



20165 Heath Ave. Lakeville MN

952-469-4916

Journal

May 2023

Andy Smith - Pastor
Kim Kyllo - Pastor

Sunday Schedule

8:15am Worship

9:15 Fellowship

9:30-10:15 Faith Education

10:30am Worship

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### Summer Schedule: Begins Sunday May 28

8:15am Worship

9:15 Fellowship

10:00 am Worship

### Inside this issue:

ACE .....p.2

Calendar .....p.4

Finance Report.....p.14

Small Groups .....p.10

And Much More!

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

Submit information by the  
15th of the month to:  
[candy@sjlcl.org](mailto:candy@sjlcl.org)

Let me quote The Byrds (oh, yes, and Ecclesiastes from the Old Testament, also!): *"To everything turn, turn, turn; There is a season turn, turn, turn; And a time to every purpose under Heaven; A time to be born, a time to die; A time to plant, a time to reap..."* and so on.

Every year, I feel a turning of many seasons in the month of May:  
Lent and Holy Week transformed to a whole season of Easter  
winter finally to spring  
non-golf to golf/non-fishing to fishing!  
the school year to the end of the school year  
the program year at church to summer programming

Turn, turn, turn. Life moves on. As much as we humans love and cherish familiarity, we also admit changing seasons is good, life-giving, interesting, healthy, real, and normal. And expected. Evolution and new awakenings to deeper things happen in the world and in us in so many ways, which means growth and development in us.

This May, I retire from full-time ministry and from presence here at St. John's. It's the turning of a season. I want to thank you for all the ways you helped shape my last six-and-a-half years of ministry. We experienced a lot, including getting ourselves successfully through a global pandemic and coming out of it in pretty robust ways. I told our staff I wanted all of us to "Embrace the Adventure," and not only they but also you did this with aplomb. Way to go, Johnnies! I am proud of you and us.

But we won't rest on that because our focus needs to turn to the One who always guides, leads, accompanies, strengthens, and carries us - our crucified and risen Savior, Jesus Christ. In EVERY season. At the heart of our lives, we fundamentally trust this. Trust in God is what faith is. We trust Christ is with us and guiding and blessing us in EVERY way and EVERY season.

I am fully trusting Christ will be with you in robust ways in this next season of searching out a new Senior Pastor for St. John's. Look to these next months with joyful and generous anticipation. Don't shrink from this season, but embrace it with trusting faith. And God will, indeed, bless you greatly.

Now, go with this benediction, as I share it in deepest gratitude to Christ, my Savior, and to you, my dear St. John's friends:  
*May Christ go before you to show you the way.  
May Christ go behind you to encourage you.  
May Christ go beside you to befriend you.  
May Christ go above you to watch over you.  
And, may Christ go within you to grant you God's peace.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

In Christian love,  
Pastor Andy Smith

## For Your Information

### New St. John's YouTube/Livestream Channel

In the month of May, we will be changing over to a new YouTube channel for our Livestream videos. For the first Sunday in May, (May 7), we will remain on the current channel all of you are subscribed to.



**On May 14**, we will switch to the new channel. We ask that you subscribe to this channel today so you can start finding regular weekly videos once we get to May 14. Please click on this link - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxnJja6smwfTt0AJ\\_B7ps5A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxnJja6smwfTt0AJ_B7ps5A) and then click on the "subscribe" button.

As always, if you have questions, please call the church office at 952-469-4916.

### 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 will gather on **Thursday, May 25th at 2 pm at HVH**. St. John's members, friends and residents of HVH are welcome!

### Worship at Winsor Plaza May 4 at 2 pm

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

### Adult Christian Education (ACE) in May

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 May is:

May 7: TBD

May 14: Guest Presentation: Muhanga Water Project, with the U of M Team

May 21: Synod Assembly Recap

May 28: No ACE, Summer Schedule Begins



### New Members Welcome!

Do you know someone who is interested in membership? We are accepting new member requests every week. Anyone can become a member by logging into [www.sjcl.org](http://www.sjcl.org) and going to the "About" page and clicking on "I'm New." There you can find general information about St. John's and complete a registration form. Twice per year we welcome new members to St. John's with an orientation session over lunch and hold a new member recognition in worship. If you have any questions or need more information you can contact the church office.

The next new member Sunday is planned for June 25, with the orientation and lunch set for June 11 at 11:15am.



