



20165 Heath Ave. Lakeville MN

952-469-4916

# Journal

## February 2023

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 Darkness is Not Dark to You: An Invitation to Lent 2023*

We live in a world that prefers to operate out of dualities: This or that. Left or right. Right or wrong. Good or evil. Life or death. Light or dark. Black or white.

Except experience shows us that life is never that simple.

The Bible shows us that faith and God, like life, are far more complex than our simplistic interpretations or our assumptions. Nothing can ever be reduced to just one thing. God has designed each aspect of God's diverse creation to be far more beautiful than that.

This Lent, we will venture into the Bible to explore one of these particular dualities: darkness and light.

Many of us are familiar with some of the Bible's great metaphors about light. In John 8:12, Jesus says, "I am the light of the world." And John 1:5 says, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Reading passages like these, it may be tempting to equate light singularly with good. If we make this singular equation, it's tempting to thus

infer that darkness singularly equates with evil, though that isn't specified in the Scriptures.

Light is so much more than good. Darkness is so much more as well.

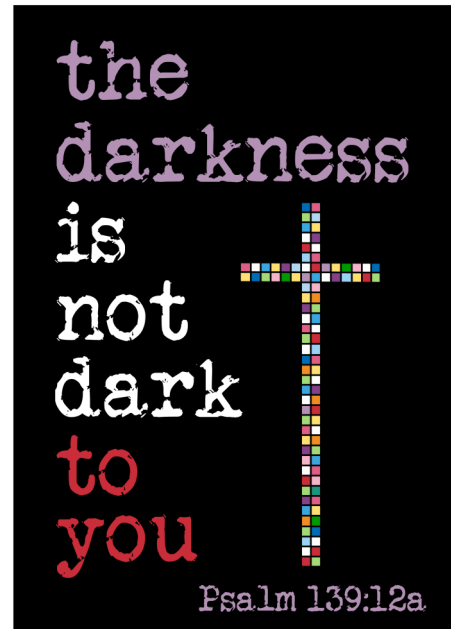
Psalm 139:12 says, "Even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you."

Darkness - in the Bible and in life - is rich and broad. Together, we'll explore a fuller expanse of what darkness is and can be for us: a place for contemplation and solace, rest and renewal, depression or

fear, generative creativity, challenge, abundant life, and much, much more.

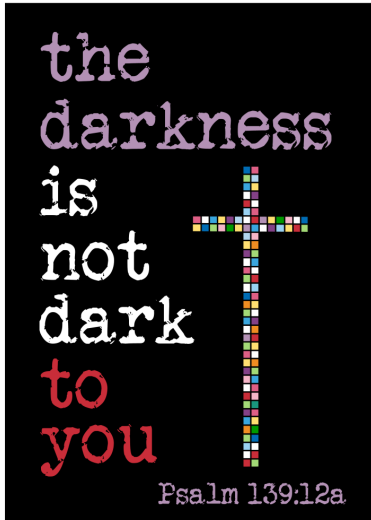
Together, as we venture deeper into the Scriptures and thus also deeper into the coexistence and interdependence of light and darkness, we pray we will all discover a renewed, honest and hopeful expression of faith.

So join us for the season of lent: *"The Darkness is Not Dark to You." Come and see what God has in store for us.*



Pastor Kim

**Lent 2023:  
"The Darkness is Not Dark to You"  
Psalm 139:12a**



**The Season of Lent is Coming Soon!  
What does this mean?**

*If Ash Wednesday and Lent are new to you (or if you have participated before but have unanswered questions), this might be a helpful place to start:*

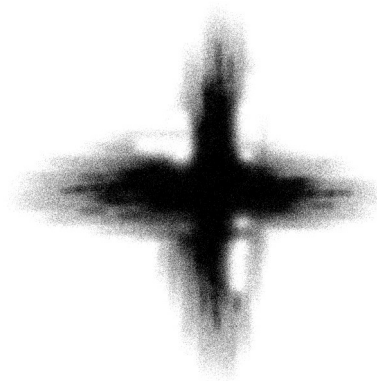
**Why Ashes? Where do these ashes come from?**

In the beginning, when God created everything, Genesis 2:7 says that God created the first people from "the dust of the ground." The Bible also promises us that God "raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap" (1 Samuel 2:8). On this one special day in the church year, we mark ourselves with ashes to remember 1) that God created us, and 2) that though we are mortal (will die one day), God gifts to us everlasting life.

The ashes we use to mark ourselves on Ash Wednesday are not human ashes; the ashes we use come from a palm branch that has been burned and then cooled before use.

**What is Lent?**

Lent is so much more than giving up chocolate and counting down the days until Easter! Lent is a season in the church year when we focus on three ways to give: giving of ourselves through prayer, giving of our resources (money, time, etc), and giving of our comforts through fasting. In all three of these practices, we shift our focus away from "the usual" in order to focus on God and connect with God more. Lent is 40 days long, giving us enough time to commit to one of these faith practices and watch to see what God will do!



