

## IN OUR PLACE

The day I am writing this newsletter article is the anniversary of the death of my maternal grandmother. Twenty-four years ago her soul went to heaven. The day she died was a good day to die because it was Easter, the day we remember how Jesus conquered death for us. Earlier in the day, she had talked with my mother and they had shared with one another Easter greetings.

She is not the only ancestor of mine who died in the Easter season. My grandmother's father-in-law, her husband's father, my great-grandfather died, not on Easter, but on Easter Monday, the day after Easter. He died young when my grandfather was just a teenager. The circumstances of his death were this: They were building a road past their farm and my great-grandfather and my grandfather were helping with the road construction. As part of the construction they were using dynamite. As it happened the charge was set and the fuse was lit, but it didn't go off. Someone had to go and figure out what had happened. Supposedly, my grandfather was told to go, but his father said that he would go instead. Well, you know what happened. When he went to check, the dynamite went off and he died as a result. I know that it was Easter Monday because that day his brother-in-law and sister-in-law were in church for Easter Monday services. (They did that in those days.)

My great-grandfather was not in church that day, but the day before he had been in church for Easter services and had been reminded that Jesus lives and because he lives we will also live. If he had not gone in place of his son, my grandfather would have died tragically. And, I wouldn't be here.

When it comes to heaven, we wouldn't be able to go there except for the fact that Jesus was willing to take our place on the cross. He died for us so that we can have life in Him. That life is ours because Jesus not only died, but rose again. That life is ours because we have faith in Jesus.

I have the comfort of knowing that the soul of my great-grandfather and my grandmother and many other of my ancestors are in heaven because of the faith Jesus had given them.



# LET'S CELEBRATE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH A PICNIC! ALL ARE INVITED

SUNDAY  
MAY  
22  
11:00 AM



9am - Worship / Sunday School Sings

Teachers/students will be recognized for achievements

Graduating students receive quilts from our St. John's Quilters

Connor Rose on piano – "Strong Enough" (based on Philippians 4:13)

Brass Ensemble performs (features two students)

10am - Sunday School celebrates last day with games

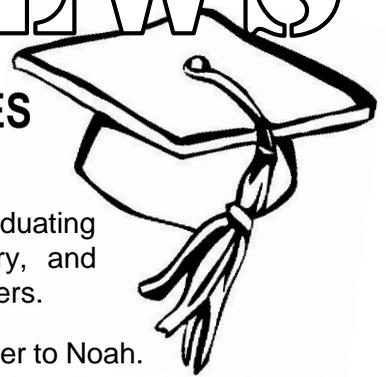
(we are still looking for someone to lead this, contact Janice Hawkins if interested)

11am - All invited to Picnic Lunch. **PLEASE SIGN UP IN ENTRY**



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# YOUTH NEWS



## JOIN US IN RECOGNIZING OUR GRADUATES SUNDAY, MAY 22

On Sunday, May 22 we will be honoring four AHS graduating students: Connor Rose, Isabella Westerlund, Natalie Henry, and Alexis Phillips with beautiful quilts made by the St. John's Quilters.

**CONNOR** is the son of Thomas and Greta Rose and big brother to Noah. While attending school, Connor has been very active in all things band. He enjoys Jazz Band, Concert Band and Pep Band. Outside of school Connor enjoys playing piano for different events (including worship) and playing in the St. John's Brass Ensemble. To get away from it all, Connor really enjoys video games. After graduation, Connor will be attending the University of Minnesota – Crookston with a major in Information Technology Management and a double minor in Cybersecurity and Music.

**ISABELLA** is the daughter of Neil and Stacy Westerlund and little sister to Hunter, Garrett, and Sophia. While attending school, Isabella enjoys playing basketball, softball, and weightlifting. She has also worked as a manager for the football team. After graduation, Bella will be attending Central Lakes College with a major in business.

**DON'T LET ANYONE**

**LOOK DOWN ON YOU BECAUSE**

**YOU ARE YOUNG,**

**BUT BE AN EXAMPLE**

**FOR THE BELIEVERS**

**IN SPEECH | IN CONDUCT | IN LOVE**

**>> IN FAITH AND IN PURITY. <<**

**1 TIMOTHY 4:12**

All are invited to her open house on Sunday, June 5 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm at the Mille Lacs Snowmobile Club (31844 235th Lane, Aitkin)

**NATALIE** is the daughter of Ryan (Beth) Henry and sister to Alex and Hailey.

**ALEXIS** is the daughter of Angela (Nick) Harmon and big sister to Isabelle.



\*All students were asked to share a little bit about themselves. Two responded.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# YOUTH NEWS

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS

On Sunday, April 10, St. John's confirmed two students: Noah Rose and Braden Bartel-Wagner. These students publicly confessed their faith in Jesus as their Savior. May they continue their life journey with God beside them always.

