

# St. John Journal

News & info for the family of St. John  
Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill



*A loving and welcoming family of faith,  
excited about what God has done  
(and continues to do!)*

*Volume 16, Number 04*

*April, 2023*



“And he said to him, ‘Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.’” –Luke 23:43

Jesus was on the receiving end of some bad stuff! Earlier on Friday morning, the religious leaders arrested Jesus. They brought him to the Roman governor to put him trial. The crowd, given the choice to set Jesus or Barabbas free, selected Barabbas. Barabbas the insurrectionist was let go. Jesus, on the other hand, received the death sentence from the crowd, “Crucify him! Crucify him! Crucify him!” And now, Jesus hangs on a cross with one thief to right and another to his left. One thief wants Jesus to free them, while the second recognizes their death sentence is just and confesses Jesus is innocent. He asked the dying Nazarene, “*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*”

Does the thief understand who Jesus is? Associating Jesus with the *kingdom* and that Jesus is going to his *kingdom* is confession of recognition. Requesting to *remember me* seeks not to elevate the thief in the eyes of the Messiah. And yet, the thief’s humility and confession of belief in Jesus, sets the dying thief on a course to enter God’s home, eternally.

The word which jumps out at me is “*paradise.*” The Old and New Testament Greek word is “*παράδεισος,*” pronounced *paradeisos*. It is the source word which is the bases for our English word *paradise*. It means to be ‘in the garden.’ In fact the Genesis 2 and 3 uses “*παράδεισος*” for garden, as in Garden of Eden. The image of *paradise* is a beautiful garden setting. What began as *paradise* turned to wickedness and brokenness upon the first couple’s actions of eating from the forbidden tree. On that day, *paradise* was no longer our present-day reality.

But now Luke records that reality changes. Jesus tells the repentance thief that he will enter God’s Garden, *paradise*. But now, through dying on the altar of the cross, Jesus becomes our sacrificial lamb to pay the price for sin. Jesus dies so that we can live. Jesus breathes his last, so that we can have eternal breath. Jesus’ heart stops pumping, so that we can eternally walk with God in His garden.

April is a time Christian’s celebrate our beloved God who dies for our sins. We rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus for through him we too will be resurrected. Like the thief, we confess our faith in Jesus and place our lives into His holy care.

Please join the St, John family for Holy Week. We come together to experience and remember God’s graciousness through His Son, Jesus. We come with humility to worship our God.

Our Holy Week Worship schedule is  
Psalm Sunday, April 2, 9:15 am.  
Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7 pm.  
Good Friday, April 7. 9 am.  
Easter Sunday. April 9, 6:30 am & 9:15 am.

Please come and worship our Savior!

*Soli Deo Gloria - to the Glory of God.*  
Pastor Norm



Will be meeting on Sunday,  
 April 2nd at 4:00pm St John's  
 Activity Center.



*The Church will be hosting a Blood Drive on April 30th from 7:30AM-12:00PM. Sign up sheets are available in the Narthex. Consider donating. There is no substitute for blood, and your donation saves lives. First time donors are welcome.*

*Acolytes & Readers for Special Services in April*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>	<i>Reader</i>
<b>April 6th</b>	Harper Huckert	Katie Seeker
<b>April 7th</b>	Randa Tillman	Sandra Tillman
<b>April 9th 6:30AM</b>	Owen Finke	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
<b>April 9th 9:15AM</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Jennifer Anderson

## *Readings for April*

April		FIRST READING	RESPONSIVE	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
<b>2</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 118:19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:1-27, 66
<b>9</b>	<b>Easter</b>	Exodus 14:10-15:1 (6:30am) Acts 10:34-43(9:15)	Psalm 118:15-29 (6:30am) Psalm 16 (9:15am)	1 Corinthian 15:1-11 (6:30am) Colossians 3:1-4 (9:15am)	John 20:1-18 (6:30am) Matthew 28:1-10 (9:15am)
<b>16</b>	<b>Easter 2</b>	Acts 5:29-42	Psalm 148	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
<b>23</b>	<b>Easter 3</b>	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalm 116:1-14	1 Peter 1:17-25	Luke 24:13-35
<b>30</b>	<b>Easter 4</b>	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10

