

Volume 62, Issue 4

APRIL 2024

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Come and Worship!

Each Sunday at 10 AM

Nursery available 9:30-12:30

Fellowship time following worship

Services are in person and online (YouTube/Facebook & website) www.facebook.com/StJohnsMpls.org www.stjohnsmpls.org

April 7

Grace Place, 11:15 Worship Committee, 11:15

April 14

Packing of Backpacks, 11:00 **Grace Place, 11:15 Lutheranism 101, 11:15**

April 21

Grace Place, 11:15 St John's Council, 11:15

April 28

Metropolitan's Men's Choir -**Guest Musicians Lutheranism 101, 11:15**

Welcoming, Worshiping, Healing, Serving

Thoughts from Our Pastor



April showers bring May Flowers... What do snowstorms in March bring? Interruption. At least that was the fear. I worried that the snow would cause a large dip in our attendance. It didn't. It has been wonderful to see this "spring" so many people return to in-person worship and activities. We had 71 people on Palm Sunday(!) with many thanks to the Metropolitan Men's Chorus and their friends. Our annual running average of worship attendance is up to numbers we have not seen since well before Pre-COVID. Edith saw the number of participants in Game Night double.

People are plugging back in to our worship, service, and fellowship. This is all very welcome news for our congregation. It is a good start. We continue to sponsor 4 children in boarding schools in India and clothing and hygiene items for people with housing insecurities through the Missionary Circle, monthly donating 20 backpacks of food for Justice Page through CAN Committee.

Now we must simultaneously address our congregation's need for growth directly. To that end, the Faith Practices/Neighboring Practices Taskforce has worked together and then with the Council to list all our physical and relational assets. The team is also exploring ways for our congregation to listen deeply to both our residential neighbors and our business neighbors to learn/discover what might be ways for us to team up and fill in the cracks of need within our neighborhood. Watch for announcements for coming events.

A very special thanks to Ann Paulson, Joseph Sahai, Peder Flaten, Deborah Dunham, David Roinas, Dave Helm, Brad Nelson and the Chi Rho Committee, Edith Bohardt, the Nervig family, Jennifer Burdick, Vicky Ercolani, Sharon Koschak, Beth McAllister, Eric Willette, Annie Paulson, Diane Harayda, Lori Johnson, Manuela, Matt Burdick, Ron Hasselmann, and indeed EVERYONE who set up or took down tables, washed dishes, placed the Communion rail and its kneelers, created boutonnieres for First Communicants, ordered Easter flowers, purchased Easter flowers, decorated the chancel, created all 4 Holy Week bulletins, participated in the Holy Week Worship services, and for all of you who attended. We truly came together to pull it all off. Thank you very much! It was a beautiful celebration of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. And it all seemed to go without interruption! WHEW!

However, we now enter April; and for me personally, April already feels like a month of interruptions because I have agreed to allow the inclusion of my name into the public call process for the next Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod. The selection of Bishop occurs at the Synod Assembly May 2-4. (Thank you, Mark Nervig, for agreeing to attend the Assembly with me on behalf of St. John's.) In preparation for the Assembly, all 10 Bishop candidates have four meetings to prepare for; and because it is happening right when our church is starting to really gain some programmatic momentum, it feels like an interruption. I am humbled and honored to be one of the candidates, but it seems like this discernment process is coming exactly at the wrong time. I will do my very best to keep focused on our work and life together.

I very much want to see St. John's grow in numbers and eliminate our multi-year run of deficit budgets. We do have a lot of financial resources, but nearly all of our cash on hand is designated for specific projects. We are asset rich and cash poor. We are relationship rich, but short on people. However, our neighborhood is packed with people who do not attend ANY religious organization. We are living on a mission field which requires no travel expense. The first thing we need as a church is to build relationships with our actual neighbors – listening to what God is already doing in their midst. Then creatively come alongside their passions with our own, leveraging all physical assets we already have and form informal partnerships in making our world a more trustworthy place.

We have some work to tend to and there will be some interruptions along the way, but we are definitely on the right road. Thank you for all you do for the ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church. I continue to be grateful and proud to be your pastor.

