

## THE G.O.A.T. THAT TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD

This past month, when I was attending the Minnesota North District Convention, the Bible Study Leader, Dr. Jeffrey Pulse, Professor of Old Testament at Concordia Theological Seminary at Ft. Wayne, said that the Hebrew word which is often translated by the word “lamb” can also be translated by the word “goat.” Then he said, “The goat of God which takes away the sin of the world doesn’t sound as good as the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.”

That got me to thinking. Perhaps you have heard Tom Brady, the quarterback of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, called “The Goat.” In that case, the word “goat” is an acronym for “Greatest Of All Time.”

With that in mind, perhaps it is OK to think of Jesus as “the G.O.A.T. that takes away the sin of the world.” Jesus is the “Greatest Of All Time” in that He never sinned. That cannot be said about any other human being, even Tom Brady. Jesus could be without sin because He is not just true man, He is also true God.

Jesus is the “Greatest Of All Time” because He gave His perfect life to pay the price for all of our imperfect lives. He did that on the cross. He died for all of our sins. Through Him we have the forgiveness of sins. That’s what make Him “the G.O.A.T. that takes away the sin of the world.”

Jesus is the “Greatest Of All Time” because He who died rose from the dead. He made it possible for us to go to heaven after we die.

It is true, referring to Jesus as the “goat of God” doesn’t sound as good as calling Him the “lamb of God.” The thing we have to remember is His greatness cannot be denied.

Jesus is the “Greatest Of All Time” in that He made it possible for us to go to heaven. That’s even better than going to the Super Bowl. The glory of the Super Bowl only lasts for a while; the glory of heaven lasts forever.





A note from

**Janice Hawkins**

Sunday School Superintendent

***I would like to thank so many people for making our 2021-2022 Sunday School year spectacular.***

- *Pastor and the congregation for supporting the program in their prayers, words and actions. We also thank you for helping us financially in purchasing hand bells, shirts, jackets for the teachers, curriculum, new tables for next year and updated supplies for the classrooms. We could not do it without your support in so many ways.*
- *Lisa Flerlage for taking on and directing the Children's Christmas Service.*
- *Thank you to parents for bringing their kids or finding them rides so they can come to church and Sunday School.*
- *Thank you kids for your amazing attendance and working so hard to learn our songs, memory work, Bible stories and the smiles you bring with you each and every day.*
- *Becky and Paul, we want to thank you for working with us to try new things. We appreciate your willingness to record songs for us to practice and accompany us when asked.*
- *Thanks to the choir for taking the time to practice with and sing a hymn with our children. They loved being able to use "the choir loft" and were very excited to sing with you. We look forward to it again next year.*
- *We always get fed so well and we can thank the Schendels, Borseths, Jacob Redepenning and Justin for all of that. You make sure we never go home from a special event hungry. Thanks to those who pitch in all the time to help them set up meals, serve meals and clean up. The list of helpers could go on and on.*
- *I was so blessed with seven amazing Sunday School Teachers this year. Kara and Natalie Crowther, Brea and Luke Hamdorf, Lisa and Tony Flerlage and Nikki Nicko. I appreciated them showing up each week and being prepared and willing to be flexible when needed as well as offer suggestions on what we can do to continue to grow our program and make it a fun and inviting experience for kids.*
- *Then there is a big thank you for Greta. We appreciate all the advertising, communication and photos she shares with everyone.*

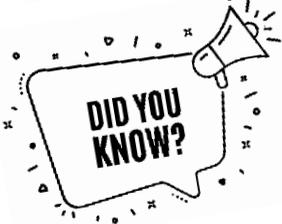
*We are excited to move on to VBS this summer and look forward to another amazing year of Sunday School next year. We are moving from the Armor of God theme to God's Wonder Lab. VBS will be July 11th-15th, 9-11:30am at St. John's and Sunday School will start up again after Labor day!*



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# YOUTH NEWS

Important information for youth and their parents to know



## SUNDAY SCHOOL 2021- 2022 FUN FACTS

This has been a busy and exciting year for our kids. We've tried a lot of new things and have some fun facts to share.



**Did you know...** The children brought in \$310.00 over the course of 32 Sunday School days for offering? They chose to use that money to purchase 300 books and anonymously give them to the Children at Rippleside Elementary.



**Did you know...** The children pray for you? At the end of each Sunday, we take prayer requests during our closing. Some of the most common ones are thanking God for our blessings, keeping animals safe, sunny weather, safe travels for their loved ones and prayers for those they know who are sick.



**Did you know...** We had three children with perfect attendance this year in Sunday School? James Flerlage, Natalie Flerlage and Levi Flerlage.



**Did you know...** Over two-thirds of our kids attended a minimum of 50% of the days we held Sunday School and we had an average of 17 kids each Sunday!