<i>April</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>	<i>Layreader</i>	<i>Flowers</i>
<b>2</b>	Robert Spinn	Connie Rohde	Steve & Margie Witt in honor of their Wedding Anniversary
<b>9</b>	Owen Finke (6:30 am) Volunteer Needed 9:15am Service	Voluneer Needed 6:30am Service Jennifer Anderson (9:15am)	Easter Lilies by Church Members
<b>16</b>	Logan Boeker	Joseph Ordner	Clay & Westerfeld Families in memory of Burney Riechers
<b>23</b>	Trelyn Antkowiak	Charles Gaskamp	Linda & Laura Pieper in honor of Laura's baptism
<b>30</b>	Kannon Koehler	Sandy Ordner	Chris Koehler Family in honor of Kannon & Knowles baptism

## *Baptismal Anniversaries*

4/01/1934	Verna Bentke	4/15/1979	Cori Kmiec
4/01/1973	Matthew Bentke	4/15/2007	Morgan Westerfeld
4/02/1989	Johanna Wilkerson	4/15/2018	Cooper Koehne
4/04/1982	Chad Dismukes	4/16/1950	James Richter
4/06/1986	Amanda Dismukes	4/16/1972	Brenda Herrmann
4/07/1965	Pam Knebel	4/16/1995	Garrett Altman
4/08/1951	Sandy Janner	4/18/1948	Theresa Kuecker
4/09/1961	Regina Holtkamp	4/18/2004	Reese Ring
4/10/1932	Verna Sefcik	4/19/1954	Jim Kite
4/10/1983	Ryan Schroeder	4/20/1975	Christina Ashorn
4/11/2010	Kannon Koehler	4/20/1980	Chad Rohde
4/12/1942	Rosa Sloan	4/21/1985	Stephanie Koehler
4/13/1997	Reagan Lawhun	4/21/1991	Laura Pieper
4/14/1933	Delores Gaskamp	4/24/1955	Gary Merkel
4/14/1963	Kim Weilbacher	4/24/1988	Johanna Becker
4/14/1974	Cathie Klatter	4/25/1982	Justin Bosse
4/14/2002	Bethany Janner	4/25/2010	Ainsley Kuecker
4/15/1937	Dorothy Wiesepape	4/28/1953	Diana Williams
4/15/1973	Todd Giese	4/29/1990	Annette Neuendorff
4/15/1975	Dodie Mehr		

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

04/02/2005	Darren & Brooke Huckert	04/18/2009	Preston & Olivia Davis
04/09/1976	David & Carol Koehne	04/20/2002	Steven & Margie Witt
04/12/1975	Danney & Connie Rohde	04/21/1963	Morris & Elvera Tisdell
04/13/1969	Al & Audrey Steinbach	04/22/1977	Vernon & Judy Wagner
04/16/2005	Chad & Shae Westerfeld	04/28/1989	Alan & Leslie Schroeder

*You are in our thoughts and prayers as each of you celebrate your special day. May God richly bless you!*

### **REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE**

Linda Crabtree    prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com    Church Office Phone: 979-836-8666  
 Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-4:00pm    Website: www.stjohnprairiehill.org  
 Church Council President Herbert Klatter, Jr. (936) 801-8663

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2023**

The Church Council of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church met for its monthly meeting on March 13, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Council President Herbert Klatter, Jr., called the meeting to order. Pastor Norm Sulaica opened with scripture and prayer. All current members were present, with the exception of Kenneth Seeker and Stephanie Koehler.

Special guest, John Wheeler with Creative Planning, came to discuss our accounts associated with Schwab Investments. Jim Kite and Charles Giese, our church representatives for these accounts, arranged for this presentation.

The February minutes were approved as distributed.

