

# *THE EVANGELIST*

A vibrant photograph of a group of African children and an older woman. The children, of various ages, are smiling and waving their hands. They are wearing colorful clothing, including a bright orange shirt, a yellow and red patterned dress, and a white lace dress. The woman, with short white hair and glasses, is holding a pink smartphone. The background shows a brick building and greenery.

**MAGAZINE FOR SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
*CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR SINCE 1881*  
JULY/AUGUST 2023 VOL. CXIV, NO. 4



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## **We encourage your contributions!**

You are always welcome to submit reflections, articles, and photos. Send them to [communications@stjohnsstpaul.org](mailto:communications@stjohnsstpaul.org) before next issue's deadline of: **Tuesday, June 13**. Thank you!

## **ON THE COVER:**

Travelers from St. John's visiting our clinic ministry in Kayoro, Uganda experienced a trip filled with shared joy and connection!



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## **St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church**

### **Clergy**

The Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson, *Rector*

The Rev. Craig Lemming, *Associate Rector*

The Rev. Chelsea Stanton, *Deacon*

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Tisha Colton, *At Large*

Jamie Bents, *Faith in Action*

John Docherty, *Liturgy*

Johannah Frisby, *At Large*

Paige Hagstrom, *Fellowship*

Eliza Lundberg, *At Large*

Rianna Matter, *Children, Youth, & Family*

Rick Rinkoff, *Treasurer*

Sally Sand, *At Large*

Judy Stack, *Faith Formation*

Ed Stieve, *Music*

Holly Weinkauff, *Senior Warden*



## FROM THE REVEREND JERED WEBER-JOHNSON

*"It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there's no knowing where you might be swept off to."*

So says the older and more traveled Bilbo Baggins to his young nephew, Frodo, at the beginning of his adventure in *The Fellowship of the Ring*. I've often likened this wisdom to the life of faith. Through baptism, each of us is swept up in a journey the likes of which we can never anticipate, and on which we have to keep our feet (and our wits).

This is in part why everyone at St. John's, during my time here as rector, has been given a shell on the occasion of their baptism. First sculpted by Wade Scheel and now by Jamie Bents, these pottery shells are the ladle we use to pour water over the heads of each baptisand. What's more, our church's famous Wilder Font depicts an angel holding a shell, with obvious symbolism that draws the mind to the waters of baptism. But the shell has also long been a symbol for pilgrims.

If you've ever traveled or read about the Camino de Santiago, you'll know that the paths that bring pilgrims come from far-flung places, like the ridges of the scallop shell. Just as those lines converge, all the pilgrims' routes end at Santiago, and they are marked along the way with the symbol of the shell. Pilgrims often carry a shell on their backpacks, around their necks, or atop their walking stick. Many churches use shells to baptize, but at St. John's we send the baptized home with their shell, to remind them

that the journey of faith is only just beginning; there are many miles to go, and one must have a pilgrim's heart and keep their feet.

One way we at St. John's can remind ourselves — and live into — the truth that faith is a journey and a pilgrimage, is to embark on journeys of holy importance. To set aside travel with and through the church, like the pilgrims of the Camino; to practice sacred travel. You might be interested to learn that several types of sacred travel have either just happened or are being planned at this moment for the months and years to come.

Our Kayoro travelers have only just returned from Uganda, where they engaged a kind of travel that has often been seen as somewhat controversial over the centuries. We call this kind of travel "mission work" in the church. Though over the years it has often been done with colonial and hegemonic impulses, at its simplest it means to be sent across lines of difference in the name of the church, to be with and in relationship with others, to serve, to share good news, and just as important, to bring back the stories and experiences to ones home, to share here. This sending to serve is a vital way that the church is shaped, our stories deepened, and our understanding of how God is at work in far flung places can grow and enrich our lives at home.



Left: baptismal shells made by potter Jamie Bents.



Right: helping at clinic outreach day in Kayoro.