CROSS+GENERATIONAL MINISTRY

OUR STORY, GOD'S STORY

On Saturday, April 20th, the women of St. John's are invited to share in a retreat led by Dr. Diane M. Millis, PHD, at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. It is an opportunity that I hope many will be able to take advantage of. We will learn a little how to tend to our story then learn how our story is connected to God's story.

I know some of you may be wondering why you should learn how to tend to your story. Let me tell you, it is very enlightening. I met Dr. Millis while she was the professor for "How Sharing Our Story Shapes Our Leadership" at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in 2018. It was the first class of its kind offered, and my classmates and I were not exactly sure what to expect. It turned out to be a wonderful experience for all of us.

In this class we practiced deep listening each week. We were placed in a triad and when it was one's turn, they had up to four minutes to talk about the prompt. Then the next four minutes the others in the triad could ask questions, then the last four minutes the person could answer one or all the questions depending on time.

Those of you who are familiar with the Myers Briggs Type Indicator will not be shocked to learn that I am an INFJ (introverted, intuitive, feeling, judging). Being introverted I rarely used up the entire four minutes I was given when it was my time to speak. But, as I got more comfortable with my listening partners, and began to trust them, I was able to be more open. I learned from these sessions that I was sharing a skewed version of my story. I learned and heard how I was telling my story and through this class learned how to change the way I was telling my story.

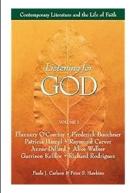
We each have a story that is unique to us, and our stories matter. Our stories are important. How we see God in our story will be different. We can learn through sharing our stories that our story is connected to God's story. We can learn how to think differently about an event, because someone in our triad had a similar experience and talks about it in a different way.

The retreat is from 8:30AM – 1PM with a fee of \$35 per person (which includes a box lunch). Dr. Millis will also have some copies of her book "Re-Creating A Life" for \$10 cash. It was the book she wrote because of her experiences teaching the class at United and was voted Best Spiritual Book of 2019. I hope you will consider joining us for this special retreat.

Edith



Cross+Generational Events



BOOK STUDY: LISTENING FOR GOD'

A study of "Listening for God in Contemporary Literature" Volume 1, continues in April. This book is a collection of short stories by authors such as Flannery O'Connor, Alice Walker, Frederick Buechner,

Annie Dillard, and others. We will read on our own, then join up for discussion in St. John's Lounge and on Zoom at 6:30 p.m.

on the following Tuesdays: April 2 (Buechner)
April 9 (Dillard)

April 23 April 30

If you are interested, please email Edith, edith@stjohnsmpls.org

GAME MEET UP

Friday, April 26th 6-8PM

Come join your friends and fellow members for an evening of snacks and games.

Bring a game to play if you have one you would like to play. If you do not have a game, the church has SEVERAL games to choose from.

If you can and would like to, please bring a snack to share. Beverages will be provided.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!



WOMEN'S RETREAT in partnership with

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Saturday, April 20th 8:30AM-1PM at LCGS

The women of St. John's, together with women of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, are invited to a special retreat at LCGS on April 20, "Our Story/ God's Story," facilitated by Dr. Diane M Millis.

Each of us has a unique life story that matters.
God's story is given to us through Scripture.
Come and reflect on how your life story connects with the story of Jesus and the Woman at the Well in the Gospel of John. Come for conversation, come to learn, come to grow deeper in your faith.

Registration is \$35 and includes a box lunch. Please see Edith to register.



An educator, author, and spiritual director, Diane M. Millis, Ph.D., loves to accompany people as they explore how God is at work in their stories. To learn more about Dr. Millis and her ministry, visit www.dianemillis.com.

TANGLETOWN GARAGE SALE

Task Force Forming Now!

St. John's will be participating in the Tangletown Garage Sale this year. We need people to form a task force to plan the sale, which will include pricing merchandise and deciding what merchandise to sell. If you would be willing to help, please let Edith know.