**Unfinished Business**

Tree removal by the playground was completed and the stump ground down but the debris left-over needs to be addressed prior to the Easter celebration.

Photo directory still in progress. Let's get past Easter Sunday.

Work to begin shortly on the Activity Center west wall and gutter system.

Sagging window sash in the sanctuary to be repaired after Spring Break.

**New Business**

Committee was formed to review our current membership rolls according to the constitution: Sharon Neutzler, Jeannie Kroll and Rita Gaskamp.

**For Information**

Lenten and Holy Week Services

Women's Bible Study; 1st Sunday of the month

Luther League; 1st Sunday of the month, April 2, 2 pm here at Prairie Hill

Parish Ed Bake Sale; March 26; Auction April 9 Easter Sunday

SHARE 2nd Wednesday of the month, 2 to 5 pm; April 12

Blood Drive April 30, 2023, sign up sheet on Palm Sunday, youth to assist on April 30

Confirmation will be the 3rd Sunday in May; May 21

VBS July 31 to August 4

Rally Day August 6

**Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer Report**

**Sharon Neutzler**

Report as submitted

**Financial Secretary Report**

**Jeannie Kroll**

For the month of February, the total Weekly Giving Deposits were \$11,211.00, special envelopes to Bread Partners were \$607.00, plus loose offering of \$356.00 and Direct Deposits were \$5,247.52 for a total giving of \$17,421.52. (The sum of \$23,150 monthly is needed to meet the 2023 budget approved at the October semi-annual congregational meeting.)

**Community Concerns Report**

**India Randermann**

Food Pantry served 69 Families (118 people) at two distributions in February.

**Worship and Music Report**

**Virginia Altman**

Discussion to play more current music before and after the worship service, from recorded sources. Confirmands to chose these selections.

**Parish Education Report**

**Stephanie Koehler**

Next bake sale scheduled for Sunday, March 26. Last bake sale was a success, with 13 children participating from all ages, raising \$860 for summer camp (\$61.42/child that helped). All kids are signed up for Summer Camp. The VBS kit is here and ready to start for the planning, Twists and Turns - Following Jesus Changes the GAME. Silent auction on Easter Sunday.

**Youth Report**

**Kenneth Seeker**

No report

**Evangelism Report**

**Josh Clay**

No report

**Property Report**

**Colton Maass**

Bathroom vents in the parsonage will be repaired by Byron Hohlt next week.

**Pastor's Report**

**Pr. Norm Sulaica**

Luther League Ministry will be held Sunday, April 2, 2 pm, here at Prairie Hill  
Summer Camp: Day Camp 6; Alpha Camp (3rd to 6th) 7; Omega Camp (7th and 8th) 7; for a total of 14 to 20 campers. 2 adults will also attend (Pr Norm and Cindy Clay)  
Pre-marital counseling for Laura Pieper and Aaron Burton (October wedding)  
St. Matthew: Memorial service for Gloria and Frank Caro, March 23, 2023  
Wedding for Justin Dana and Amanda, July 15, 2023  
NALC: Lutheran Week, August 7 to 11, 2023, Church Convocation in OKC, will need 1 to 2 lay members to attend to vote.  
Vacation to Ohio for Laura's parents 60th wedding anniversary.

**Motion** to approve all reports as presented. **MSC**

**Motion** to adjourn. **MSC**. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rita Gaskamp  
Council Secretary

<b>2023 ST JOHN COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>	
President.....	Herbert Klatte, Jr.
Vice-President .....	Kenneth Seeker
Treasurer .....	Sharon Neutzler
Secretary.....	Rita Gaskamp
Community Concerns.....	India Randermann
Evangelism.....	Josh Clay
Financial Secretary .....	Jeannie Kroll
Parish Ed .....	Stephanie Koehler
Property .....	Colton Maass
Worship & Music .....	Virginia Altman