## Congregation NEWS from the Youth Office

Thank you for your continued support of our youth! Thank you for supporting our Butter Braid Sale! All of the proceeds help support our summer campers! We have 43 Luther Crest Bible Campers and 16 youth going on our Mission Trip to Alabama. These experiences are so important for young people to grow in faith and often are some of the most memorable experiences in their faith lives. We have one last event to support our campers:

**Thank you** for your continued support of our youth summer programs! We have 42 Luther Crest Bible Campers and 16 youth going on our Mission Trip to Alabama. These experiences are so important for young people to grow in faith and often are some of the most memorable experiences in their faith lives. Please support our fundraisers in May:



### How MAY I help you? Mission Trip Youth for hire!

During the month of May, our Mission Trip Youth will be happy to help with yardwork, house projects or childcare. Please fill out this form and you will be matched with a High School or Middle School Mission Trip youth ready to work and earn some extra income for their mission trip account! <https://forms.gle/wy54qUMNLU8zWDSq5>

### Plan To Attend the Annual Compost Sale

Our youth who are attending summer camps, mission trips and programs are hosting a **SPRING COMPOST SALE!** Each 20 pound bag of compost is sold for \$4.00 and our youth programs will receive \$3.50 of each bag sold! Another option is you can bring your own container and make us an offer. **THIS IS AN EXCELLENT FUNDRAISER!**

Please order ahead or come to our sale:  
Saturday morning, May 20 from 9:00am-11:00am  
Sunday, May 21st from 11:00am-2:00pm  
Please come and get fantastic compost for your garden and planters!

To order: Please fill out the online form or pick up a paper form in the narthex: Enter your name, email and how many 20 pound bags of compost you would like.

<https://forms.gle/FZdurYcijJHJZ73H7>



Compost Sale



### Thrivent Action Teams

Twice a year, any person who has a Thrivent Account can apply for a \$250.00 Thrivent Action Team grant to benefit service oriented activities. These funds can be used to purchase the materials needed for a service project. Please contact Candy or Amanda if you would like to sponsor one of our service projects with your Thrivent Dollars. Our youth have a heart for service, please help us continue to offer more projects like these in the future.

**thrivent**®

# May 2023

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Mon                                                           | Tue                                                                                                                                         | Wed                             | Thu                                                                                                   | Fri                                        | Sat                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1<br>7pm Scout Troops                                         | 2<br>7am Men's Fellowship<br>8:30am Mary Circle<br>10:00am Staff Meeting<br>6:30 Membership Team Meeting                                    | 3<br>9:30am Hannah Circle       | 4<br>9am Paper Crafters<br>2pm Worship at Winsor Plaza                                                | 5                                          | 6                                 |
| 7<br>8:15am Worship<br>9:15am Fellowship<br>Sunday School, ACE<br>10:30am Worship                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 8<br>7pm Scout Troops                                         | 9<br>7am Men's fellowship<br>8:30am Global Missions Team Meeting<br>10:00am Staff Meeting<br>6:00pm Finance Team Meeting                    | 10                              | 11<br>9am Quilters<br>11am Kingsley Shores Worship<br>7pm Empty Nest small group                      | 12                                         | 13<br>St Paul Area Synod Assembly |
| 14 <b>Happy Mother's Day</b><br>8:15am Worship<br>9:15am Fellowship<br>Sunday School, ACE,<br>"Parenting Littles" small group<br>10:30am Worship                                                                                                                                    | 15<br>7pm Scout Troops                                        | 16<br>7am Men's fellowship<br>10:00am Staff Meeting<br>7pm Lasko Piano Recital                                                              | 17                              | 18<br>9am Quilters<br>3pm Loaves and Fishes                                                           | 19<br>12pm Spiritual Practices Small Group | 20<br>9-11am Compost Sale         |
| 21 <b>Pastor Andy's Last Sunday</b><br>8:15am Worship<br>9:15am Fellowship<br>Sunday School, A.C.E.,<br>10:30am Worship<br>11am-2pm Compost Sale<br>11:30 Celebration Lunch in honor of Pastor Andy<br>3pm Sandy Swagger Celebration of Life Service<br>6:30pm Pettis Piano recital | 22<br>5:30pm Memorial Garden Team meeting<br>7pm Scout Troops | 23<br>7am Men's fellowship<br>10:00am Staff Meeting<br>9:45am More Than Just Lunch small group<br>11:00-5:00 Blood Drive<br>6:30 pm Council | 24<br>12pm Women's Team Meeting | 25<br>9am Stitchers<br>2pm Coffee and Conversation at HVH<br>3:30pm Dementia Caregivers Support Group | 26                                         | 27                                |
| 28<br>8:15am Worship<br>9:15am Fellowship<br>10:00am Worship                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 29<br><b>Memorial Day</b><br><br><b>Church Office Closed</b>  | 30<br>10:00am Staff Meeting                                                                                                                 | 31                              |                                                                                                       |                                            |                                   |



