



20165 Heath Ave. Lakeville MN

952-469-4916

# St. John's Journal

## October 2022

Andy Smith - Pastor  
Kim Kylo - Pastor

### Sunday Schedule

8:15am Worship

9:15 Fellowship

9:30-10:15 Faith Education

10:30am Worship

Communion served on first and third Sundays

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### Wednesday Evening Schedule

5:30-6:45pm Meal

5:30-6:00pm Elementary Choir

6:00-6:30 Middle School Choir

6:30-7:00pm Worship

7:00-8:00pm Affirm, Ablaze and Adult Choir

Communion served on first and third Wednesdays

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And Much More!

More information is available on the website: [www.sjlcl.org](http://www.sjlcl.org)

The seasons are changing around us, and it's evident when you look out the window.

Fields have exchanged green for gold.

Darkness lingers longer in the morning, and the sunset graces us earlier each evening.

Leaves are changing colors and some are beginning to fall to the ground.

Are you a person who celebrates and cherishes this new season? Or are you someone who longs for summer to stick around?

Ecclesiastes 3:1-6 speaks of the beauty to be found in a variety of seasons:

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, **and a time to let go...**"*



"The trees are about to show us how beautiful it is to let things go."

In every change, there can be joy but just as much, there can be loss. This is true for us as individuals, but it's also certainly true for us as church. Embracing the next good thing God has for us can sometimes include letting go of something that simply is no longer. Letting go can be challenging, but by the grace of God we can both honor the beauty of what was and celebrate the possibility of what might yet come to be. And as we do, we trust that God is in both.

I wonder if there is something important for us in the changing of the seasons around us, to remind us to flow with the changing seasons with us rather than trying to resist. And to remind us that God loves us though each and every season we experience.

May the changes you are living through – within and without – be held in the tender love of our amazing God.

Pastor Kim Kylo

## Women's Ministry Team Bake Sale

We may not be having a Scandinavian Dinner this year but you will have an opportunity to buy some of the wonderful baked goods that are irresistible, along with the all-time favorite, **Lefse**. There will be a sale on December 3 from 9:00am to 2:00pm and on December 4 between church services. Our youth will be serving coffee and rolls that Sunday as a fundraiser for the youth programs as well.

The quilters will also have some of their handiwork on sale too, which may help you start your Christmas Shopping. We are looking forward to this becoming our "New Normal".

## Coffee & Conversation at Highview Hills

### Coffee & Conversation at Highview Hills

Pastor Kim hosts a monthly "Coffee & Conversation" at Highview Hills. This will take place on the 4th Thursday of every month at 2:00 pm. This month is an exception to our schedule: we will gather on **Thursday, October 27th at 2 pm at HVH**. St. John's members, friends and residents of HVH are welcome!



Coffee and Conversations

## Monday Afternoon Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study continues. We will spend eight sessions around the theme, "Encountering God in Scripture: Finding Yourself in the Story of God." The first three sessions will tackle what the study calls "The 10 Big Questions." The next five sessions will be studies of five important stories in the Bible utilizing insight gained from our discussion of The 10 Big Questions.

**When:** Mondays from 1:00 -2:00pm ending Oct. 31

**Where:** Sanctuary at St. John's

**Leader:** Pastor Andy

**Register:** Sign-up sheet in narthex or call church office



## Columbarium Update

**Niches and ossuarium spaces are officially available for purchase in the St. John's Memorial Garden and Columbarium. Our first unit is now in place**

If you are a member of St. John's, a former member, or an immediate family member of St. John's members, you are eligible to set up an appointment with Columbarium Administrator Candy Nordine and purchase a niche or ossuarium space in our newly installed Columbarium/Ossuarium.



Call Candy at 952-469-4916M-F from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm to arrange an appointment. She will have all information available for you to make your purchase.

May God bless all of you as well as this new avenue of ministry and comfort for St. John's families.