We are also looking for people to help work at the sale. The hours for the sale are *Friday, May 3rd*, 9AM-4PM and Saturday, May 4th, 9AM-4PM. If you can work at all during this time, please let Edith know.



COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD

Food Backpack Ministry

Thank YOU for feeding our neighbors! Your support allows us to provide food-filled backpacks monthly for 20 food-insecure Justice Page Middle School families. Much of the food is being ordered online and delivered to church. Monetary donations to the Backpack Ministry are much appreciated.

Join in packing food on these Sundays after worship, during fellowship hour:

April 14, May 12, and June 9.

Deliveries are made one Thursday per month between 8:30-9:00AM:

April 18, May 16, and June 13.



Please contact Tamara and Mark Gebhardt (gebhardtfamily@msn.com or text 612-275-2317) or Elizabeth Roe (willettteroe@yahoo.com or text 612-817-9919) if you have questions.

Community and Neighborhood Ministry Team (CAN)

Holy Conversations will begin a study of the



series called "A Lutheran Welcome" on Thursday evenings, beginning April 18 at 6 p.m. in St. John's Lounge. Topics for the weekly sessions, led by Pastor Mark, include Baptism, Communion,

Jesus, the Bible, Forgiveness, and A Reformation Way.

Come and enjoy the exploration!

Missionary Circle

Missionary Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 10 at noon at St. John's. During April, the Circle will continue to gather donations of socks and towels for the homeless. Donations may be left on the office lobby pew.

Missionary Circle provides support for various local and global efforts, including St. John's Food Backpack Program, Salvation Army Harbor Light Center and Mary's Place shelters for the homeless in Minneapolis, and Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry's sponsorship of students in India.

Have questions about the Missionary Circle and its ministry? You may ask JoAnn Christoferson, Jeanne Tuvey, or Deborah Dunham.



THANK YOU to St. John's Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your recent gift of \$150.50 to the Harbor Light Center. We are heartened by your generosity in contributing funds from your Chili Cook Off event towards lasting change for the hungry, homeless, and hurting in our community. Donations like yours are essential to the Salvation Army's continued work.

As the largest homeless shelter in the region, the Harbor Light Center provides a safe place to rest and meet basic needs for over 250 individuals experiencing homelessness every night. We design our programming to be a steppingstone; staff work tirelessly to connect individuals to housing and support services in the community so that they can journey towards greater stability.

At the Harbor Light Center, we are committed to meeting people at their greatest point of need to offer hope, possibilities, and a fresh start. We thank you for joining us in this work.

With Sincere Gratitude,
Dellenna Harper Steele MSC, LGSW
Executive Director Harbor Light, Mpls

WORSHIP & MUSIC

THANK YOU, ALL!

I want to thank the many people who volunteered their time and talents, "behind stage" and "front stage" to help provide beautiful and meaningful worship experiences as we celebrated Holy Week and the resurrection of our Lord.

Annie Paulson, Diane Harayda, Eric Willette, Peder Flaten, Sharon Koschak, and Pr. Mark spent a Saturday morning polishing brass, washing windows, dusting, and washing down pews.

Ann Paulson, Lori Johnson, Peder Flaten, and Pr. Mark hung streamers, arranged flowers, changed paraments, and straightened the contents of the pew racks.

Beth McAllister, Edith Bohardt, Lori Johnson, Sam Nervig stripped the altar and controlled the lighting on Good Friday (and Jeanne Tuvey provided the lighting signals).

Ann Paulson, Anne and Mark Nervig, Edith Bohardt, Elizabeth Roe, Elsa Burdick and Vicky Ercolani did the readings and/or helped with communion.

Andy Tellijohn, Larry Fraser, and Patrick Coveney ushered.

Ann Paulson, Anne Nervig, Annie Paulson, Bergit Mars, Christian Belz, Edith Bohardt, Eleanor Nervig, Jeanne Tuvey, Jennifer Belz, Jennifer Burdick, Katie Ercolani, Pr. Tiede, Matthew Burdick, Peder Flaten, Ron Hasselmann, Sarah Tellijohn, and Vicky Ercolani provided wonderful vocal and instrumental music.