**NOAH** is the son of Thomas and Greta Rose and little brother to Connor. He is thankful that he has God in his life, that he is on a path to strengthen his relationship with God, and for his family who loves and supports him.



**BE  
Strong  
& COURAGEOUS**  
**DO NOT BE AFRAID**  
Do not be discouraged  
**FOR THE LORD  
YOUR GOD**  
will be with you  
WHEREVER YOU GO  
JOSHUA 1:9

Noah is very active in all things music and is part of the AHS Jazz Band (piano) and 8th Grade Band (French Horn). He also enjoyed his early mornings at Math League. Outside of school, Noah enjoys pounding out a new tune on piano or can be found at his computer playing video games. He also plays French horn in the St. John's Brass Ensemble and piano at church.

Noah's favorite church memories are being the voice of "Sparky the Ice Dragon" during VBS, doing craft projects in Sunday School, and being the "Old Star" in the Children's Christmas Service, "New Star".

**BRADEN** is the son of Paige (Glen) Beaufaux and Spencer (Chelsi) Wagner. He is a big brother to Linzy, Annie, and Amelia Beaufaux and big brother to Tyce, Ezra, Caspian, and Lola Wagner.

Braden is thankful to have God in his life and thankful for his family.

He enjoys playing football and running in track at school. Outside of school Braden loves being outdoors on his snowmobile or dirt bike. He also enjoys hunting and fishing.

His favorite memories at church have been playing kickball during VBS and getting pied in the face by his little sister, Annie during a Sunday School Rally Day.

**LET US HOLD  
FAST THE CONFESSION  
OF OUR HOPE  
WITHOUT WAVERING,  
FOR HE WHO PROMISED IS**

*faithful.*

HEBREWS 10:23

# + YOUTH NEWS

Important information for youth and their parents to know

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# VBS

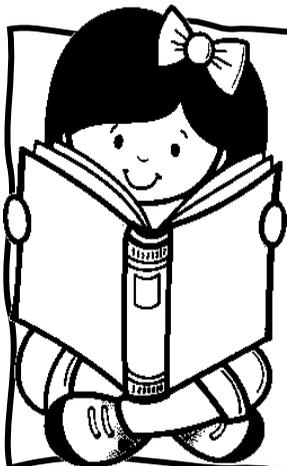
2022

JULY 11 – 15 (9:00am to 11:30am)



**HE HAS DONE MARVELOUS THINGS! (Psalm 98:1)** St. John's is so excited for our upcoming VBS program, "God's Wonder Lab!" Kids will spend five active days singing, crafting, gaming, and learning all about the miracles of Jesus! Be sure to register your kids on-line at [www.stjohnaitkin.org](http://www.stjohnaitkin.org) to be part of the adventure.

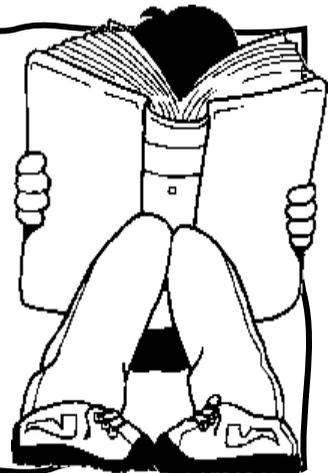
Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers already signed up to help! It's so exciting to see so many people engaged in teaching our young people about Jesus! We still need a little help in a couple areas: **decorating and clean-up**. If you can help in either of these areas, please contact Janice Hawkins.



## 300 BOOKS FOR KIDS

This year's Sunday School mission project was to raise money to buy books for kids in the community. Sunday School offerings went to buy gift cards that Rippleside teachers could use to purchase books. In total, 300 books were able to be purchased for classrooms and to be distributed to kids.

**Great Job!**



# The St. John's Bulletin Board



## CELEBRATING OUR MOMS MAY 8

May God bless all our mothers on this day and always! A mother's relationship with her child is one that will encompass a lifetime. How blessed is a child who has that anchor of strength and support.

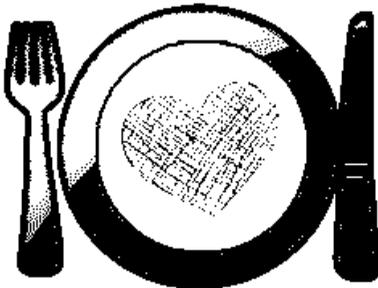
Join us for worship on Mothers' Day. On this day our St. John's Quilters will display the 76 quilts they made this year before sharing them with members of the community. We thank them for all their hard work to share some warmth and comfort with those in need.

Additionally, our ACT group will be serving a special Mothers' Day treat during fellowship.