The first of two Columbarium units was placed on Tuesday Sept 20. Soon the pavers and sidewalk will be installed.

Thank you to the Memorial Garden committee for all their work in making this a reality!



## Small Group Ministry

### Small Group Ministry

Are you interested in being part of a small group at St. John's? During the month of October, we invite everyone to express interest in specific small groups

through paper and online sign up's. Start thinking about the possibility of participating in Small Group Ministry in these ways:

- A particular kind of small group you might be interested in participating in,
- If you have a desire to be a facilitator (or co-facilitator) for a small group - training will be provided, or
- If you might like to be a member of a *new* Small Group Ministry Team, which would help plan, organize, and communicate with individuals to curate a network of small groups for St. John's.



## Spiritual Practices Small Group

Facilitator: Pastor Kim Kylo  
Meets: the last Friday of every month from 12-1 pm

Sign up to participate in St. John's Spiritual Practices Small

Group, to encounter, practice, and reflect together with others on a variety of spiritual practices, including forgiveness, contemplative prayer, sabbath, gratitude, deep listening, and more. We'll do more than talk about our faith and what these practices mean to us, we will actually practice them - experience them - together!

Our next meeting will be **October 28th** as we explore the spiritual practice of "Connecting with Creation." Sign up here or by contacting Pastor Kim.



Spiritual Practices  
QR Code

## NEW "More Than Just Lunch" Small Group

**Facilitator:** Ginger Gustafson  
**Meets:** Once/month on Tuesdays

**Where:** A variety of locations, each to be announced in advance

If you would like to participate in a monthly outing with your church friends, experiencing a variety of unique places to have lunch and entertainment, then this is the small group for you!

### First outings:

**October 18th** - a scenic drive to the Hubbel House in Mantorville. After lunch, there will be an opportunity to peek into some of the quaint shops in Mantorville. We will depart from church at 10:30 am for Mantorville. Each person is responsible for the cost of their own lunch.

**November 22nd** - attend "A Servant's Christmas" at the History Theater in St. Paul. The show is at 10 am, with lunch at a nearby restaurant to follow. Tickets are \$32, and **need to be paid by October 19.**

Additional destinations will be announced to the group as plans are made.

Join us as we dine together, and have fun and fellowship together, and we know you'll look forward to each gathering! Please indicate your transportation needs when you sign up; transportation options will be discussed as the group develops.

Sign up at church or by calling the church office.

## NEW "Empty Nest" Small Group

"An empty nest does NOT mean an empty life"

**Co-Facilitators:** Dan & Elisa Brown

**When:** Starting October 13th, this group will gather the second Thursday of the month from 7:00pm -8pm

**Where:** St. John's

Remember the ECFE classes you went to as a new parent? Wishing there was something like that for the empty nest phase of life? Well, wish no more!! Whether you are about to become, just became, or have been an empty nester for a while, the Empty Nest Small Group is for you!!

At each meeting we will follow this schedule:

- Sharing time: Highs and lows of our month, introductions of new members etc.
- Introduction of the theme for the evening: Topics will include things like Letting Go of Expectations, Letting Go of Your Child's Problems, Holding on to Your Marriage, Holding on to New Passions, etc. (These topics are loosely based on the book Empty Nest, Full Life by Jill Savage. You do not need to read the book to

attend our group) Themes from members of the group can also be explored.

- Group discussion of the theme: This will be a time of exploring the theme, discussion time about things going on in our lives and getting input and support from other group members.
- Closing: Prayers and well wishes for the next month

This group will be a place of discussion, support and friendship for everyone thinking about the empty nest phase of life. We would love to have you join us!

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Elisa Brown at [elisa@sjlcl.org](mailto:elisa@sjlcl.org) or text to 952-221-4849



Empty Nest QR Code

Sign up via QR code or by calling the church office.