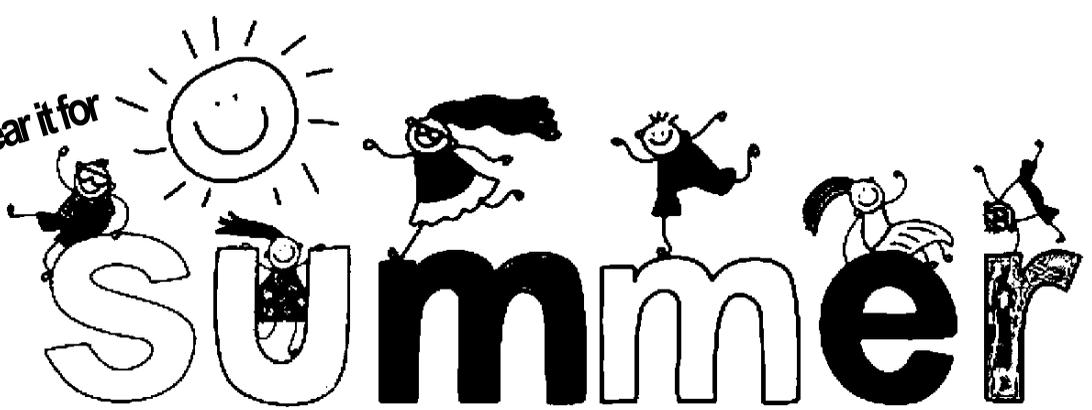


## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

St. John's congratulates our graduating seniors, Connor Rose, Isabella Westerlund, Natalie Henry, and Alexis Phillips. May God continually bless you as you begin your new adventures after graduation. Be strong & courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9



Let's hear it for



**Mark your calendars for some fun summer events.**

## **AITKIN COUNTY FAIR – JULY 6 - 9**

A little wind damage (OK, a lot of damage) won't keep people away from the fair this summer. It is set to open on Wednesday, July 6 to Saturday, July 9.



Details are still being decided, but St. John's will have a booth again and we will need your help to help share our church with the community. We will again offer a kids' craft table with a fun project, as well as lots of pictures, give-aways, and a quilt drawing.

Watch for more information and a sign-up sheet coming soon. We need your help to make this event happen.



## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – JULY 11-15**

We are excited for this year's VBS program, "God's Wonder Lab" based on Psalm 98:1, "He has done marvelous things". Be sure to register your kids at [www.stjohnnaitkin.org](http://www.stjohnnaitkin.org) today. See you there!

## **OUTDOOR SERVICE AND FAMILY FUN DAY ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 21**

Plans are being made to have the outdoor service and family fun day at the Borseth's on Sunday, August 21. Watch future newsletters for more detail.



*Opportunities  
for*



## LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE AT CHURCH?

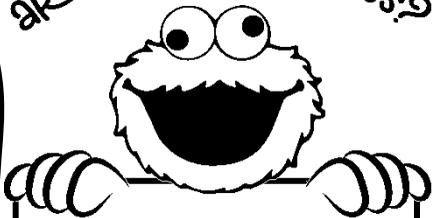
We are looking for volunteers in several areas to serve at church. Prayerfully consider helping us in the following areas:

### FELLOWSHIP SERVERS:

Once again, volunteers are needed to serve coffee after the 9:00 a.m. service this summer. The food should be simple, easy to eat, and can be bought at a store or homemade (no nuts please). If you are able to serve a Sunday, please sign up on the sheet posted in the fellowship hall..



*are you makin' cookies?*



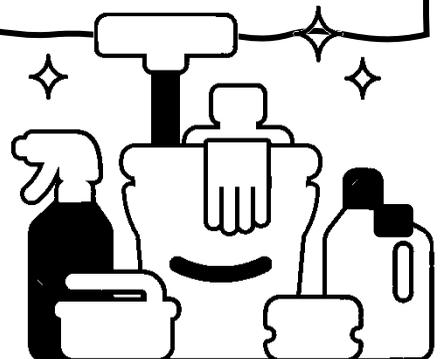
**PLEASE HELP  
15 DOZEN  
COOKIES NEEDED**

## ST. JOHN'S TO PROVIDE COOKIES FOR THE COMMUNITY MEAL

St. John's will be providing dessert for the community meal. Please sign up in the entry if you are able to help make some cookies for this event. **Please bring your three dozen cookies to church on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.** They will be wrapped and delivered to the community meal. Contact Joy Janzen (927-6119) if you have questions. Thank you so much for your help on this.

## THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING "CLEAN TEAM" VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you to all the volunteers who pitched in to help give the church a good Spring Cleaning! We couldn't do it without the help of some very hardworking people. You are AWESOME!



# The St. John's Bulletin Board

## WRAPPING OUR COMMUNITY IN THE WARMTH OF GOD (with quilts)

Our St. John's Quilters had a very busy season making 76 quilts. Many were shared with the community. Recently, some of the ladies delivered the quilts around town.

- First Lutheran Church Food Shelf – 7 quilts
- Rivers Edge Assisted Living/Memory Care – 6 quilts
- Riverwood Healthcare Center Hospice – 7 quilts
- Riverwood Healthcare Center Dialysis – 7 quilts
- Advocates Against Domestic Abuse (AADA) – 10 quilts
- Aicota Health Care Center – 10 quilts
- Golden Horizon Assisted Living – 7 quilts



They kept a few for the upcoming Bazaar and Aitkin County Fair.