**February 22** - Ash Wednesday

*"When Sin Finally Dies"*

**March 3** - *"When New Life Comes Into Being"*

**March 8** - *"When Nighttime Becomes Lifetime"*

**March 15** - *"When Hidden Treasures are Revealed"*

**March 22** - *"When Lament is Liberation"*

**March 29** - *"When Discernment Persists into Blessing"*

**Ash Wednesday Schedule:**

5:30-6:00—Jam Choir

5:30-6:30—Soup Supper

6:00-6:30—Middle School and Chancel Choir

6:30-7:30—Ash Wednesday Worship Service

7:30-8:00—Cantata Choir,

Affirm Lenten Mentors

Nursery open from 5:30-7:30

**Wednesday Lent Schedule:**

5:30 - 6:30—JAM Choir & Middle School Choir

5:30 - 6:30—Soup Supper

6:30 - 7:15—Lenten Worship Service

7:15 - 8:00—Lenten Mentors/Affirm

7:30 - 8:45—Chancel Choir

Nursery open from 5:30-7:15

## Worship at Winsor Plaza February 2nd at 2 pm

St. John's is now hosting a monthly worship service with Holy Communion in the community room at Winsor Plaza. This worship service will be held on the first Thursday of each month at 2 pm. Come join us for worship!



## 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 we meet on **Thursday, February 23 at 2 pm at HVH**. St. John's members, friends and residents of HVH are welcome!



## Adult Christian Education (ACE) in February

Adult Christian Education (ACE) meets every Sunday between worship services 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. Pastors, congregation leaders, and outside speakers will lead us in exploring matters of faith in daily life.

Our schedule for February is:

**February 5:** "What Happens When We Die?" pt 2 with Rev. Merv Thompson

**February 12:** Electronic Giving: Tithe.ly 101+, with Ministry Finance Team

**February 19:** Retirement Planning & Giving, with Ministry Finance Team

**February 26:** Lutheran Social Services with Rev. Amanda Simons

## 2023 Souper Bowl of Caring, Sunday, Feb. 12

"The ball is snapped, placed, the kick is up, it's...GOOOOOOD!"

"Bags of food are coming in the door at St. John's, they're headed for the food box in front of the goal posts in the lobby, the box is over-flowing, Johnnies are giving high-fives, and it's...GOOOOOOD!"

**Sunday, Feb. 12**, may be Super Bowl Sunday. But, **MORE IMPORTANTLY**, it's **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY**, the Souper Bowl of Caring at St. John's. What will we be up to again as a congregation that Sunday, you ask?

We will be:

- Excitedly encouraging you to bring as much non-perishable food items as you can for those in our community who are food-insecure. All food you bring goes to the Open Door Food Pantry
- And, also excitedly encouraging your generosity with gifts of money, which buys needed items the food shelf is short on

**GOOOOOOALS** for this year:

- 1,000 food items from Johnnies
- \$2,000 from Johnnies during our noisy offering and through special above-and-beyond gifts that day

Can we do it? Of course, we can! We're Johnnies, the church with the heart in the heart Lakeville!

**"The day is set, the people will be here, the food and gifts will come streaming in the door, and it's...GOOOOOOD!"**



## Children, Youth and Family News

**Please join us for  
Camp Sunday and the  
“Big Summer Roll Out  
Event” on February 5!**

**ROLL out our summer camp  
programs...by enjoying CAR-  
AMEL ROLLS!**

**Reveal our VBS theme!  
We will have Sunday School  
singing at the 10:30am ser-  
vice!**

**Congregation, please join in  
the fun by wearing your fa-  
vorite camp t-shirts, VBS  
shirts, camp attire or St.  
John’s shirts!**

**Support our campers by or-  
dering Lent Soups and But-  
terBraids and more opportu-  
nities to learn more about  
participating in and support-  
ing these wonderful faith  
“Mountain Top” experienc-  
es.**



**We will  
continue  
the fun  
with a  
Sledding  
Day, 12:00  
-2:00pm**

We will have a special Fun Sledding day at St. John’s “Mount St. John”, located by the church garage. We will have pizza, hot cocoa, snow angel contest and sledding fun! All are welcome to join us.

Please contact Amanda if you would like to help with this event, [amanda@sjlcl.org](mailto:amanda@sjlcl.org)

### **St. John’s LENT SOUP and Pancake Mix SALE!**

We are thrilled to be able to have soup suppers in the building this year during the Lenten Season. The last two years of making our take home soups was a great alternative and will continue this year with a new purpose. It’s a way to have a quick meal during a busy time of year and support our youth who will be attending our summer camps, mission trips and programs.

Purchase homemade dry soup mixes and pancake mixes for just \$7 each.

Soup options are: Beef barley vegetable, Chicken noodle, Chicken wild rice and Taco.

