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Your favorite study Bible now goes everywhere you go with The Lutheran Study Bible App by Concordia Publishing House. Distinctively Lutheran notes from theologians and pastors beautifully expound upon the full ESV Bible text, now in a simple, intuitive format on your device.

Features of The Lutheran Study Bible App:

- Complete Bible text with uniquely Lutheran study notes
- Over 200 articles, maps, and book introductions
- Powerful search organized by verse, keyword, or topic
- Thousands of inline cross-references and linked articles
- Simple text controls for easy reading on any device
- Custom notes, highlights, and saved verses by user
- Audio feature that narrates the full Bible
- Several reading plans with progress tracking tools

Get started today for a seamless, spiritually fruitful experience in God’s Word. Find the app on Google Play Store or Apple App Store.



The Portals of Prayer App

No matter when or where, *Portals of Prayer* inspires you to live each day as a disciple of Christ. Through each daily audio-and-textual devotion, you meditate on God’s Word and see it working through you in your life. *Portals of Prayer* is a quarterly print devotional that has been a favorite for generations of readers. Since 1937, the meaningful daily devotions and ending prayers have offered a daily moment of time with God, comforting believers through their lives.

While the Portals of Prayer App is free to download, you need a subscription to access all the amazing features. A new subscription is \$9.99 per year and can be purchased through the app. Here’s what each subscription includes:

- Over 10 years of *Portals of Prayer* content
- Daily audio and textual devotions
- Meaningful daily prayers
- The ability to mark the devotions you like best as “Favorite”

Your yearly subscription will auto-renew unless the auto-renew feature is turned off. To avoid being charged with the auto-renewal, it must be turned off at least 24-hours prior to the renewal date. You can see the end date of your subscription in the app’s “Settings” tab.

A subscription to the Portals of Prayer App does not, and is not, included in the print subscription to *Portals of Prayer*. These subscriptions are separate entities. Find the app on Google Play Store or Apple App Store.



St. John’s Lutheran Church
A Member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 368
980 West Fourth Street
Rush City, MN 55069

Secretary: Karen Peterson
Church Phone: (320) 358-3623
Church Email: stjohns@midco.net
Church Website: www.stjohnsrushcity.org
Normal Office Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 8 am - 2 pm



Rev. Grant Bode
Phone: (507) 766-6483
rev.bode3209@gmail.com

St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church
A Member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
400 SE 8th Street
Braham, MN 55006

Secretary: Donna Meyer
Church Phone/Fax: (320) 396-3103
Church Email: ststephens1913@msn.com
Church Website: www.ststephensbraham.org
Normal Office Hours:
Wednesday & Thursday 9 am - 1 pm

August 2025

Myrrh-Bearers
Joanna, Mary and Salome
August 3rd ~ Day of Commemoration

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus... ~ Lk. 24 (selected verses)

These women went to the tomb expecting the worst but heard instead the good news of the resurrection. Jesus was alive, not dead. He had arisen. The tomb was empty. They went to the tomb in procession carrying with them a perfumed oil and spice called myrrh.

We might think of this word, myrrh, more with the season of Christmas than perhaps Easter, as it was one of the gifts the Magi brought with them, gold, frankincense and myrrh. Myrrh was/ is a fragrant spice extracted from the gum resin of a particular tree in that ancient world. It is still cultivated today. Myrrh produced in both an oil and granular form had various functions from medicinal to ceremonial.

For the Jewish religious life myrrh had a twofold purpose:

- 1) It was a special anointing oil for priests (sacred to Temple use, Exodus 30:26-29)
- 2) It was also used for burial (a ceremonial ritual)

The women were coming to anoint the body of Jesus with the fragrance of myrrh. They loved the Lord even in his death, not knowing then that he had already arisen, and the tomb was empty.

Interestingly the word “christen” is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word for anointing which is: מָשִׁיחַ Mashiach (from where we get the word, Messiah, which means... the anointed one).

Therefore, there is a richness to the meaning of the title “Christian,” for it means that you too are anointed, as you are too a member of the royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). And, you have been commissioned and sent into the world to be “myrrh bearers.” We carry with us the fragrance of Christ wherever we go, if even in procession to the tomb we carry in our person the good news of Jesus and the hope of the resurrection.

**For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ
among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. 2 Cor. 2:15**

Blessings,
Pastor Bode



Blood Drive

The American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Monday, August 11 from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm at St. John's Lutheran of Rush City. If there are any questions please call 1-800-733-2767 or go on line at www.redcrossblood.org and enter Rush City to make you appointment for Rush City.



T-Shirts for Sale!

The LWML is selling t-shirts for \$15. They are available in the church office. There are a variety of colors available.



Back by popular demand!



**Polka Service
Sunday, September 14
10:30 am**

St. John's Lutheran Church

(outdoor if weather permits—feel free to bring lawn chairs)

There will be a potluck meal following the service. Rod and his band will play following the meal as well.

