

2022 Church Officers

President - Adam Synoground
VP - Jamie Reneberg
Secretary - Brooke McDowell
Treasurer - Kim Rietzke
Financial Secretary - Joann Brooks

Church Boards:

Education -

Connie Synoground
Annie Adams
Alyce Peterson

Elders -

Mike Wangerin
Jeff Levin
Vincent Rietzke

Evangelism -

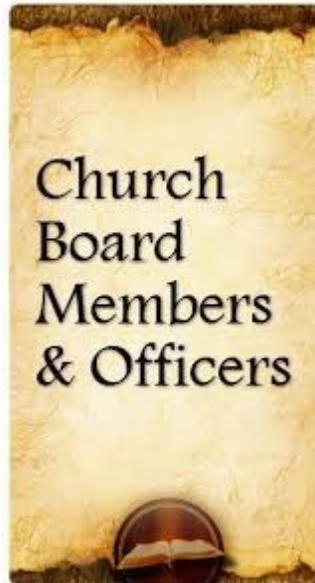
Trina Schrag
Hannah Barnes
Danielle Rietzke

Stewardship -

Rick Baumann
Lauren Webb
Keagan Rietzke

Trustees -

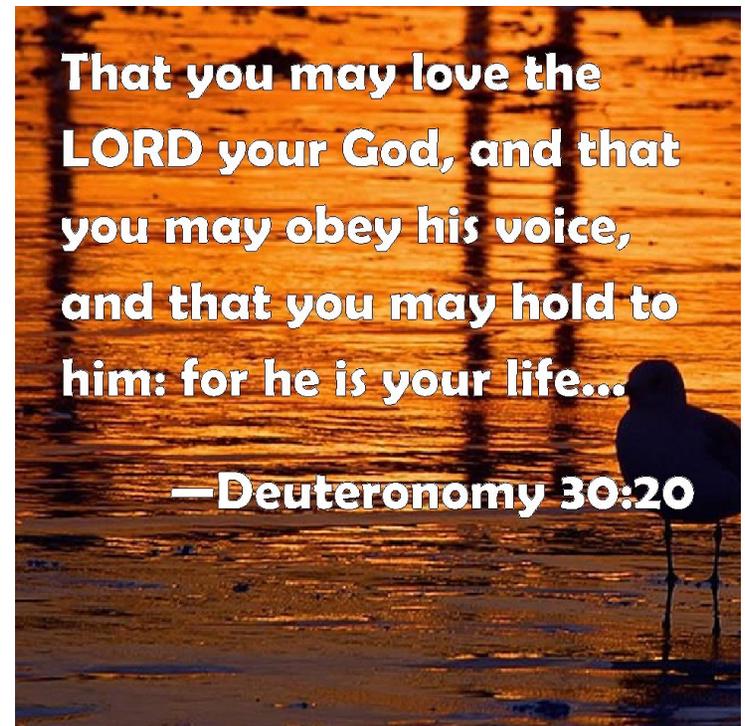
Alan Bates
Seth Peterson
Jerry Webb



**FIRST SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Pastor: Dave Hutson
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Parish Coordinator Email: pc1stjohn@hotmail.com
Church Website: 1stjohnlutheran.com

**SEPTEMBER 2022
NEWSLETTER**



***Council Meeting
September 7th, 7:00 pm***

From Pastor Dave;



Sept. 2022

I love the changing of the seasons and the gradual cooling off of late summer. However, the shortening of daylight hours is always troublesome. The season is certainly one of change with so much of nature heralding its coming. We begin to hear migrating birds, note the fall colors of foliage, and begin to hear whistles and crowds as the “Boys of Fall” gather on football fields. School and school sports are in gear as volleyballs are slammed, books opened, *(or maybe computers)* and our regular schedule resumes. It is a time of change and progress.

Change doesn't come easily to us. But, however the seasons change, the process is always done in the grace, power, and love of God for you and yours.

We do look forward to the opening of the Christian Education programs of our church. As Sunday School Resumes along with Confirmation classes, and Adult study class - we remember and give thanks for faithful teachers, inquisitive students, and the word of the Lord that teaches, guides, and keeps us in all seasons.

So much is ahead of us in this season. Which season is it? Dove, Duck, Deer, Rabbit, Elk, Pheasant, Quail, or maybe just the changing season. We look ahead to Reformation, Thanksgiving, Advent, and soon enough, Christmas. There is a lot going on and it is a joy-filled ride that we take each day with the Lord always near us.

In all seasons, Jesus is Lord! May He bless and keep you and yours always in His grace and peace.

Change; it's not such a bad thing!

I might have to try it

Sometime.

