



The Herald

May 2022

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church~Helena, Montana

"Growing in grace, walking by faith, serving in love"

MEET YOUR TRANSITION MINISTRY TEAM

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful ministry team who will help lead us during our time of transition until we install our new pastor. Each week a different Lay Pastoral Associate (LPA) or minister will provide pastoral services for the week and preach and lead worship. Whoever is scheduled to preach that week (please check your Herald calendar) will be on call the Monday through Sunday they are scheduled to preach. For example, John Munding is scheduled to preach May 8th and will be available beginning Monday, May 2nd. Numbers and emails are listed below for our team.

Bing Crosby, LPA

714-883-0601

bingcroz@yahoo.com

Mary Crosby, LPA

406-439-8160

bingcroz@yahoo.com

Pr. Patricia Harant

406-860-2872

pharant50@gmail.com

John Munding, LPA

406-449-8996

jmunding@montana.com

Lorrie Vennes, LPA

406-431-6113

lorriev77@gmail.com

Pr. Kendra Wilde

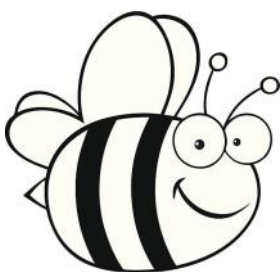
406-465-8590

1corinthians1.4@gmail.com

Gretchen Munding (office and youth ministry)

917-439-0093

Munding.Gretchen@gmail.com



THE BEES
ARE
COMING...

Page One

The Semi-Annual
Congregational Meeting
is Sunday, May 22nd following worship.

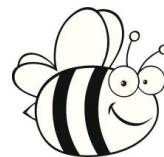
UPDATES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

- Council met April 19th at 5:30 p.m. We missed the energetic participation of Pastor Brad, who was away at the Synod Pastor Retreat at Chico.
- Pastor's retirement potluck was discussed.
- Volunteers for the Call Committee were discussed and the nominees were approved by Council.
- Four LPA's and two ordained pastors have agreed to serve on the ministry team during the pastoral vacancy.
- The Finance Committee has recommended a plan to place some of the SJLC funds in an actively managed investment. This would help improve the low returns that the church currently receives from low interest saving account. The Council will vote on the plan at the May Council meeting. A heartfelt thank you is extended to the members of the Finance Committee for their hard work on this plan.
- The Property Committee has been busy with plans to replace the basement windows. The needed improvement will provide better insulating windows and allow for fresh air circulation as some of the new windows will have screens.
- The Boiler Committee has recommended a long term plan to replace the boiler in approximately ten years. Since the boiler is operating well and has continued to be licensed by the State Board the ten year plan seems an adequate amount of time for the church to save the needed funds for the boiler replacement. Despite its good condition and good performance the boiler will eventually be denied a license by the State Board, the council is trying to plan for that eventuality. The goal is to have \$100,000 in reserve in 10 years for replacement.
- Every year the organ is tuned to maintain it and keep it sounding beautiful. After this year's inspection the organ tuners recommended several repairs to the organ. This will be an extensive endeavor since the organ has been relatively untouched since it was installed in the 1950s. Rose City Organ Builders, Inc has provided SJLC with several options and the Worship and Music Committee has been tasked with evaluating them.
- The Semi-Annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 22nd.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

2022 General Fund revenues through March 31 are \$65,258.

2022 General Fund expenses through March 31 are \$71,414.



ST. JOHN'S CALL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Church Council has appointed a call committee to lead the congregation in preparing a profile of our congregation and to administer the process for calling our next pastor. Members of the Call Committee include Jess Tielking Gutierrez; Barb Muir; Jennifer Wintersteen; Rebekah French; Lorrie and Gail Vennes; Bing Crosby; Greg Field; Vern Grimsrud; Cliff Roessner; Jerry Watne; and, John Munding.

Completion of our ministry site profile is an essential first task in the call process. In addition to describing the demographics of our congregation and community, the profile will communicate information like our shared vision for ministry; our strengths and weakness; opportunities for ministry to the Helena community, etc. The profile will help to match the congregation with the skills of the pastors whom we will consider for call. The committee intends to provide maximum opportunity for members of the congregation to share their ideas before we complete the profile.

THANK YOU ST. JOHN'S

Dear Friends and Members of St. John's,
Elaine and I are so thankful for the wonderful Sunday last Sunday. You were so generous with your kind words, gifts, and love. We are humbled and overwhelmed by your support and love. We couldn't have asked for a nicer service and sendoff. You will all be in our hearts and in our prayers and we will miss being a partner with you in ministry. Thank you again for filling our hearts so full. We love you and know that God has wonderful plans ahead for you and St. John's . We'll look forward to seeing around town. God bless you! Pastor Brad and Elaine and family



ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEER MEETING

All Altar Guild Volunteers should attend a training/update meeting on Saturday, May 14th at 10:00 a.m. New procedures need to be explained. Do ask other members who are willing to work for an hour on Saturday and after service on Sundays—-for only one month each year. Contact Barb at 431-1841 with any questions.

