



# Voice of One In Faith Parish



June 2021

St. Paul ..... 8:30 a.m.  
Hope ..... 10:30 a.m.

St. Sebald ..... 8:30 a.m.  
St. John ..... 10:30 a.m.

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## Come Holy Spirit – speak through us!

As I write this article, we’ve just celebrated the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We read that great (but oh so difficult to pronounce) passage from Acts where many people from many nations were gathered together in one place.

*“And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled the entire house...Divided tongues of fire appeared among them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability...and each one heard and*

*understood each other in their own native language.” Acts 2:1-6*

I’ve had the amazing experience several times in my life of worshipping in spaces and places where the language(s) being spoken and sung around me were not my native language of English. I’ve worshipped in Mandarin in Beijing, China; Cantonese in Hong Kong; German in Germany; Arab in Ramallah, Palestine and Spanish in Mexico and amazingly enough, the language I heard and understood was the universal language of God’s love through God’s people, the church!

I remember being on a train in Italy, packed into a compartment with an Italian family. They together were praying the rosary and invited me to join in with them ...in Italian, of course! I don’t speak more than just a few words of Italian but the language I heard was the language of love -

that I was included and loved by them and by God to whom we all prayed together!

The day my mom died, almost exactly a year ago, my sister and I hugged, my mom’s caregiver and I hugged, my dad and I hugged. The language I heard and understood through their presence and their hugs was that of God’s presence and care and their love for me.

Sometimes we worry that we won’t have the right words, or won’t have any words to speak of God’s love but the Holy Spirit is miraculous and works through us to bring understanding even when we don’t use words at all.

In the entryways of each of our four churches, you may have seen two jars; one that says “Invite” and one that says “Invited.” Both of them have marbles in them. Think of people the Holy Spirit is calling you to “Invite” by way of a prayer, a loving message in the mail, through email, a post on Facebook or through a phone call. This invitation might



be to join us in worship in person but it could also be an invitation to pray with you, an invitation to participate in our online worship or reflections, an invitation to witness God’s love through your loving presence in their lives. After you pick a language of love and speak in it, move a marble from the “Invite” jar to the “Invited” jar and we’ll all watch as the Holy Spirit’s “tongues of fire” move in our church and our larger community!

May the Spirit burn bright within you so that all may know God’s love!

Pastor Margaret



Pastor Margaret will hold "office hours" at Treats in Elkader (Bridge Street) from 10-1 pm and Embers in Strawberry Point (at the four corners), 10-12pm on the following

Stop and enjoy a cup of Joe or a treat. And/or Stop for prayer and a chat!

June 16: 10-noon Pastor Margaret at Embers in Strawberry

June 23: 10-1 Pastor Margaret at Treats in Elkader dates



### St. John Special Congregational Meeting May 2, 2021

A special congregational meeting was held for the sole purpose of discussing and voting on the sale of the corner lot located at Liberty Street and Park Avenue. Marcia Rueber called the meeting to order. Doug Nus explained that the lot is no longer being used for parking, we are paying for mowing it, the sidewalk is in poor shape, it is not large enough for a house, and we have an interested buyer.

Marcia asked for questions and further discussion. Cindy Nus moved that we vote on selling the corner lot, Deb Watson seconded, motion carried. Paper ballots were distributed and tallied. There was a unanimous vote in agreement to the sale of the property. Sharon Reed moved that the ballots be destroyed, Judy Meisner seconded, motion carried. Ursula Cordes made the motion that the meeting be adjourned, Joyce Knickerbocker seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deatra ODell, Church Council Secretary

### St. John Council

The regular meeting of St. John Lutheran Church Council was held Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 6:30 pm. Present: Marcia Rueber, Doug Nus, Jeri Watson, Penny Handke, Kelli Knickerbocker, Joyce Knickerbocker, Pastor Margaret, and Deatra O'Dell. Absent: Cassie Gruman.

President Marcia Rueber called the meeting to order. Pastor Margaret led devotions based upon the prayer Jesus prayed the night before he was put to death. The secretary's report was reviewed and approved. Joyce moved the minutes be approved, Penny seconded, motion carried. The treasurer's report was given with an income of \$4 827.00 and expenses being \$5,095.11. Kelli brought our attention to the March water bill that was \$202.62 when it is usually \$76.95. We discussed what may have happened and will keep an eye on that expenditure. There is a bill of \$267 for attendance of the Synod Assembly. Penny moved to approve the treasurer's report, Joyce seconded, motion

carried. Kelli and Joyce completed the audit of the 2020 treasurer's books and all was fine. The QSS account has a balance of \$1,281. 74.