All soups cook in 15 -30 minutes and just require heating with water. You may opt to add in some additional cooked chicken or beef. They are full of tasty ingredients and are good to eat as is.

Order as many as you would like.

To order: Please fill out the form on the back of this newsletter or click on this online form: <https://forms.gle/95uj2fFeWS3226TFA>

**Orders are due by February 15**

**Soup orders will be available for pick up Wednesday, March 1 from 3:00pm-7:00pm. If you need help placing your order, call the**

**church office.** Watch for details for pick up.



### **Butter Braids Spring Sale**

All proceeds will go to our Summer 2023 Bible camp and Mission Trip participants. Your support is greatly appreciated!

**Orders due March 5 and will be delivered March 21** to have them ready to enjoy for Easter! Order forms are in the Narthex or you can use this link

<https://www.sjlcl.org/ministry-programs/pages/children-youth-and-family>

### **Special Pancake Breakfast February 19**

Join us for a special Congregational Pancake Breakfast to begin our Lent Season!  
9:15am-10:30am

Pick up your Lent resources and learn more about this special season.

No Sunday School or Ace this day, we will be all together in the Fellowship Hall for fellowship and pancakes!



## Sunday School News

In Sunday School this January we have learned about the amazing life of Jesus! We traveled to Jesus' hometown, Nazareth! We discovered how the disciples dropped their nets and followed Jesus! Blessings are abundant!

**Sunday School continues to meet on Sunday mornings 9:30am-10:15am. We begin with music and then dive into our Bible Story!**

If you would like to assist with our program, we would love to have you as a teaching assistant, sort, put away or prep supplies. There are so many ways you can help! Contact [amanda@sjlcl.org](mailto:amanda@sjlcl.org) or sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F4BADAF22A6F58-team>

## **Sledding Day** **Sunday February 5** **12:00-2:00pm**

We will have a special Fun Sledding day at St. John's "Mount St. John", located by the church garage. We will have pizza, hot cocoa, snow angel contest and sledding fun! All are welcome to join us. Please contact Amanda if you would like to help with this event, [amanda@sjlcl.org](mailto:amanda@sjlcl.org)



## **First Communion** **Parent/Student Classes**

For all current 5th grade and new students, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> Cup Making and Last Supper class, 1:00pm-2:30pm

March 5<sup>th</sup> Bread making, Catechism and sacrament class, 1:00-2:30

March 12<sup>th</sup> Cup Glazing and "try the wine" class at 1:00-2:30pm

**Rite of First Communion on March 26 at 10:30am worship.**

## **Children and Youth Choirs**

Please contact Malynda Davis, [malynda@sjlcl.org](mailto:malynda@sjlcl.org) if your student would like to join our choir! They meet on Wednesday nights, 5:30pm-6:00 for our younger 2nd-4th grade group, 6:00pm-6:30 pm for our older 5th-9th grade group. We would love to have your student join this fun group!



## **Middle School and** **High School youth** **events:**

**Badlands Snow Tubing Adventure, Hudson Wisconsin Ablaze, Affirm and High School Youth groups!**

**February 19 Sunday**

**Cost:** \$40.00, cost of transportation included we will be bussing from church.

**Registration link:** <https://forms.gle/nejEaaNQ5kt2byvT9>

Contact Amanda Boe, [amanda@sjlcl.org](mailto:amanda@sjlcl.org)

### **Schedule:**

- 11:30am Meet at church
- 12:00pm Depart from church
- 1:00pm Arrive at Badlands Sledding hill
- 1:00pm arrival- check in
- Our reservation is for 1:30-4:30pm
- Leave Badlands at 4:30pm
- Arrive at church at 5:30pm-6:00pm - pick up students from church at 5:30-6:00 pm

## Summer Camps and Mission Trips

Spots are filling up for Summer 2023  
Please contact Amanda if you are interested in attending these summer programs.

**Why Now? Awesome, Mountain Top experiences require planning, prayer and preparation to have the best experience possible.** We will provide many fundraising opportunities to help support each student, we also participate in early bird discounts and other cost savings opportunities. Please do not let cost be a factor in considering a camp or mission trip experience. Children, Youth and Family Director, Amanda Boe and/or Pastor Kim Kylo will accompany students on their journeys at camp and the mission trip. We will have many opportunities to prepare for the adventures in team building experiences to make sure they are prepared for their adventure.