BELL NEWS-HELLO FROM THE BELLS OF ST. JOHNS!

We would like to thank the congregation here at Saint John's for all of your support and appreciation over these last few years. It has truly been our pleasure to ring for services and enhance your worship experience through our love of music.



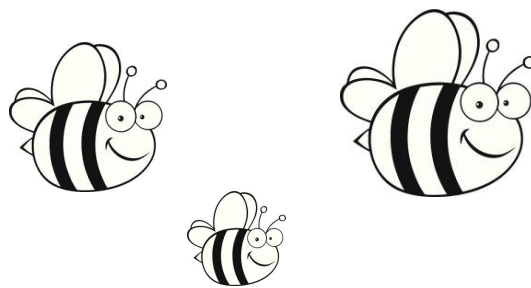
Like many groups, the bell choir took severe membership losses during covid...This past year we have rung with only six ringers. Due to some exciting life changes, we will be saying goodbye to a few more of our members for this upcoming year. We need eight people for a two octave choir and eleven for a three octave. We are down to four ringers...

That is to say, we have several positions available for new members!

We ask that you prayerfully consider a commitment to the bell choir. This commitment would require an hour and a 1/2 long practice starting in September on Tuesday evenings at 6PM, as well as one Sunday a month from October through May. No musical experience is necessary. This fall we would love to start a brand new beginning bell choir! But we cannot do this without your help! If you are interested in joining the Bells of St. John's please contact Christina Tielking at 406-459-2935 or Renee Slocum at 406-459-0357 for more information.

SOCIAL MINISTRY OFFERING FOR MAY-FLORENCE CRITTENTON

Florence Crittenton is a trauma responsive, relationship based organization that provides family-centered support during critical times. Through a comprehensive continuum of services their programs include mental health services, substance use recovery, parenting education, childcare and preschool and access to community supports. They believe that children should accompany their parents to treatment and that a family centered treatment approach is most effective in building a lasting foundation for young families. Please place your offering in the pew offering envelopes and check the "Social Ministry" box, donate online via our website, or mail in your check to the church office.



WELCA UNIT UPDATE

We will be holding a short business meeting on Tuesday, May 10 at 1:15 p.m. in the Guild Room. Feel free to bring your own lunch.



Good News – Circle is Back!

The topic for our May Bible Study is Across the generations: One act of welcome can beget another. This is a stand-alone session so would be a wonderful opportunity to check out our bible study, which is found in the May Gather magazine. Copies will be available for those who do not get the magazine. Morning and Evening Circle will each gather on May 24 (the fourth Tuesday of the month) in the Guild Room. Morning Circle gathers at 9:30 a.m. and Evening Circle gathers at 7:00 p.m. This is an ecumenical and cross-generation event focusing on welcoming all, so please invite a guest.

Region 1 Gathering at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

The Montana Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) is hosting the Region 1 Gathering at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp from June 17 to 19. Our theme is "Embracing Diversity" and three workshops will be led by Prairie Rose Seminole. Julie Long will be our worship and music leader. Flyers and registration forms are available in the Fellowship Hall on the WELCA Table. Early Bird registration is \$225 and due May 15. The St. John's WELCA Unit has three \$100 "camperships" available to help defray cost. Contact Rebekah at frenchrj@yahoo.com if you need a campership.



The Quilters made 200 quilts this year to sent to LWR! They can use some help packing up quilts on Wednesday, May 11th at 9:00 am and loading the truck on Friday, May 13th at 9:45 am.

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

THE BEES ARE COMING!



We are excited to announce that we get to support God's Global Barnyard (part of the ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts program) again this year! This will be an extended Mini-Mission for the month of May. In the past the Sunday School kids have put together a 'sales booth' and we pick an animal to 'sell'. The money raised goes to support sustainable development ministries of ELCA World Hunger in impoverished communities. These communities receive resources to help educate them on the care of these animals and how to create new market opportunities like starting a small business, etc. What is wonderful about the ELCA program is that almost all of the money raised goes directly to support these programs and they have a global reach. Beyond all of that...it's a great way for our kids to serve and they get so excited about the project each year! This year we are raising money to purchase bees and our amazing Betty Olaf has been working hard behind the scenes (for 2 years because of COVID!) Please note that while the sale is led by our younger students, we would encourage the older kids to participate and act as mentors! A lot still has to happen to make our sale a success so please mark these dates down:

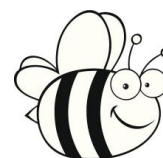
- Sunday May 1st and Sunday May 8th the kids will work during our regular Sunday School time (9:45 am during worship) to prepare posters, sales materials while also talking about the BEE-ATTITUDES that we read about in the gospel of Matthew.
- Wednesday, May 11th at 6:30 pm we will meet in the Fellowship Hall to set up our sales booth and to prepare special treats for coffee hour. All ages encouraged to attend!
- Sunday, May 15th is sale day! During coffee hour the kids will sell the bees and hopefully raise a bucket of money to send to ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts program!