Of course, by now you've heard about another form of sacred travel happening in the year ahead from St. John's. In 2024 our choir is going on a Cathedral residency, traveling to England to take up residence in two separate cathedrals to enrich the worship experience of those spaces, bringing the music and voices of St. John's to a place where much of the musical repertoire of our own faith community was birthed, and experiencing our own worship there in a new key. A residency can be holy travel as well, as travelers go to serve not with medicine or community development but with song and prayer, and use their voices and presence to bless a space and hear their faith in a new way. What's more, as with all travel, our going to a new place depends in large part on the hospitality of the people who will receive us.

Obviously pilgrimage is another form of sacred travel, when one embarks on a journey to see and experience God or the holy in a new place. Most often pilgrims seek a holy site or place of spiritual significance. In 2024 our youth are intending to go on pilgrimage. This is a central part of the Journey to Adulthood curriculum, and the youth are involved from the start to the finish, picking the site of their pilgrimage, where they'll go, and why such a place might be meaningful to them, and then of communicating what they experienced and learned along the way to their faith community upon return. Right now, they don't have the site picked but the work is already underway to plan, fundraise, and equip our pilgrims for this experience, and I invite you to be in prayer for them.

St. John's youth explore a labyrinth during their pilgrimage to Ireland in 2018. "Reflecting on the Jesus moments started out hard for some, yet as our time together progressed, it became easier to express," wrote the Rev. Margaret Thor. "My Jesus moment was simply being with the pilgrims as they became a 'squad' of friends tied together with this experience of the pilgrimage."

Another pilgrimage is a little further off. St. John's has just secured a reservation for the Bishop's House on the Scottish Isle of Iona in 2025. For a long time, Iona has held a space of holy significance in Celtic spirituality. You may already be familiar with the liturgical life of the isle, or the work that the community at Iona is doing around creation care and environmental spirituality. A group of just over 20 pilgrims are going to travel to Scotland in 2025 and then continue in pilgrimage to Iona together. If you'd like to be one of those pilgrims, we are just beginning to prepare information to share with the congregation, dates and deadlines for signing up, and how we will prepare as a group to go. Keep watching for more information.

In all our travel, we go with God, knowing that God is on the journey with us, as much as God is the destination toward which we aim. As Bilbo sings, *"The road goes ever on and on, down from the door where it began... And I must follow if I can, pursuing it with eager feet, until it joins some larger way, where many paths and errands meet."*

Our journeys bring us closer to God, and in the same way, as we travel these sacred paths, they bring us closer to one another.

Thanks be to God!

*Jud +*





# SOMETHING GOOD IN THE WIDER WORLD



**By the Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson**

Last month, the Farmers' Market returned to our parking lot! As always, the season started off with flowers, fresh herbs, and the first greens of summer. In the weeks following come the strawberries and raspberries, fresh corn, cucumbers and squashes, and the ever-popular tomatoes! It is a bountiful harvest each year, which delights our members and attracts hundreds of neighbors from across the street and around the city. And it all happens for four glorious months, from the beginning of June until the beginning of October.

Each Sunday in summer we tumble out the doors after worship to gather with joy in the parking lot—farmers, neighbors, and parishioners together in the sun, sharing laughter and food and the promise of being about something good in the wider world.

That “something good in the wider world” was what the Reverend Chelsea Stanton, our deacon and leader of Faith-in-Action and Justice ministries, preached about in May. On Fields to Families Sunday she invited us to consider how we can take

what is growing here inside our faith community out into a world so desperately hungry for it.

She preached:

“What we're trying to create here in our community—a place of love, belonging, and equality regardless of gender, sexuality, race, and all the other oppressive structures of coloniality that we haven't covered yet—is good and necessary and part of Godde's vision for who the church should be. AND we must not stop at that.... Will we work together to make sure that justice doesn't stop at the church door?

After you purchase your produce from Wana, Teng, Song, or Victor in our parking lot, we, as St. John's, pay for the farmers to deliver produce to the Hallie Q. Brown food shelf, to First Nations Kitchen, and to Mexican immigrant families at St. Nicholas Episcopal Church in Richfield. We are helping stave off food insecurity for hundreds of people through this [Fields to Families Ministry].

This “something good” comes from connections between worship, fellowship, outreach, and justice. We gather for worship, and then gather for fellowship in the parking lot, where echoes of our communion are experienced at the coffee hour and farmers market. That in turn connects us more deeply with our neighbors and provides opportunities for generous-hearted action, as we continue to raise funds each week to bring even more sustenance to our hungry neighbors across the city.