Peace - Pastor Dave



God created us to do good works, but we are not saved through good works. Scripture tells us that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). Just as the morning follows night, our good works follow our salvation by grace. Good works are an important purpose for our lives as Christian stewards. As we ask the Lord to enable us to submit to His will, He will put those good works He has prepared us to do before us. God may not tell us in advance what good works He wants us to do, but we know these works exist and that He has equipped us to do them. We can trust that, when we do good works, they are deeds needed to be done, God will be pleased, and we will find joy.



Finding Joy in Doing Good Works

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the people in Ephesus, he wrote, "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*" (Ephesians 2:10). In order that we might do those good works, God gives us the physical and spiritual tools we need to be the instruments through which He can work. God has handcrafted us for the unique work that He has planned for each of us. We are His masterpieces filled with the Holy Spirit.

With the same power that God used in the beginning to create man from dust and later to resurrect Jesus from the dead (Ephesians 1:19-20), He raises us out of spiritual death and makes us new people—His workmanship, transformed stewards—whose works give evidence that we are new creatures. By the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we are brought into God's kingdom. We are no longer part of or in union with the world. As new people living under the power of the Gospel, we desire to honor God and obediently do the good works He has planned for us to do. Because Christ has redeemed us from all wickedness and purified for "*Himself a people for His own possession,*" we are zealous to do good works (Titus 2:14).

In his book *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey*, William Chancellor Weedon shares an interesting perspective regarding good works,

Long before you see the opportunity for good works or recognize it, it was in God's heart as a gift for you. By that good work, He lets you exercise the resurrection life planted into you at your Baptism. That means that all around you every single day, your different callings, a huge variety of "Easter eggs" await your discovery and enjoyment.

Mr. Weedon compares the joy of doing good works to the joy that a child might experience when he/she finds "Easter eggs" on an Easter egg hunt. The more good works that God has planned for us the greater will be our joy.

Christian Education Resumes!

Sunday, Sept. 11, will be the kickoff for the Christian Education program this fall. Sunday School classes resume for the kids. We will have opportunity for them to sing in church and a children's message. Bibles will be presented to 2nd grade students. And, we will celebrate and give thanks for the challenge and blessing of Christian Education among us.



Confirmation Classes will start that week also. We will begin with the Hamburger/hotdog cookout behind the parsonage at **6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 14**. There will be beans, chips, pop and such stuff. We are combining our kids with 2 or 3 from First Lutheran, Phillipsburg for classes. The plan at this time might be to trade class location each month. One month here, the next in Phillipsburg. We will have to see how it works out.



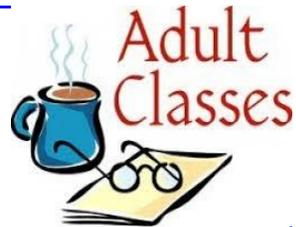
It's not too early; - preparations for the 150th Anniversary of our congregation; Things that can be done;

- A list is made of "fix up" projects; **Adopt one!**
- *You can either do the work yourself; or donate toward it.*
- *We will be setting up a special Anniversary fund; Donate!*
- *Share ideas and plan ahead;*
- *We are looking at two events; one in the Spring, and an Anniversary/Mission remembrance in the Fall.*
- *continue to look around for projects and ideas.*

Contact Information

Pastor - Dave Hutson (785) 476- 2246
Pres. - Adam Synoground (785) 476-5198
Elder - Jeff Levin (785) 476-3257
Elder - Mike Wangerin (785) 476-5720
Elder - Vince Rietzke (785) 476-3158

The Sunday Adult Class continues with the study of the Gospel lesson for the day. This is a good group and we would love to have you join with us.



Adult Classes

Weekday - Morning Bible Study

Finding Hope in a Spiritually Hostile World.

We will be starting a **new morning Bible Study** on **Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m.** We will be working through the letters; **1st and 2nd Peter**. *Peter wrote to encourage Christians of his day to stand firm in faith and to grow even though difficult times and persecutions abounded.*

It's like our hymn; "Lift High the Cross"

Our first session will be **Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.** Just show up, and we will begin.

Constitution Revision

It may seem like such a pain in the neck or an unnecessary struggle to work at Constitution Revision. Our current constitution was written in the 1970's and has served well, but we do not follow it. Any revisions are to be turned in to the District Constitution Review Committee. Their work is to insure that our churches are working within the format and structure of the LCMS. In that regard, they help churches revise or write new constitutions for congregations.

I called and spoke with the chairman of the District committee and asked if there were any newly developed models of constitutions and bylaws for Rural/Smalltown Churches. I was surprised when he said, "No."

