attended St. John Lutheran School and will be a junior at Lutheran High in the fall, where she

participates in FFA.

Nikki is the oldest of 6 children belonging to Justin and Trisha Haack. She actively participates in St. John Church youth group.

GIVE TO ST. JOHN

AT ZERO COST TO YOU

DONATE UP TO 100% OF YOUR PROJECTED
STATE INCOME TAX LIABILITY TO
ST. JOHN EARLY LEARNING CENTER

RECEIVE A DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR TAX
CREDIT FOR YOUR 2024 STATE TAXES

1. FILL OUT THE APPLICATION AT WWW.STJOHNBC.NET/CREDIT
2. CONTRIBUTE & GET A RECEIPT FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE



- The St. John ELC operates at a subsidized rate for families.
- St. John Ministries covers the deficit incurred by the ELC.
- Contributions to the ELC relieve financial strain on the entire St. John community and indirectly impact all families by allowing reduced rates.

Congratulations to our St. John Graduating Senior Class!



Blake Borchers, MaKenzie Eckert, Tylar Humphrey, Tucker Kirby, Chase Knull, Cameron Korth, Kade Larson, Lauren Lutt, Amber Schurman, Leah Tillman, & Josiah Volk.

Pictured below Taylynn Aldag, Christyan Anderson,



Confirmation Meeting

All parents with students entering grades 3 through 8 are invited to attend a parent meeting to discuss the Confirmation program at St. John. Mr. Whitney would like to use this time to assess and discuss the state of the current program (where we are at), and to look to the future (where do we want to be) of the Confirmation program. This will not be a time for decision making, but rather to have conversation in figuring out the best way to move forward. The meeting will take place on Sunday, June 9 at 10:30 in the Church Sanctuary.

Any questions, please contact Mr. Whitney.





Christian Cross Festival

For the entire list of events
and vendors or to
volunteer

www.ChristianCrossFestival.org



**Get Excited! Watch for Information to come on
student sign-up for the District Youth Gathering!**



LHNE NEWS



JUNE 2024

2010 N. 37TH STREET
NORFOLK, NE 68701
(402) 379-3040
www.LHNE.org



@LHNEagles



lhneeagles

LHNE GRADE SCHOOL SPORTS

Lutheran High has grade school sports leagues! We have a boys' and girls' 3-on-3 basketball league and a girls' volleyball league. For league information and registration forms, visit our website lhne.org and click on the LHNE sports leagues banner. If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Osten at elizabeth.osten.vb@gmail.com or text her at 402-750-7464.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 8 - Craft Show
June 17 - Booster Club Mtg
June 21 - Golf Outing
June 24-25 - LHNE Speech Team Camp

BEEF BLAST 2024

We hope to see you on Sunday, August 25th at LHNE for the annual Beef Blast fundraising event. We are in need of donation items for the event! If you would like to donate, please bring your items to the LHNE by the end of June. If you have any questions, please contact Fred Aufdembrink at faufdembrink@lhne.org.

CONGRATULATIONS!

A big congratulations to Gavin Feddern for competing at State Track and Cole Lawless for competing at State Golf this year. Great work Eagles!

LHNE SUMMER WEIGHTS

The summer weightlifting program at LHNE started on May 28th. This year we will have four sessions: HS Girls 6:00-7:15 AM, HS Boys 6:30-7:45AM, 7th/8th Boys 8:30-9:15AM, and 7th/8th Girls 9:15-10:00AM. If you have any questions, please contact our Activities Director, Preston Sunderman (psunderman@lhne.org).

GOLF OUTING

LHNE will hold its 10th annual Eagle Open Golf Tournament on Friday, June 21st at Eldorado Hills Golf Course. To register your team, text 'EagleOpen2024' to 243725 or go to: bidpal.net/eagleopen2024.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

The Lutheran High Northeast faculty and staff want to say a huge congratulations to our 2024 graduates. We are excited to see what God has in store for you. God's blessings as you continue on your journey

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The LHNE office summer hours will be Monday-Thursday from 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Stop in and visit or give us a call!



~Educating for Life

Proclaiming the Faith~

LHNE SUMMER WEIGHTS

JOIN US FOR SUMMER WEIGHT TRAINING!

Starts
May 28th

MONDAY-THURSDAY

HS GIRLS: 6:00AM - 7:15AM

HS BOYS: 6:30AM - 7:45AM

7th/8th **JH BOYS: 8:30AM - 9:15AM**

7th/8th **JH GIRLS: 9:15AM - 10:00AM**

Lutheran High Northeast offers several summer camps. Call the school office to find out more information

- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Football
- Wrestling
- Cross Country
- Art
- Drama
- Agriculture
- Science



Congratulations to the Lutheran High Northeast Class of 2024!



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



Join us!

Weekly Service times:

Chapel: Wednesday

9:00 am

Saturday 6:00 pm

Sunday 9:00am

Bible Studies:

Tuesday 7:00 pm

Wednesday 9:30 am

WINGS Women



Sunday 10:30

Romans Bible Study

Parish Hall Classroom

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

June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Romans Sermon</i>
2 <i>Romans Sermon Series Begins</i>	3 7:00 Voters Meeting	4 1:00 Senior Fun Day	5 9:00 Summer Chapel	6 6:30 Cornhole Tournament	7 10:00 Orphan Grain Train Volunteer Day	8 Christian Cross Festival
9 10:30 New Member Class	10 Parent	11	12 9:00 Summer Chapel	13 6:30 Cornhole Tournament B.C Park	14 6:00 pm Stephens Ministry Class	15 8:00 am Stephens Ministry Class
16 Father's Day 	17 No Council Meeting	18 1:00 Senior Fun Day	19 Summer Begins 	20 6:30 Cornhole Tournament	21	22 Taake/Anderson Wedding
23 10:30 New member Class	24	25	26 9:00 Summer Chapel	27 1:30 WINGS Meeting 6:30 Cornhole Tournament	28	29
30 10:30 New member Class						
11:30 Stephens Ministry Class						

Phone: 402-675-3155

churchsecretary@gmail.com

Web: stjohNBC.net

Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church



Connecting People in the Heart of Jesus

stephen MINISTRY[®]

There are times when every one of us experiences difficulties—

- loss of a loved one
- job loss
- imprisonment
- hospitalization
- disability
- infertility
- spiritual crisis
- loneliness
- discouragement
- divorce
- cancer
- many other challenges

God never intended for us to go through these experiences alone. That's why God has brought us together as a congregation—and why we have Stephen Ministry.

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who have received 50 hours of training to minister to people experiencing a crisis or going through a difficult time in life.

Every week, a Stephen Minister will meet with you—privately and confidentially—to listen, care, encourage, support, and reflect Christ's presence in your life.

If you'd like to learn more about Stephen Ministry for yourself or someone else (inside or outside our congregation), contact a pastor or Stephen Leader.



HELP
HOPE
HEALING

stephen MINISTRY[®]

Bring Christ's Care to Hurting People—

Become a Stephen Minister!

Do you have gifts of compassion?
Are you a good listener?

To find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister at First Christian Church, call one of our Stephen Leaders. We'll be starting our next class soon!

Pastor Joseph Leech
(570) 687-4219

Ginger Howser
(402) 675-5006

St. John Church Office
(402) 675-3155

Did you know? Our church is one of more than 12,000 congregations with Stephen Ministry worldwide. Since 1975, more than 600,000 Stephen Ministers have been trained, providing care to millions of people in need. For more about the Stephen Ministries organization and the resources it offers, log on to www.stephenministries.org.