

# 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 07*

*July, 2023*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. – Isaiah 43:1*

One of the spiritual truths dismissed by the world is the origin of people. Isaiah offers this preface before recording God's spoken words – God "created" us, and God "formed" us! Pause and reflect on these words. Maybe we should sprinkle upon Isaiah's verse God's words spoken in Jeremiah 1:5 – *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you."*

Scripture is filled with reality that our presence on earth is not accidental. Someone once shared, "11 million accidents had to happen after the Big Bang theory in order for you to be here." Scripture clarifies, you are not an error, a mistake, a blunder. No way! Scripture is God speaking to us. It illuminates the truth: God planned for you to be here now in Washington County. God planned you to part of St. John Lutheran Church and this special family of faith. You are made by God, called by God, and loved by God! You are a child of God!

With this truth, God says we are not to 'fear' for God 'redeems' you! 'Redeem' means to bring someone to safety! Walking the high school track at 5 a.m. was a daily practice for me! A buddy and I would walk and jog around the track each morning to the tune of 4 miles, 16 laps. The sun was not up, but we were. One morning 10 or so deer saw us walking to the track and took off jumping over the fence. One doe miscalculated and found her back hip wedged between two galvanized poles. Leaving this doe would eventually allow for her to slowly die. This solution was unacceptable. So, we helped her. Covering her head with my shirt, we worked at lifting her backside from between the poles until she was free again. One could say that my buddy and I redeemed the doe's life. We brought her to safety.

God notices the snares and traps in our lives. He could leave us to our captivity. Yet, thanks be to God, he is a compassionate God and filled with mercy. Through Jesus, our captives no longer control us. We are set free through the cross. Jesus unlocks the chains of sin by his blood. He dies so we can live anew in this world, and his death coupled with the resurrection of Jesus brings eternal implications for you and me. We are given also eternal life. This eternal life has no expiration date. It is whole and does not sin. This new body will never erode or die.

So, it right to say 'Thanks be to God for His generous love!' Amen.

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

Pastor Norm

**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)

## July 4th Cookout and Celebration

On Sunday, July 2nd, there will be a cookout celebrating the 4th of July. The cookout will be held from 4:00PM-6:00PM. Members are asked to bring a dessert. Join in the celebration!



Dear Campers and Parents,

We are a few days out before we attend church camp (July 9<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>). Please visit Camp Lone Star ([camplonestar.org](http://camplonestar.org)) to check on what each camper should pack and should not pack. Pastor Norm will be at camp with our youth. Please be sure to bring your Bible. We will focus on Bible basics to help us navigate through the Holy Scriptures.

Camp registration for Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> is between 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm, and check out is Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. There is a closing program set to begin at 10:45 am. Parents are invited to this event. The camp address is 2016 Camp Lone Star Rd. La Grange, TX 78945.

Should your youth need a ride to or back from camp, contact the church, so that arrangements can be made.

Campers come with joy in your hearts. It is going to be a fun week.

Pastor Norm Sulaica

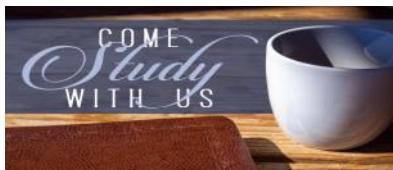
## 2023 St John Council Members

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

## Readings for July

July		FIRST READING	RESPONSIVE	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
<b>2</b>	<b>Pentecost 5</b>	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Psalms 119:153-160	Romans 7:1-13	Matthew 10:34-42
<b>9</b>	<b>Pentecost 6</b>	Zachariah 9:9-12	Psalms 145:1-14	Romans 7:14-25a	Matthew 11:25-30
<b>16</b>	<b>Pentecost 7</b>	Isaiah 55:10-13	Psalms 65:9-13	Romans 8:12-17	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
<b>23</b>	<b>Pentecost 8</b>	Isaiah 44:6-8	Psalms 119:57-64	Romans 8:18-27	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
<b>30</b>	<b>Pentecost 9</b>	Deuteronomy 7:6-9	Psalms 125	Romans 8:28-39	Matthew 13:44-52