## NEW “Parenting Littles” Small Group

**Co-Facilitators:** Amanda Boe & Pastor Kim Kylo  
**When:** 2nd Sunday of each month during Sunday School starting October 9.  
**Where:** St. John's

Are you parenting a child(ren) ages 3-10? Are you looking for simple, impactful ways to share faith with your littles at home?

Sign up to participate in St. John's Parenting Littles Small Group, which meets the 2nd Sunday of each month during Sunday School.

While your child learns about Jesus' love in Sunday School, tend to your own spiritual and emotional wellbeing, gathering with other parents of littles to share joys, struggles, best-practices, and support one another in this unpredictable yet beautiful task of raising children with faith and for faith.

Together, we'll highlight some SIMPLE faith practices you can incorporate into family life at home to build upon your child's strong faith foundation and their connection with you parents. How can you reiterate Bible lessons from Sunday School at home without making a lot of extra work for you as a parent? Let us share some tried-and-true tips and tricks with you!



Parenting Littles QR Code

Have we mentioned yet that this

will be easy?

This small group will be facilitated by Amanda Boe and Pastor Kim Kylo, with guest presenters. Sign up via QR code or by calling the church office.

## NEW Dementia Caregivers Support Group

**Facilitators:** Pastor Kim Kylo & Lola Amendt (of Highview Hills)

**Meets:** Once/month, 3:30-4:30 pm on the 4th Thursday of each month, starting October 27th

**Where:** Highview Hills

Right now, millions of Americans face the devastation of Alzheimer's. The disease is robbing us of our families, our futures, and our finances. If you are a family member or caregiver to someone experiencing Alzheimer's disease, join us for this small group, where you'll find an open environment for sharing feelings, thoughts, and experiences to better cope with and manage the shared problems of dementia. St. John's and Highview Hills are partnering to provide emotional, social, and educational support to caregivers. This group is open to anyone in our community.

No RSVP; simply show up as you are available.

## Home Communion Visits - Caring Calls & Communion Team

In the last few months, staff and lay leaders have been working together to imagine how we might safely resume communion visits to St. John's members whose physical mobility or health prevent them from attending in-person worship.

Now, with a team of trained, eager volunteers, we are delighted that we are able to resume communion visits both for those who reside at local assisted living and care facilities, and for those who reside in their own homes! If you or someone you know would like to receive home communion visits, please contact the church office.



# Children, Youth and Family News

## A look into the new Fall Education Faith Year

### Rally Sunday!

Thank you to all of the families that joined us for Rally Sunday! It was so much fun to celebrate this new year of faith education.



### Sunday School

**Time:** 9:30am-10:15am for Pre-K-4<sup>th</sup> grade

We are off to a great start! Our classrooms are busy with learning about the love and hope of Jesus! We begin each day together in our large group opening, we sing fun camp songs and introduce our story for the day. Classes then go into their classrooms and dive deeper into the story and then we all meet back together for our closing. Students can join in at anytime during the year.

To Register for Sunday School please use this link, <https://www.sjcl.org/children>



**Teachers Needed:** We are in need of a few more helpers, please contact Amanda to help with Sunday School Substitute teaching or join a teaching team. Or sign up to help: <https://forms.gle/3U2ehqtEMNddCARR9>

### Sunday School Donations:

**Nursery Toys:** Toys, books and games for pre-school aged children.

**Sunday School supplies:** Pony Beads, Buttons, Playdough toys

### Fall Decorations for Trunk and

**Treat-** plastic pumpkins, posters, any fun fall décor.



**Butter Braid Sales Begin October 9 to support our Summer Camps and Mission Trips.**

### Elementary and Middle School Choirs will begin October 5.

Singing in the choir is a way that we can use our voices to give praise and thanksgiving to God. If you love to sing, then you are encouraged to join. All levels of experience are welcome! Choirs will provide special music in worship approximately once a month. A calendar of those dates will be provided in advance. Contact the church office with any questions.