## ANOTHER CHICKEN DINNER IN THE BOOKS

Thank you to everyone who helped make the St. John's Annual Chicken Dinner a success! Thanks to all who came and bought a dinner, too. We can't do this without everyone being a part of it!

Part of the money raised will go to purchasing a much needed commercial vacuum and smaller rechargeable battery vacuum.



## ST. JOHN'S TO SERVE COMMUNITY MEAL

St. John's will be providing dessert for the community meal on June 6th. If you would like to help with this or for more information contact Joy Janzen (927-6119).

*Thank You!*

# The St. John's Bulletin Board



## LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP SUMMER CAMP

At the present time, Lutheran Island Camp, near Henning, MN, is planning on having 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.

## 100 BIRTHDAY CARDS CHALLENGE

Want to do something special for someone turning 100?

Dolores Whipps, long time active member of Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church in Garrison, MN is turning 100 on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The church is organizing an effort to send Dolores 100 birthday cards as a special surprise.

If you would like to take part in this special day for Dolores, please mail her a card to:

**Mille Lacs Health System/Long Term Care  
200 N. Elm Street / PO Box A  
Onamia, MN 56459**



## FELLOWSHIP SERVERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to serve coffee after the 9:00 a.m. service. 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. Thank you!



St. John's Lutheran Church of Aitkin



St. John's Lutheran Church - Aitkin



Sundays at 8:00 am



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Blessings on your special day!*

Brittany Peterson	May 01
Grace Anderson	May 01
Sampson Perrine	May 02
Kailey Plekkenpol	May 02
Bill Thompson	May 02
Christina Harmon	May 03
Monica Moore	May 04
Mark Splittstoser	May 04
Lola Ann Weimer	May 04
Elizabeth Hill	May 05
Amanda Boettcher	May 05
Ron Ladwig	May 05
Heidi Warriner	May 06
Quinten Crowther	May 07
Robin Van Horn	May 07
Chris Wold	May 07
Carol Shields	May 08
Brandon Wold	May 08
Ashley Gibbons	May 08
Cooper Neutz	May 08
Jeff Larson	May 10
Gene Pagels	May 11
Chloe Othoudt	May 12
Roy Van Horn	May 12

Trevor Borseth	May 15
Stephani Nelson	May 17
Danelle Tibbetts	May 17
Jeff Van Horn	May 17
Werner Panning	May 19
Tracie Becker	May 20
Mallory Weimer	May 20
Greg Landrus	May 21
Mike Quale	May 21
Joseph Bender	May 23
John Bender	May 23
JaNaye Johnson	May 23
Gretchen Buhlmann	May 24
Muriel Kingsley	May 24
Cassa Ruschmeier	May 25
Roger Goff III	May 26
Jim Shirilla	May 28
David Wilke	May 28
Jason Wold	May 28
Peyton Niemeyer	May 29
Evelyn Panning	May 29
Steve Wold	May 29
Rodney Larson	May 31

*\*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:*

There is a stark contrast in the two major events that unfolded in the month of February; some wonderful steps forward in building up congregational fellowship which reached its height in our “Friendship Day” (Latin American Valentine’s day) celebration, and the shocking invasion of Ukraine. A celebration of friendship and love, and the beginning of a major war in the same month.

We have been amazed to see the growth in friendship and fellowship that is beginning to take root in our activities, especially as we transition to daily hospitality. Church members and regular visitors have begun inviting their friends, neighbors, and acquaintances to our activities, and as the pandemic wanes on the island our attendance is ticking up again. We see how the constant sharing of the love of Jesus is bearing fruit and spreading in small and in large ways every day. I have been particularly encouraged to see how those who have been a part of our community of faith for longer are welcoming in the new faces and serving as hosts in the house of our Lord.

Perhaps that is what makes the news of war in Europe so especially poignant, the contrast seems so jarring. It has struck us all as so unprecedented and shocking. War seems so unimaginable and surprising, but the scriptures teach us that just the opposite is true. A church member told me that many people on the street are saying that this really must be the end of the world because now the words of Jesus are being fulfilled about “earthquakes and wars and rumors of wars.” I found that interesting because what Jesus says in this verse is exactly the opposite. Mark’s Gospel (13:7-8) has: **“When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; those things must take place; but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.”**

According to our Lord, these are precisely the ordinary things that *shouldn’t* surprise us or cause us to think that the end is near. This is the usual way of the world. The world pitches and groans as it always has since the fall, this is nothing out of the ordinary. What ought to surprise us then?

Certainly this: **“No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”** (John 15:15-17)

In a world of storms and sicknesses, famines and earthquakes, wars and political strife, the only thing that is really surprising is the Love of Jesus for all people. We made ourselves into enemies of God, but He has come to restore us as His friends. It is this knowledge that causes us to “lift up our heads, for our redemption is drawing near.” Praise God for His ever-surprising and never ending love.

*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.”*