



MAY CHURCHLETTER



Hello my sisters and brothers,

Here we are in the bright and warm afterglow of Easter Sunday feeling safe and secure in the promise that Christ Jesus fulfilled – salvation for all who believe. We remind ourselves that Jesus' resurrection was so earth-shaking in importance that the Church declared the next six Sundays following Easter Sunday to be "Sundays of Easter" so we actually have seven Sundays in which we observe and celebrate the first Easter morning long ago.

And then, after celebrating seven Sundays of Easter, on June 5th we gain new energy to give praise and thanks as we gather for Pentecost Sunday – a commemoration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the first disciples and believers. Pentecost marks the beginning of the church – a church that was given the divine mission of preaching the Good News of the Kingdom of God, bringing others into a relationship with our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, and nurturing them in spirit and in truth so that baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is their joyful life choice.

This year, before we get to June 5th and Pentecost Sunday, we are privileged and pleased to come together on May 15th to affirm and celebrate the decision of four confirmation students to make public declarations that they accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and St. John's United Church of Christ as their church home. Preparation for Confirmation Sunday has had to adapt to the realities of COVID, physical distance from the church, and the often busy schedules of students, families and pastor. But they are now ready to stand before us and confirm their faith. I pray we will all make every effort to be in attendance to celebrate this wonderful moment in the lives of Analiese, Ruby, Oren and Zach.

And then, if that isn't enough to keep us spiritually pumped, on June 26th we will be welcoming our new pastor into our yoked church family. The Reverend Gary and Brenda Liker will be taking up

residence in the St. John's parsonage and are looking forward to rewarding life of ministry and mission in Nerstrand and the surrounding area. So, once again I pray and hold the expectation that we can all turn out to greet and welcome our new parsonage couple.

More, perhaps more than ever because of the pandemic, we find increased value and fulfillment in our relationship with others – be those relationships defined as individual or group. Let us take the satisfaction and contentment and goodwill we get from those connections and use those feelings as motivation to reach beyond the edge of our relational circles and invite others in – specifically into the circle we call the church; into the circle defined by teaching, fellowship, worship, and prayer; into the circle that has provided our lives with meaning and purpose.

Let the blessings of this day fill you with joy and peace. Let the grace of God flow through you into the lives of all you meet and interact with in this coming season.

Pastor Jef



The office phone number is (507) 330-0025. You can also reach the churches by email at: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com or NerstrandUMC@gmail.com

Please send **bulletin (deadline-9am Thurs)** and **newsletter (deadline-20th of month)** information to: st.johnsuccwheeling@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!

Vacation Bible school at St. John's

Vacation Bible school is scheduled for June 13-17 at St. John's. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon each day. We've included students through 9th grade this year since they were not able to come last year. **VERY IMPORTANT NOTE**-we need to have registrations in by May 20th! (Please see attached form in newsletter). It seems to be taking longer to get books here on time.

So Please get those registrations in early, and invite a neighbor or friend to participate, as well. It will be exciting to gather after not being able to due to COVID concerns.

Sunday school

St. John's Sunday School meets from 9:30-10:20am, at church. Children Pre-K (age 4) through 8th 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; littlehesshouse@gmail.com 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



Save the Date:

May 15 at St. John's- a 90th birthday for Arlene Bultman. Noon to 2:00 pm

Joys and Concerns

St. John's Council would like to formally thank the cast, crew and everyone involved in putting together the Last Supper Drama this year. The Church was filled and the Drama is still being viewed and enjoyed by many thanks to the internet at this link https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=4976931142388359 . The Council viewed this opportunity as a great outreach and hope many more join us in the years to come.

Our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Joe Ahnen. Joe, age 54, of Davenport, Iowa, passed away March 31st. Funeral services were held in Davenport April 5. Joe was the son-in-law of Gloria Karl. Burial was in Lenox, IA.



Our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Melissa Olson. Melissa, age 50, passed away April 11th in St. cloud. Melissa resided in Backus, MN and was the daughter of Hazel Schwanke. A Celebration of Life service is scheduled for April 30th at Nerstrand United Methodist church. Burial will be at Meadow Ridge Cemetery in Faribault.

Our Christian sympathy to Pastor Jef and Mary Jo on the death of Mary Jo's mother, Elizabeth (Bette) Bertschi. Bette passed away April 18th at age 95. Funeral services were April 22nd at the Walnut Grove United Methodist church with burial in the Walnut Grove Cemetery.

