



# APRIL CHURCHLETTER

Hello Church,

One of my favorite movies to watch this time of year is the Rock opera, *Jesus Christ, Superstar*. One scene pictures Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, asking God if it is really necessary for him to die on the cross. In deep anguish he prays, among other things, "I'd have to know, I'd have to know, my Lord, if I die, what will be my reward?" We don't think or talk much about the reward of the Christian life. I suppose we feel reluctant to ask because we think that, if we are being Christian just for what we get out of it, we are probably doing it for the wrong reason. But the question sometimes occurs to most of us, doesn't it? In Paul's letters to early Christian churches he often mentions or alludes to a reward. So let's let ourselves ask the question just this once. What is the reward that comes to those who live the Christian life?

There is a reward – actually, there is more than one reward. When we think about the Christian's reward, we usually think of something that waits for us beyond this life, something we don't quite know how to describe because it is hidden behind a veil and probably cannot be adequately described in the words and concepts we have developed to describe things in this life. That expectation has been important to Christians down through the ages.

But there is another reward that is regularly given short shrift. The earthly reward is experienced as an internalized satisfaction that we are participants in the process of bringing the kingdom of heaven on earth. For a life well lived and a life focused on Christ Jesus as Savior and Lord, we find ourselves blessed to be safe in the calm of every storm of life. Our souls are a peace even as the world around us exists in chaos.

As we move through the last days of Lent and Holy Week, let us prepare to accept the offer of both rewards – a life eternal in God's heavenly kingdom and a life of joy received day by day as we fulfill God's purpose and will for each of us. This is why Easter is such a special time for us. We come face to faith with what God through Jesus was

willing to do so that you and I and everyone might be able to enjoy the rewards of faith – today and tomorrow.

You and I know the story of how Jesus brought salvation to the world. But, you and I also know there are many in our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces and communities who aren't aware that Jesus claimed victory over death for each and every woman, man and child. Part of our joy in ministry is to invite others into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Easter provides us a wonderful opportunity to reach out our hands and welcome others to join in the celebration of life – today and eternally.

Take time to give someone the gift of your invitation to join you on Easter morning to praise and worship the King of all creation.

*Pastor Jef*

Based on the book *Sermons on the Second Reading: Series I, Cycle A* by James L. Killen, Jr.

The office phone number is (507) 330-0025. You can also reach the churches by email at: [johns@stjohns-umc.com](mailto:johns@stjohns-umc.com) or [stjohns@stjohns-umc.com](mailto:stjohns@stjohns-umc.com). Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

Please send **bulletin (deadline-9am Thurs)** and **newsletter (deadline-20<sup>th</sup> of month)** information to: [stjohnsupowheeling@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsupowheeling@gmail.com) (Lynn Hirschev will be monitoring this email). Phone number 507-330-1831. Notes in the mail are also welcome if you prefer.

**Wednesday Wear at Nerstrand UMC**  
**Hours: Wed. 1-5 pm Sat. 9-noon**  
**Remember that donations are welcome!**

A Big Thank You to Craig Keller for filling in as organist at NUMC until Rolf Enger returns this summer.  
— Duane Bailey

## Mark Your Calendar

Vacation Bible School is back (in-person)! Dates are June 13-17 from 8:30 to 12 noon. More details & registration in May newsletter.

### Sunday school

St. John's Sunday School meets from 9:30-10:20am, at church. Children Pre-K (age 4) through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us - whether once or weekly! Contact Carrie Hess with questions or if you would like to assist as a substitute teacher; [carrie.hess@stjohns.org](mailto:carrie.hess@stjohns.org) or 651-775-5594.

### Loving Thoughts and Prayers Surround:



**New Perspective**  
Joan Schwake  
**Pleasant View Estates**  
Shirley Bauer  
Lois Bauer  
**Faribault Senior Living**  
Mildred Tatge  
**Milestone**  
Marjean Smith  
**At Home**  
Jean Pederson  
Donovan Mueller  
Doris Hildebrandt  
Arlene Shaske  
Arlene Bultman  
Kaye Spike  
Marion Bailey  
Dorothy Lang



### Joys and Concerns



The Hildebrandt family would like to thank our church family for supporting us after the passing of Eric Hildebrandt. Your prayers were felt and your cards, gifts, and sympathy were greatly appreciated. Thank you all so much!  
Doris Hildebrandt and family

#### Save the Date:

May 15 at St. John's- a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday for Arlene Bultman. Details next month

Our Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of Eric Hildebrandt. Eric, a former member of St. John's, age 56, passed away March 10 in Northfield. Funeral services were held March 15 in Red Wing with burial in Red Wing also. Eric was the son of Doris Hildebrandt and brother to Lori Hildebrandt and Jill Becker -all of St. John's.