**We have two opportunities for students:**

**1. Luther Crest Bible Camp, Alexandria Mn**

July 23-28 or July 30-August 4  
Opportunities for students Kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade



**2. High School Mission Trip Bayou La Batre, Alabama:**

June 18-23  
8<sup>th</sup>-12 grade students

Please contact Amanda Boe if you are interested in these opportunities: [amanda@sjlcl.org](mailto:amanda@sjlcl.org)

## **BASECAMP TRIP HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED!**

**Event Timing:** Wednesday, 03/19/2023 from 1:00PM to 3:30PM.

**Event Address:** Northern Star Base Camp, <https://goo.gl/maps/iWt8prSqXhG2>

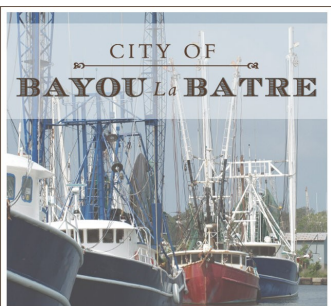
**Contact:** Amanda Boe [amanda@sjlcl.org](mailto:amanda@sjlcl.org)

**Registration link:** <https://forms.gle/sVp73e9r5DcJ2ozq9>

Our 5th-9th grade will be going to Northern Star Base Camp, this team building experience is a lot of fun but will also challenge our St. John's youth to try some new camp experiences in the safety of a unique indoor setting. It truly is a one-of-a-kind interactive experience! Located in Fort Snelling, Minnesota, our youth will have opportunities for team building, rock climbing, rope courses, and archery.

Friends are welcome, parents and siblings over 21 are encouraged to sign up for chaperones!

A Northern Star Base camp waiver will be sent to you before this event and your student will need to bring it with them to the event.



# 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 February:

February 1 - Service Blitz: Making Meals for Living Well @ SJLCL

February 8 - "Practicing Faith" Small Group Lessons Continue

February 15 - "Practicing Faith" Small Group Lessons Continue

February 22 - Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:30 pm + Lenten Mentors immediately following worship

## Affirm Lenten Mentors 2023:

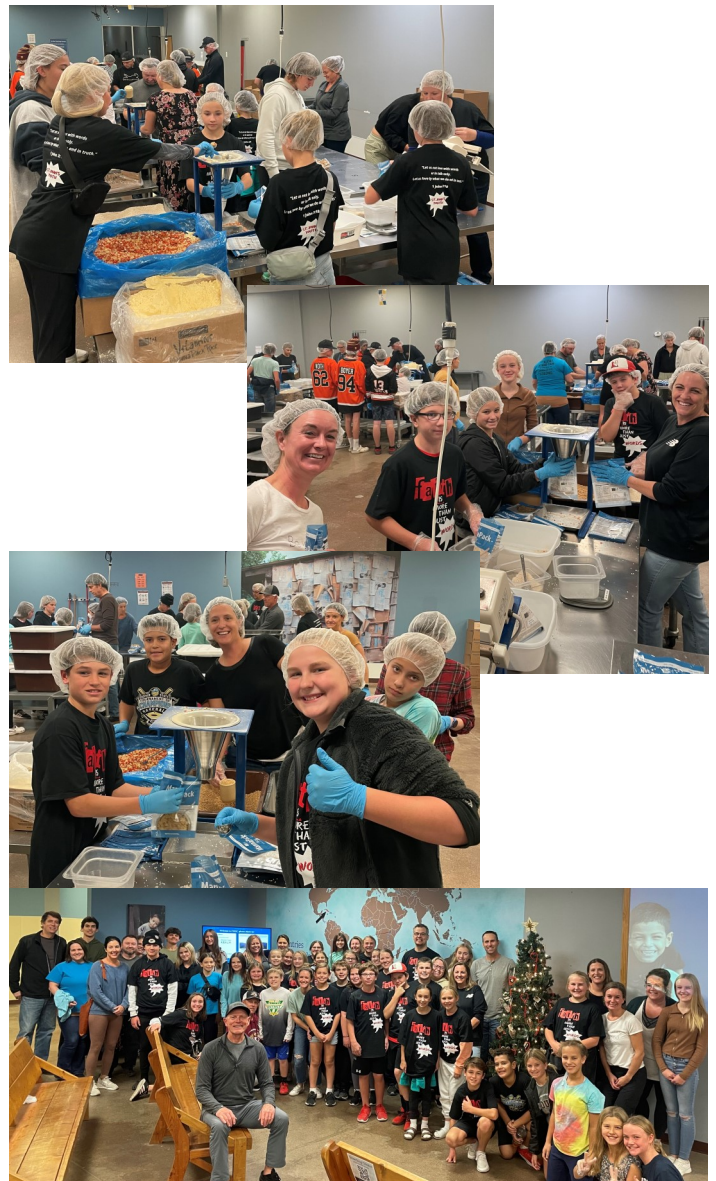
For the season of Lent, will shift our focus onto two things: Lenten Worship and Lenten Mentors. Here is a brief introduction to what you can expect for Lenten Mentors this year:

- 6th and 7th grade Affirm youth will each work one-on-one with a Lenten Mentor of their choosing, having a 30-minute conversation immediately following Lenten Worship each week. Affirm youth and parents should begin considering whom you might ask to be your Lenten Mentor. You may have the same Lenten Mentor each year. A Lenten Mentor can be a family member, a godparent/sponsor, or a trusted adult friend from church; they can be a member of St. John's or a member of another church, however they will need to attend in-person with you. A short discussion guide will be provided for each Lenten Mentor + Affirm youth pair.
- 8th and 9th grade Affirm youth will spend these weeks learning about Luther's Small Catechism,

also attending Lenten Worship each week. 8th and 9th graders will use this time to become well-acquainted with the 10 commandments, Lord's Prayer, and Apostles Creed and what they mean for our life of faith today.