Pastor Margaret gave highlights of her report. Audrey Bazyn, daughter of Emily and Tyler Bazyn, will be baptized June 13. Pastor is having "office hours" alternating between Treats in Elkader (10:00-1:00) and Embers (10:00-noon) in Strawberry Point on Fridays. Debbie Watson will be joining our Visitation Team to help in visiting and serving communion to our homebound and nursing home residents. St. John may have VBS in August. We have three youth (Natalie Hamlett, Hali McIntyre and Jace Gruman) and a chaperone (Charlie Gruman) going on the Youthworks trip in July.

**Parish Education:** We have three participants signed up to go to EWALU this summer. Kelli will pay the \$584.00 remaining balance.

**Worship:** Sunday, May 9, there was a graduation coffee held in the large dining room with not all participants wearing masks. When it came time for church, some attendees commented that they had not worn a mask at the coffee and questioned wearing a mask during the church service. As a result, there were many who did not wear a mask. At our meeting this led to a discussion of if the mask requirement should be relaxed. After much discussion it was decided that we would highly encourage mask usage, but that everyone needs to decide their own comfort level. It could be possible that with less masking there would be a reduction in the amount of singing.

**Building and Grounds:** The air conditioner is installed and all is back to normal. Doug and Larry did a great job. Doug will contact John Compton on the sale of the corner lot and will continue working on completing the transaction. At this time the tree removal is on hold. Our parsonage renters will both be leaving. At this time, we are not actively searching for renters as we do not know if in replacing Pastor Clark we might need to provide housing.

**Social Concerns:** The Senior Recognition Reception was well attended, and there were comments on how good it felt to be able to be together. The food pantry is in need of more canned fruit, pasta, and canned meat. DB Acoustics may be through town this week to check on replacing our church speakers which will give us more space to add large screen TV's for the projection of service hymns, liturgy, and Celebrate prayers and lessons. We would also like them to check on the outside speakers to see if we could get the carillon operational again.

**Parish Board:** It was decided that the positions of secretary and treasurer be separated. Kelli Knickerbocker has said that she would accept the job of Parish treasurer. Also, the board will be adding a person to monthly reconcile the parish account.

**Unfinished business:** On June 13 there will be a dedication of the baptismal bowl, white paraments, and the gold chalice. Invitations will be sent to families whose loved ones

were memorialized or had made a gift to the church. Marcia will see that a notice be placed in the bulletin and newsletter. **New Business:** Jeri explained the church's insurance as it is up for renewal. Joyce moved to accept the insurance proposal, Doug seconded, motion carried. Discussion was held on possibilities of how to fill Pastor Clark's vacancy. We could possibly use intern seminary students. There was also discussion of a possible fall auction and a farewell reception for Pastor Clark the fifth Sunday in August.

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at 6:30 pm. Doug moved the meeting adjourn, Joyce seconded, motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deatra ODeil, Secretary

### Dedication at St. John

St. John's will be holding a special dedication ceremony during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 13th. A baptismal bowl in memory of Bonnie Wescott, gold communion chalice given by Ursula Cordes, and white paraments in memory of Elgene Kamper, Bonnie Wescott and other church family members we have lost in the past year, will be dedicated during this ceremony.

### St. John WELCA

St. John WELCA had a busy month in May. We filled and delivered 20 May Bags to shut-ins and nursing home residents. Thank-you to everyone for the generous donations of items to fill the bags.

On Sunday, May 9th, we honored Kenna Meisgeier, Hailee McIntyre, Duncan Schott and Emmale Schnell; on their graduation from Starmont High School with a coffee hour and the presentation of Prayer Books and quilts. Congratulations to them.

May 13th, Sharon Reed, Judy Meisner, Bonnie Nus, Deb Watson, Karen Hamlett and Pastor Margaret entertained the Maple Crest Manor residents for the monthly Birthday Party. Fun was had by all by playing bingo. Special thanks to Kayleen Schott for the generous variety of prizes. They were a hit!