July	Acolyte	Layreader	Flowers Given By
<b>2</b>	Logan Boeker	Charles Gaskamp	<i>Herrmann Family in memory of Henry Herrmann</i>
<b>9</b>	Irelyn Antkowiak	Kallie Krause	<i>Needed</i>
<b>16</b>	Kannon Koehler	Katie Seeker	<i>Kevin Finke family in honor of their 26th wedding anniversary and Owens's baptismal anniversary</i>
<b>23</b>	Jax Antkowiak	Sandra Tillman	<i>Colton Maass Family in honor of Chance's birthday</i>
<b>30</b>	Alex Grote	Connie Rohde	<i>David &amp; Glenda Stegent in honor of Evelyn Thielemann's birthday</i>



### **Bible Study Series**

A weekly Bible study is being held each Monday at **10:00AM**. Please join in this learning opportunity and for the fellowship.. The group will not meet on **July 3rd** and **July 10th**.

## *Baptismal Anniversaries*

7/06/2008	Cameron Rosenbaum	7/21/1950	Karen Rosenbaum
7/07/2019	Ellie Anderson	7/21/2019	Thomas Lynch
7/08/1960	Carl Dahmann	7/22/1979	Kyle Rosenbaum
7/10/2016	Londyn Evans	7/22/2012	Presley Myers
7/11/1934	Elsie Herrmann	7/23/1944	Milton Bosse
7/14/1974	Christin Seeker	7/25/1954	Barnay Glaesmann
7/14/2002	Christian Kuecker	7/25/1982	Zachary Wagner
7/14/2013	Alex Grote	7/28/1929	Mary Ann Luce
7/14/1991	Colton Maass	7/28/1963	Johnny Randermann
7/16/1961	Becky Schulze	7/28/2013	Karson Herrmann
7/17/1970	Tina Seeker	7/30/1939	Marvin Wellmann
7/18/1926	Mavis Smith	7/31/2005	Kailea Kuecker
7/20/2008	Owen Finke	7/31/2016	Cullen Grote
7/20/2014	Katie Estes		

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

7/02/1977	Fred & Rosemary Gaskamp	7/19/2003	Jerri & William Mitchell
7/14/1984	Marcus & Brenda Randermann	7/20/1985	Mark & Shanan Marburger
7/18/2009	Chris & Megan Schramme	7/29/1989	Barnay & Connie Glaesmann
7/19/1997	Kevin & Anna Finke		

*May God richly bless you as you  
celebrate your special day!*

### **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](http://www.stjohnprairiehill.org)  
Church Council President Herbert Klatte, Jr. (936) 801-8663

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2023**

The Church Council of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church met for its monthly meeting on June 12, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Council President Herbert Klatte, Jr., called the meeting to order. Pastor Norm Sulaica opened with scripture and prayer. All current members were present. The April and May minutes were approved as read.

**Unfinished Business**

Photo directory: Scheduled for October 5 to 7, 2023. Volunteers are still needed.

Activity Center work has been completed.

Membership rolls review. **Motion** to approve letter to be sent out to members who have not attended or contributed in the last 2 years, **MSC**.

Internet service still under review.

Pastor Norm will review the Spark bibles to see if we can still use them for our young ones.

Offerings coming in for NALC disaster relief health care kits.

**New Business**

Food Pantry needs a way to store and move around can goods between distribution dates. **Motion** to purchase at least one rolling cart, sturdy enough to hold products. Funds from the current Food Pantry budget. **MSC**

**Motion** to allow Washington County to hold their elections in our Parish House on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, and Tuesday, November 5, 2024. **MSC**

Committees to begin working on their budget requests for 2024. To be submitted in July.

**For Information**

VBS July 31 to August 4

Rally Day August 6 (coincide with VBS closing)

Blood Drive July 30 and December 10, 2023

**Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer Report**

**Sharon Neutzler**

Report as submitted

**Financial Secretary Report**

**Jeannie Kroll**

For the month of May, the total Weekly Giving Deposits were \$9,289.00, special envelopes to Food Pantry \$540.00, plus loose offering of \$98.00 and Direct Deposits were \$3,915.01 for a total giving of \$13,842.01. (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 81 families (153 people) at two distributions in May.

Funerals in May: None

NALC Disaster Response Team: Flood buckets in June; school kits in July. Goal will be 50 kits each.

Upcoming Blood Drive July 30. We will send out notes to other churches in our area to see if they are interested in joining us during this drive.