Affirm youth and their Lenten Mentors should plan to attend worship together each Wednesday of Lent at 6:30 pm. Families and people of all ages are invited to worship. Immediately following the end of each Wednesday worship service, Lenten Mentors and Affirm Youth will move directly into their Mentor conversations throughout the church building and will conclude at 8:00pm.

## Feed My Starving Children Service Blitz!





**Thrivent: Did you know that programs such as Thrivent Action Teams have funded these service projects?**

- Making Fleece blankets for Lewis House and Highview Hills Memory Care
  - Easter Baskets and Autumn encouragement bags for our first responders
  - Kits for the Homeless
  - Diaper drive for VEAP
  - Lent Soup, proceeds going to Open Door or youth programs
  - Summer Garden, growing veggies for seniors
- Thrivent Action Teams is a program that gives \$250.00 twice a year to any person who is a Thrivent member. These funds are used to purchase the materials needed for these projects. Please contact Candy or Amanda if you would like to sponsor one of our service projects with your Thrivent Dollars or another similar fund that your employer or investment or insurance may provide. Our youth have a heart for service, please help us continue these and more projects like these in the future.

Summer Stretch is coming!

Save these dates:

### Summer Stretch Program

Summer Stretch is a program for Upper Elementary and Middle Schoolers (students entering Grades 4,5, 6, 7 and 8 in Fall 2023) to put their faith in action and be the light of Christ through reflection of the Word of God and participation in service projects for the greater community followed by afternoon adventures with friends. Yes, Friends are welcome as participants and leaders!

**Students who will be in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade in the fall of 2023 can apply to be small group guides and adult chaperones will be welcomed.**

#### Dates and Events planned for program:

Time: 9:00am-4:30pm drop off and pick up at St. John's Lutheran Church front doors. We will generally do service projects in the morning and fun adventures in the afternoon.

Dates will be- June 21, June 28, July 12 and July 19. Valley Fair August 9 or 16.

Transportation: We will be taking a school bus to and from all of the activities

POSSIBLE Activities and service partners

Activities: Conquer Ninja Gyms, Windy Willow, Vertical Endeavors, Forestville Mystery Caves, Valley Fair

Service Partners: Majestic Farms horse therapy, Arc Value Village, Feed My Starving Children, 360 communities, High View Hills

Please reach out to Amanda Boe [amanda@sjlcl.org](mailto:amanda@sjlcl.org) if you would like to be put on the email when registration opens. There will be a limit of 60 youth and chaper-





## Opportunities to serve

Being a servant of Christ and others is at the heart of Christian discipleship at St. John's. There are many ways to grow in faith and serve at church and in the community. You can serve in the following ways.

Sunday Mornings:

**Reader in Church** (Read a lesson in worship), **Sunday Usher** (Bulletins, Offering, Communion direction), **Hospitality Team** (Sunday coffee and other congregational meals), **Worship Coordinator** (Assist pastors with Sunday server coordination), **Livestream Team** (Help Livestream worship services), **Sound Tech Team** (Run audio equipment for worship services), **Clicker Team** (Youth or adults: Sign up to operate the clicker (advance the slides) during worship), **Communion Prep Team** (Help prepare and care for Communion at worship services), **Communion Serving in worship** (Help pastors serve Holy Communion during worship services), **Cantor in Worship** (Help lead hymn-singing in worship from the cantor microphone), **Chancel Choir** (Sing in worship with other choir members), **Acolyte/Crucifer** (Youth: Carry the cross into and out of worship, or light and extinguish the candles during worship), **Junior Usher** (Youth: Assist with ushering responsibilities, including bulletin distribution, offering collection, and more), **Offering Counting Team** (Help count offerings after worship), **Sunday school teacher** (Help teach a class from pre-school through 4th grade on Sunday mornings),

During the week:

**Loaves and Fishes** (Monthly serving of meal for those in need), **Funeral Meal Ministry** (Help set up and serve meals for funerals), **Liturgical Art Team** (Help decorate sanctuary and church), **Horticulture Team** (Help with plants on church campus), **Affirm Small Group leader** (Lead small group of 6-8 Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, or Ninth Grade kids on Wednesday nights after pastor's teaching time), **Computer Support Tech Team** (IT knowledge is very helpful in keeping church's computers and network up to date), **Office Receptionist when needed** (Volunteer needed when other staff are unavailable).