- 5:30pm-6:00pm Elementary Choir grades 2nd-5<sup>th</sup>
- 6:00-6:30pm Middle School Choir 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

**Trunk and Treat  
Save the date  
October 30  
3:00pm-5:00pm**

**All are welcome to join us for this fun fellowship event!**

- Trunk and Treat in parking lot (decorated trunks of cars are used for the distribution of candy and prizes)
- Pumpkin Painting- all kids will receive a pumpkin to paint!
- Walking Taco Supper served
- Family Fun Carnival Games, Bingo, Face painting and more fall fun!
- **Sign up to help with all of the fun, decorate a trunk, serve food, assist with games or face painting.**



## Ablaze: Our Fifth Grade Pre-Confirmation Prep Program

Fifth grade, Ablaze has had a great start igniting faith around a campfire and strengthening our connections with each other. Our Ablaze program is designed to prepare our students for our confirmation program, Affirm.

To Register: <https://www.silcl.org/preteen-ministry>

## High School Youth Group

**Sunday Nights, 5:00pm-6:00pm.** Special guest speakers, Bible Study, service, snacks and so much fun to be together in our newly decorated space. We are rooted in God's word and growing in faith together in many new ways! "The FIRE of your heart is the LIGHT of your Path" Max Lucado. Do you want to know God's will for your life? Then answer the question, "What ignites your heart?" Service, Gardening, Reading, fellowship and having fun with others? Let's find out!

Contact [amanda@silcl.org](mailto:amanda@silcl.org) or text 952-232-9056 to sign up to be on the contact list for this group.

## Glow Night Late Night Lock-In

**Glow Party Saturday night, October 29 6:00pm-11:00pm.**

Let your light shine Late Night Lock in for our Affirm and Ablaze students in 5th-9th grade.

Join us for some Late-Night Lock in Fun, Pizza, Games and Fellowship.

Please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/kS7cSjXFrZjhs0Zu6>



Children, Youth and Family ministry at St John's strives to create a seamless line of ministry from birth through high school



and to walk alongside families to raise compassionate, respectful, and service-orientated children – with hearts of faith-filled love.

Our nursery is part of that promised mission to walk alongside families. We believe that caring for children in the safe, nurturing environment of the nursery is essential in order for parents can tend to their own spiritual care by participating in church activities is part of that journey. We encourage and support parents to participate in choir, teaching, mentoring, Adult Ed Classes (ACE) Bible Studies, and worship; though children are always welcome in worship, we know there are times when nursery care may be a better option for your family.

When you bring your children to the nursery, they will be safely in the care of St. John's Nursery Paid Staff who are: high school juniors and seniors who are trained in CPR & First Aid, familiar with basic child development, and have passed a background check.

Parents need to stay in the building while your child(ren) are utilizing the nursery and provide contact information.

Schedule:

Wednesdays 6:30pm-8:00pm

Sundays 8:15am-11:30am

<https://forms.gle/fL4VopkJk6AffkH36>



## Affirm News:

### Affirm News:

Affirm this year is all about experiencing and practicing our faith. How do you learn a sport, a musical instrument, or any other skill? By practicing! Join us for a fun, faith-filled year of Affirm as we try out new ways each week to practice our faith in real life and grow in your comfort and familiarity with the Bible. Faith practices we'll explore include forgiveness, new and different ways to pray, lament, and gratitude.

### Affirm Calendar for October:

October 5 - Bonfire Small Groups

October 12 - Bonfire Small Groups Fellowship Night

October 19 - NO Affirm: MEA

October 26 - Small Groups Move Indoors: Practicing Faith Continues

PRACTICE FAITH  
&  
LOVE JESUS  
**AFFIRM**  
**MINISTRY**

## Muhanga Student Scholarship Giving Opportunities

October is a busy time at St John's as all programs are in full swing. It's the same for Global Missions as it's time for our commitment of scholarships from our St John's members. A full scholarship is \$400.00, but any amount of it is welcomed. If you're willing to give all or any amount for a scholarship please bring it to the church office by November 1.