Now we look forward to hosting the Friday night meal for Arlington Days, July 9th. The EWALU quilt will be quilted soon and our pie sale is being planned.

### Hope Council

The Hope Council met briefly May 23 after worship. Attending were: Pastor Margaret, Richard Thurn, Ron Kuehl, Jamie Burgin, Lori Fannon, Joddy Roys and Joyce Thurn.

The monthly treasurer's report was read and approved. Income for the month was \$3,040. Expenses were \$4,248.

Pastor Margaret had officiated at the wedding of Hanna Hess and Ryan Jaster on May 13.

There was discussion on possibilities to fill the position of Pastor Clark when he retires later this year.

Supplies for the ice cream social have been ordered. A reminder to Hope members that the ice cream social is coming up July 11, and everyone's help is needed.

Volunteers are needed to mow the lawn this month while Owen is on vacation.

Thank you to Joddy and Kenneth Roys for purchasing a new outdoor flag and DVD player.

The council will meet again June 20 following worship.

A reminder that beginning July 4 worship at Hope will be at 8:30.

Joyce Thurn, Secretary

### St. Sebald Council

St. Sebald Council met May 13, 2021. - Present: Wayne Yelden, Nancy Yelden, Pastor Margaret, Kris Morarend, Fuzz Brown, Jerry Harvey, Tracy Kregel, Owen Kregel. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm and Pastor led devotions.

Pastor covered her monthly report; some highlights include: "office hours" at Treats in Elkader from 10-1, and Embers in Strawberry Point from 10-noon) on most Wednesdays (check the calendar for specific days, 6 youth are scheduled to attend the youth servant trip this summer to Duluth, and a reminder that Pastor Clark will be retiring October 2021.

The April meeting minutes were reviewed, Jerry moved to approve, 2nd by Wayne, motion carried. The year-to-date ending balance was \$63.30, with the Navajo sponsorship sitting at \$116.25 out of a goal of \$1000.

Kids' Night will be held June 4th at the Volga City Park. The council is currently waiting on a call back about a few trees to be removed in the cemetery as well as updates to the storage shed beside the cemetery.

June 12th is the Northeast Iowa Synod Assembly for those attending as delegates. The council discussed recent changes to CDC mask recommendations. As of now, masks are still encouraged if you are not able to vaccinate or if you feel more comfortable wearing one. If you are vaccinated, CDC has recommended there is no longer a need, but still distance and wash hands to reduce spread.

The council discussed Pastor Clark's retirement and what our future may look like; either an intern or part-time individual to take on Clark's role. More information to come later. A farewell event was discussed but no details at this time. Tracy moved to adjourn the meeting, Fuzz 2nd, meeting adjourned at 7:43 with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be June 10th, at 7:15pm, at Pastor's house in Elkader.

Submitted by  
Tracy Kregel, Secretary

## Hope WELCA

The Women of Hope met May 6 at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Margaret led the Bible study on "The Journey of Generations." There was much thoughtful discussion.

President Annette called the business meeting to order following the Bible study. Minutes and the treasurer's report were read and approved.

The WELCA will make a donation to the LSI "Spiritual Life Program" to help meet the SWO challenge to raise \$5,000 for the program. A donation was sent to EWALU to help with the 2021 campership appeal.

Twenty personal care kits went to Lutheran World Relief May. 1. Thank you to all who provided the items for the kits, and thank you to Annette and Marvin Dahling for delivering them to Decorah.

A reminder that Hope's drive-through ice cream social will be July 11. Many pies are needed!

The meeting adjourned with the birthday song and Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be June 3 at 9:30 a.m.

**God's Blessings and congratulations** to Pastor Tom and Donna Martin on Tom's retirement from the ministry as of May 16. Pastor Tom served at Hope/Immanuel from 1997-2004.

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**Congratulations to Morgan Fannon** on her recent graduation from UNI.

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**THANK YOU to LuAnn Hunt** and her class for presenting a reading of the "The Berenstein Bears go to Church" during the May 9 service.

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**A Celebration of Life** for Leila Minger and Brian Minger will be held June 26 at the Immanuel Church in Elkport.



## Hope's Homemade Ice Cream Social - July 11



Thank you to St. John WELCA for the May basket with a lot of goodies that I received. Thank you also to Jett for the pretty card he made and thank you to Doug Nus for the delivery.