If something looks interesting to you, check the website for sign up details or contact the church office.

If you don't see something that would work for you, contact us and let us know how you would like to plug in.

## STAFFED NURSERY

Children, Youth and Family ministries at St John's strive to create a seamless line of ministry from birth through high school and to walk alongside families to raise compassionate, respectful, and service-oriented 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 to tend to their own spiritual care by participating in church activities and 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 5:30pm-7:15pm
- Sundays 8:15am-11:30am

## Red cross Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held at St John's on Monday, February 6, noon to 6:00 pm. To make an appointment, visit [Redcrossblood.org](http://Redcrossblood.org) and enter



## Global Missions Team News

***The St. John's Global committee was excited to receive this correspondence in December letting us know that the following was happening. With the dispensary being built a more reliable source of water is needed.***

My name is Ken Smith and I am the vice chair of St Paul Partners, a BKB affiliate organization. <https://stpaulpartners.org/> I also am one of three instructors for an upcoming University of Minnesota class "Design for Life" heading to the Iringa region December 28<sup>th</sup> through January 15<sup>th</sup>. This is the eighth year for this class which started in 2014 and will be the first class since the pandemic started in 2020. Along with 14 upper-level students in the college of science and engineering we will be visiting three villages January 6-8 to design systems to provide clean and safe water. St John's Lutheran's partner parish, Muhanga, will be one of the villages we visit.

I just wanted to make you aware of this visit. Along with designing a system to supply safe water to Muhanga we hope (but do not promise) that St Paul partners can implement the design in the future. To date ~14 of the villages or schools visited by U of M students over the years have been provided with safe and clean water. Total cost of these systems is ~\$340,000 and they serve over 20,000 people.

You and your congregation may want to follow the U of M team on their blog this year at <https://z.umn.edu/TanzaniaBlog2022-23>.

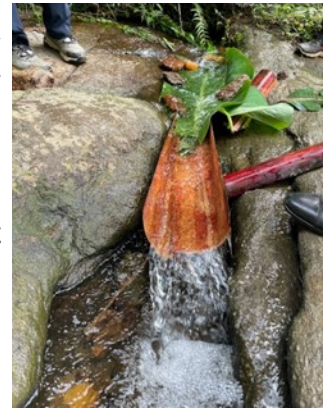
- It would be wonderful if interested people from St John's Lutheran could also attend the final student presentations the evening of February 28<sup>th</sup> 2023 on the U of M campus. Engagement by partner churches means a lot to the students.

Here are some pictures of their visit:



We arrived in Muhanga village at 1 p.m. after a four-hour long African massage (bumpy car ride). We were warmly welcomed with a song and dance, including dancing with bowls on their feet. Once we got settled, we hiked to two potential sources. We got caught in a rainstorm, but luckily, we had met a new rafiki (friend), who let us wait it out at his house.

On Saturday, we hiked 10 miles in the mountainous village to see potential water sources and understand the map of the village.



On Sunday, we went to church and were impressed by the choir performances. We handed out candy to kids and adults alike and started a soccer game. Then we headed home back down the mountain. We had to stop to rescue the Idete group, but thanks to us, all of us made it safely back to Iringa.



***The Lenten Bank Project here at St. John's directly supports this work of providing clean water in Muhanga. Be sure to pick up your Lenten Bank and collect cash and change throughout lent and see how we, together with other churches in our Synod, can make a difference for the people of Muhanga.***

# The Ministry Finance Team Financial Performance Report

The Ministry Finance Team is responsible for monitoring, reviewing, and reporting the financial activities of the congregation. The Ministry Finance Team also recommends strategies and options to Congregational Leadership and committees to optimize the stewardship of funds contributed to the Church.

The MFT worked with Staff, the Return Team, and Council to ensure efficient use of Church resources and conservative budgeting for 2022. The Ministry teams have been very faithful in their financial stewardship which helped to smooth the path to a return of in-person worship and other activities at St. John's.

One of the primary ongoing tasks of the Ministry Finance Team is to ensure that funds received by the church are appropriately recorded and allocated to various areas of Ministry. We ensure financial transparency by having multiple people count and record offerings, have the Treasurer review accounting reports, and related financial information to ensure accountability.

*You can help ensure the accuracy and transparency of St. John's financial records by signing up for direct deposit of your financial offering through the Tithe.ly app. Check the St. John's website to sign up!*

A special "thank you" goes out to Tyra Wiemann, Financial Analyst for her ongoing work for the congregation. With our new streamlined process, Tyra prepares the monthly reports for review by the Treasurer and the Ministry Finance Team. The finance reports are forwarded to the Church Council for their review and approval monthly.

The Treasurer and a representative of the Ministry Finance Team will present the St. John's 2022 financial results during the ACE education hour at 9:30 am on Sunday, January 15, 2023. This session will also be livestreamed and available through the St. John's website.