As Sally Sand, one of our key leaders and volunteers at the Farmers Market says, “It is such a joy to share St. John's with the community. This is the intersection, the Venn diagram, with the wider community. Some have assumed that it is a private market and are surprised that a church is offering this to the world. I have given tours to curious people and I know that the market has brought people into our community. It allows me to be an ambassador both ways and it has been so rewarding.





Last summer, two dozen parishioners got the chance to enjoy hospitality and connection on a joyful afternoon tour of Wana and Teng's farm.

To talk about hunger relief has been such a joy. It reinforces the 'goodness gospel' that St. John's is living. When people put money in that jar I get to tell them about how it is relieving hunger."

Alongside the goodness that our outreach brings, there are amazing connections being created between St. John's market volunteers and the farmers themselves, all of whom are connected with our companion parish, the Hmong majority, Holy Apostles Episcopal Church. We are truly building transformative and meaningful relationships across deep and significant lines of difference.

Again, as Sally Sand, tells it, "It is such a gift to have this kind of relationship, where we are partners in a service, where there is an opportunity for cross-cultural insights and relationships." Over the weeks each summer, as St. John's volunteers work alongside Holy Apostles farmers, stories and life experiences are shared.

Sally told of the generosity of Wana, who takes it on trust when a customer lacks the cash to pay. She readily gives them their food and flowers, saying only, "Pay me next week."

Sally describes, "There was a time when [Wana's] father died and she told his story, how he was quite generous and would give things to neighbor kids even when he didn't have enough for himself or his family. But he felt that generosity to others was more important than keeping things for himself.

Knowing that story helps me understand that that is the foundation of her generosity, such that she can say 'pay me next week.' and truly mean it."

Longtime volunteer and Farmers' Market ministry leader Barbara Lindeke echoed that generosity as she described her own years-long relationship with the farmers, saying, "I would like to share about how glad I am to have gotten to know the Farmer's and their families over the last few years. Being guests of Wana and Teng and their wonderful family as they opened their home and wonderfully fed and hosted about 25 of us from St. John's last summer was delightful. Seeing Victor and Paouh's daughter's wedding pictures, and chatting with daughters Agnes and Elizabeth about Song's farm have enriched my life and broken barriers."

On the first Sunday of the market this year, attendees may have noticed that Song was the only farmer present, and her offerings of herbs and flowers were unusually small for the middle of June. Our Farmers' Market leaders knew the story behind this because they had already been checking in with each farmer, always keeping in touch. Volunteers described how a deluge had flooded Victor's fields, making a harvest impossible that week, and how lack of rain had contributed to a very slow start to the growing season for the others. The relationships here were essential at creating an understanding of the struggles each farmer faced, and a deeper





Above: Song Yang presents some of her flowers for sale.

Right: volunteers at St. Nicholas, one of our local hunger relief partners, show off food received in their weekly Fields to Families delivery.



appreciation for the trials and turmoil of raising crops for market in the midst of this challenging economy, in the midst of a climate crisis, and in the midst of so many other barriers.

Knowing these struggles creates empathy for the difficulty of a farmer's life. As Shirley Sailors, another longtime leader and volunteer describes,

"I have been impressed by Song, a few years younger than I but definitely a 'senior,' who won't give up farming despite the entreaties of her family. Her daughters would like for her to take it easier, but they help her continue by handling the paperwork and doing the Sunday sales at our market. Both of the daughters are professionals with good jobs and no particular interest in farming, but they try to support their mom – while also encouraging her retirement."