## Children, Youth and Family News

### Congregation NEWS

**Thank you** for your continued support of our youth summer programs! We have 42 Luther Crest Bible Campers and 15 youth going on our Mission Trip to Alabama. These experiences are so important for young people to grow in faith and often are some of the most memorable experiences in their faith lives. Please support our fundraisers in May:



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<https://forms.gle/wy54gUMN-Lu8zWDSq5>

#### Compost Sale:

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Please order ahead or come to our sale:

Saturday morning, May 20 from 9:00am-11:00am

Sunday, May 21st from 11:00am-2:00pm

Please come and get fantastic compost for your garden and planters!

To order: Please fill out the online form or pick up a paper form in the narthex: Enter your name, email and how many 20-pound bags of compost you would like.



Compost Sale  
Online Form



### Sunday School NEWS

Our Sunday School Students have been diving into post-resurrection stories, focusing on the theme: Jesus wants us to tell the world his good news!

Save the dates:

**May 14<sup>th</sup>**, Mother's Day we will celebrate by planting flowers outside if weather allows and we will celebrate all of the women in the congregation by passing out a special gift!

**May 21<sup>st</sup>**, Last Day of Sunday School Celebration

We will celebrate all that we have learned with some fun activities for our students and families. Min-

now Races, face painting and decorate your own donut! We will also have information for summer programs. Please join us as we celebrate this wonderful group of students!



### Summer Stretch:

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 Details:

Dates will be June 21, June 28, July 12 and July 19 and Valley Fair August 9

**Time:** 9:00am-4:30pm drop off and pick up at St. John's Lutheran Church front doors. We will gener-

ally do service projects in the morning and fun adventures in the afternoon.

**Cost:** \$30.00 a day

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

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

Summer Stretch Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/hwnpGBAwZRpPzDf16>



## Summer Garden Club!

Our Youth Garden Club has become an inspiring place to gather, learn and come closer to our faith. High School, Middle School youth and Senior Garden Mentors make up this amazing intergenerational group. We meet on Wednesday nights at 5:00pm. This group fulfills service hours for Affirm and NHS because everything grown will be donated to people in need of fresh produce. Contact [amanda@sjlcl.org](mailto:amanda@sjlcl.org) for more information or visit our website at [sjlcl.org](http://sjlcl.org)

Register now: <https://forms.gle/1qcCsfZRF8z8Vi3i9>



We will begin meeting Mid-May

There is a place for you in the garden!

Contact [amanda@sjlcl.org](mailto:amanda@sjlcl.org) for more information.



## Opportunity to serve

We would love your help filling up our acolyte and crucifer spots for our Sunday morning worships.

**A crucifer (cross bearer) carries** the cross into worship at the beginning of worship and carries it out at the end of worship. This is an important part of our worship service at St. John's because bringing the cross in signifies a special and intentional invitation to Christ to come into our worship experience.

**An acolyte lights** the candles at the beginning of worship on each side of the altar and then dims them at the end of worship. This brings extra light into our sanctuary, bringing special significance to the light of Christ among us. In faith, light can also represent hope, peace, and God's promise. As an acolyte you get to remind all of us that Jesus brings that to us every day.

**When volunteering for these positions**, you arrive 10 minutes before worship begins (8:05am and 10:20am) and then check in with the worship coordinator at the welcome desk. That person, or myself will be there to walk the student through all that they need to know.