Mini-Mission #5

*Packing up school bags for LWR
with our Quilters.*

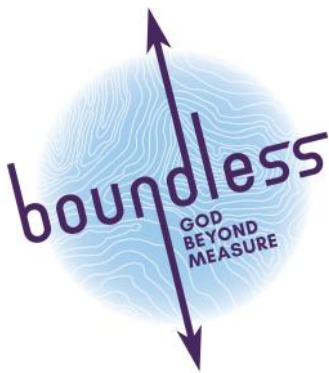
*23 participants packed up 70 bags
and then stayed for
games, ice-cream, and balloon animals.*



SAVE THE DATE FOR SUNDAY, MAY 22ND

There are a lot of exciting things that we will celebrate on Sunday May 22nd!

- Simon Ceaicovschi has completed his Confirmation Instruction online with his former congregation in Seattle! This is an especially important part in our formation of faith and we will acknowledge his affirmation of faith during our service. Congratulations Simon on this important!
- Senior Sunday! We will celebrate our graduating high school seniors at the end of our service with a special litany and each senior will receive a special quilt. We will be contacting you individually but if you know of a senior that you would like to include on this day please contact the church office. We will also pray for our college graduates so please contact the church office with any names you'd like included in the bulletin.
- Last day of Sunday School! Sundae Sunday! May 22nd will mark the end our Sunday School classes for the school year. Join us during coffee hour for an ice-cream sundae bar to celebrate.



VBS/DAY CAMP WITH FLATHEAD LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP

We are excited to host **VBS/Day Camp** with our favorite counselors from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp again this summer. VBS/Day Camp is designed to be a fun highlight of the summer, while providing opportunities for growth in faith, leadership, and friendship. Day Campers experience these gifts through a wide range of carefully crafted programs and activities (worship, Bible study, service projects, community building games, outdoor time, and much more!)

Who: Kids ages 4-Kindergarten & Kids entering 1st Grade
and through 6th Grade

When: June 20-24 daily from 9:00 am-1:30 pm

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church (1000 Helena Avenue)

Cost: \$50 for the week-scholarships available

Registration forms are available online on our website or in the church office. Please fill out the form and return to the church office with your payment.

P.S. Have you aged out of camp? We would love to have our Middle School and High School kids help out junior counselors and we will have a Youth Night on Wednesday, June 22nd free of charge.

P.P.S. Are you an adult who still wants a VBS/Day Camp experience? We will have MANY opportunities to help so please stay tuned! We promise it is the best week of the summer.



The Herald-May 2022
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
 1000 Helena Avenue
 Helena, MT 59601



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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

"Growing in grace, walking by faith, serving in love"

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 Helena, MT 59601
 (406) 442-6270
 www.helenastjohns.org
 email: saintjohns@helenastjohns.org
 Pastor email: pastor@helenastjohns.org
 Like us on Facebook!

Worship Services

Sunday 9:30 am
 In-person and online via our Facebook page
 Services uploaded to YouTube

Lenten Midweek Service

March 2nd, Ash Wednesday services at
 Noon at 7:00 pm
 Holden Evening Prayer on
 Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Office Hours

9:00 am-1:00 pm
 Monday-Friday



Ministering at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Witness to the Gospel | Members of SJLC |
| Pastor | Interim Ministry Team |
| Organist | Dodie Walsh |
| Choir Director | Connie Conley |
| Bell Choir Directors | Renee Slocum Christina Tielking |

Director of Youth & Family Ministries

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Office Manager | Gretchen Munding |
| Audio and Video | Angela Conley |
| Treasurer | Karen Hicks |
| Financial Secretary | Randy Rake |
| Missionaries | Anne & Willie Langdji, Cameroon missionaries around the world |
| Sexton | Pat Gober |

Church Council

| |
|--|
| Bing Crosby, President |
| Chad Lee, Vice President |
| Paul Hilchen, Secretary |
| Randy Rake, Darcie Dunlap, Lee Rhodes |
| Vern Grimsrud, Amy Smiedala, Pr. Patricia Harant |

*St. John's Social Ministry Outreach Offering
 for May is Florence Crittenton.*