Below is an article from our Bega Kwa Bega coordinator of how scholarships have enriched the lives of students and their families.

### The Gifts of Education

I know many of our readers are parents and grandparents, and have felt that heart swelling joy of watching your own young person walk across the university stage to shake hands with the provost or dean, accept their diploma, and toss their cap in the air.

I get a similar feeling when I walk around Iringa and run into the graduates I've known over the years.

Here's a woman who was a single mom who went to business school, worked as an office manager, then started her own business. Now she's the general manager of a hotel. Along the way, she financed the educations of her own three siblings and her daughter, all who are now college graduates themselves.

Here's a man who works in community development. He was raised by his grandmother, who managed to enroll him in secondary school and pay the first year's fees. But he knew there wasn't enough to fund the next semester, so he went to an empty classroom to pray. "God, if you want me to be a farmer, I will do it. But if you want me to continue

school, show me the way." The next week his pastor told him that the parish had received a new American partner, and that there would be scholarship funds for his next year. Later, there was a scholarship for college. And years later, the young man donated 40 iron sheets for the roof on the new chapel in his home village.

Here's a doctor. He, too, was raised by elderly grandparents. As a kid, he missed some school days because of migraines, but he showed great potential. He received a BKB scholarship to secondary school and did well. Next came a scholarship for medical school. Now he supports his grandparents as he raises his own family.

These and many more stories show the life-changing power of providing educational opportunities. Our students use the gifts of education to improve life for their families, their churches and their communities.

St John's Global Missions



9/21/22

Dear Pastor Andy,

Thank you and all our friends at St. John's Lutheran for your generous gift to the Open Door. Your donation helps provide healthy food to over 12,000 people every month. We couldn't do it without the support of great people like you. Thank you!

Peter Mallinger – Top Development Committee and Volunteer

# October 2022

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue   | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat                                   |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
|   |  |   |   |  |  | 1                                     |
| 2<br>8:15am<br>Worship/Communion,<br>9:15am Fellowship<br>Sunday School, ACE<br>10: 30am<br>Worship/Communion   | 3  | 4<br>7am Men's fellow-<br>ship<br>8:30am Mary Circle<br>10:00am Staff<br>Meeting  | 5<br>9:30am Hannah<br>Circle<br>See Wed Schedule<br>below   | 6<br>9am Paper Crafters  | 7  | 8                                     |
| 9<br><b>New Member Sunday</b><br>8:15am Worship<br>9:15am Fellowship<br>Sunday School, ACE,<br>Parenting Littles Small<br>Group<br>10: 30am Worship<br><br>Butter Braid Sale Begins | 10<br>1pm Adult Bible<br>Study<br>3pm Campus<br>Properties Team<br>Meeting<br>7pm Scout Troops | 11<br>7am Men's fellow-<br>ship<br>8:30am Global Mis-<br>sions Team Meeting<br>10:00am Staff<br>Meeting<br>6:30 Membership<br>Team Meeting<br>7pm CYF Team<br>Meeting<br>7pm Deborah Circle | 12<br>See Wed Schedule<br>below   | 13<br>9am Quilters<br><br>7pm Empty Nest<br>Small Group  | 14   | 15                                    |
| 16<br><b>Consecration Sunday</b><br>8:15am<br>Worship/Communion,<br>9:15am Fellowship<br>Sunday School, ACE<br>10: 30am<br>Worship/Communion<br>6:00pm Veritas Concert              | 17<br>1pm Adult Bible<br>Study<br>7pm Scout Troops   | 18<br>7am Men's fellow-<br>ship<br>10:00am Staff<br>Meeting<br>10:30am More Than<br>Just Lunch Small Grp<br>1pm Women's Team<br>Meeting<br>6:00pm Finance<br>Team Meeting                   | 19<br>See Wed Schedule<br>below   | 20<br>9am Quilters<br>11am Kingsley<br>Shores Worship<br>3pm Loaves and<br>Fishes  | 21   | 22                                    |
| 23<br>8:15am Worship<br>9:15am Fellowship<br>Sunday School, ACE<br>10: 30am Worship   | 24<br>1pm Adult Bible<br>Study<br>7pm Scout Troops   | 25<br>7am Men's fellow-<br>ship<br>10:00am Staff<br>Meeting<br>6:30pm Council   | 26<br>See Wed Schedule<br>below   | 27<br>9am Stitches<br><br>2pm Coffee & Fel-<br>lowship at High<br>View Hills<br>3:30 Dementia<br>Caregivers Small<br>Group @ HVH | 28<br>12pm<br>Spiritual Practices<br>Small Group | 29<br>6-11pm<br>Glow Night<br>Lock-In |
| 30<br>8:15am Worship<br>9:15am Fellowship<br>Sunday School, ACE<br>10: 30am Worship<br>3-5pm Trunk & Treat  | <b>Weekly Wednesday Schedule:</b>  |   | 5:30-6pm Elementary Choir<br>5:30-6:45pm Meal<br>6-6:30 Middle School Choir<br>6:30-7pm Worship<br>7-8pm Affirm, Ablaze<br>7-8:15pm Chancel Choir |  |  |                                       |