Jesus empowers us to lead, and these are some of the opportunities your children have to lead us in faith during worship! If your student would like to help us out and fill up these spots, please fill out the sign-up genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f4badaf22a6f58-acolyte#/>





## Mental Health Resources available on Anxiety, Self Injury and Grief

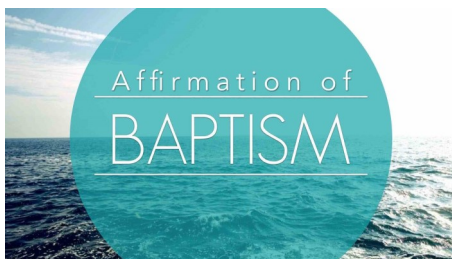
Our High School Youth have worked together with Amanda to put together resources for youth coping with **anxiety, self-injury and grief**. Each workbook has many helpful tools and information to better understand these difficult issues.

The anxiety workbook has over 40 helpful strategies to help understand and deal with anxiety and worry.

The self-injury workbook has many helpful strategies to focus on positive ways to deal with stress and develop a stay-safe plan.

These resources have been made possible by several organizations helping to equip churches during this Post-Covid Mental Health Crisis that is affecting so many of our youth.

Please contact Amanda Boe if you would like a free resource: [amanda@sjlcl.org](mailto:amanda@sjlcl.org).



## St. John's Affirmation Class of 2023

Congratulations to our 9th graders who publicly affirmed their baptism in worship on Sunday, April 30th, surrounded by parents, sponsors and our whole congregation. Thanks be to God for the gift of faith, that continues to grow in each of you!

Ryan Lee Bornfleth  
Madison Sarah  
Dallmann  
Dakota Lu Kottke  
Joshua Michael Mack  
Kate McFarlane  
Emily Sarah Meyer  
Teagan O'Connor

Molly Oehlerts  
Jack Bradley Paulson  
Carson Justin Springer  
Bellah Ellyse Tange  
Jacob David Warford  
Eva Maree Welsch  
Ethan Ross Wohlhuter

## Affirm News

Affirm has wrapped up for the year, with some celebrations to end well together.

On **Wednesday April 12**, Affirm Service Blitz visited the Lakeville Police Department. Our youth, parents, and leaders listened and learned from Community Engagement Officers and learned about many of the ways this department serves the local community.

On **Wednesday, April 26th**, Affirm and Ablaze shared an evening of extreme s'mores and fellowship around bonfires. And on Sunday, April 30th, we gathered around our 9th graders as they affirmed their baptismal faith, surrounded by the support of family, friends, sponsors, and the congregation. Thanks be to God for all of the ways we've grown in faith together this year!

Affirm youth can continue to fulfill their 12 worship photograms and 12 service hours until **September 1**. See information about Summer Stretch, VBS, and summer worship services for ways to serve during the summer.



## Global Missions Team News

St John's welcomes to ACE on **May 14**, four University of Minnesota engineering students along with an instructor who made the trip to Muhunga, to research options for bringing clean, safe water to the village and dispensary. After analyzing all the data, they will be recommending a plan to St Paul Partners who will do the actual project work if they feel the plan is workable and sustainable.

Please come and hear about their work and their stay at the village.



LIVING IN  
HOPE

2023 Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly  
May 12-13 | St. Andrew's, Mahtomedi

As the seasons begin to turn from winter to spring, we rejoice that God calls us to the fullness of life in every season of the year. The theme for the 2023 Synod Assembly is "Living in Hope." This is the message God speaks to us and to the whole creation through Jesus Christ. Voting members, rostered ministers, and guests will connect for a one-day business session on May 13. The Rev. Dr. Barb Rossing will be the keynote speaker on Saturday, reminding us of reasons to live in hope even in the face of climate change.

We appreciate that Pastor Andy, Pastor Kim, President Jim Buckley, Treasurer Barry Fick and Carla Cambronne are all planning to attend and represent our congregation at the Synod Assembly. Blessings to them as they meet and receive the messages of HOPE at this year's Assembly. Join ACE on May 21 for a recap of the assembly.



## Parent's Night Out

Once a month in June, July and August we will have a Parent's Night Out!

Please join us for summer evening adventure nights where we explore some fun local places and may even check something off your bucket list! Childcare will be provided by our St. John's youth and Amanda Boe-CYF director.

Time/Day- still be determined

Possible places we may go:

Visit a Brewery with Trivia

Bingo night

Zoo at night

Cooking Class



Interested? Please fill out this form <https://forms.gle/4JQqRCzyXCWTGCYj6>

### Women's Small Group Interest Survey

Watch the e-news and the sign-up table in the narthex for a Women's Small Group Interest Survey, which will become available starting

Wednesday, April 12. If you are a woman ages 18 and up, we want to hear from you what kind of Women's Small Group or Women's Ministry events in which you might like to participate. The survey will be available until May 14, both in paper copy on the sign-up table and online via e-blast.