The Ministry Finance Team is committed to Transparency of operation and Stewardship of Church Funds and Resources. We encourage members of the congregation to let any of the Finance Team members know if you have questions, comments or would like additional information on the finances of St. John's Lutheran Church, Lakeville.

**\* For more details on the financial health of the church, pick up an Annual Report in the Narthex today or view it on our website.**

## Notes from the Finance Office:

February Reminders:

If your pledge has changed for 2023;

- and you use Tithe.ly, you will need to make that change in Tithe.ly. Please call or email Tyra ([tyra@silcl.org](mailto:tyra@silcl.org)) if you have any questions.
- and you use Simply Giving, contact Tyra so your account can be updated.

Tithe.ly - Did you know?

1. Has Auto-recurring giving.
2. 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:

1. Give on the church website. Click on "Give"
2. Give online - go to [Tithe.ly/Give](https://tithe.ly/give).
3. 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!
4. 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@silcl.org](mailto:tyra@silcl.org)) or 952-469-6322. She will be happy to help you get signed up with this online giving platform.

Pink Envelopes in February support St. John's Youth Assistance Fund. Your gifts help kids to go to Bible Camp & Youth Summer Activities.



## Small Group Ministry

### Small Group Ministry

*Connect. Grow. Belong.*

St. John's offers a variety of small groups to include people of all walks, ages, and experiences of life. Check out our current small group offerings and consider getting connected with one or more of these vibrant spaces of relationship and faith.

#### Spiritual Practices Small Group

**Facilitator:** Pastor Kim Kylo

**Meets:** the last Friday of every month from 12-1 pm

Encounter, practice, and reflect together with others on a variety of spiritual practices, including forgiveness, contemplative prayer, sabbath, gratitude, deep listening, and more.

Join us **February 24th at noon** as we

explore the spiritual practice of **Slowing**. Sign up here or by contacting Pastor Kim.



Spiritual Practices  
QR Code

#### "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!

**Meets Next:** February 21st

Join us for a trip to the Bible Exhibit and Art Gallery at their new site in Apple Valley. It was created by the Bible Mission as an exhibit to revive peoples' interest in the Bible. It will be a guided tour that will last about an hour and a half. We will have lunch afterwards at Rascals. Meet at church at 10:00 for the short drive to Apple Valley.

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.

**"Empty Nest" Small Group** "An empty nest does NOT mean an empty life"

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

**When:** The second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm-8pm, **February 16th**

**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

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



Empty Nest  
QR Code



### **"Parenting Littles" Small Group**

**Co-Facilitators:** Amanda Boe & Pastor Kim Kylo

**When:** 2nd Sunday of each month during Sunday School; meets next **February 12th**

**Where:** St. John's

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.

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



Parenting Littles



Parenting Littles  
QR Code

### **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; **meets next February 23.**

**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.

### **GriefShare Small Group - Starting February**

**Facilitators:** Lisa Horn & Pastor Kim Kylo

**Meets:** Tuesdays at 6:30 pm from February 7 - April 4 (9 weeks)

**Where:** St. John's

GriefShare is a weekly video and conversation sem-

inar designed to provide support, understanding, and practical tools for coping with grief. We know it hurts, and we're here to help. Whether your grief is fresh, or if you have been coping with grief for years, we hope you'll discover support here. This is open to anyone; you don't need to be a member of St. John's to participate. Sign up online or by calling the church office.

Childcare may be available, upon request; please indicate your need when you sign up.



### **Loaves and Fishes Community Meal**

We have a serving Opportunity at Loaves and Fishes on **Thursday, February 16 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

Sign up on this link now. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F4AA8AC29AAF49-loaves>

**Thank you** for serving!

### **Adult Bible Study On the Gospel of Matthew**

**What:** Adult Bible study utilizing ELCA Book of Faith materials on the Gospel of Matthew

**Why:** The Gospel of Matthew is our gospel focus in church for 2023

**When:** Mondays, 1:00-2:00 pm, Jan. 9, 16, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, Mar. 6

**Where:** On any given week, you can participate here at St. John's or online via a Zoom link that will be published each week

**Cost:** Free; materials will be sent to you as part of St. John's ongoing ministry

You can still join by calling the church office.