Thanks so much to all these ladies who worked so hard to help wrap the community in God's love with quilts.



Additionally, about 60 baby blankets were delivered to Riverwood to be given to the newborn babies.

## GRANDMA'S ATTIC IS BACK!!

As we begin thinking about the St. John's Bazaar & Bake Sale, set for Saturday, October 15, we want to let everyone know that Grandma's Attic will be back! If you have items you would like to donate please start setting them aside. More information will be coming. Thank you in advance for helping make this event successful.



# The St. John's Bulletin Board



## LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP SUMMER CAMP

Lutheran Island Camp, near Henning, MN, is gearing up for summer camps. Camperships are available from the congregation for this summer's program at Lutheran Island Camp. The congregation will pay \$100 or one half of the cost of registration, whichever is greater. For registration materials you can look on line at [www.islandcamp.org](http://www.islandcamp.org). For more contact Debbie Schultz.

*In  
Loving  
Memory*



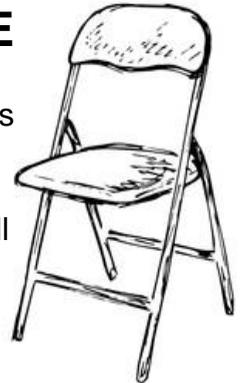
## WITH SYMPATHY & PRAYERS

Kimberlee Gruhlke, age 44, of Aitkin passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at her home. A memorial service for Kimberlee will be on Saturday, June 4 at 1:00pm at Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home in Aitkin. .



## METAL FOLDING CHAIRS FOR SALE

In April, St. John's updated all the chairs in the church to the blue ones. As a result, we have excess metal chairs that we are looking to sell to our congregation. Chairs are \$5 a piece. If the congregation does not purchase these chairs we will put them up for sale to the community. If interested, they are located in the entry for purchase. Thanks.



**ST. JOHN'S WORSHIP AVAILABLE ON-LINE & ON THE RADIO**



St. John's Lutheran Church of Aitkin



St. John's Lutheran Church - Aitkin



Sundays at 8:00am



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Blessings on your special day!*

Amanda Hammerlund	June 01
Finley Larson	June 01
Trevor Torgerson	June 02
Thomas Warriner	June 02
Roland Hill	June 04
Aaron Woodrow	June 04
Craig Kennedy	June 06
Irene Wedel	June 08
Kaija Hasskamp	June 09
Lois Peysar	June 09
Chad Bartel	June 10
Thomas Hawkins	June 10
Devin Larson	June 10
Natalie Crowther	June 12
Jacob Erickson	June 12
Hannah Backstrom	June 13
Cathy Wilke	June 14
Pastor Becker	June 15

Daniel Borseth	June 15
Ruth Ferguson	June 15
Robert Blume	June 16
Janice Hawkins	June 16
Karen Marsh	June 16
Vernon Backstrom	June 17
Shannon Holm	June 17
John Holder	June 19
Cynthia Plekkenpol	June 20
Tammy Banks	June 20
Bruce Schultz	June 21
Greg Larson	June 23
Cory Lamke	June 24
Jerry Ruschmeier	June 24
MaryAnn Holder	June 25
Jim Schendel	June 26
Megan Fuller	June 29
Samantha Cox	June 30

*\*The birthdays listed are from our church records. Any mistakes are unintentional. Please notify the office of any mistakes, deletions, or if you do not want your birthday listed.*

# TOGETHER IN MISSION | NEWS FROM THE NEUENDORFS

*We recently received the following from James and Christel Neuendorf:*

As our outreach activities at the Casa de Amparo continue to grow, we have begun to see those who have become regular visitors start inviting others to join us, especially for our Friday fellowship and devotional activities. This month we had an opportunity to witness a beautiful picture of the fellowship in Christ that we are aiming to build here.

One of our new visitors is a woman who is very reserved, and it seems like although she really appreciates and enjoys the gathering of people, it may be a bit intimidating to be a part of the group. Angela, the young girl with autism whom I baptized after the earthquakes, has taken to a new habit during fellowship activities of walking up to people who are around and holding their hand.

Her mother says this is something completely new for her, and that she must clearly understand the people at the church as a part of her family.

Seeing the new visitor sitting off by herself, Angela walked up to her and grabbed her by the hand to lead her to where the rest of the community was gathered. Several of us saw her do this and were struck by what a beautiful picture it was of how the body of Christ is gathered up to Christ.

The Lord sees us where we are and comes in the hands and the feet of His children, to gather us to the rest of the body, to walk with each other as we walk with Him. This was a beautiful image of an even more beautiful truth, the Lord is at work to gather all His children to Himself.”



*If you would like to give toward the support of our Together in Mission Missionaries please place your offering in an envelope marked “Together in Mission.”*