



HE IS RISEN!

There are times in our lives when we feel down and out. Things can happen to us which are painful. For whatever reason, we lose heart, and we lose hope.

It was that kind of time for the women who were going to Jesus' tomb on the first Easter morning. Just a couple of days earlier, they had watched their teacher, friend, and loved one die a horrible death on the cross. Those women were struggling with their loss as they went to the tomb to finish what had only been started on Friday. They were going to that tomb to finish the preparation of Jesus' body for burial.

As those women walked to that tomb, they were probably asking a question we have sometimes asked: "Why did this have to happen?"

Little did those women know that in a short time their question would be answered. When they got to the tomb, it was empty. The stone had been rolled away. A young man was there who was really an angel.

That angel said: **"Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you"** (Mark 16:6-7).

What had happened to Jesus was all a part of God's plan. Jesus was crucified and died. He bore the punishment we deserve. Through Him, we have forgiveness.

We know that to be true, for on the third day, He rose from the dead. That's why we celebrate Easter. **"He has risen!"** It all goes to show that Jesus' payment for our sin was accepted as full payment for our sin.

Through faith in Jesus, we have all the benefits gained through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. We not only have forgiveness. We have the promise of forever life in heaven. In the meantime, we have new life with Christ now.

We can remember that in those times in our lives when we feel down and out. We don't need to lose heart. We have **"a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ form the dead"** (1 Peter 1:3).



JOIN US FOR EASTER SUNDAY... HE IS RISEN!

Easter Sunrise Service with Communion at 7:00 am

Easter Breakfast at 8:00 am

Easter Worship with Communion at 9:00 am

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHICKEN DINNER DINING IN IS BACK!



FRIDAY **APRIL**
26

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

ADULTS: \$15

CHILDREN 6 yrs & under: \$7

NO PRE-ORDER / RESERVATIONS NOT REQUIRED UNLESS NEEDING DELIVERY

AITKIN DELIVERIES START AT 4:30PM

(call ahead at 218-927-3170 for deliveries from 10AM to 4PM on Friday, Apr 26th)

MONEY RAISED GOES TO THE ACT YOUTH GATHERING

Volunteers are needed. Please sign up in entry way to help! Thanks in advance!



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

YOUTH NEWS



CONFIRMATION

Join us on **Sunday, April 21** when Taya Hawkins, Jace Novotny, Evan Redepenning, Owen Redepenning, Sage Sinchack and Adah Williams publicly confess their faith in Jesus as their Savior and get confirmed. Worship service begins at 9:00 am. Questioning night is scheduled for April 17 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Come Join Us
for an
OPEN HOUSE

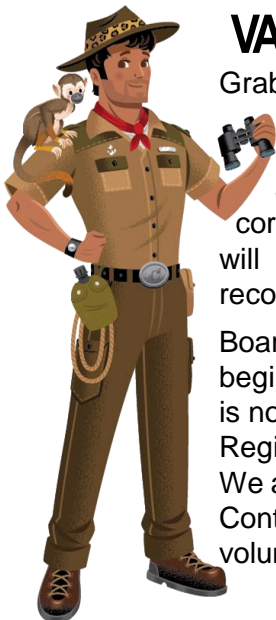
Following worship on Confirmation Sunday the congregation is invited to the open houses of:

Taya Hawkins from 12pm-2pm at 32759 387th Place, Aitkin
Adah Williams from 12pm-2pm at 34318 405th Place, Aitkin

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING JULY 22 - 26

Grab your binoculars and don your life vest! We are off on a cruise through the jungle. At this VBS, kids will set off on an epic adventure from Genesis to Revelation. Kids will sail along a fun jungle cruise, stopping at seven ports of call. These ports are the 7 C's of History: creation, corruption, catastrophe, confusion, Christ, cross and consummation. Kids will discover how these events shape our world, and they will learn to reconnect the Bible to their everyday lives.

Boarding for our Jungle Journey will begin July 22 – 26. On-line registration is now open at www.stjohnaitkin.com. Register early to receive a free T-shirt. We are currently looking for volunteers. Contact Brea Hamdorf for ways you can volunteer (314-608-9778).





ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

YOUTH NEWS



EASTER COLOR CONTEST RESULTS

Thank you to the 25 people who participated in this year's Easter coloring contest! We had a lot of beautiful artwork for the congregation to vote on. Congratulations to our winners who received an Easter basket full of goodies. All artwork is hanging in the back hallway for viewing.

Winners by age categories include: Cooper Nuetz (Pre-School/Kindergarten), Levi Flerlage (1st/2nd Grade), Natalie Flerlage (3rd/4th Grade), Paityn Hawkins (5th/6th Grade), Natalee Samuelson (ACT Teens) and Greta Rose (Adult).



The Outreach Program

Ending Hunger. Enriching Lives.

MEAL PACKING CANCELLED

Due to a conflict at The Outreach Program in Nisswa, we are not able to pack meals together for the Family Service Day scheduled for April 13. We are looking into possible dates to reschedule this event. We will keep you posted. Thank you.

LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE

We are excited to share that our members are using camperships to Lutheran Island Camp. St. John's provides \$100.00 or one half of the cost of camp (whichever is greater) for any of our children that would like to attend a summer program at Lutheran Island Camp. **If you are looking for somewhere to donate money, this is a great way to help our kids know**

Jesus better while meeting other Christians their age. You can go online to the camp website (www.islandcamp.org) to check on the summer camp possibilities. If you have any questions, you can call Debbie Schultz, 927-6250.



ACT NEWS

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
1 TIMOTHY 4:12

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.

St. John's ACT Group continues to meet Wednesday evenings from 5-7pm. In February, our teens held a Super Bowl Sub Sandwich and Snack Sale. Thank you for all your support on that event.

During Lent, we have attended church for devotional time and enjoyed the fellowship and meal together with the congregation. ACT served the first Lenten Supper of Sloppy Joe's.

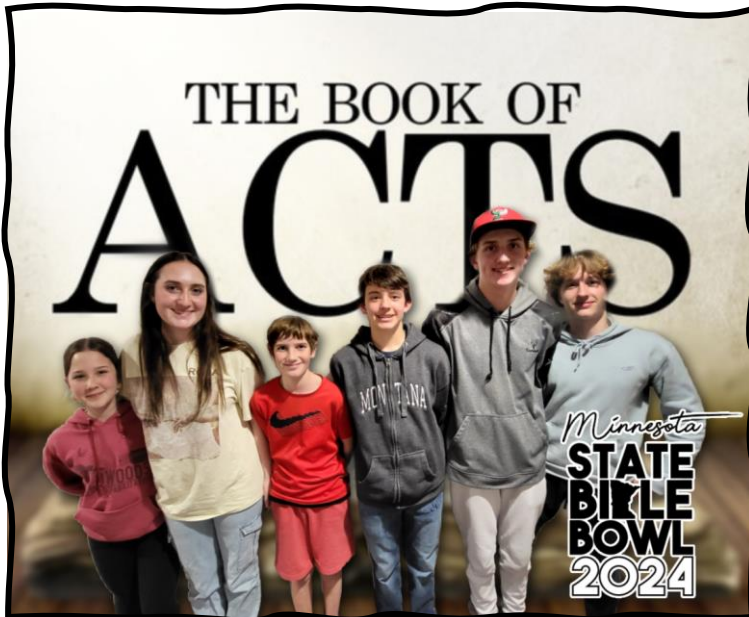
Devotion topics this month have been about not being a stumbling block, reverence, anger inspired by Ephesians, and sadness.

Please keep our ACT members in your prayers. God, watch over our teens at church, school, and home. Point their hearts to Jesus. Protect them and let them know You are with them always.

Tony Flerlage
ACT Leader

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING FUNDRAISING EVENT

Our teens are looking forward to the upcoming National Youth Gathering in New Orleans and brainstorming on ways to raise money. Currently, 15 students have expressed interest in attending and you can help this dream become reality. Consider donating by selecting an envelope from the Giving Wall in Fellowship Hall. Envelopes come in donation amounts from \$1 - \$200. Envelopes will be up until the first week of May. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.



GOOD LUCK AT THE MN BIBLE BOWL

The 2024 MN State Bible Bowl is fast approaching and will be held on April 6 at Concordia University in St. Paul. This year we have six teens attending who have been working hard each week to learn all they can about the Book of Acts. Good luck to Linzy Beaufeaux, Natalie Crowther, Ben Crowther, Jace Novotny, Quinn Crowther and Braden Bartel-Wagner. We wish you the best of luck and will keep this event in our prayers.



CALL COMMITTEE

UPDATE

A quick update on the call process for a new pastor when Pastor Becker retires on July 7. We received 23 Pre-Call Congregation Surveys back from members (not enough to statistically represent our church population, but instead will be used for directional purposes). The surveys have been tabulated, summarized, and sent to the North District Office.

We are waiting to hear back from District President with a list of possible candidates. The Call committee will be meeting with Diana Ruopp, North district Administrator sometime after Easter to talk about expectations, questions, and call documents. Once the candidate list is received, the Call Committee will meet and discuss the next steps.

We are also lining up interim/supply pastors for the summer and beyond, so we have coverage after July 7th. We should know more about this after Easter.

If you have additional questions, please contact Paul Zenke



QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING – APRIL 14

The St. John's Quarterly Voters' Meeting is scheduled for April 14 following our 9:00 am worship service. All new members and confirmed members (age 19 or older) are encouraged to attend and eligible to be voting members.

Come, let your voice be heard, and be a part of the decision-making process of this church. Our church thrives when we come together on big decisions.

The Church Council, followed by Deacons, will meet on Thursday, April 4 at 6:00 pm to finalize the agenda for the Voters meeting.



UPCOMING EVENTS

KEEPING MEMBERS INFORMED + INVOLVED

BEING A HERO DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HARD...

You can save up to 3 lives by donating blood!

