



# St. John Lutheran Church

## Caring Connections

### Pastor's Message

#### September 2024

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Beloved of God,

September is a time of renewal in a sense. It a time for re - new things. We again begin some new things. School starts. Vacations come to an end and there are new efforts for the fall. We have four months to renew our efforts to fulfill those resolutions that we made back in January.

Here at church September means making plans to renew our efforts to reach the neighborhood with the message of Jesus.

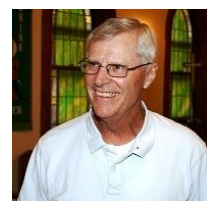
September means that many of our members who have taken a sabbatical from worship can hopefully once again renew their desire to join the rest of God's people on Sunday.

September is a time for beginning to think about Christmas and the beginning of football season.

September is a time to renew and review information about some of the Old Testament important people and their service to God. All that is meant to encourage us to renew our commitments and our lives of service to our God. Elijah, Joshua, Noah, Lo-Ruhamah, and Mahershalalhashbaz are names we may know. But do we remember their actions and their witnesses to our Lord? We will review the lives of some of those people this fall.

I want to encourage you to take advantage of all the renewals and reviews this fall.

See you in worship,  
Pastor Holling



**Annual Fall Festival Update:**

Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 13th** for St. John’s Annual Fall Festival! There will be BBQ with sides, home made desserts, entertainment, games for the kids and an outstanding raffle! Festival will be at the Church Fellowship Hall and Grounds from 4-7pm. Please invite your neighbors and friends.

***Donations of gift cards, hand made or purchased items for the raffle will be greatly appreciated!!***

***Please contact Tami Wells with a description of the item (s). Thank You!***

***\*Note: Fall Festival Clean up day will be Saturday, October 5th from 9am till noon. Free lunch for helpers at the "Cabin". Please come and help if you can.***



**STEWARDSHIP NOTES FOR JULY, 2024:**

Have you ever noticed that when God gives you a new task, a new opportunity, or a new responsibility, He also equips you for that task? I remember receiving a call to a larger congregation in 1984. It was twice the size of the congregation I was serving. I felt intimidated with the challenge, but I felt God was calling me to that place and those people. I accepted that call and over time God equipped me to serve them. The place grew to 1600 members. That’s the kind of God you and I serve. We see it time after time in the Scriptures. God calls His people to a task and then equips them to succeed. Let’s follow His lead as we serve Him!

**Sunday School Update:**

**Sunday School will resume in September.  
Date to be Determined**



***Sunday School will meet in the Fellowship Hall after Worship***

**PRAYER NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER, 2024:**

God recently has taught us about the forces of nature. From a wind of 90 mph that caused downed trees and electric wires to rainfall of 5 – 7 inches that caused high water levels our God has protected us from tragic things happening. We give thanks for His protection and His providence. Thanksgiving is a part of our prayer life. We can thank Him for His care. We can thank Him for His healing and help. We can thank Him for His majesty and glory. We can thank Him for who He is and what He has done for us in Jesus Christ. Thanksgiving is the response of realizing the gifts we have are truly gifts. It is realizing that we don’t deserve what is ours. And it is understanding that we have a responsibility of using those possessions to praise and glory of our God. Please be grateful.

**Voters Meeting:**

***There will be a Voters Meeting on Sunday, September 22nd at 10:15am in the Sanctuary. Sunday School will be at it's normal time in the Fellowship Hall.*** The Nominating Coordinator will present a list of Candidates for office and the voters may submit to the Coordinator the names of possible candidates from the floor. There will also be some reports from the Pastor and the Congregational President. The Treasurers Report will be in November. Please plan to attend!

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**YELLOW RIBBON**

Suicide Prevention

5K Walk/Run

Hosted by the Ponca Hills VFD Chapter; 12919 Ponca Road, Omaha  
September 7th, 2024



Come join us for some family friendly activities after the Walk/Run At the Ponca Hills Volunteer Fire Station. There will be food, games DJ, raffles and a silent auction. All proceeds will be used locally for




Trainings, presentations, supplies and advertisements to promote suicide prevention.

***Walk/Run starts at 10:00am. Pre-Registration can be done on the Facebook page under the event section. You may also sign up the day of the race from 9:00am to 9:45am.***

***-Games and Raffles until 12:30pm***

## September Celebrations

<u>BIRTHDAY</u>		<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>		<u>BAPTISM</u>	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Jan Drvol	13	Tim & Laura Steyskal	22	Ron Boecker	1
Bev Caster	22	Sandy & Steve Orr	24	Melanie Foote	7
Deb Woosley	25			Ana Ketzler	28
Mason Reichert	26			Alex Ketzler	28
Ron Boecker	27				
Lauren Reichert	28				



### Listing of ALL Meetings & Study Groups, Events, etc

September 1st, Sunday-Worship with Communion: 9:00am;  
ABS & Sunday School after Worship



**September 2nd, Labor Day!**

September 7th, Saturday-10:00am; Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Run/Walk @ PVFD



September 8th; Sunday-9:00am; Worship; Adult Bible Study & Sunday School; 10:15am

September 10th, Tuesday-1:00pm; **LWML** meeting

September 10th, Tuesday-5:00pm; **Elders Meeting** @ 9910 Building Conference Room

September 15th, Sunday-Worship w/Communion: 9:00am; Adult Bible Study & Sunday Sch. 10:15

September 17th, Tuesday- **Board Meeting**- 5:00pm; 9910 Building Conference Room