**Worship and Music Report****Virginia Altman**

CD player and special music has been purchased and ready for Sunday morning use.

**Parish Education Report****Stephanie Koehler**

Parent meeting was held June 11. Discussed all funds and future activities. It was suggested to keep bookkeeping to a minimum and keep the LYO checking account for all transactions.

Depositing and writing checks from one account.

Camp update: We qualified for a Pioneer Discount, dropping our camper cost from \$650 to \$596. Most campers have paid their way with fundraising and donations.

Dads and grads celebration this Sunday, June 18. Kaden Seeker from BHS, Taylor Klatte and Connor Himly from A&M.

VBS closing service on August 6 in conjunction with Rally Day, preceded with a pool party on Friday night.

**Youth Report****Kenneth Seeker**

5 in attendance at Horseshoe Junction in June. No July. August they will travel to Big Shots.

**Evangelism Report****Josh Clay**

No report

**Property Report****Colton Maass**

Parsonage bathroom vents have been repaired.

Activity Center roof top will be power washed and then painted to prevent further rusting. Jon Westerfeld to assist.

Parish house kitchen door repaired.

Electric plugs in the rest rooms - waiting on an electrician.

**Pastor's Report****Pr. Norm Sulaica**

Every member visit - sign up sheets in the narthex.

Visiting all shut ins each month.

Men's breakfast this Saturday, June 17 at 8 am. All men of the church are invited.

NALC: Lutheran Week, August 7 to 11, 2023, Church Convocation in OKC, Mary Longhofer and Laura Sulaica with Pastor Norm and Sandy Ordner, to attend and represent.

St. Matthew: Funeral for Frances Scheffer. Wedding for Justin Dana and Amanda, July 15, 2023.

Vacation August 28 to September 10 for Laura's parents 60th wedding anniversary celebration, plus preside over a wedding on September 9.

Prayers for my family members.

**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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
July			
<b>2 Pentecost 5</b> <b>No Sunday School</b> <b>9:15AM Worship Service</b> <b>4:00PM Young Women's Circle</b>	<b>3</b> <b>No Bible Study</b> <b>6:00PM Executive Meeting</b>	<b>4</b> <b>6:30PM Rachel Circle</b>	<b>5</b> <b>6:30PM Church</b>
<b>9 Pentecost 6</b> <b>No Sunday School</b> <b>9:15AM Worship Service</b>	<b>10</b> <b>No Bible Study</b> <b>6:00PM Council Meeting</b> <b>Newsletter Reminder</b>	<b>11</b> <b>6:30AM Food Pantry</b>	<b>12</b> <b>2:00PM General Assembly</b> <b>6:30PM Church</b>
<b>16 Pentecost 7</b> <b>No Sunday School</b> <b>9:15AM Worship Service</b>	<b>17</b> <b>10:00AM Bible Study</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>18</b> <b>9:00AM Quilting</b> <b>9:00AM Music Planning Team</b> <b>10:00AM Memorial Committee Meeting</b>	<b>19</b> <b>6:30PM Church</b>
<b>25 Pentecost 8</b> <b>No Sunday School</b> <b>9:15AM Worship Service</b>	<b>24</b> <b>10:00AM Bible Study</b>	<b>25</b> <b>6:30AM Food Pantry</b> <b>9:00AM Quilting</b> <b>9:00AM Music Planning Team</b>	<b>26</b> <b>6:30PM Church</b>
<b>30 Pentecost 9</b> <b>8:00AM-12:PM Blood Drive</b> <b>No Sunday School</b> <b>9:15AM Worship Service</b>	<b>31</b> <b>10:00AM Bible Study</b>		



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1
oir	6 Office Closed No Naomi Circle	7 Office Closed	8
me Day oir	13 Office Closed 2:00PM Ladies Aid	14 Office Closed	15
oir	20 Office Closed	21 Office Closed	22
oir	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29
	<div> <i>July Special Envelope</i>  <b>Brenham Game Changers</b> </div>		
		9	

# *upcoming events*

July 30th - August 4th- Vacation Bible School  
July 30th - Blood Drive  
August 6th - Rally Day and Vacation Bible School closing  
October 22nd - Octoberfest

## **Prairie Hill Vacation Bible School 2023 July 31- Aug 4**



### **Monday - Thursday**

St. John Prairie Hill Parish Hall

6:00 pm - 7:45 pm

### **Friday**

5:00 - 8:00 pm

Gun and Rod Club

Closing Party

The meal each night will be from 6:00 - 6:20. Rotations and opening will begin at 6:25.