Red Cross is coming to St. John's

APRIL 22 & 23 12 PM - 6 PM

Register at www.redcrossblood.org
Walk-ins may be available

GIVE BLOOD

You can make a difference.



American Red Cross



MY GRACE IS
SUFFICIENT FOR
YOU, FOR MY
POWER IS
MADE PERFECT
IN WEAKNESS.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

BRAINERD ZONE LWML RALLY

All the women of St. John's are invited to the Brainerd Zone LWML Rally at Shepherd of the Lake in Garrison on Thursday, April 23. Registration begins at 8:30 am. The event will go from 9am to 1pm. The Bible Study leader will be Pastor Robin Collins. The ingathering will be a nonperishable food item for the Garrison Area Food Shelf.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMITTEE NEEDED



In 2026, St. John's will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary. It is time to start planning for it and we need to form a committee to start doing that. If you would be willing to serve on this committee, you can let Chairman Paul Zenke or Pastor Becker know. Thanks in advance for your work in making this day special.



VOLUNTEER TO SERVE FELLOWSHIP

We are looking for volunteers to serve fellowship following worship. Treats can be homemade, or store bought. Please sign up on board near the kitchen. Thank you!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Blessings on your special day!

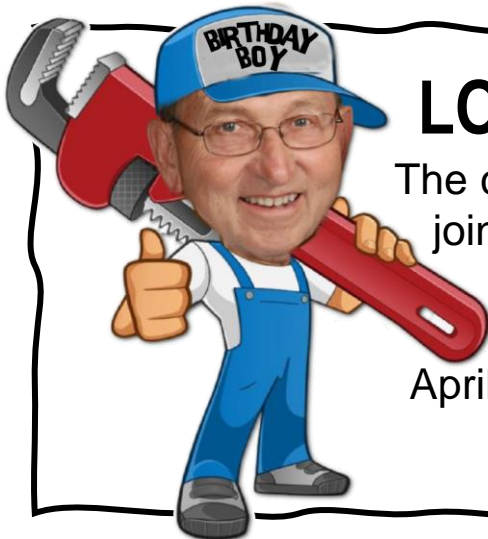
Beverly Bose
Jill Klicker
Lilette Lubben
Penny Connow
Kristi Just
Brent Landrus
Brittny Wold
Zachary Lovsness
William Remmert
Alyssa Christian
Lisa Flerlage
Andrew Elmquist
Nicole Brown
Nicole Nicko
Brendan Lovsness
Kevin Glanz
Collin Wilke

April 03
April 03
April 04
April 05
April 05
April 06
April 06
April 07
April 07
April 09
April 09
April 12
April 13
April 13
April 14
April 17
April 17

Madison Slette
Ben Solien
Amber Sinchak
Kathy Pearson
Chris Olesen
Joy Janzen
Fritsie Lamke
Emily Lubben
Thomas Flerlage
Shirlee Haugly
Dick Buhlmann
Jane Kiphuth
Paula Soderquist
Pastor Bob Volkert
Michael Bauer
Spencer Redmann

April 19
April 19
April 20
April 21
April 22
April 23
April 23
April 23
April 25
April 25
April 27
April 27
April 27
April 27
April 30
April 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.*



LOOK WHO'S 85!

The congregation is invited to join Dick Bulhmann as he celebrates his 85th Birthday on Saturday, April 27 from 1pm to 3pm at Blackrock Terrace.



OPEN HOUSE

TOGETHER IN MISSION | NEWS FROM THE NEUENDORFS



We recently received the following from James and Christel Neuendorf:

One of our hopes for 2024 was to start a university ministry outreach that would be student led.

Missionary Hannah Lehman who has been serving on Fridays at church with the various activities going on had a desire to help start an outreach to university students as she herself is attending university.

We also had the opportunity to meet another young man who has been very interested in the Lutheran church and is also of university age who had been wanting to attend church and learn more about who we are.

And then our friend of the congregation, Idaliz, who is a psychologist and has an office in the Mercy Center has a love for helping and guiding young adults in their lives through the challenges it brings.

So, the ministry started!

We meet on Wednesday nights. We open with a Vespers service and then either have time for games and conversation or a workshop led by Idaliz. We then finish, of course, with a meal.

We ask for your continued prayers as we see this as a ministry that can serve the young adults in our community ultimately giving them the opportunity to hear God's Word and receive His gifts.

We also continue to host workshops at the Mercy Center on topics that may be of interest and of help to the community. Crafts are definitely of high interest with a lot of ladies in the area. Two friends of the congregation - who first came to know us through ESL classes over three years ago and are now in confirmation classes - led a Valentine Day Craft workshop for us.

We always begin with a short devotion and prayer for our time together. The two ladies brought many of their friends. We also had a good group of people who have been coming to other events as well. Our hope is that the more times people come they begin to feel at home and get to know the members and who we are as a church.

If you would like to give toward the support of the Neuendorfs please place your offering in an envelope marked "Together in Mission."

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



St. John's Lutheran Church of Aitkin



St. John's Lutheran Church - Aitkin