Sunday May 21 is Pastor Andy's last Sunday at St. John's.

Plan to attend worship, and stay for lunch in celebration of Pastor Andy from 11:30—1:00pm hosted by the St. John's Church Council.

Please **RSVP** by signing up on this form so we know how many to plan for. <https://forms.gle/wWqWY9Fq5RfM2w9r7>

## 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 activities of relationship and faith.

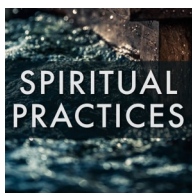
#### **Spiritual Practices Small Group**

**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 for the final gathering of this group on **May 19th at noon** as we explore the spiritual practice of **Remembering Your**

**Baptism.** [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!

Join us as we dine together, and have fun and fellowship, and plan the next few gatherings! Please

indicate your transportation needs when you sign up.

Our next outing will be a tour of the Mn State Capital. It is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May at 10:50. It is an approximately 45-minute tour. After our tour we will have lunch at DeGidio's in St Paul. We will meet at church at 9:45 for the trip to St Paul. Watch for the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. In the coming months we will be going to a Japanese Garden, the Minnesota History Museum and many more. If you have any suggestions for places to visit let Ginger know.

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; this group meets next **May 11**

**Where:** Time and Place TBD

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!! 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!

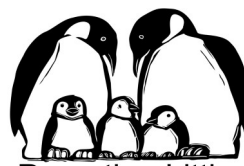


Empty Nest  
QR Code

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 this QR code or by calling the church office.

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



Parenting Littles

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

**When:** 2nd Sunday of each month during Sunday School meets next on **May 14**

**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.



Parenting Littles  
QR Code

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

### **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 May 25th.**

**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.

### **Paper Crafters Small Group**

**Facilitator:** Jackie Knauf

**Meets:** 1st Thursday of every month at 9 am - 2 pm; **Meets next May 4**

**Where:** St. John's

The Paper Crafters Small Group makes cards to send to congregation members. Come when you can; leave when you must!

### **Quilters Small Group**

**Facilitator:** Ruth Weber

**Meets:** 2nd and 3rd Thursdays of every month at 9 am; **Meets next May 11 & 18**

**Where:** St. John's

The Quilters Small Group sews and assembles quilts to be donated. Come when you can; leave when you must!

### **Stitchers Small Group**

**Facilitator:** Kathy Ziller

**Meets:** 4th Thursdays of every month at 9 am; **Meets next May 25**

**Where:** St. John's

Knitters create Confirmation stoles, baptismal blankets, and prayer shawls. Come when you can; leave when you must!

### **Mary Circle Small Group**

**Facilitator:** Jackie Knauff

**Meets:** 1st Tuesday of every month at 8:30 am; **Meets next May 2nd**

**Where:** Cracker Barrel, Lakeville

Mary Circle is a Women's Bible Study, with fellowship and treats, open to women of all ages and backgrounds.

### **Hannah Circle Small Group**

**Facilitator:** Ruth Weber

**Meets:** 1st Wednesdays of every month at 9:30 am; **Meets next May 3rd**

**Where:** St. John's

Hannah Circle is a Women's Bible Study, with fellowship and treats, open to women of all ages and backgrounds.



### **Coming Soon! Small Group Yoga**

Lynn Coldren, Certified Yoga Instructor will be offering Yoga Classes, both in person and via Zoom Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings, ages 15+. You will need to bring your own mat and props. Class size is limited, so If you have any questions or are interested please email Lynn at l.coldren63@gmail.com



## Save the Date:

June 4, High School Senior breakfast and worship.

Letters with more information have been sent to all of our seniors,  
please contact Amanda or Pastor Andy for more information.

## Serving in Worship

Each Sunday we are in need of helpers to serve in worship. You can sign up to help by going to one of the "Sign-Up Genius" links below.