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Marlene (Boyd) Kispert. Marlene, age 89, passed away March 13 in Minneapolis. Funeral services were held March 16 in Northfield. Burial was at the Evangelical Cemetery, rural

Nerstrand. Marlene was the sister-in-law of Marlene Floren.

### Prayer Chain



Please direct all prayer chain requests to **Becky Tatge (507) 210-1214** or **Mary Kindseth 507-789-6879**. Messages can be left on either of the phones. If you want to make any changes on how you are contacted or add your name to the list, you can be on the email or phone list. Let's keep this available to our community.

#### Prayer chain and worship service link emails:

Becky Tatge has been regularly sending emails with the worship service link and/or prayer chain requests. If you have not been receiving them and would like to, please contact Becky at (507) 210-1214

### St John's Cleanup

St John's Cleanup will be held April 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am. All are welcome, many hands make light work! We will have jobs for both men and women that day. Yard work, raking, washing windows in the parish hall and parsonage and things we haven't found yet.....Please bring the tools of the trade to get the job done. The backup date will be April 16<sup>th</sup> if the weather doesn't cooperate on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Thanks in advance for all your help.---

**St John's will hold a congregational meeting on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> following worship services. We will discuss information on upgrades for the parsonage.**

### St. John's Adult Education

No adult education is scheduled for April. In May, we will take a look at the "resolution" process used by at the Minnesota Conference UCC annual meeting. Please watch next month's newsletter for more information.



### St. John's UCC Cleaning Committee

The St. John's UCC cleaning committee for the month of March/April is: Mark & Mary Kindseth and Jay & Trudy Kindseth

### Nerstrand UMC council

Next meeting -TBA  
Chairman-Duane Bailey  
Secretary -Debbie Kerr

# CHURCH COUNCIL

## St John's UCC council

March 7, 2022

The March meeting of St John's council was called to order at 7:30 pm by moderator Gloria Karl. Pastor Jef shared some thoughts on world conflicts and the need to help those who are suffering the most.

Kim Keller reported for the SPRC. Kim reported that we have affirmed the appointment of a United Methodist minister, Reverend Gary Liker and his wife Brenda and will join us as a full time minister starting June 26<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Gary and Brenda will be moving to the parsonage.

Secretary and Treasures reports were read and approved.

Trustees reported that the cracked window in the Anniversary Room has been replaced. They will meet with Pastor Gary and Brenda to pick flooring for the parsonage. A congregational meeting will be held after church services on April 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss upgrades needed at the parsonage. Spring cleanup dates are April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am with April 16<sup>th</sup> as the backup date in case of bad weather. Now that we are back to in person services every Sunday it was decided to clean church on a monthly basis. If you are able to clean please sign up for the month that you would like to clean!

Newsletter bulk mailing was discussed. Please read article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information and give us your feedback!

The singing group 29:11 will be singing for us on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Practice for the Last Supper Drama will be held April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm.

The Last Supper Drama will be presented on Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm.

The next council meeting will be April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Council meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Keith Keller, Secretary

Elders: Gloria Karl, Todd Lien, Barb Kleve

Deacons: Gordie Wiegrefe, Brian Homier, Keith Keller

Trustees: Matt Schwake, Paul Meyer, Dennis Tatge Cemetery

Board: Brian Bauer, Al Meyer, Kyle Keller

## **Notice: Phone tree**

The St. John's UCC phone tree is being resurrected and reconstructed. Please find copies at the church where you may pick them up.

## To the congregations of Nerstrand UMC & St Johns UCC:

We, the SPRC Committee, after due diligence and thoughtful discernment, have affirmed the appointment of the Reverend Gary Liker to be the next pastor of our churches.

It is the intention of Bishop David Bard to appoint the Reverend Gary Liker as pastor of the Nerstrand United Methodist Church and the St Johns United Church of Christ, and acting on behalf of the congregation, the Staff/Pastor/Parish Relations Committee has affirmed the Bishop's intention. Each church member's supportive prayers and acts of kindness during the transition period will be greatly appreciated by all of the involved persons.

Pastor Gary will begin his appointment here on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Gary and his wife, Brenda, will be residing in the parsonage at St Johns.