*Apr*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p><b>April Special Envelope Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church</b></p>			
<p><b>2 Palm Sunday</b>  <b>8:30AM Sunday School</b>  <b>9:15AM Worship Service</b>            2:00PM Luther League            4:00PM Young Women's Circle</p>	<p><b>3</b>  <b>10:00AM Bible Study</b>  <b>6:00PM Executive Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>4</b>  <b>9:00AM Music Planning Team</b>  <b>6:30PM Rachel Circle</b></p>	<p><b>5</b>  <b>5:00PM Confir Class</b>  <b>7:00PM Choir</b></p>
<p><b>9 Easter</b>  <b>6:30AM Sunrise Service followed by breakfast &amp; silent auction</b>  <b>8:30AM Easter Egg hunt</b>  <b>9:15AM Worship Service</b></p>	<p><b>10</b>  <b>10:00AM Bible Study</b>  <b>6:00PM Council Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>11</b>  <b>6:30AM Food Pantry</b>  <b>9:00AM Music Planning Team</b></p>	<p><b>12</b>  <b>2:00PM Game</b>  <b>5:00PM Confir Class</b></p>
<p><b>16 Easter 2</b>  <b>8:30AM Sunday School</b>  <b>9:15AM Worship Service</b></p>	<p><b>17</b>  <b>10:00AM Bible Study</b></p> <div data-bbox="667 1157 870 1276" style="text-align: center;"> </div>	<p><b>18</b>  <b>9:00AM Quilting</b>  <b>9:00AM Music Planning Team</b></p>	<p><b>19</b>  <b>5:00PM Confir Class</b>  <b>7:00PM Choir</b></p>
<p><b>23 Easter 3</b>  <b>8:30AM Sunday School</b>  <b>9:15AM Worship Service</b></p>	<p><b>24</b>  <b>10:00AM Bible Study</b></p>	<p><b>25</b>  <b>6:30AM Food Pantry</b>  <b>9:00AM Quilting</b>  <b>9:00AM Music Planning Team</b></p>	<p><b>26</b>  <b>5:00PM Confir Class</b>  <b>7:00PM Choir</b></p>
<p><b>30 Easter 4</b>  <b>7:30AM-12:00PM Blood Drive</b>  <b>8:30AM Sunday School</b>  <b>9:15AM Worship Service</b></p>	<p>8</p>		



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WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1
Information	6 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> Office Closed 10:00AM Naomi Circle 7:00PM Maundy Thursday Worship Service	7 <b>Good Friday</b> Office Closed 9:00AM Good Friday Worship Service	8
Day Information	13 Office Closed 2:00PM Ladies Aid	14 Office Closed	15
Information	20 Office Closed	21 Office Closed	22
Information	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29
		9	

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Spring has arrived and the children of St. John will be participating in cooking, art, and science activities that correlate to Holy Week and Easter. With Easter upon us, we are asking for donations for our annual egg hunt. If you would like to donate, there will be a basket in the back of the church. We will be placing flowers on the cross, Easter morning before our egg hunt. Our Easter egg hunt will be at 8:30am this year. During sunrise service breakfast, there will be a silent auction to raise money for the youth to go to camp this summer. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the Sunday School program. If you would like to lead a craft, cooking class, or a science rotation please feel free to contact me at 979/451-5538.

In His Name-

Cindy Clay



*Ladies, come one! Come all!  
To the Ladies' Salad Supper on April 16th at 4:30 p.m. in the St.  
John Fellowship Hall.*

*Bring a favorite salad to share. Appetizers and desserts will be provided. Come for the food, fellowship, and fun!*

*The following are sharing their time  
and talents for the month of April.*

**COMMUNION BREAD** Betty Feldmann

**ALTAR PREPARATION** Jennifer Schroeder, Jill Eckert

**FAMILY AID** Karen Rosenbaum, Cookie Engeling, Carol Haarmeyer, Dorothy Haevischer,  
Sharon Neutzler, Dolores Seeker

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE** Donna Bentke, Elvera Tisdell

**SANCTUARY PREP** Karen Rosenbaum, Donna Skrla

**CHURCH TELLERS** Larry Pieper, Cathy Boeker

**SCREEN CREW** Steve Skrla, Barnay Glaesmann

**USHERS** Judy Grote Family, Austin or Tyler Klatte, Trey Tillman

**LADIES AID** Carolyn Kessel

**NAOMI CIRCLE** Carolyn Kessel, Becki Schawe

**QUILTERS** Bevan Lazrine

A special thank you to those who volunteer and continue to volunteer within the church, behind the scenes. It truly does take a village. Again, many thanks for your commitment.