2022 Planning Event

Priority Goals:

1. Parking Lot Improvements	20 votes
2. Develop Tech Teams & Responsibilities	18 votes
3. Teens For Christ Financial Support;	16 votes
3. Worship Team; Lay Participation in worship.	16 votes
4. PAC Maintenance/Monitoring Team;	16 votes
4. Special Sundays; Lake Sunday	16 votes
4. Choir/ Music Team	16 votes

Additional suggested projects;

Daycare offered during Sunday School & Events	11
Business Management Position	11
Remodel Bathrooms/ Fixer-uppers projects	10
Promote Leader Transition	9
Schedule Work Days for Clean up	9
Consider Handicap Access & Parsonage East Entrance	6
Children's Message Leaders	3
Establish an Endowment Fund	3
Hearing Assistance Options	1



Looking for Ways to Serve?

- Talk to Pastor Dave about reading during the service
- Help out in the kitchen
- Decorate a bulletin board!
- Clean, sort, and go through the toys in the play rooms
- Donate toys, coloring books, etc. to the church
- Invite others to church!

Have other talents? Please don't be afraid to share! We would love to see God working through you.



FROM THE FIXER-UPPER COMMITTEE

As you are aware, the painting has been done in the conference room, the sanctuary, hallway, narthex and parish hall. Next on our agenda is carpet in the altar area of the sanctuary.

Many projects are ongoing; please have patience because this is a monumental undertaking. The 150th anniversary is in 2024. If there is an area/room that you would like to help with or coordinate a crew, please let one of us know. There are small projects and larger projects. The committee certainly appreciates help from members of our congregation. If you are unable to help physically, your help in coordinating the job, or even monetarily, is so appreciated.

We have also considered a display case for historic items from Zion, Germantown and First Saint John. We are unsure how many items there may be, so if you have anything that you think would be of interest, to show our history, please let us know so that we can move on this project.

Joann Brooks
Kim Rietzke
Suzanne Faulkner

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

The Board of Stewardship will be meeting to prepare the 2023 budget. If your Board or committee would like some changes to your budgeted amounts, please let one of the members know ASAP.

Lauren Webb
Rick Baumann
Keagan Rietzke
Kim Rietzke
Joann Brooks

Do you need to use the PAC?

Staci Foreman

cell: 785-476-5066 or email:

(Constitution revision continued) Most current constitutions are designed with larger churches in mind.

I think that the challenge before us is to write a new template for rural/smalltown ministry with adjustments made for smaller churches. These changes might be in the number of officers and the length of terms that they serve, and in combining the work of boards. . It can be an interesting process and will give rise to a much needed insight into how we do business as a rural-smalltown church.

Constitution adjustment is about as exciting as dental work, but I think it is not only needed, but will help us for the future process of how we work and serve at First Saint John.

Church Council meeting; -to be held **Sept. 7th at 7:00 p.m.**

- Preparations for October voters meeting;
- 2022 church Budget to be developed for Oct. Voters
- Nominating committee to prepare a slate for election.
- Continuing discussion on 150th Anniversary Preparations.

GriefShare; - will continue to meet through September, on Monday evenings, 5:00—7:00 p.m. This is a good group of good friends who help one another through one of life's most difficult times; - the loss of a loved one. You can join any time.

Do you want to put something in the Bulletin or Newsletter? If you do, e-mail Trina, the Parish Coordinator at pc1stjohn@hotmail.com.

September Servants:

Elder: Vince Rietzke
Head Usher:

Altar Guild: Brooke McDowell, Becky Kirchhoff, Susie Hutson



Yea!! It's time for Preschool Again!!

The Preschool has a new look down stairs. The walls have been painted and new flooring installed. Laminate floor is now installed in the snack and art area, while new carpet warms and softens, not only the floor, but also sound in the room.

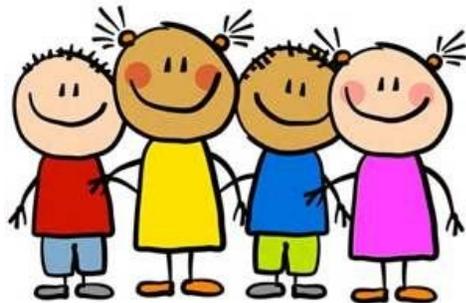
Preschool Open house was held on the last Sunday in August with classes starting on Monday, Aug. 29th. Classes will be held in both morning and afternoon sessions, Monday through Thursday. We still enjoy a consistent enrollment of 27 students.

Much work was also done this summer on the Preschool Play Ground. Levin Construction, (David & Shawn) helped much with providing the equipment for the removal of the pea-gravel and the replacement with shredded rubber playground material. It's cleaned up, nice, and will much better than the gravel.

Connie Synoground will continue as Teacher/Director.

Board members are:

Claire Arment
Kim Rietzke
Deb Levin



Thank you so much to the members who purchased items off my wish list for the preschoolers! The kids are going to love having new items in the classroom! Here's the link to the Amazon Wish List again if you still would like to help out.

Sincerely,

Connie

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1H7CUCXPUPXVL?ref=wl_share