Art Eckheart

\*\*\*

Thank you for the May Basket.

Robert & June Blue

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Thank you, St. John, for the lovely May Basket I received. It was wonderful and all was very good. Hugs and kisses to Lyla for the nice picture she colored. I have it hanging on my fridg.

Janann Bachtel

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To the Ladies of St. John, What a lovely surprise to receive a "May Basket". I tried one of the yummy cookies right away. Some tasty things I had not tried – all were delicious. Thank you for thinking of me.

Ursula Cordes

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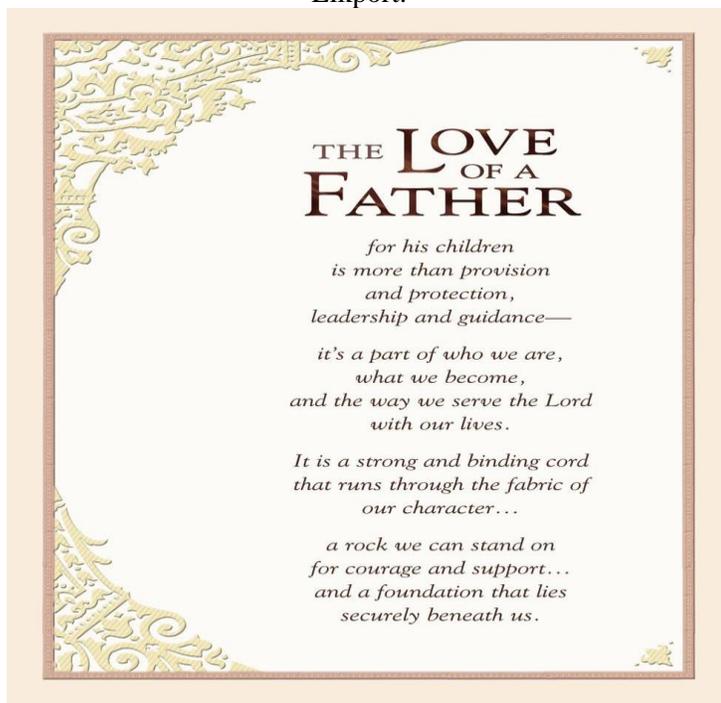
Thank you St. Sebald church members for your donation to my EWALU campership this summer. I am looking forward to houseboating. I am very excited for this experience.

Ian Otdoerfer

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The tree at St. John's is finally down. A huge thanks to Randy Knickerbocker, Larry Fliehler, Gary O'Dell, Gary Handke and Doug Rueber for their clean up help. But we especially want to thank Doug Nus for being so diligent in working to get this scheduled, organizing the help and hauling those branches away from the church parking lot. It looks great!

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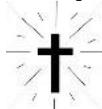
## Serving in June at Hope

Acolytes ..... Ushers  
 Ushers:  
 June 6 & 20..... Owen & Susan Sylvester  
 June 13 & 27..... John, LuAnn & Trevor Hunt  
 Communion Assistant..... John Hunt  
 Altar Comm.:..... Verna Lenth, Jamie Burgin  
 Marlene Gould  
 Church Cleaning..... Owen & Susan Sylvester  
 Special Offering ..... Lutheran Home



## Serving in June at St. Sebald

Acolyte ..... Usher  
 Usher(s):  
 June 6..... Jessica Haynes  
 June 13..... Wayne & Nancy Yelden  
 June 20..... Jerry Harvey  
 June 27..... Leah Preuss  
 Reader(s):  
 June 6..... Jerry Harvey  
 June 13..... Bryan & Jennifer Druecker  
 June 20..... Shiloy Baldwin  
 June 27..... Dave & Kris Morarend  
 Church Cleaning Week of:  
 June 6..... Andy & Jennifer Otdoerfer  
 June 13..... Bill Hunt  
 June 20..... Dave Otdoerfer  
 June 27..... Bryan & Jennifer Druecker



## Serving in June at St. Paul

Acolyte ..... Jordan Everitt  
 Ushers.....