**A Lector** reads one of the lessons in the service. You will receive a copy of the reading during the week before your Sunday. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084facao2ea1fd0-february3>

**The Communion Assistants** help with setting up and serving communion on the first and third Sunday's of the month and special Sundays as scheduled. We need three helpers per worship service. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084facao2ea1fd0-february4>

**The Clicker** uses the remote to advance the slides during worship to guide the congregation during the service. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4eacao23a6f4c16-clicker>

**The Worship Coordinator** is responsible for connecting volunteers to their role and helping by filling spots that are open. They support the usher teams, report the attendance numbers to the office and help new members feel welcome and comfortable. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084facao2ea1fd0-worship2>

**When volunteering for these positions**, you arrive 10 minutes before worship begins (8:05am and 10:20am, 9:50am starting on May 28) and then check in with the worship coordinator at the welcome desk to walk you through all you need to know. There are also opportunities to serve as ushers, coffee servers and sound techs. If you have questions about any of these roles, contact the church office.

Jesus empowers us to lead, and these are some of the opportunities you and your children have to lead us in faith during worship! If you would like to help us out and fill up these spots, please fill out the sign-up genius link or contact the church office.



### Loaves and Fishes Community Meal

We have a serving opportunity  
at Loaves and Fishes on **Thursday, May**

**18 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!

### Notes from the Finance Office:

Pink envelopes in May support "Loaves and Fishes". Get involved in person or with your contributions.



There are pink envelopes included in your quarterly envelope packets and in the pews. You also could write "pink envelopes" on the memo line of your check and drop it in the offering plate.

# Thank You•Thank You•Thank You•Thank You•Thank You•Thank You



April 12, 2023

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

Dear Andy,

Thank you for your thoughtful gift of \$2,339.74, received on 4/11/2023, to help The Open Door fight local hunger. With your generosity, our hunger relief programs distributed over 2.6 million pounds of food in 2022, serving an average of 17,300 people each month.

Our donors have helped us prove time and again that with the right support, we can make incredible progress toward ending hunger in Dakota County. In January 2022 we opened a brand-new facility that houses all of our hunger relief operations. In our new home, we expect to serve more people through our fixed-site pantry AND through the thoughtful expansion of our Mobile Pantry Program.

Folks from all kinds of backgrounds and walks of life visit The Open Door for food support. We recently spoke with a woman named Alicia who shared her story of food insecurity: "I am a homeless veteran. My other half and I utilize your services monthly. Without The Open Door, there is no telling how we'd have enough food available to eat."

It is because of your generosity and belief in our mission that clients like Alicia can rely on The Open Door in times of need. With your help The Open Door can ensure that consistent healthy food is available to everyone who looks to us for support.

Your gift reaches pockets of need across Dakota County that are often marginalized or overlooked. Thank you for driving our progress and for delivering hope (in the form of food) to your neighbors who need it most.

With Deepest Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Viana".

Jason Viana  
Executive Director  
The Open Door

*Please retain this written acknowledgment of your donation for your tax records.*

*No goods or services of any value were received or transferred to you in connection with this donation. The Open Door is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization EIN 27-0415900.*

**Thank you** to the Memorial Garden winter care team for all you did to keep the walks and pathway to the memorial garden clean all winter. We are hoping that your work is done for this year! If you see these people, let them know how much we appreciate their work.

Peter Haukoos  
John Gunnerson  
Dennis Wolfram  
Chad Jacobson  
Dave Coldren  
Jeff Larson  
Mark Gelle



## St. John's Prayer Chain

### Prayer chain participants desired

If you would like to be part of **St. John's Prayer Chain**, new members to this team are desired. You can participate on an email team or on a phone team. Please contact Candy in the church office at 952-469-4916, if interested.

# Ministry Finance Report

The Ministry Finance Team presents this **Financial Performance Report ("FPR") for April 2023** to the Saint John's Lutheran Church Congregation and St. John's Lutheran Church Council.

It's hard to believe, but 2023 is more than ¼ complete, and yet there are snowstorms in April. Minnesota really is a theatre of the seasons. For March, overall financial performance of the General Fund continues to lag. Offering revenues were below budget for the month. Expenses for the month were lower than budget, helping reduce the cash flow challenge. General Fund financial results for March 2023 were adjusted by applying some of the accumulated PPP funds, which are a one-time source of funds, to reduce the cashflow deficit.

For the first time since 2020, St. John's has shown a cash flow deficit in each of the first 3 months of the year. It is hoped that as the weather improves and people return to in-person worship, our cash flow deficit will reverse. We have sufficient funds to weather additional deficit months, but it would be preferable to see revenue increase to match our expenses.