September 22nd, Sunday-Worship: 9:00am; Adult Bible Study and Sunday School @ 10:15am;

**September 22nd, Sunday-Voters Meeting @ 10:15am; In the Sanctuary. There will be Sunday School!**

*\*\*Presentation of Nominations for Officers & Committees for 2025\*\**

*\*Brief reports by the Pastor and the President*

September 29th, Sunday- Worship w/Communion; 9:00am ABS and Sunday School @ 10:15am



Coming in November:  
Blood Drive at Mt. Olive  
Date and Time to be determined



Offerings	
General Offerings	\$5,663.00
Rental Income	\$1,400.00
Other Income	1,167.00
	\$8,230.00

Expenses	
General Operating Expenses	\$11,212.00
July Net Operating Income	<b>\$-2,982.00</b>

**2024 Budget/Monthly Essential Projected:**  
 \$10,00.00 per month  
 \$5,663.00 July Offerings & Tithes  
**\$-4,337.00 Budget Shortage for July '24**  
**\*\*The Church Budget is based solely on Offerings & Tithes.**  
**Doug Murray, Treasurer**

**Designated Offerings for July '24:**

Memorials: \$200.00      Missions: \$1,000.00  
 Building Fund: \$20.00      Project Hope: \$210.00

**Year to Date: 2024**

7 months of 2023 Budget/Essential Projected:      \$70,000.00  
 7 months of 2023 Offerings & Tithes:              \$68,683.00      **YTD: \$ -1,317 Budget Short fall**



**Attendance for July:**

Date	Total
7/7 .....	32
7/14 .....	36
7/21 .....	33
7/28 .....	36



**July 2024 Average = 34**  
**July 2023 Average = 45**  
**July 2022 Average = 37**  
**July 2021 Average = 45**  
**July 2019 Average = 46**  
**July 2018 Average = 48**



**Enjoy Donuts, Coffee and Fellowship After Worship in the Narthex or weather permitting Outside!**

**Adult Bible Study will also be available after Wordship.**

**Project Hope Monthly needs:**

The greatest food needs for **Right Now:**

- Food: non-expired, non-perishable items, especially cereal and canned beans
  - Clothing: in all sizes, from newborn to adult
  - Baby needs: diapers, sizes 4,5 & 6, rash cream, tear free shampoo
  - Personal Care: shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & tooth brushes, soap, conditioner, bar soap, feminine hygiene products
  - Paper Products: dish liquid, toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex
  - Household Items: pots, pans, dishes, books, videos, toys
- FYI: A donation of only \$10.00 will feed a family of six for one week.



## Those who serve for the month of September Page 6

Date	Elder/Acolyte	Usher	Greeter	Reader	Altar Guild
Sept. 1st-Sun 9:00am Communion	Ron Boecker / Lily Swinarski	Randy Woosley Jerry Wilson	Blanche Ferree	Deb Woosley	Terry Wilson
Sept. 8th-Sun 9:00am	/ Edgar Swinarski	Tim Steyskal Oliver Steyskal	Karen Karas	Tim Steyskal	
Sept. 15th-Sun 9:00am Communion	Tim Steyskal / TBD	Harold Hodges Mark Swinarski	Clo Towers	Sarah Murray	Terry Wilson
Sept. 22nd-Sun 9:00am	/ TBD	Doug Murray Julie Allen	Bev Carlson	Dan Lindblad	
Sept. 29th-Sun 9:00am Communion	Randy Woosley / Jaden Foote	Susie Lindblad Deb Woosley	Clo Towers	Jerry Wilson	Terry Wilson

### Nominating and Budget for the 2025 Church Year:

The 2025 Nominating coordinator is Dan Lindblad. The coordinators' task will be to create a slate of candidates for the offices of: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Elders and Trustees. The coordinator will also establish the members and Chairs of the following committees of the Church: Fellowship, Stewardship, Evangelism, LWML, Altar Guild, and Sunday School. (The Beales Scholarship is now administered by the Board of Directors.) The nominations will then be presented to the Voters at the September Voters Meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at that time. Final approval by the membership will be at the November Voters Meeting. Installation will be in January of 2025.


Officers and Committee members of 2024 will receive a letter **via E-Mail** the 1st week of September asking if they want to continue to serve in 2025. The "opt out" option is available. Please let the coordinator know by no later than **September 19th, 2024** if you would like to opt out.

The 2025 Budget will be prepared by the Treasurer. The budget will be presented to the Voters also at the November 24th Voters Meeting for approval.

Please keep this in your prayers and we certainly hope that you will consider to continue serving with this important mission to make sure that St. John's has the tools in place to continue to grow God's Kingdom!

# September 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Worship w/ Communion; 9am ABS; 10:15am	<b>2</b> <b>Labor Day!</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Suicide Prevention Run/Walk; 10am Ponca Hills Fire Barn
<b>8</b> Worship; 9am ABS/SS; 10:15am	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> LWML Mtg. 1:00pm Elders Mtg. 5:00pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Worship w/ Communion; 9am ABS & SS; 10:15am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Board Mtg. 5:00pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Worship; 9am SS; 10:15am VOTERS MEETING NO ABS TODAY	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Worship w/ Communion; 9am ABS & SS; 10:15am	<b>30</b>					





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**Forgiven by Christ**  
**Growing in His Grace**  
**Reaching out with HIS LOVE**

**Coming in October:**

**Annual Fall Festival: Sunday, October 13th**

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**LWML SUNDAY, October 7th**