## Serving in June at St. John

Acolyte ..... Eldon Benz  
 Usher ..... Rod & Tia Shaffer  
 Altar Guild.: ..... Doug & Marcia Rueber  
 Flower Chair..... Deatra O'Dell  
 Communion Asst.....  
 Readers:  
 .... June 6 ..... Emmale Schnell  
 .... June 13 ..... Deatra O'Dell  
 .... June 20 ..... Bonnie Nus  
 .... June 27 ..... Penny Handke  
 ....



*God bless our summer work, our  
 Summer travels, our families and our friends.  
 May God's blessings surround us  
 And may we never forget  
 "As you go on your way may God go with you  
 May He go before you to show you the way.  
 May He go behind you to encourage you,  
 beside you to befriend you, above you to  
 watch over, within you to give you peace."*



St. Sebald & St. Paul

- June 1 ..... Dorothy Bushkofsky
- June 4 ..... Barbara Corbin
- June 5 ..... Kate Courtnage
- June 6 ..... Jheni Howard
- June 9 ..... William Haynes
- June 10 ..... Candice Bushkofsky
- June 12 ..... Jerry Everitt, Marilyn Miller
- June 14 ..... Jewell Chappell
- June 16 ..... Matt Klingman
- June 20 ..... Ashley Leichtman
- June 21 ..... Mace Klingman
- June 22 ..... Jeff Everitt
- June 24 ..... Mark Schnurstein, Noah Hunt  
Caroline Klingman
- June 25 ..... Karla Duff
- June 26 ..... Phyllis Glawe
- June 27 ..... Blake Everitt
- June 28 ..... Kristy Baker, Quinn Zwanziger Elsinger

Hope Birthdays

- June 4 ..... Dillon Kuehl
- June 7 ..... Becca Hankins, Sara Purman
- June 9 ..... Lori Nagel
- June 11 ..... Lu Ann Hunt
- June 12 ..... Jamie Hillers

St. John Birthdays

- June 1 ..... Wanda Chappell, Gloria Aylsworth
- June 2 ..... Paul Crawford
- June 3 ..... Sue Burrack, Justin Call, Nevaeh Peterson
- June 7 ..... Joe Frederick, Keegan McTaggart
- June 8 ..... Kevin Pierce, Shannon Bachtell
- June 9 ..... Kelsey Recker, Mary Anne Boehm
- June 11 ..... Dalton Becker, Sherri Seedorff
- June 14 ..... Andrew Northrop
- June 17 ..... Augusta Lenth
- June 19 ..... Hayley Larson, Brandon Seedorff  
Bill Thompson
- June 22 ..... Carter Schnell, Marcus Fridley
- June 26 ..... Lucas Myers, David Burrack
- June 28 ..... Matt Hamlett



St. John Anniversaries

- June 1 ..... Kenneth & Wanda Chappell
- June 4 ..... TJ & Katie Alshouse
- June 13 ..... Ron & Penny Rummel
- June 17 ..... Brad & Julie Andreae

Hope Anniversaries

- June 1 ..... Kenny & Joddy Roys
- June 10 ..... Navada & Tammy Krapfl
- June 13 ..... Devere & Ellen Clinton
- June 16 ..... Bernard & Lynn Jaster
- June 20 ..... Rick & Tracy Thurn
- June 21 ..... Dean & Sandra Refle
- June 21 ..... Clarence & Virgene Groth
- June 21 ..... Dean & Sandra Refle
  
- June 12 ..... Jamie Hillers
- June 13 ..... Jennifer Sylvester
- June 14 ..... Terry Gould
- June 15 ..... Jason Kuehl, Rich Clinton
- June 17 ..... Brandon Koth, Anita Jewell  
Jim Hoth, Aaron Berger
- June 19 ..... Austin Kuehl
- June 20 ..... Bonnie Amsden, Victoria Chettinger
- June 21 ..... Lynn Fettkether
- June 22 ..... Ronald Kuehl
- June 29 ..... Levi Shaw
- June 30 ..... Norbert Butikofer
- June 21 ..... Dean & Sandra Refle
- June 21 ..... Clarence & Virgene Groth
- June 21 ..... Dean & Sandra Refle

St. Paul Anniversaries

- June 9 ..... Pete & Karla Duff
- June 12 ..... Craig & Tracy Follon

*From all of us Pastor Margaret & Pastor Mark  
Happy Anniversary*

- June 27 ..... Pastors Mark & Margaret Yackel-Juleen

Office of One In Faith Parish  
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