Part of our faith and our calling through baptism is to understand the challenges faced by our siblings in the human family, and to use whatever resources we have to change the world into a more just, equitable, and loving place, where hunger is alleviated, where a reasonable living can be made, not just in white collar work, but on the farm and in the fields. So, we will continue to send fresh produce from the market to food shelves to feed the hungry. We will continue to host and build relationships with farmers whose language and life experiences may not always be exactly the same as our own. And, through these experiences, our hope is that we will be driven into even greater action to

change the world, to erase the boundaries that divide us and dismantle the structures that ensure some are fed while others are left hungry. As Chelsea preached,

“ I hope that in the future we can move beyond responding to the needs in our community and work to be a church that uses our privilege to advocate for all people. ... We must openly question the logic of capitalism, racism, and sexism that sacrifices the dignity of workers for the profit of stockholders, that pushes people who are hungry and houseless to the margins. That prefers the comfort of those who have much to the survival of those who have little. Please pray with me:

*Godde of abundance, we know your loving eye is upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. You weep with them. Have mercy upon us when we don't. Help us to eliminate our active and passive cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. May we be among them. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



# BRINGING JUSTICE TO CHILD CARE

By Ellie Watkins

You may have already seen the email from our rector announcing the advent of our partnership with Big Wonder Child Care. It read in part:

“Celeste Finn had always dreamed of opening an early child care center, and knew that now was the time to fulfill that dream. She set to work building a board, finding resources, seeking the appropriate licensing, and spreading the word. And when she started to look for a location, she found St. John’s.

In July, Big Wonder is set to open. Their model incorporates an anti-racist framework that encourages spiritual inquiry. They actively seek to enroll kids from diverse racial and economic backgrounds, and they aim to be a place where educators are highly valued, well resourced, and deeply respected. Big Wonder will rent space from us at a fair market value, and we will aim to be good partners with them.

Opening a child care center like Big Wonder has always been Celeste Finn’s dream—but why?

In 2007, she explains, she started her career in education working with young kids. She had previously thought she’d want to work with older kids instead; preschool seemed “literally too childish” — too simple and inconsequential, an assumption our entire society tends to make. Her view changed as she learned more about early childhood cognitive development. “Literally, your preschool years are more important than what college you go to! So it’s critical that in those early years you have nurturing, rich, empathetic relationships, and stimulating and inviting environments to explore.”

It’s tremendously exciting and inspiring that St. Paul will now have a place to nurture thriving humans in the ways they need at this age, a place that sees them as whole people and acknowledges their rights and their status as a vulnerable population. “All families deserve high-quality education for their children.”

It’s not just philosophical; it’s an issue of justice.



Currently, child care workers are some of the lowest paid workers in the nation, and early childhood education gets less research and development than other industries. Big Wonder plans to support and resource its teachers by paying them a living wage; incorporating more research and development and collaboration within the industry; and providing training that will make sure everything is developmentally appropriate. Big Wonder’s goal is to be a model for what’s possible — which includes highlighting that funding is essential to this industry. “Tuition alone cannot pay for a quality child care center with clients from diverse incomes.”

Big Wonder also has a great resource in the opportunity to share St. John’s building. “I firmly believe that it was providence,” Celeste says passionately. “St. John’s is a blessing for Big Wonder.” She mentions St. John’s focus on accessibility and on being a loving and LGBTQ+ affirming space. Celeste points out, “by partnering, both Big Wonder and St. John’s are maximizing our impact in areas of social justice that are important to us.” She especially appreciates that she has “such a beautiful relationship” working with Sarah Dull and Chris Tegler. The deep-seated trust of their partnership “has made the very hard work of opening a child care center more rewarding.”

The licensing process is an especially vulnerable time financially because as a nonprofit, Big Wonder doesn’t qualify for small business loans. Without donations from St. John’s parishioners, Celeste says, they wouldn’t have met their Kickstarter goal (which would have meant they received *none* of the pledged funds.) Setting up space in St. John’s has been “an absolute dream ... a lot of gratitude.”



# A HOST OF HOSTS!

By Ellie Watkins

I've been missing coffee hour at St. John's a lot lately, as I enter my third year of living in Moorhead and working remotely. I miss the coffee (oh, how I miss that coffee!) and the summer fellowship between the farmers' market tents and the kids playing on the rocky "island" in the parking lot. I miss hosting it once a year, putting more thought into choosing which date and what to serve than I did for my actual wedding. (June 11, by the way. We had sandwiches. It was fine. Whatever. I'm divorced now.)

