**St. John’s News-May 2024**

**THANK YOUS**

*From Joyce King-* I would like to thank all of you for all your thoughts, cards and prayers during this difficult time for our family. I especially thank Pastor Matt for a wonderful service, John Roberts for sharing his talents and a special thanks to the ladies for a delicious lunch.

*The family of Shirley Shiets* wishes to thank our church family and friends for all the kind words and prayers as we celebrated Shirley’s life among us. Special thanks to Pastor Matt for his words of healing, John Roberts for the music of spiritual inspiration, and the funeral luncheon committee for nourishment as we shared food and fellowship with one another. Thank you all for the many memories and memorials.

***May Birthdays***- Samantha Klotz, Steve Hottinger, Bill Ebert, LaDonna Michael, Brittney Miller, Scott Williams, Don Bixler, Michelle Merrill, Marcia Rohrbacher, Rich Roth, Sr., Brenda Hetrick, Josh Kensler, Mary Jane Kraak, Kim Bowers, Sue Lawrence, Kevin Weiker, Canaan Bower, Josh Smith, Scott McCord,

Anne Weiker, Sally Miller, Mary Miller, Sara Sherick, Macy Merrill, Gail Ebert, Denny Michael, Jack

Seem, Henry Burch, Bea Nitschke, Alex Boroff, Veronica Dickey.

***Anniversaries-*** Rick & Debbie Grine, Gary & Mary Ann McNair, Dylan & Shelby Willey, Dave & Pat

Fleming, Scott & Kathy McCord, Joe & Sue Albrechta, Brian & Debbie Cummings.

**LUTHER LUNCH BUNCH**- Will meet on Wednesday, May 15th, in the church parking lot at 12:30, to carpool (due to parking challenges) to Elroy’s, downtown Fremont. PLEASE call Carol or the Church office to make RESERVATIONS!

**Mother’s Day Luncheon**

Everyone is welcome to share a meal together in the Parish House Auditorium on Mother’s Day, May 12th. The luncheon is free. It’s an opportunity for the whole family and individuals alike to share joyful friendship together. An RSVP (either call-in to the church office, 419-332-7341, or fill out the sheet by the entrances to the sanctuary) will help our Deacons team know about how much food to prepare.

Here’s the nitty-gritty:

**When?** Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 12th, following the 10:30am service (about noon)

**Where?** Parish House Auditorium, 212 N. Clover St.

**Who?** Everyone is welcome.

**What kinds of food?** Lee’s Famous Recipe chicken strips, with various sides and desserts (We’ll have some bread and peanut butter and jelly set out for kids, too!).

**Cost?** No cost. A free-will donation basket will be set out to help support our youth who are planning and preparing to attend the Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July if you’d like to offer a donation.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS- May 2024:**

**It is hard to believe this half of the Sunday School year is winding down. Our last Spring Session will be June 2. We will break for the summer and start up again on September 8.**

**LIFT Vacation Bible School**: **Rolling River Rampage**

**Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God**!

**Date & Time:** **June 24-27 - 6-8 PM- Location**: **Grace Lutheran**

Please see the flyer in the newsletter to use a QR code to register. You can also find it at the LIFT website and we’ll have some flyers printed off here. If you need help registering, please let Sue know. Please watch the bulletin for more details. We should have a good time!

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES-please get your Graduation picture and information about your future plans to the church office by May 17th, so we can include it in our next newsletter.

Seniors will be recognized at the 8:00 AM Service on Sunday, June 2nd. The Youth Ministry Team will provide refreshments in the Youth Room following the service.

**YOUTH NEWS**

**MAY 19TH** Join the confirmands, *Henry Boroff, Logan Fabbro, Ben Weiker, Ethan Zucker* and their families for doughnuts and juice, in the Youth Room between services.