Bring your family, friends and neighbors!



Are you a vet?

If you are, have you received your Quilt of Honor? If you haven't, please let Gladys Enzenauer or the church office know so that you can receive the gift you deserve!

The 2025 Chisago County Fair Parking Recap

THANK YOU to these 13 that worked for fair parking, many whom worked multiple shifts to raise \$1,885 for the First Responder Dinner:

**Gail Benjamin, Jill Erickson, Kevin Garey, David Haley,
Brian & Bernice Moreau, Donna Mulholland,
Les & Roxanne Orvis, Arlen & Karen Peterson,
and Mike & Wendy Willert**

There were no "spider attacks" this year, no major storms. The smoke from the Canadian wild-fires didn't cause issues (*you can see it in the picture*). There were lots of conversations, laughs and food! Due to the back grassy area being too wet, we did need to get creative on parking spaces, but it all worked out well. This picture from Hawk Aviation from Saturday, July 12 shows St. John's in the bottom right.



Birthdays & Anniversaries In Our Parishes

St. John's Lutheran Church

- 2 Eric & Jessie Nelson
- 3 Gail Benjamin, Lori Blomquist
- 4 Roxanne Orvis
- 5 Bart McCoy
- 9 William Volk
- 10 Holly Downing
- 12 Jessie Nelson
- 14 Michas Ohnstad, Steve & Laura Bakken
- 15 Robin Schellbach
- 16 Scott Milliman
- 19 Gail Bode
- 20 Triton Brown, LaRayne Witte
- 21 Raiden Brown
- 24 Gladys Enzenauer
- 25 Brianne Gerold, Matthew Kranick
- 26 Richard & Julie Bittner



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

- 1 Kay Pierson
- 2 Jayce Kelling
- 5 Greg Kern
- 6 Gary & Cindy Hackler
- 7 Marquee Kohnle, Audrey Swanson
- 8 Bailey Citterman, Savannah Gudilius
- 9 Cindy Hackler
- 10 Jim Swanson, Kaleb & Kelsey Cooper
- 12 Curt & Betty Thomas,
James & Collette Zelinsky
- 13 Jon Kelling, Gini Vidor
- 14 Kyle Kern
- 17 Brooke Pierson
- 19 Sara Pautsch, Gail Bode
- 20 Jon Livingston, Roger & Elva Anderson
- 21 Duane & Chris Olson
- 23 Ashley Kern
- 24 Warren & Audrey Swanson
- 25 Mason & Bethany Ramberg,
John & Stacie Swanson
- 26 Gayle Peterson, Doug & Trina Olson
- 28 Greg & Kelly Kern
- 29 Jim Pierson, Sandy Schusted
- 30 Robert Schmakiel
- 31 Wayne Chase, Ella VanBeek

A Measure of our Discipleship Together in Christ

Day of Worship	Attend- ance	Offering
6-29-2025	31	\$3,565.00
7-6-2025	40	\$2,220.00
7-13-2025	34	\$395.00
7-20-2025	34	\$1,275.00

Welcome to Our Newest Family Member at St. John's.

Please welcome
Donna Mulholland who
was received into
membership on July 20!





Elder: Bob Downing Altar Guild: Jill Erickson
<u>August 3</u> Musician: Cindy Wendorf Reader: Brian Moreau PA Tech: David Haley Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen Peterson/Karen Peterson Counters: Jill Erickson & Lynette Downing
<u>August 10</u> Musician: Digital (Bernice Moreau) Reader: Jill Erickson PA Tech: Roxanne Orvis Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen Peterson/Karen Peterson Counters: Sandy Minor & Lynette Downing
<u>August 17</u> Musician: Cindy Wendorf Reader: Brian Moreau PA Tech: David Haley Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen Peterson/Karen Peterson Counters: Susan Scheff & Lynette Downing
<u>August 24</u> Musician: Cindy Wendorf Reader: Jill Erickson PA Tech: Roxanne Orvis Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen Peterson/Karen Peterson Counters: Jill Erickson & Lynette Downing
<u>August 31</u> Musician: Digital (Roxanne Orvis) Reader: Brian Moreau PA Tech: David Haley Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen Peterson/Karen Peterson Counters: Sandy Minor & Lynette Downing



**St. John's PowerPoint, Camera
or PA Techs**

We are in need of additional PA Techs, camera operators and Power-Point operators. For the PowerPoint, the presentations are ready, you just need to push a button to change the slides during the service. Running the camera through the computer is just using the mouse on the computer to change camera angles during the service. None of the jobs are difficult. We would like to have more people involved so that the same people aren't having to do it all of the time. If you are interested, please talk to Karen in the church office.



**Vacation Bible School
August 25-27
5:30pm - 7:30pm
At St. Stephen's Lutheran Church of Braham**

Theme: True North - Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