Thank you so much for your contributions to the life of the church. You are a blessing to this congregation.

Deborah Dunham, Worship Committee Chair, Volunteer Coordinator



APRIL LECTIONARY READINGS

April 7 - Easter 2

Acts 1:1-14 (Mark 6:7-13)

"You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

April 14 - Easter 3

Acts 3:1-10 (Mark 6:53-56)

Healing at the Beautiful Gate; "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you, in the name of Jesus rise and walk."

April 21 - Easter 4

Acts 17:1-9

Founding church at Thessalonica I Thessalonians I:I-I0 (Mark I3:9-II) Paul's message of thanks to the church at Thessalonica.

April 28 - Easter 5

Acts 18:1-4

Founding the church at Corinth.

I Corinthians 1:10-18 (Mark 9:34-35)

Factions in the church and the word of the cross.



Photos shared by Sara Marsh

ADMINISTRATION

St. John's Congregation Council



Highlights of St. John's Congregational Council Meeting March 17, 2024

Pastor's Report:

- Insurance claim with lawyer moving to sue. Meanwhile damaged areas need to be covered.
- Church now has liability insurance for Church, Child Care, Chi Rho. Workers comp policy info passed on to Mark Bullis.
- Pastor pleased with all the visitors in February and Matthew's emphasis on social media and encouraging all to "click."
- Combined Lenten services at Good Shepherd have gone well and proud of presenters.
- New Member Orientation to be held in April or May.
- Interest in adding a Thursday evening session of Holy Conversations of Lutheranism?
- Pastor has been able to visit a number of homebound members.
- Trying to assemble the dads of young children for a Small Group.
- Memorial service for Gene Flaten is April 6th at 11:00 am.

Treasurer's Report: JoAnn gave a combined January-February report. Hopeful Church income will increase. JoAnn awaiting on a comparison report for clarification of situation.

Council supports worship committee's desire to "pass the plate" beginning with Easter. Discussion on new QR code and need for teaching sessions.

Ministry Team Reports: CAN and Worship committees turned in reports. Cross+Gen Ministry asked if we could join the Tangletown Garage Sale on May 3 & 4. All agreed great idea to get rid of unwanted items around Church. Help is needed to tag and price items.

New Business:

- There are two Council openings this year and congregation urged to consider joining Council.
- Diane Harayda has a vision for updating Lounge to be more "welcoming" and a more modern Resource Center. Task force to be formed. Bring up at Congregational Meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Conrad, Secretary



The organ is restored — its music resounded in Holy Week and on Easter Sunday!

Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop Election update

The Bishop Election Committee is diligently preparing for the four upcoming forums with nominees in April scheduled on the following dates:

Sunday, April 7, 2024 | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church,

19001 Jackson Street NE, East Bethel

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Immanuel Lutheran Church,

16515 Luther Way, Eden Prairie

Saturday, April 13, 2024 | 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Bethel Lutheran Church,

4120 17th Avenue South, Minneapolis

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. | Via Zoom

As of March 28, 10 nominees have agreed to continue their discernment as candidates for the office of the bishop. Please note that nominees can withdraw at any point in their discernment process. The individual pastors are:

Dan Poffenberger Babette Chatman

Aaron Fuller Natalia Terfa Stephanie Espinoza Kathryn Tiede Joy McDonald Coltvet Mark Tiede

Megan Torgerson Jen Nagel

Ahead of the first candidate forum, you may visit the webpage at https://mpls-synod.org/2024-bishop-election for introductions to our current candidates discerning a call to the office of bishop.



ZOOM HOUSE FAREWELL

Dear ZOOM House Community-As we wind down operations of ZOOM House, the ZOOM House Board wishes to extend its heartfelt appreciation to our supporters, funders, volunteers over the past 27+ years. We feel proud to be part of a collective legacy of helping individuals and families out of homelessness and into a brighter, more secure future.