There will be a closing during worship service on Sunday, August 6th, at 9:45

**ALL REGISTRATION INFORMATION MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE  
July 16th. THIS WILL GIVE US TIME TO PREPARE CRAFTS AND MEALS FOR  
ALL REGISTERED CHILDREN. PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM USING THE  
LINK or the QR CODE BELOW.**

**[Register HERE!](#)**



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

**COMMUNION BREAD** Deanna Giese

**ALTAR PREPARATION** Donna Bentke, Deanna Giese

**FAMILY AID** Deanna Giese, Donna Bentke, Patti Clay, Elsie Herrmann, Sandy Ordner, Karen Rosenbaum

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE** Ruth Finke, Diana Williams

**SANCTUARY PREP** Karen Rosenbaum, Donna Skrla

**CHURCH TELLERS** Larry Pieper, Cathy Boeker

**SCREEN CREW** Barnay Glaesmann, Steve Skrla

**USHERS** Jon Westerfeld

**LADIES AID** Audrey Steinbach, Kay Janner, Amanda Hafer

**NAOMI CIRCLE** No Meeting

**QUILTERS** Elsie Herrmann

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.





## Photo Directory Team

A photo directory team is being formed and volunteers are needed. If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Norm or the church secretary know.



Mark your calendars! An Octoberfest Bazaar is being planned for October 22nd. There will be food, games and a bazaar filled with craft items, canned food, and baked goods to sell.

So this is our time to plan on what to bring and share to sell!

All proceeds will go toward the Camp Fund to be used for future camps and retreats for children and adults.

For any questions, please contact Regina Holtkamp, Jeannie Kroll, Mary Longerhofer or Laura Sulaica.



Quilters will meet on July 18th and 25th.

Elsie Herrmann will serve as hostess.



Next meeting,  
August 14th at  
6:00PM

### 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 July 12th. Join us for fun, games and fellowship. All ages are welcome.



### Blood Drive

Mark your calendars for the next blood drive to be held July 30th. Please consider donating the "Gift of Life".



### St John Lutheran Church Prairie Hill

#### Food Pantry Upcoming Dates:

July 11th and July 25th from  
6:30AM-8:00AM.

### St. John Lutheran Church Men's Group

Gentlemen, please join us at 8:00AM the third Saturday of each month for breakfast, devotion, and fellowship. The next breakfast and meeting is July 15th.





## Home Visits

Over the next few months, Pastor Norm will be visiting members of the Church. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex to select a visitation date and time.

## Young Women's Circle

The Young Women's Circle will be meeting, Sunday July 2nd at 4:00PM.



## NALC

### Disaster Response Kit Packing List

The following items are being collected for the month of July to donate to the NALC Disaster Response. We would like to be able to fulfill the need of 50 kits each month. A monetary donation in lieu of the supplies can be made payable to St John Lutheran Church indicating NALC Disaster Response. Items may be left in the Narthex area on right side upon entry.

#### **For the month of July - Elementary**

- 1 backpack or duffle bag
- 4 notebooks
- 4 pocket holders
- 1 blunt scissors
- 1 ruler
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 4 pencils
- 2 pens
- 1 eraser
- 1 box of crayons, colored pencils, or markers



Choir practice is held each Wednesday at 6:30PM. The choir is looking for both men and women of the congregation to join and share their voices. If you would like to join, we sing on the last Sunday of each month. Come share your talent with us!



### Church Library

The new library, located across from the Pastor's office is OPEN. Come by and pick from the many adult and children books that can be checked out. There are also items within the library available for purchase by donation.

### **Naomi Circle**

**The Naomi Circle does not meet in June, July or August. Meetings will resume in September.**



*A very Happy and Blessed Birthday to all members celebrating theirs in July.*

**St John Lutheran Church  
of Prairie Hill**

6605 Old Independence Rd.  
Brenham, TX 77833

[www.stjohnprairiehill.org](http://www.stjohnprairiehill.org)

979-836-8666



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The deadline for the  
August newsletter is:

*July 17th*

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

Thank you!



**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**