Remember, it's never too late to prayerfully consider signing up to provide regular financial gifts, contributions, and support to St. John's. 2023 is proving to be a challenging year. The more funds the Congregation can provide to help St. John's ongoing ministry work, the longer the PPP funds will last, which will help us meet the needs of the Congregation.

Please prayerfully consider supporting St. John's Lutheran Church. There are many ways you can support St. John's financially. You can:

Contribute when you worship at Church

Text "Give" to 218.210.7853

Go to [Tithely.com](https://tithely.com) and set up an account or log in to your account

Gifts of stock, bonds, real estate, or other assets

Remember that you may contribute at worship with cash, check or electronically using your phone or computer. If you use [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly), you will want to set up a separate contribution account for your General/Benevolence contribution and a separate account for your Building Fund Contribution.

If you have questions about setting up an electronic giving account, contact the Church office and we'll get you all the information and assistance you need to support St. John's Lutheran Church.

## General Fund Report

*For March 2023:*

- Offering revenue was \$44,877 which is 13% below budget for the month
- General Fund revenues & transfers were \$52,506, which is 6% below budget for the month
- General Fund expenses were \$57,819, which is 5% below budget for the month
- General Fund net operating performance was a negative \$5,313 for March

Excluding PPP funds (a one-time funding source), net operating performance was a negative \$8,813 for March

*Full Year 2023:*

- General Fund revenue is \$147,914 which is 3% below budget for the year
- General Fund expenses are \$161,854, which is 1% below budget for the year
- General Fund actual net performance compared to Budget is a negative \$3,653 for 2023 year to date

General Fund cash position on March 31, 2023 has decreased by \$14,000 since January 1, 2023 with PPP allocation (a one-time funding source) and decreased by \$30,500 without PPP allocation



### *Comments & Observations:*

March financial results were below budgeted amounts. Our goal when there is a monthly cash shortfall is to allocate accumulated funds to sustain the programs we offer the congregation, visitors, and the community at large. We have done that in every month of 2023. Since we are using accumulated funds to cover the monthly cashflow deficit, we continue to look for ways to increase revenue and limit expenses.

Expenses were lower than budgeted levels as most Ministry Teams spent less than their budget. showing continued prudent conservation of financial resources.

The Ministry Finance Team will continue to watch how actual financial results compare to budgeted amounts. We will 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.

#### *For March 2023:*

- Benevolence Fund allocations and revenue received is \$3,902 for March 2023, which is 5% below budget for the month
- Other Benevolence income contributed \$2,745 for March 2023, which is 34% over budget for the month
- Benevolence Fund distributions for March 2023 were \$7,960 which is 71% over budget for March 2023

The primary Benevolence expenditure in March was our \$4,000 quarterly commitment to the St. Paul Synod, which made expenditures “lumpy” for March

The 2023 Benevolence fund in good financial shape to respond to St. John’s and larger community needs in 2023. It’s still early in the year and Benevolence distributions are typically made later in the year as funding needs are identified and approved.

### **Building Fund Report**

#### *For March 2023:*

- Building Fund revenues were \$ 9,126
- Building Fund expenses were \$10,094
- Building Fund Net is: \$ (968)

#### *Full Year 2023:*

- Building Fund Revenue is \$27,588
- Building Fund expense is \$30,282
- Building Fund net is: \$ (2,688)

### *Comments and Observations:*

For the first three months of 2023, the building fund has experienced a net shortfall. The accumulated funds from 2022 and prior accumulate funds retained in the Mortgage account are available to pay any future shortfall in building fund revenues. We have approximately 6 months of mortgage payment reserves built up to secure the mortgage payment, meaning St. John’s is in good financial shape for the Building fund.

#### *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, Mark Renze 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.

# Vacation Bible School

**There is still time For Participants and Volunteers  
to register for the BEST WEEK OF SUMMER!**

St. John's VBS 2023 "Stellar"!!

June 12 – 15, 2023 from 9am-12pm  
for kids aged 4 - kids who have completed Grade 4

To **register** click on the QR code, select "Participant Registration", and fill in the required information on the form.

Want to **volunteer for VBS?**

You can sign up too! Just follow the same VBS QR code link and select, "Volunteer Registration" and fill in the required information on the form.

Questions? Contact Elisa Brown [elisa@sjlcl.org](mailto:elisa@sjlcl.org) or call 952-221-4849



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

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