Easter Memorials

A Lily in memory of:
Earl Tatge
Ronald Tatge
Carol Tousignant
———Given by Mildred Tatge



An Easter Lily in loving memory of:
Harold & Lois Homeier,
Gordy, Terry, and Wayne
LeRoy & Shirley Foss
Paul, Ted, and Eric Foss
———Given by their families

A monetary Easter memorial in memory of:
Earl & Gertrude Meese,
Marlow & Ruth Kindseth
———Given by Mark & Mary Kindseth

Easter Lilies in memory of Luverne Hafemeyer
———Given by Carol and family

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 Adult Education

Please join us on Sunday, May 22 following worship for a discussion of the "resolution" process in the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ. Resolutions are presented, debated and voted on during the Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting in June. During our session we will examine the resolution submission process, who can submit a resolution and how they are to be written. We will learn how resolutions are handled during the annual meeting. We will look at some of the resolutions that have been previously passed. Lastly, we will cover the two resolutions on the agenda to be presented at the 2022 annual meeting.



The session is certain to be thought provoking and educational. If you have questions, please see Doug Spike.

Nerstrand UMC council

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



St John's UCC council

April 12 2022
The April meeting of St. John's Council was called to order at 7:30 PM by moderator Gloria Karl. Pastor Jeff shared some Easter thoughts from Billy Graham. He said we should spread the good news whenever we can and we should invite others to come and join in fellowship.

SPRC: Kim Keller reported, Pastor Gary will be moving on June 13th. Pastor Gary's new refrigerator coming May 13th.

Secretary and Treasurers reports read and approved. Trustee: Reported, they painted in the parsonage. The refrigerator from the kitchen moved to the garage. The septic tank was pumped, and flooring has been ordered. Steve Willie will install the flooring with some help from Council members. Dust control will again be applied to road north of church.

Old Business: Rust removal system will be installed as a memorial from the Keller family. Motion made and passed to install a new water softener at the same time as rust removal system. Spring cleaning will be held April 16th, if weather is bad it will be the 23rd. The 29:11 singing group coming May 29th, there will be a combined service in Nerstrand park at 10:30 AM. Nerstrand Fire Department will be holding pancake breakfast on the 29th from 8-10:30 AM.

New Business: Annual Conference for UCC will be held June 10th and 11th. Anyone interested in being a delegate please contact Gloria Karl. Communion will be served on Easter morning service. Pastor Jeff has offered to work for half time salary for the months of May and June. The council graciously accepted his offer. Bible school will be held June 13th - 17th.

Next meeting will be held May 10th at 7:30 PM. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

The Council 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



St. John's UCC Cleaning Committee

The St. John's UCC cleaning committee for the month of May/June is: Becky Tatge, Doug Spike and Joan Schwake

Second Saturday Quilters

The Quilters will be meeting at St. John's on Saturday May 14th, from 9:00 to Noon. Marie will be teaching the 3-D Pinwheel. Bring your sewing machine, iron, fabric, and general sewing supplies. Snack will be by Vickie S.



This will be our last meeting until fall. For more info contact: Deb Wille 507-323-4813 or 83159deb@gmail.com

SSQ is open to people of all churches and their friends.

Special notices, Save the dates, Surround in Prayer:

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 15 Confirmation Sunday

May 15 90th birthday-Arlene Bultman-SJ

May 21 NUMC Garage Sale

May 29 Service in the Park-Singing group 29:11 -10:30

June 13-17 Vacation Bible school-SJ

June 26 Reverend Gary Liker begins ministry

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: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com

Website: <https://nerstrandumc.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: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com

Website: <https://stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info>

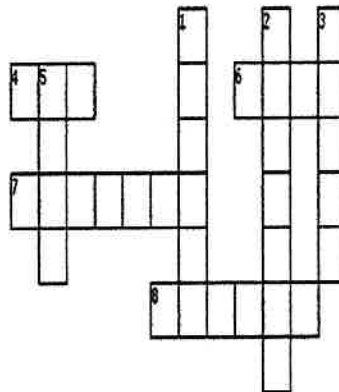
Phone: (507) 330-0025



All the People, Ministers
Interim Pastor- Jef Olson

*Love each other as
I have loved you.*

John 15:12 (NIV)



ACROSS

- 4. A state of happiness or delight
- 6. To hold dear, to like or desire greatly
- 7. Someone that performs duties for a master
- 8. A person that you like very much

DOWN

- 1. One who has authority over another person
- 2. An order which a person is expected to obey
- 3. To gain knowledge, skill, or understanding
- 5. To do what you are told; follow the rules

Words Used

love	command	friend	joy
obey	servant	master	learn

The following article was submitted by Rolf Enger with permission to reprint.



Wuerffel's New Song

Mark Wuerffel

Your Missionary Serving Bible Translation through Aviation
April 2022

Stop That Crying

Among the Polopa people in Papua New Guinea, death was a terrifying thing. They believed the dead went to a place of darkness and torment and became tormented disembodied spirits driven to make life miserable for their living descendants.