Our transition strategy started in July 2022 and set out to do two things:

- 1) ensure current residents were not displaced or disrupted, and
- 2) protect the supply of affordable housing in south Minneapolis. We accomplished both.

In December 2023, we completed the sale of our building to Global Health Link, an organization with the resources and commitment to support affordable housing and supportive services for the long term. We wish them and the residents of 3244 Blaisdell Avenue the very best.

With gratitude, **ZOOM House Board of Directors**



In Our Prayers....

Those in need of healing, comfort, encouragement or sustaining care:

† Jeannie C., Kathy Cashin, Darrell Christoferson, Brian Conrad, Michelle Dehn, Larry Fraser, Marlys Goebel, Debra Jacobs, Nancy Johnson, Marge Korzenowski, Karen O., Sandy Rader, Pastor Bill Russell, Jan Sammelson, Kris Schepers, Susan Tasa, Lana Tiede, Debbie Tuvey, George Tuvey, Nels Tuvey, Bruce Walker, and all whom we hold in our hearts and are known by God.

Those mourning loss:

† The family and friends of Gene Flaten, whose memorial service will be held at St. John's on Saturday, April 6 at 11 a.m. with visitation beginning at 10 and a social time following in Fellowship Hall. Gene often visited St. John's, and he was the father of our organist and minister of music, Peder Flaten.



Those receiving their first Communion:

† The congregation rejoices with Elsa, Nora, Dylan, and Grace, young members of St. John's who received their first Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 28.



ST. JOHN'S WELCOME STATEMENT

St John's is a Reconciling in Christ congregation that celebrates and cares for all people. As followers of Christ, who calls us to reconciliation and wholeness through baptism, the members of St. John's Lutheran Church welcome all who are seeking God. We affirm that this reconciliation extends to people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. We welcome members of the LGBTQ+ community as well as those who may have been excluded because of other human distinctions. We strive to live as a welcoming people in our life together and our outreach to the community. Our doors are open. Come as you are. You belong.



Please let the church office know if you would like to share information with the congregation.

You can reach the church office at 612-827-4406 or communications@stjohnsmpls.org
Email Pastor Mark at pastortiede@stjohnsmpls.org

Callers to St. John's have the option to talk with or leave messages for individual staff by choosing one of the following prompts:

- 1. Church Office/Ann Paulson
- 2. Pastor Mark
- 3. Edith Bohardt, Director of Cross+Generational Ministry
- 4. David Roinas, Bookkeeper
- 5. Joseph Sahai
- 6. Tina Shear and Child Care Center

April Celebrations

Happy Birthday!

- 5 Tom Swanson
- 7 Brenton Larson
- 9 Elsah Berghoefer (Gebhardt)
- 10 Megan Eid
- 12 Nikki Nethercot-Niermann
- 17 Ben Kercheval
- 22 Riley Manor

Happy Anniversary!

- 22 Edith & Fred Bohardt
- 28 Susan & Robyn Koliha

Earth Day April 22

If your birthdate or anniversary has been inadvertently omitted or is incorrect, please forgive us, then call the church office at 612-827-4406.

Thank you!

April 2024

April I-7 Tuesday, April 2 10 am SJ Staff (Lounge) 6:30 pm Lenten Book Study (Lounge/Zoom) 7 pm Metropolitan Men's Choir (FH) Wednesday, April 3 6:30 pm Confirmation @ Bethlehem Thursday, April 4 6 pm Chi Rho Committee (Zoom) Saturday, April 6 9 am Metropolitan Men's Choir (Chapel) II am Memorial Service for Gene Flaten Visitation one hour prior; Fellowship time following Sunday, April 7—Easter 2 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion in person and online; nursery open II am Fellowship (FH) 11:15 am Grace Place learning (top floor) II:15 am Worship Committee (Lounge)