Calls for coffee-hour host signups all mention how it's a great way to get to know other parishioners and help them get to know you. This isn't a catchy ploy to reel in more volunteers – it's me, evangelizing, because it's true! To know and be known is something we all long for, especially from our church, and I've always found it at coffee hour. Maybe you introduce the parish to your favorite summer snack or to pastries from a bakery in your neighborhood. One June, I was parenting an infant along with three toddlers and couldn't find the courage to bring them all along to the pride parade, so I wasn't able to march with ECMN that year. First I was crushed, but then I signed up to host coffee hour and served a rainbow-themed spread of nachos. Maybe I wasn't letting myself be known in a particularly earthshaking way (*I'm here! I'm queer! I like cheese!*) but it meant a lot to me that day.

St. John's has always done coffee hour, and other offerings of hospitality, extremely well. Our congregation is absolutely full of wonderful hosts. And one thing I've been especially privileged to see over the nine years I've worked here is how St. John's is getting even better at hospitality – thoughtfully, prayerfully, and responsively.

Coffee hour is just one example: this year, Faith in Action and Spiritual Life groups have signed up to host, allowing their ministries themselves to know and be known. I've sat in on meetings figuring out how caregivers with small children will be able to participate at an upcoming event – and the debriefs afterwards to build on that for next time. I've noticed accommodations for dietary restrictions becoming more deliberate and more universal. The Christmas Party has always been warmly open to everyone, but when a parishioner shared that they felt excluded based on its description, the Fellowship team adjusted both wording and setup (and then further tweaked it in following years). It wasn't that food allergies or financial hardships had never been considered before, but that when St. John's saw a clear way to improve their hospitality, they tackled it immediately. Sometimes there may still be slip-ups or discomfort, but the environment is one where those can be named and acknowledged.

To know and be known – to have your inclusion be important – to get to drink really good coffee. Now that is truly a blessing!





# MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS!



## **Maria May**

Maria was born in a south-side suburb of Chicago and also lived in Tennessee while growing up. As an adult, she lived in Seattle before moving to St. Paul in the 1990s. She's a musician who plays guitar, bass and piano in an indie band called The Owls.

Maria grew up Lutheran Missouri Synod, which wasn't a good fit for her. More recently she went to 27 different churches of various faiths, looking for a church engaged with their community, and met the Rev. Susan Moss last year. Susan recommended Maria meet Jered, and Maria felt at home right away. She appreciated our dedication to the Women's Lectionary and attended the Wayfinders Series. She volunteers each week helping in the office and working with the livestream media team. Her daughter is joining her for Sunday worship.



## **Katie Nichol**

Katie grew up in Saint Cloud in "a very strict-feeling religion." She spent a lot of time in the South, but moved back to the Twin Cities now that her family is all in the metro area. Family, friends, and "found family" are all important to her. She works as a program manager for a homeless youth shelter and street outreach program. Her interests include her dog, long walks and being outdoors, arts and advocacy, and poetry.

Katie worked at an Episcopal church in Arkansas, where she grew close to the community and fell in love with Lent and Ash Wednesday. After moving back to Minnesota, she was looking for an Ash Wednesday service and came to noon worship at St. John's. "Something felt right" and she kept coming back.

She says, "St. John's is such an awesome place, in the sense of community that is spread outside of our walls. As a person who was not comfortable with church, I became a member, I became baptized. My people, who have been traumatized by church, who are not comfortable in church or been to church for many years, or for whatever reason, when I bring them inside the walls of St. John's, they feel welcomed. When I talk about my experience, even if they don't ever want to come, they ask questions and feel inspired. That is a rare experience that I have never had in my life."



## **Grace Martin & family**

Grace and her husband Andy both grew up in the area, then lived on the East Coast for many years before coming back so their kids could grow up close to their extended family. Their family plays a lot of soccer and enjoys hiking and visiting art museums whenever they can. In between all the soccer, Grace knits and sews.

She says, "We were looking for a church community and our neighbor told us that her family are members at St. John's. As soon as we went to a service, we believed it was the right fit for our family. We are so grateful for the welcoming community, the opportunities to volunteer as a family, and an inclusive space that aligns with our values."



## JOIN THE WORSHIP TEAM!

Help make Sunday mornings happen! Contact the addresses listed below to volunteer or learn more.