# Creating a Culture of Generosity

Dear Friends of St. John's.

As many of you have now heard, our theme for giving into 2023 is: "Whatever you do. . . do it all for the Glory of God!" 1 Corinthians 10:31.

This verse is part of a larger passage from 1 Corinthians 10:23-33 titled "Do All to the Glory of God." In this passage, Paul is confronting questions about how we, as believers, relate to "rules," such as Jewish rules surrounding eating with the "unclean" (nonbelievers), or eating "unclean" or forbidden food. Paul has an intriguing answer – do what makes others feel included. We sometimes struggle with Paul's advice here in 1 Corinthians 10, perhaps because it seems so relativistic. Should we not have "laws,"? Should there not be "right" things to do, and "wrong" things to do? Certainly, but our actions are not deemed "right" or "wrong" because of social mores – they are "right" or "wrong" based on whether they "build up" God here on earth, and draw others to God's salvation. Likewise, we do "right," not "wrong," for God and others' salvation, not for our own sakes, conscience, or advantage.

So what does this tell us about our generosity and giving? Giving is not at its core a question of social mores, percentages, or "ought to." It is not a question of what others are giving, or how we "stack up." We do not give so that we are somewhere on a list, or have done our duty. We give because our awesome God asks us to build him up! We give because we are his hands and feet, both individually, and as St. John's Lutheran Church. We give to draw others into the same love and salvation that inspires us to give in the first place!

October 16, we will celebrate the joyous, generous giving of St. John's members with new commitments to give to St. John's. Veritas will be in worship to help thank all of you for all that you do for St. John's. As you prayerfully consider what you would like to give in 2023, repeat to yourself this amazing truth: God – our amazing omnipotent God – is asking us to help build him up! Then, whatever you do. . . do it all for the Glory of God!

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## Loaves and Fishes Community Meal

We have a serving Opportunity at Loaves and Fishes on **Thursday, October 20 at Easter by the Lake at Cliff and Pilot Knob Road.**

Loaves and Fishes provides free, chef prepared meals that are prepared and packaged in to-go containers for you to take home or deliver to others. Volunteer to help us cook and serve meals.

To sign up, please contact Kathy at 612-414-5073, [kmcomer72@gmail.com](mailto:kmcomer72@gmail.com) or watch for a Sign up Genius link soon. **Thank you** for serving!