# February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 Hannah Circle at St. John's See Wed Schedule	2 9am Card Making 2pm Worship at Winsor Plaza	3	4
5 8:15am Worship/ Communion, 9:15am "The Big Sum- mer Roll Out Event" ACE, 10:30am Worship/ Communion 12-2pm Sledding Day	6 12-6pm Blood Drive 1-2pm Adult Bible Study 7pm Scout Troops	7 7am Men's fellow- ship 8:30am Global Mis- sions Team Meeting 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30 Membership Team Meeting 6pm Deborah Circle 6:30PM Grief Group	8 See Wed Schedule	9 9am Quilters	10	11
12 SOUPer Bowl of Caring Sunday 8:15am Worship 9:15am Fellowship Sunday School, ACE, Parenting Littles Small Group 10: 30am Worship	13 1-2pm Adult Bible Study 7pm Scout Troops	14 7am Men's fellow- ship 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Finance Team Meeting 6:30PM Grief Group 7pm CYF Team Meeting	15 See Wed Schedule Soup and Pancake Orders Due	16 9am Quilters 11am Kingsley Shores Worship 3pm Loaves and Fishes 7pm Empty Nest Small Group	17	18
19 8:15am Worship/ Communion 9:15am Special Pancake Breakfast, A.C.E. 10: 30am Worship/ Communion 11:30-6 Badlands Snow Tubing	20 1-2pm Adult Bible Study 7pm Scout Troops	21 7am Men's fellow- ship 10:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am More Than Just Lunch Small Grp 6:30PM Grief Group	22 Ash Wednesday See Ash Wed Schedule on p. 2	23 2pm Coffee and Conversations at HVH 3:30pm Dementia Caregivers Support Group	24 12pm Spiritual Practices Small Group	25
26 8:15am Worship 9:15am Fellowship Sunday School, ACE 10: 30am Worship	27 1-2pm Adult Bible Study 7pm Scout Troops	28 7am Men's fellow- ship 10:00am Staff Meeting 1pm Women's Team Meeting 6:30PM Grief Group 6:30 pm Council		<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Weekly Wednesday Schedule:</b></p> <p>5:30-6pm Elementary Choir</p> <p>5:30-6:45pm Meal</p> <p>6-6:30 Middle School Choir</p> <p>6:30-7pm Worship</p> <p>7-8pm Affirm, Ablaze</p> <p>7-8pm Chancel Choir</p> </div>		

## Creating a Culture of Generosity

It's a very exciting time of the year as St. John's transitions from the Advent/Christmas season to the Lent/Easter season. We have so many opportunities/programs at Church and the improving weather just seems to brighten our spirits.

Some exciting new things coming up this year at St. John's:

- We will create a Legacy Gifting program for those who wish to set aside funds upon their passing to eternal life which will be used for a number of things in the church as well as for outreach programs. This will be a very easy and convenient way to be remembered for all the blessings you received during your life and your commitment to want to help others. It also has tax advantages.
- We are also going to be prioritizing other needs of the church to ensure the ongoing ability to maintain the best worship experience. Some suggestions are improving and upgrading the livestream capabilities and upgrading the piano used in worship, watch for more things to come.

These will be Above and Beyond gifts. There are two passages in the Bible that I believe to be very relevant. "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." *Hebrews 13:16* and "To whom much has been given much is expected." *Luke 12:48*

We hope you will Prayerfully consider these opportunities. Please watch for more information to come about how you can make a "special gift" beyond your usual giving. Please know how thankful we are for each and every one of you. Blessings in this New Year. May it be special for all.

Bob Rustvold and the St. John's Gratitude and Generosity Team

## Music News



What a joy to hear the children's voices ringing in the hallway on Wednesday night during the fellowship meal 5:30 to 6:30! The middle school choir will sing in worship on Feb. 22 as part of our Ash Wednesday service. The elementary choir is now going by the name "JAM Choir", standing for "Jesus and Me". They will sing in worship on Feb. 26. We look forward to welcoming the Sunday School children to sing in worship on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> for the second service!

The Chancel Choir is beginning preparations for Lent and Holy Week. We will sing in worship with the middle school choir on Ash Wednesday, and are looking forward to a major work as part of the service on Palm/Passion Sunday.

Consider whether you or members of your family or friends can serve in worship by singing. We're recruiting cantors/song leaders for Sunday and Wednesday services. Wed. nights in Lent will feature Holden Evening Prayer. We're very gratified by the new singers joining both the children's and adult choirs. Feb. is the perfect time to join for the Easter season!

*Colossians 3:16: Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*

Dennis Friesen-Carper, Director of Music

# St John's Lent Soup Sale

Together we can enjoy a humble meal of soup during Lent and support our youth summer programs.

We are once again selling dried soup mixes and pancake mixes for folks to make at home.

**Orders due Sunday, February 15. Proceeds benefit Youth Ministry programming. Soup orders will be available for pick up Wednesday, March 1 from 3:00pm-7:00pm.**

Place your order, along with check, in the offering plate or drop off in the church office or mail to St. John's, 20165 Heath Ave, Lakeville MN 55044.

Soups and Pancake Mixes \$7.00 Orders Due by WEDNESDAY, February 15					
Write your contact information below	Beef Barley	Chicken Noodle	Taco	Chicken Wild Rice	Pancake Mix
Name:					
Phone Number:					
How Many of each:					
Total:					

St. John's Lutheran Church  
 February 2023 Newsletter  
 20165 Heath Ave  
 Lakeville, MN 55044  
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