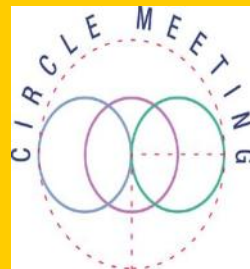
## Luther League

The next Luther League meeting will meet on April 2, 2023 at 2:00PM at the Church with the activity to be decided.. All jr. high and high school students are invited to attend.



## Naomi Circle

**Meets April 6th at 10:00AM.  
Bible Study leader is Carolyn  
Kessel and hostess is Becki  
Schawe.**



Quilters will meet on April 18th  
and April 25th. at 9:00AM.  
Hostess for April is  
Bevan Lazrine.

**St John Lutheran Church Prairie Hill  
Food Pantry Upcoming Dates:  
April 11th and April 25th from  
6:30AM-8:00AM.**



## Game Day

Each 2nd Wednesday of the month, there will be a Game Day at the church from 2:00pm - 5:00pm. The next Game Day is April 12th. Join us for fun, games and fellowship. All ages are welcome.



### Contact Information for Pastor Norm

Pastor Norm can be reached in either of the following ways:

Cell Phone Number (361) 362-9108 Or

Email: [pastornorm2003@yahoo.com](mailto:pastornorm2003@yahoo.com)



*A very Happy Birthday to all members celebrating theirs in April.*

*Upcoming Events:*

*Sunday, April 2nd*

*Youth to Sing at Worship Service*

*2:00PM Luther League at Church*

*4:00PM Young Women's Circle*

*Each Monday*

*10:00AM Bible Study*

*Tuesday, April 4th*

*6:30PM Rachel Circle*

*Thursday, April 6th*

*10:00AM Naomi Circle*

*7:00PM Maundy Thursday Worship Service*

*Friday, April 7th*

*9:00AM Good Friday Worship Service*

*Sunday, April 9th*

*6:30AM Sunrise Service followed by Breakfast*

*Youth Silent Auction Fundraiser during Breakfast*

*8:30AM Easter Egg Hunt*

*9:15AM Easter Worship Service*

*Wednesday, April 12th*

*2:00PM Game Day*

*Thursday, April 13th*

*2:00PM Ladies Aid*

*Sunday, April 16th*

*4:30PM Women's Salad Supper*

*Tuesday, April 18th*

*9:00AM Quilting*

*Tuesday, April 25th*

*9:00AM Quilting*

*Sunday, April 30th*

*7:30AM-12:00PM Blood Drive*

## Choir Practice

Choir practice is held each Wednesday at 7:00PM. The choir is looking for men of the congregation to join and share their voices. Practice is on Wednesdays at 7:00PM. The choir normally sings one Sunday a month. Please join us to share your voice.



Work is progressing to reopen our church library. The library will be located in the meeting room across from the Pastor's office. Please feel free to help us fill out shelves by donating any Christian fiction or non-fiction books. They can be new or used, and can be for adults or children. A box is located for the collection in the narthex of the church. Thank you for any help with this. We will keep you posted on the progress towards when the opening occurs.



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**St John Lutheran Church  
of Prairie Hill**  
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[www.stjohnprairiehill.org](http://www.stjohnprairiehill.org)  
979-836-8666



The deadline for the  
April newsletter is:

*May 22nd*

Submissions received after  
this date will be included if  
time and space allow.

Thank you!



*April*

**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**