We are also grateful for the guidance through this process from Pastor Jef Olson, Rev Cynthia Williams, District Superintendent, and Rev Cindy Mueller, Steward of Search & Call.

With the Greatest of Hope,  
Mark Pearson  
SPRC Chairperson

## Second Saturday Quilters

For the month of April we will not be meeting at St. John's. We will attend the New Ulm Quilt Show in place of the monthly meeting. For more information contact Deb Wille at 507-323-4813 or [33759deb@gmail.com](mailto:33759deb@gmail.com) SSQ is open to people of all churches and their friends.



## Special notices, Save the dates, Surround in Prayer:

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 3** Practice for the Last Supper Drama at 7:00 pm.- SJ

**April 9** St. John's spring cleanup at 9:00 am

**April 10** The Last Supper Drama at 8:00 pm.

**April 12** SJ council -7:30pm

**April 24** St. John's congregational meeting will be held after church services

**May 15** 90<sup>th</sup> birthday-Arlene Bultman-SJ

May 21 NUMC Garage Sale  
 May 29 Singing group 29:11  
 June 13-17 Vacation Bible school-SJ  
 June 26 Reverend Gary Liker begins ministry

**Lenten Service schedule:**

March 28 Men's choir practice 6:30pm-SJ  
 March 30 Community Lenten Service -SJ-7:00pm  
 April 4 Men's choir practice 6:30pm-NUMC  
 April 6 Community Lenten Service -NUMC-7:00pm  
 April 15 Good Friday Combined Worship Service-SJ-7:00pm  
 April 17 Easter Sunday 9:00am NUMC-Easter breakfast  
**before** service  
 10:30 St. John's UCC

**Service Schedule for 2022: Sundays**

(Communion on first Sunday of month)

9:00 AM WORSHIP AT NERSTRAND

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

12 Maple Street, Nerstrand, MN 55053

E-mail: [stjohnsnumc@comcast.net](mailto:stjohnsnumc@comcast.net)

Website: <https://nerstrandnumc.org>

Phone: 507.332.4089



**10:30 AM WORSHIP AT ST JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

19086 Jacobs Ave, Faribault, MN 55021

E-mail: [stjohnsuzc@comcast.net](mailto:stjohnsuzc@comcast.net)

Website: <https://stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info>

Phone: (507) 330-0025

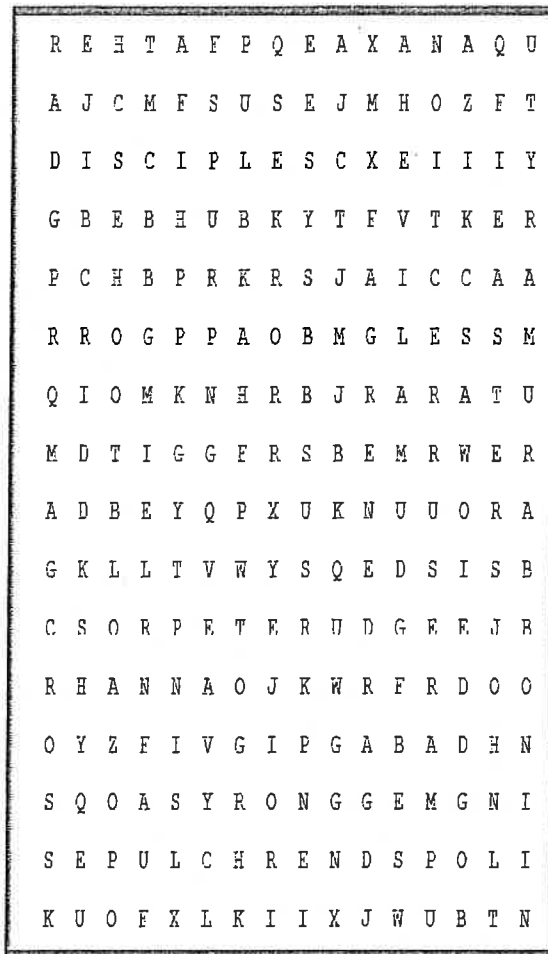



All the People, Ministers  
 Interim Pastor- Jef Olson



# Easter Word Search Puzzle

Circle the words that you find.