April 8-14 Monday, April 8 5:30 pm Admin Team (Zoom) Tuesday, April 9 5:30 pm Cross+Gen Team (Zoom) 6:30 pm Lenten Book Study (Lounge/Zoom) 7 pm Metropolitan Men's Choir (FH) Wednesday, April 10 12 noon Missionary Circle (Lounge) 6:30 pm Confirmation @ Bethlehem **6:45** pm SJ Choir (FH) Thursday, April 11 5:30 pm ECFE (Child Care) (FH) Saturday, April 13 9 am Metropolitan Men's Choir (FH) Sunday, April 14—Easter 3 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion in person and online; nursery open II am Fellowship & Packing Food Backpacks (FH) 11:15 am Grace Place learning (top floor) II:15 am Lutheranism IOI (Chapel)

April 15-21 Tuesday, April 16 10 am SI Staff (Lounge) **6 pm FPNP Cohort** (St. Luke's, Bloomington) 7 pm Metropolitan Men's Choir (FH) Wednesday, April 17 6:30 pm Confirmation @ Bethlehem **6:45** pm **SJ Choir** (FH) Thursday, April 18—Backpack Delivery 6 pm Holy Conversations (Lounge) Saturday, April 20 8:30 am-I pm Women's Retreat (LCGS) 9 am Metropolitan Men's Choir (FH) Sunday, April 21—Easter 4 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion in person and online; nursery open

11:15 am Grace Place learning (top floor)

II:15 am St. John's Council (Lounge)

II am Fellowship (FH)

April 22-30 Tuesday, April 23 **6:30 pm** Lenten Book Study (Lounge/Zoom) 7 pm Metropolitan Men's Choir (FH) Wednesday, April 24 6:30 pm Confirmation @ Bethlehem **6 pm SJ Bells** (Sanctuary) Thursday, April 25 - 'Messenger' deadline 6 pm Holy Conversations (Lounge) Friday, April 26 6-8 pm Game Meet Up (FH) Sunday, April 28- Easter 5 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion in person and online; nursery open **II am Fellowship** (FH); music by Metropolitan Men's Choir II:15 am Lutheranism 101 (Chapel) Tuesday, April 30 7 pm Metropolitan Men's Choir (Rehearsal, FH)

St. John's Lutheran Church 4842 Nicollet Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55419



THE MESSENGER

Information

Church Office email:

communications@stjohnsmpls.org Website: www.stjohnsmpls.org Facebook: .www.facebook.com/ StJohnsMpls

Parish Staff

PASTOR

Mark Tiede

ORGANIST & MINISTER OF MUSIC

Peder Flaten

DIRECTOR OF CROSS+GENERATIONAL

MINISTRY

Edith Bohardt

ASSISTANT FOR MINISTRY

Ann Paulson

BOOKKEEPER

David Roinas

DIGITAL MEDIA & MARKETING

SPECIALIST

Matthew Tiede

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Diane Harayda

CUSTODIANS

Joseph Sahai (weekdays) Manuela Solorzano (Sundays) Mill City Cleaning (Child Care)

CHILD CARE DIRECTOR

Tina Shear

CHI RHO CENTER MANAGER

David Helm

Church Council

Jennifer Burdick, President
JoAnn Christoferson, Treasurer
Bonnie Conrad, Secretary
Deborah Dunham
Rick Falcon, Vice President
Sharon Koschak
Anne Nervig
Mark Tiede, Pastor

St. John's Lutheran Church
A Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Our Mission:

Fueled by Christ's redeeming love, St. John's is called into a joyful life of welcoming hospitality, grace-filled worship, transformational relationships, and Gospel-driven service in the world.

Our Core Values:

Welcoming

Celebrating and caring for all people. Our doors are open. You belong. Come as you are.

Worshiping

Gathering together to joyfully thank God in prayer and praise for Jesus, who calls us, centers us, and sends us into the world.

Healing

Reflecting God's unconditional grace and love by walking together through the joys and pains of life.

Serving

Gratefully responding to the needs of the world with the abilities God has gifted us.

Our Vision for the Future:

A vibrant community living faith boldly

In-Person Worship Hour—Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Traditional worship that is joyful and welcoming to all.

St. John's worship on Youtube



St. John's podcasts on Spotify



ELCA Presiding Bishop:

Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop:

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (on leave) Bishop Ann Svennungsen