## Interested in Membership?

**New Member Sunday** coming up on Oct. 9 at both services.

Plan now to join us as a member of St. John's



## News from the Finance Office

Pink Envelopes in October support "Armful of Love" Quarter 3 2022 contribution statements will be emailed the second week of October.

Tithe.ly - Did you know?

- Has Auto-recurring giving.
- Has the option to cover the credit card fees so St. John's receives 100% of your gift.
- There are 4 ways to give with Tithe.ly.
- Give on the church website. Click on "Give"
- Give online - go to Tithe.ly/Give.
- Give with the Tithe.ly App. Want to give to your church using the convenience of your smartphone? No problem! Download the Tithe.ly App from the [App Store](#) (iPhone) or [Google Play Store](#) (Android). Once you've downloaded the app, create an account or log in, locate your church and tap "Give Now" to complete your gift!
- Text to Give – 218-210-7853. On your smartphone send a text to this number and in the message type in "Text to Give". You will receive a link to set up text giving!

Contact Tyra ([tyra@sjlcl.org](mailto:tyra@sjlcl.org)) or 952-469-6322. She will be happy to help you get signed up with this online giving platform.

## Ministry Finance Team Financial Performance Report

The Ministry Finance Team presents this Financial Performance Report ("FPR") for August 2022 to the Saint John's Lutheran Church Congregation and St. John's Lutheran Church Council.

We continue to manage worship and programs considering the ongoing Covid pandemic, we have resumed in-person worship, updated mask recommendations, added summer in-car worship, and held several successful summer programs. These efforts help expand the reach of St. John's to new audiences, fulfilling our Mission.

For 2022 to date, revenues have lagged the amount budgeted. Financial results for 2022 to date show that expenses are also trending below the budgeted amount, helping to partly offset the revenue shortfall. St. John's has recently needed to use cash reserves to fund the revenue shortfall accumulated for the year to date. As summer is a challenging time for giving, we are hopeful that as people conclude their summer vacations, return to their homes to start school, and as more in-person activity occurs at St. John's, including Christian Education, attendance will increase, and revenues will trend closer to budgeted amounts.

We are hopeful that the rest of 2022 will result in positive ministry outreach work, with improved financial operations following the expanded ministry work. Our goal is to continue to meet the needs of the St. John's community and combine lessons learned over the past two plus years as we move forward.

### General Fund Report

*For August 2022:*

- Offering revenue was \$39,643 which is 19% below budget for the month
- General Fund revenues & transfers were \$46,379, which is 5% below budget for the month
- General Fund expenses were \$48,576, which is 1% over budget for the month ·

General Fund net operating performance was a negative \$2,197 for August

*Year to date 2022:*

- General Fund revenue is \$354,458 which is 13% below budget for the year
- General Fund expenses are \$387,601, which is 7% below budget for the year

· General Fund actual net performance compared to Budget is a negative \$23,656 from January through August

· General Fund cash position has declined by \$33,143 since January 1, 2022

*Comments & Observations:*

August represents the end of summer (but not of summer weather!) when many people venture out of town. Giving to St. John's this summer has reflects this increased travel, with total receipts falling a bit further behind expenses in August. It is anticipated this trend will change once school begins, and people return to experience the rich programming at St. John's that begins on Rally Day, Sunday, September 11.

Expenses are running as expected and we have seen prudent conservation of funds in several areas, due to staff vacancies or strong financial management. Church leadership is in the process of filling out staffing and we hope staff will be onboard my mid-fall. We will continue to watch how actual financial results compare to budgeted amounts and keep the Council and Congregation informed of future developments.

### Benevolence Fund Report

The Benevolence Fund is allocated a portion (8%) of total offering revenues and all any benevolence contributions from dedicated contributions. Benevolence Fund expenditures are distributed periodically according to need and the amounts available from the Benevolence Fund.

*Year to date 2022:*

- Benevolence Fund allocations and revenue received is \$35,571 for January through August 2022, which is 7% over budget for the year.
- Benevolence Fund distributions for January through August 2022 were \$19,617 which is 9% under budget for the year.