**JUNE 2ND** The Youth Ministry Team will provide snacks to honor our graduates in the Youth Room following the 8:00 AM Service. This year’s graduates are- *Jena Humbert, Taylor Peck, Cyle Schwochow, Channing Stevenson.*

**BRAT DINNER**- Sunday, **June 9th** – 11:30 AM-Brats, Chips, Veggies, Cookie and Pop-$7.00. Carry out only.

**SPONSOR A MEAL-** St. John’s has 16 people attending the Youth Gathering! You will find specially marked envelopes in the pews for donations that would sponsor a meal for those attending. **THANKS** so much for your support!!

**THE NEXT Youth Ministry Team Meeting** Will Be **May 5th** At 9:15 In the Youth Room!

**GRIEFSHARE:** Our next GriefShare Session will begin on Sunday, September 8, 5:30 in the lounge here at St. John’s. Look for more details as we get closer to this date.

**St. John’s Upcoming Dates to Remember!!**

**May 1st** -12:20 PM-Rachel/Charity Circle

**May 2nd** -Noon- National Day of Prayer

**May 5th-** Noon- Confirmation

**May 7th -**9:30 AM-Women of the Church Meeting

6:00 PM-Executive Board

**May 8th -** 6:00 PM-Church Council

**May 9th**- 7:00 PM-LIFT Ascension Service

**May 12th -** Mother’s Day

**May 13th -** Abigail Circle

**May 15th -**12:30 PM-Luther Lunch-Elroy’s

**May 19th-** Pentecost-Confirmands Confirmed -10:30 AM

11:30 AM-Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

12:30 PM-LIFT Board Meeting

**May 28th** – 7:00 PM-Thirsty Theologians

**St. John’s Youth Ministry Team-Sunday, June 9th -Serving begins 11:30 AM**

**Menu:**

**Hot dog/Bratwurst Chips**

**Celery/Carrots Cookie**

**Drink**

**All for only $7.00!!!**

**Carry out only…**

**Proceeds will go toward the 2024 Youth Gathering**

**St. Mark News!! May 2024**

**CONTACT** Pastor Paul Bailie at [bailiepaul@gmail.com](about:blank) or 440-477-3641.

**HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY TO** Riane Flores, Steven Hansen, Peter Mader, Laurie Hirt, Jessica Gibbs, Kay Rohrbacher, Jeremy Lozano, Charmaine Longanbach, Kristen Hasselbach, Joshua Bennett, Harvey David, John Moneghan II, and Nicolle Wolfe Ross.

**WORSHIP HELPERS**

**May 5** – Ushers- Nancy Pullins and Kerri Hosang; Assistant- Traci Zoller; Reader- Verna Carlo; Altar Care -Colleen Carmack.

**May 12** – Ushers-the Ritzmans; Assistant- Sue Peck; Reader- Wendy Ritzman; Altar Care-Colleen Carmack.

**May 19** – Ushers-Annette Moore and Colleen Carmack; Assistant-Karen Heater; Reader-Lois Bradford; Altar Care-Verna Carlo.

**May 26** – Ushers- Jamie Gottron and Laurie Foos; Assistant-Kerri Hosang; Reader-Jamie Gottron, Altar Care- Verna Carlo.

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

**WORSHIP** -Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Communion served on the first, third, and festival Sundays.

Fellowship follows the first Sunday worship

Noisy Offering is collected the second Sunday of the month.

**BLESSED BUNCH** meets at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 4, 2024 to spring-clean the church. Everyone is welcome at Blessed Bunch activities.

**WOMEN’S CIRCLE** meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8 at the home of hostess Wendy Ritzman. All women are welcome at the Women’s Circle meetings.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** meets at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 21.

**The BACKPACK BUDDIES project** for Lutz Elementary School students is completed for the 2023-2024 school year. Food left over will be held until the project resumes in August for the 2024-2025 school year. Any food left over with a “use” date before August will be distributed through the Blessing Boxes at St. Mark and St. John’s churches. Those in charge of the program thank the congregation for its support of Backpack Buddies.



**LIFT NEWS: May ‘24**

*LIFT (Living in Faith Together) is a collaboration of congregations in the Fremont area, including Emmanuel, Faith, Grace, St. John’s, and St. Mark Lutheran Churches and Hayes Memorial UMC. Our mission priorities are: Being present in the community, witnessing to God’s love, hearing the needs, serving our neighbor, and striving for justice*.