**Acolytes:** [katie.madsen@stjohnsstpaul.org](mailto:katie.madsen@stjohnsstpaul.org)

**Altar Guild:** [jered.weberjohnson@stjohnsstpaul.org](mailto:jered.weberjohnson@stjohnsstpaul.org)

**Coffee Hour:** [www.tinyurl.com/SJEcoffeesignup](http://www.tinyurl.com/SJEcoffeesignup)

**Eucharistic Ministers:** [craig.lemming@stjohnsstpaul.org](mailto:craig.lemming@stjohnsstpaul.org)

**Media Team:** [media@stjohnsstpaul.org](mailto:media@stjohnsstpaul.org)

**Readers & Vergers:** [rlinehan@gmail.com](mailto:rlinehan@gmail.com)

**Ushers:** [jolsen4338@gmail.com](mailto:jolsen4338@gmail.com)

## SUPPORT OUR MISSION

St. John's continues to make a difference through the vital work of our ministries. Please support that effort, as you are able, by continuing to make your pledge payments or by making an offering today.



- Give online with this QR code or at [www.tinyurl.com/SJEgiving](http://www.tinyurl.com/SJEgiving)
- Or text 651-273-0753 with the amount you'd like to give and where you'd like the funds to go; e.g. "\$100 Pledge2023." Thank you!

## REGULAR WEEKLY WORSHIP

**Sundays: 8am** Rite I Eucharist in the Church;

**10am** Rite II Hybrid Eucharist in the Church and on YouTube at [www.tinyurl.com/youtubeSJE](http://www.tinyurl.com/youtubeSJE)

The 4th Sunday of each month is a Racial Reconciliation Eucharist.

**Monday-Saturday: 8am** Morning Prayer at [www.facebook.com/MorningPrayerSJE](http://www.facebook.com/MorningPrayerSJE)

followed by Coffee Hour on Zoom.

**Thursdays: 7pm** Compline (Night Prayer) in the Church and on YouTube at [www.tinyurl.com/youtubeSJE](http://www.tinyurl.com/youtubeSJE).

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

### JULY

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Cammie Beattie      | 19 Anneke Krall      |
| 3 Judy Kinead         | 20 Rick Olson        |
| Christina Anderson    | 22 John Docherty     |
| 5 Brett Gemlo         | Andrew Tessier       |
| 7 Kat Lewis           | Gabe Tessier         |
| 8 Cameron Williams    | 23 Richard Resch     |
| 9 Kipling Lightner    | 24 Tamara Zurakowski |
| 12 Jonathon Frost     | Alec Smith           |
| 15 Jay Debertin       | Sidney McInroy       |
| 17 Ernie Ashcroft     | 26 Peggy Olsen       |
| Mark McInroy          | 27 Charles Swope     |
| Jemma Berry           | 28 Andrew Kampa      |
| 18 Christopher Parish | Megan Kampa          |
| Abby Kelley-Hands     | 29 Bob Linehan       |

### AUGUST

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 William Rinkoff     | 11 Elizabeth Lindeke     |
| Nova Wilson           | 12 Brian Chatt           |
| 2 Phillip Baird       | George Hodgson           |
| 3 Marty Brown         | 14 Kelly Russ            |
| Stephanie Quinn       | 17 Cheri Wiegand         |
| 4 Gary Hagstrom       | 18 Mimie Pollard         |
| Gabriella McCann      | 19 Owen Hansen           |
| Helen Docherty        | 20 Jennifer Kinead       |
| 6 Allan Klein         | Andrew Krall             |
| Piper Wilson          | 21 Larry Ragland         |
| 8 Phillip Stoltenberg | 22 Helen (Sister Julian) |
| Jeff Corrow           | Smith-Boyer              |
| Luca Brown            | 25 Rob Beattie           |
| 10 Peter Rosendale    | 27 Kim Arndt             |
| Sarah Sand            | 30 Tony Clark            |
| Andrew Fox            | Heidi Kim                |
|                       | Maura Donovan            |

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*THE EVANGELIST*

JULY/AUGUST 2023



St. John's parishioners helped with the weekly free meal giveaway at First Nations Kitchen on June 18.