The 2022 Benevolence fund in good financial shape to respond to St. John's and larger community needs in 2022. Benevolence requests are considered and acted upon by Church staff and Ministry Teams as appropriate.

*MFT report continued on next pg.*

## Building Fund Report

*For August 2022:*

- Building Fund revenues were \$9,996
- Building Fund expenses were \$10,094
- Building Fund Net was a negative \$97

*Year to date 2022:*

- Building Fund Revenue is \$82,117
- Building Fund expense is \$80,757
- Building Fund net is a positive \$1,365

*Comments and Observations:*

Building Fund performance continues to be stable, maintaining the fund balance slightly above the budgeted level after the first eight months of 2022. The overall Building Fund is in a strong financial position, and we continue to reduce the mortgage balance faster than required.

*Ministry Finance Team Members and How to Get Finance Questions Answered*

The members of the Ministry Finance Team are always available and willing to answer any financial related questions or provide information about the financial operations of St. John's. Contact the Church office to be put in touch with a Ministry Finance Team member or if you see Mark Gelle, Mike Sobota, Lisa Drogemuller, Andy Schultz, Brad Paulson, or Treasurer Barry Fick, don't hesitate to talk with them for additional information. We thank you for your ongoing financial support and encourage you to remain faithful in your giving as the year continues and we all experience new challenges.

## October ACE Schedule

Adult Christian Education (ACE) meets every Sunday at 9:15 am in the sanctuary; weekly ACE sessions will also be available via livestream. ACE features a variety of topics, ideas, and questions of faith, inviting us deeper along the path of spiritual growth in our lives of faith. Pastor, congregation leaders, and outside speakers will lead us in exploring matters of faith in daily life.

Our schedule for October is:

October 2: My Money Autobiography led by Pastor Kim

October 9: Stewardship with Pastor Andy and the Gratitude and Generosity Team

October 16: Special fellowship with Veritas

October 23: No ACE, MEA

October 30: "O Day Full of Grace: What Happens to Us When We Die?" with Pastor Merv Thompson



## Funeral Lunches: Baking & Serving Help

Funeral lunches are back! Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to help bake cookies or bars for funeral lunches, and to those who have volunteered to help serve food at funeral lunches. We have a strong group of volunteers, but will gladly welcome more people to help in either or both ways. If you are interested in 1) baking cookies or bars, and/or 2) helping the day-of a funeral by serving the meal, please contact Linda Moe or the church office.



We are so excited to be restarting our children's choirs this month – so much eager talent! Rehearsals will be Wed. night during the fellowship supper hour, elementary choir at 5:30, and middle school at 6 pm, each in the Choir Room.

We are blessed to welcome the professional quintet Veritas on Sunday, October 16. They will share their music in both services, and in a 6 pm concert in the sanctuary.

Starting Wed, October 12, we invite choristers to join for rehearsals of our Dec. 11 cantata "A Blest Messiah Born." A narrative of the nativity story will be interwoven with charming and thrilling traditional carols from Ireland, England, France, and Germany, accompanied by chamber orchestra. Chancel Choir will prepare its Sunday morning music from 7–7:30 when the Cantata Choir will commence for an hour.

Psalm 149:1 NIV, "Praise the LORD. Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the saints".

Dennis Friesen-Carper, Director of Music

St. John's Lutheran Church  
October 2022 Newsletter  
20165 Heath Ave  
Lakeville, MN 55044  
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**Come and celebrate with us on Sunday October 16**  
**Consecration Sunday**  
**Special Coffee hour**  
**Veritas in worship at 8:15 and 10:30am**  
**Veritas Concert 6:00pm**

Veritas a nationally known *Capella* group that is coming to share their special sound with us.

This Concert is free and open to the public a freewill offering will be taken

Invite your friends for a fun evening of musical enjoyment

