



# The Herald

May 2023

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

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



## Enjoy a Cup O' Coffee during Service!

Plan to come a bit early to service on Sunday May 21st. WELCA will be providing coffee and tea. Bring your own travel mug or we can provide you with a compostable cup and lid. We will be serving between 9 am and 9:20 am upstairs across from the History Room. We hope to see you then!



## Sunday School "Goat Sale" for ELCA Good Gifts Sunday, May 7th



## Pastor's Perspective: New Member Sunday

Now that Easter has come and Spring has sprung, it is with great joy and excitement that I am able to announce and invite you to join our New Members study. This will be a time that will prepare us emotionally and spiritually, both as individuals and as a faith community, for our journey in ministry together. Our time together will begin Wednesday May 3<sup>rd</sup> and continue each Wednesday through May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Additionally, there is an option for Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>. We will gather at 7:00 pm in the Guild room following the mid-week worship service on Wednesdays or at 11:00 am on Sundays. The study material is based from "Baptized, We Live; Lutheranism as a Way of Life" by Daniel Erlander, along with scriptural text from Old and New testaments. These study classes are meant to include new members, long time members, grandparents, and parents, along with the youth and children. We will honor, and welcome new members on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> during the 9:30 am worship service. I am looking forward to our time together as we live into the Baptismal covenant that weaves our faith journeys together in our ministry here at St John's. In Christ Love, Pastor Keith

## Family Promise Update

Thank you all for supporting Family Promise in April. Together we served many families in need and supported two families at the church building. One of the families is moving into housing as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you wish to donate toward their new dwelling, you can drop off any of the items listed below at the Day Center. In March, four family promise families were housed, so duplicate items would be used to help those other families also. Please contact Family Promise (406-465-9467) for drop off information and a tax receipt.

- Queen or Twin bed sheets
- Bathroom rugs and towels, shower curtains
- Broom, dustpan, mop, vacuum
- Pots and pans
- Toaster
- Microwave
- Silverware
- TV
- Garbage Cans

You may also want to support Family Promise Day Center by providing the following:

- Bathroom rugs and towels
- Kitchen towels and dishcloths
- Paper towels
- Laundry detergent

I am unable to continue as sole organizer of Family Promise in the current way the church community has chosen to support Family Promise. If anyone is interested in sharing the duties with me, we will be able to continue with the current level of support. We also need to expand the overnight host list. Please contact me if you are interested in these two roles. Organization does take a certain level of commitment, time, and access to electronic devices.

## May Social Ministry Offering-ELCA Good Gifts



To support and coordinate with the Sunday School "Goat Sale", ELCA Good Gifts will be the Social Ministry cause for the month of May. Animal gifts given through ELCA Good Gifts are some of the most popular gifts that they offer in their catalogue. These gifts support the sustainable development ministries of ELCA World Hunger, which include training, education, and resources to help the community care for animals and to create new market opportunities like starting a small business of selling eggs, meat or dairy products. The Sunday School chose goats this year because they are able to deal with harsh climates (cold & hot), they can live in a variety of landscapes, and they provide many resources to a community. Please support this "boots on the ground" ministry by sending in your money to the office, placing your offering in a pew envelope and marking the "Social Ministry" box, or plan to attend the "goat sale" on Sunday, May 7th following worship.

## Summary of April 18, 2023 SJLC Council Meeting

Semi-annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for May 21, after church. Will need to elect three council members for a three-year term and one council member for a one-year term.

The Council discussed the following topics:

- New Member Sunday on May 21. New member classes to be part of Midweek Connection programming in May – not exclusive to new members
- WELCA to provide coffee before church on Mother’s Day – Come Early! (date changed to May 21st)
- Facilities: Video streaming (*In March, the Council approved funding improvements. The project is pausing to for pre-shopping research and to prepare grant applications*); sanctuary ceiling fan replacement
- Finance: general fund giving close to budget target the year-to-date; task force formed to examine giving-to-deposit processes
- Various reports: Family Promise; Social Ministry (*causes identified for upcoming monthly giving*);
- Cottage Gatherings
- Future retreat for “building vision for the future”



### Important “Save the Dates for Quilts & School Kits”

**Wednesday, May 10th:** Pack up and weigh the quilt boxes at 9:00 am. Lots of man power needed!

**Friday, May 12th:** Load the quilt truck at 9:45 am. Lots of man power needed!



**We could use more 70 page notebooks for our school kits this year! Deadline is May 8th!**



### **THANK YOU ST. JOHN’S!**

It’s hard to believe that the last time the youth hosted an Easter breakfast was back in 2019! Thank you to everyone who helped make our return to this fun tradition such a success. We raised close to \$700 and that money will be our seed money to attend the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. A big thank you to those who helped with prep the day before: Jennifer Wintersteen, Teresa Kinley, John Munding, Kirsten Weatherford, and Amy Smiedala!

### **Midweek Connection Summer Edition**

Our “space of grace will continue during the summer months! Join us each Wednesday at 5:30 pm for dinner, Worship with Holy Communion at 6:30 pm, and a time for community and fellowship at 7:00 pm.

**VBS Save-The-Date June 19-23.**

**The Herald-May 2023**  
**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
1000 Helena Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601

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## St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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

### Midweek Connection Summer Edition

**5:30 pm Community Meal**

**6:30 pm Worship w/Holy Communion**

**7:00 pm Fellowship**

### Office Hours

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



## Ministering at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

<b>Witness to the Gospel</b>	Members of SJLC
<b>Pastor</b>	Pastor Keith Weatherford
<b>Organist</b>	Dodie Walsh
<b>Choir Director</b>	Connie Conley
<b>Bell Choir Directors</b>	Renee Slocum Christina Tielking

### Director of Youth & Family Ministries

<b>Office Manager</b>	Gretchen Munding
<b>Audio and Video</b>	Angela Conley
<b>Treasurer</b>	Karen Hicks
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Randy Rake
<b>Missionaries</b>	Anne & Willie Langdji, Cameroon missionaries around the world
<b>Sexton</b>	Pat Gober
<b>Church Council</b>	Bing Crosby, President Paul Hilchen, Vice President Chad Lee, Secretary Jennifer Wintersteen, Kari Ceaicovschi Brian Tetrault, Gail Vennes, Lee Rhodes Amy Smiedala

*St. John's Social Ministry Outreach Offering  
for May is ELCA Good Gifts*