- |           |            |   |
|-----------|------------|---|
| Alive     | God        | Resurrection  |
| Angels    | Holy Ghost | Sepulchre   |
| Cross     | Jesus      | Tomb  |
| Dead      | Joanna     |  |
| Disciples | John       |   |
| Easter    | Mary       |   |
| Father    | Peter      |   |
| Gardener  | Rabboni    |   |

Church House Collec

## **!!! NEWSLETTER NEWS !!!**

Our bulk mailing permit requires us to mail 200 pieces at each mailing. Those numbers are becoming impossible to reach so we are going to try something new. We will be changing to e-mailing the newsletter each month. The money's saved on paper, copy machine expenses and permit cost will help cover the limited use of 1<sup>st</sup> class mailing costs.

Those who do not have e-mail can pick up a copy printed at church. If you are unable to do that you may request a copy be mailed to you by 1<sup>st</sup> class mail.

We will also print a few extra copies of the calendar if you like to put it on your fridge, for each church.

**We have some e-mails that are in use now for prayer chain but if your information is not in the church office please get it to us!**

Please e-mail to church office at [st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com)

Or call and leave a voicemail at 507-330-1831

Or mail to church office at St Joh's UCC/ Nerstrand United Methodist,  
19086 Jacobs Ave., Faribault MN 55021

Add my e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

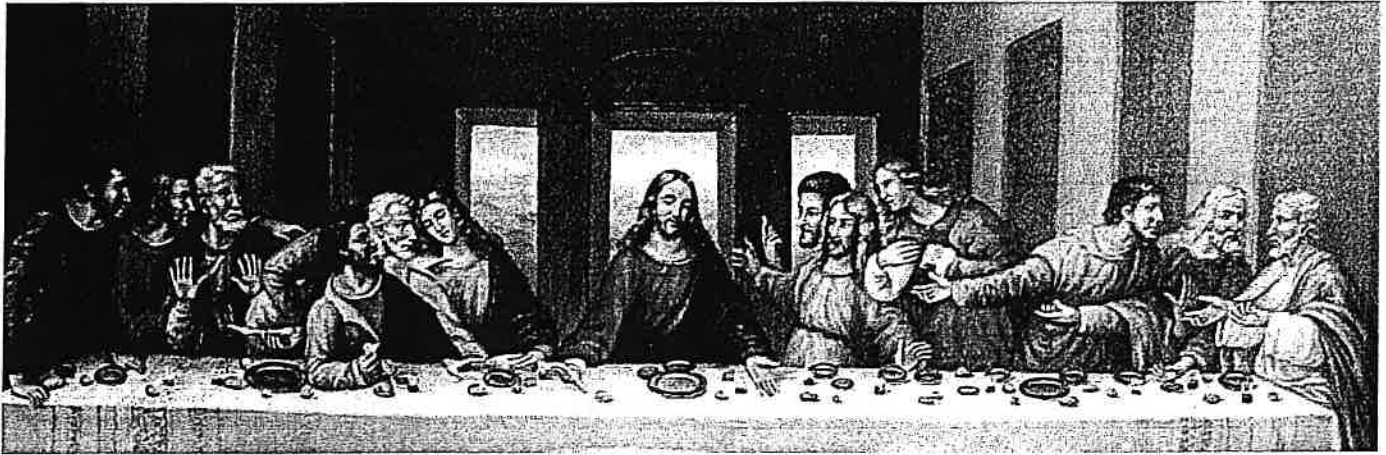
I have no e-mail please print a hard copy that I will pick up at my church

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I need my newsletter mailed 1<sup>st</sup> class:

Name & address \_\_\_\_\_

Our first e-mail newsletter will be sent July 1<sup>st</sup>.



## St. John's United Church of Christ

Presents Drama of the da Vinci Painting of the Lord's Supper

19086 Jacobs Ave., Faribault, Minnesota

Wheeling Township

Sunday, April 10, 2022

8:00 pm in-person

This year's presentation of the Last Supper Drama at St. John's UCC is in person on Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022. The production features a monologue of each disciple and their relationship with Christ. In addition to the in-person production, we are pleased to provide a live stream at St. John's UCC Faribault, MN Facebook page.

"A great beginning to Holy Week" is among the many reflections of this long-standing tradition.

Please find us on-line at [www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info](http://www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info) or on Facebook.

### The 2022 Cast

Andrew	Alan Meyer
Peter	Jay Kindseth
James	Craig Mueller
Philip	Matthew Schwake
Bartholomew	Todd Lein
Thomas	Thad Monroe
Matthew	Keith Keller
James the Less	Doug Spike
Judas	Gordie Wiegrefe
Simon	Brian Little
Thaddeus	Kyle Keller
John	Paul Meyer