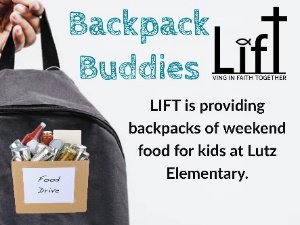
**Bridge of Hope: New Coordinator, New Schedule**

Bridge of Hope, known in Spanish as Puente de Esperanza, is a ministry of LIFT that began as outreach to the Hispanic community around Fremont, including the seasonal population of migrant farm workers and their families. Over the years, the food pantry located at Hayes Memorial United Methodist Church, has expanded to serve a wider population. At its March 17 meeting, the LIFT Board placed renewed emphasis in focusing on the migrant outreach part of this ministry. This will include the current project of welcoming baskets.

Starting April 15, the food pantry of Bridge of Hope has new hours: Mondays from 10-2, and Thursdays from 5-6:30.

BOH is still collecting items for welcoming baskets for migrant families, especially plastic laundry baskets, deodorant, detergent, lunch boxes, and new pillows. Volunteers are needed to assemble baskets on May 8 from 3-5 PM at Hayes. Donations can be brought to Hayes Memorial UMC (1441 Fangboner Road). Financial contributions can be sent to the LIFT Office at Grace Lutheran (705 W. State Street), with Bridge of Hope in the memo.

Destinee Chapa has been hired as the new Bridge of Hope Coordinator. She has a bachelor’s degree in psychology and criminal justice, and has worked for several years at social service agencies in Fremont. Welcome, Destinee! Contact her at [bridgeofhope.fremont@gmail.com](about:blank).

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**Backpack Buddies**

Thank you for a great second year! The generous support of this ministry was overwhelming. The dedicated team has created menus and prepared inventory through the end of the school year for this weekend hunger project with Lutz Elementary. No more in-kind food donations are needed until preparations for the new school year begin in August. Current donation that have later expiration dates will be saved for then. Items that are best by earlier dates will be utilized by other ministries, including Bridge of Hope and the blessing boxes at St. John’s and St. Mark.

**LIFT Ascencion Worship**

LIFT will celebrate Ascension Day with a healing service of anointing and prayer at St. John’s in May 9 at 7 PM. Forty days after Easter, Ascension will always fall on a Thursday. As we remember Jesus blessing his disciples while ascending into heaven, we celebrate the blessings of his continued presence with us on Earth. It’s an opportune time to worship together as people of LIFT. Prayers with anointing oil will help us tangibly feel the power of Christ.

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**LIFT VBS in July!**

Kids from preschool through middle school are invited to LIFT Vacation Bible School at Grace Lutheran Church in Fremont from 6-8 PM on June 24-28. The theme is Rolling River Rampage: Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God. The next meeting for leaders is Tuesday, April 30 at 4 PM at Grace. Register children or sign up to volunteer at [www.myvbs.org/LIFTFremont](about:blank).

**Farewell and Godspeed!**

We give thanks for the ministry of two faithful LIFT leaders. In March, Doug Morris retired from his position as bookkeeper for both LIFT and for Grace Lutheran Church. Pastor Mark Bogen, who has been serving as Interim Pastor at Grace, is retiring after 43 years of ordained ministry. His last Sunday at Grace is May 5.

**LIFT Board Highlights**

A few things from the March 17 meeting not included above:

* Thanks to the congregations who have made financial contributions to LIFT. This helps us fund our ministry and eliminate potential cash flow issue. We are still waiting on a few more pledges and donations.
* Drive-thru ashes were a success on Ash Wednesday. St. John’s was an ideal location.
* Nineteen youth and adults from LIFT Congregations will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston in July. We will be joined by a youth and young adult from our companion synod in Tanzania.
* A subcommittee will begin looking at revising the LIFT Operating Agreement.
* We are planning a Let’s Build Beds build day for 2025.
* The next LIFT Board meeting will be Sunday, May 19 at 12:30 at St. John’s.
* LIFT Outdoor Worship will be on Sunday, July 28 at Birchard Park.