Whenever someone died, family members would pack mud all over their own bodies, wail and mourn for days and make costly sacrifices to appease the spirits. *(Mark in Neil's village)*



While Neil Anderson, a Polopa translator, was on furlough, the old chief suddenly died. He was a new Christian, but nobody realized that meant he wasn't going to the place of torment. Just a few days after the chief died, Neil returned from furlough. He'd heard the chief had died and expected the entire village to be wailing and mourning.

But when he arrived in the village, the chief's widow was sitting on her doorstep smiling.

"Come here and sit down," she said. "Look at me. I don't have mud all over me. See? I'm not crying and wailing. No one around here is crying and wailing. Don't you want to know why nobody's crying and wailing?"

Before he could ask, she said, "I'll tell you why! My husband died. His body was cold. We all put on mud. We cried. We were about to wrap his body in bamboo and put him in the ground when he woke up! He woke up! He said, 'Wash off that mud. Stop that wailing! I'm not going to the place of darkness. I won't roam the earth and torment people. I've been with God and I'm going to live in God's place!' Then he died again, and we put him in the ground."

That was the last time Polopas mourned for a believer who died. *Adapted from a story by Neil Anderson*

May the power of the Resurrected Redeemer be evidenced in your life today! He's ALIVE!!

Have a Blessed Resurrection Day!

Mark (& Selene)

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Mark (& Selene) Wuerffel

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Spokane Valley, WA 99212

704-685-7051

Mark_Wuerffel@jaars.org

To Partner Online:

<https://www.wycliffe.org/partner/>

Ministry Support:

Wycliffe Bible Translators

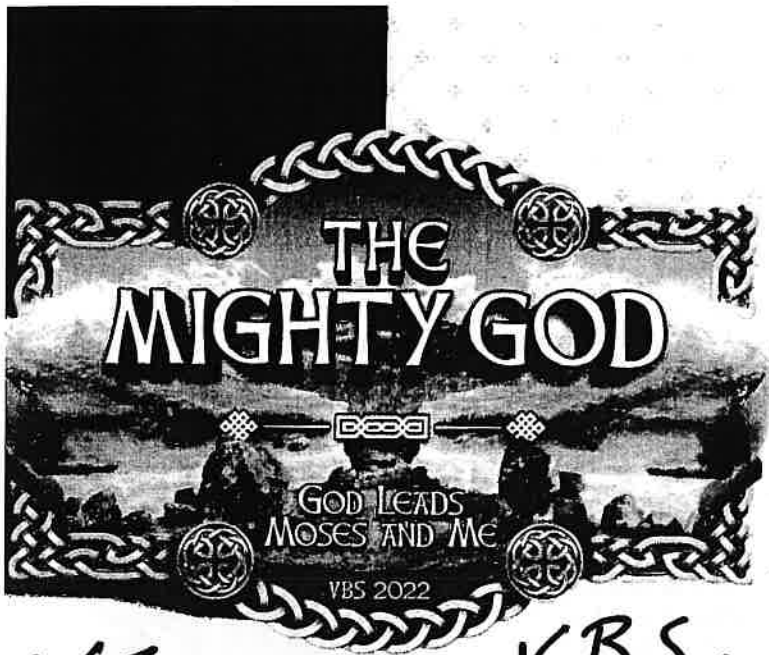
PO Box 628200 Orlando, FL 32862

Attach a separate note saying,

Preference for the Wycliffe

ministry of Mark Wuerffel"





Announcing!
 the 2022
 annual St. John's
 Vacation Bible
 School

June 13-17
 8:30 a.m - 12 NOON

YES - V.B.S. -
 is back

We are happy to have an in person V.B.S. program back, after 2 years of COVID related concerns. Please join us for our annual ecumenical Vacation Bible School. All students age 4 years through those going into the 9th grade are most welcome to attend. Cost is only \$5.00 per student for the whole week. A mission offering will be collected each day during our opening devotions. Each day included: Opening devotions, Bible Class time, snacks, recess, and craft time. Please complete the registration form below and return to Craig Keller at: 10557 190th Street East, Nerstrand MN 55053 by May 20th, so proper materials can be ordered. Please make checks payable to Craig Keller / V.B.S. - also feel free to make extra copies of this form for friends who may wish to attend.

 2022 V.B.S. Registration Form

Student Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Age _____ Grade completed _____

Parent / Guardian _____ Phone # _____

Emergency Contact Name & Number: _____

Any Special Needs / Allergies: _____

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN MAY 20, 2022

"THANKS"

Nerstrand United Methodist Church



**May 21st
8 am – 2 pm**

Many, many nice items:

Kitchenware and small electrics, bedding and linens, pictures and frames, dishes and glassware, toys and games, lamps, family clothing, Christmas, home and seasonal décor, vintage and **much MORE**

**Part of Nerstrand's
City-wide Sale**

**Coffee, water, donuts and
rolls will be available.**



!!! 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 1st 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 1st 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

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 1st class:

Name & address _____

Our first e-mail newsletter will be sent July 1st.