



Journal

September 2023

Kim Kylo - Pastor
Eric Leshner Interim - Pastor

Sunday Schedule

8:15am Worship
9:15 Fellowship
10:30am Worship

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And Much More!

More information is available on
the website: www.sjlcl.org

**Submit information
by the 15th of the
month to:
candy@sjlcl.org**

Hi St. John's -

I hope that each of you have enjoyed these beautiful summer months, and have been able to carve out intentional time to do a few things: connect with family and friends, experience the serenity of God's wonderful creation, and dwell in some sabbath days for rest and spiritual renewal.

And now, as you are reading this, the calendar turns to the month of September, when we all reorient ourselves to our program year for many ministries at St. John's. We amp back up to a robust offering of opportunities to engage deeply in community, connect spiritually, and grow in faithfulness and service to God.

dedicate our focus this day to our youth, since St. John's yearly theme for 2023 is "Legacy of Faith." Connecting between generations for meaningful worship and faith formation is key for us as a congregation community, and you all – people of St. John's – demonstrate this value so consistently and well. Let's continue to live into this value together!

Between worship services, there will be opportunities for people of all ages to connect: enjoy a special breakfast with your church friends, chat with our staff and ministry teams about opportunities to connect and serve, and have some fun together as we dedicate our new Gaga Ball Pit, and play some games with Sunday School children and families.

Likewise, Wednesday nights are back with meals and worship, Ablaze and Affirm, JAM Choir, Middle School Choir, and Chancel Choir. And throughout the rest of the week, I encourage you to connect with small groups, Bible studies, care ministries, and service opportunities.

Finally, St. John's presence maintains and multifaceted approach, with worship accessible via radio station in the parking lot or via livestream on our YouTube channel, as well as both Altar Echo and Altar Echo Text Study weekly podcasts. There is a place for you here at St. John's, and I encourage you to take some next steps about how you want to plug into our congregation this year. There is so much to explore, and your presence and your gifts are appreciated. Your presence matters here.

Grateful, in Christ,

Pastor Kim

Rally Day is approaching on September 10, and I want to invite you to participate in this day of celebration! As you will read in later pages of this newsletter, Rally Day worship will be special in some new ways this year, with leadership from our youth who participated in summer ministries, highlighting stories shared from our high school youth who served in Bayou La Batre on the mission trip this summer. Our St. John's youth and families are so grateful for the support of the congregation, financially and prayerfully, in sending them on this mission trip. Now, they have grown in faith through this mission trip experience, and want to tell their stories of faith, community and service that they encountered. Come and see what God has done among our young leaders!

Rally Day worship will also include leadership and music from youth who participated in: Luther Crest Bible Camp, Summer Stretch, and Vacation Bible School. It's absolutely fitting that we

For Your Information

Fall Worship Schedule:

Beginning September 3 - Labor Day Weekend

8:15 am - Worship

9:30 am - Coffee Fellowship

10:30 am - Worship

Rally Sunday Worship:

September 10 is Youth-Led Sunday - Join us for a church-wide celebration of summer ministry and fall programming! Worship will feature leadership and highlights from summer ministries, including stories shared from the High School Mission Trip.

Adult Christian Education (ACE) Schedule for September

Join us for ACE on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary at 9:30 am. ACE sessions are for everyone - bring a friend!

September 3 - No ACE

September 10 - Rally Sunday Special Breakfast:
Fellowship Hall

September 17 - Memorial Garden Update

September 24 - Get to Know Interim Pastor Eric Leshner

Worship at Winsor Plaza September 7 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!

Worship at Kingsley Shores September 21 at 11:00 AM

St. John's hosts a monthly worship service with Holy Communion in the community room at Kingsley Shores held on the third Thursday of each month at 11 am. Come join us for worship!

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 September 28th.**

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.

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, September 28 at 2 pm at HVH**. St. John's members, friends and residents of HVH are welcome!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Anyone who knits or crochets is invited to join in making stoles for upcoming affirmation students. Any pattern can be used to make a stole approximately 6 to 7 inches wide by 60 to 72 inches long. You are welcome to help yourself to a skein the red yarn we use which is available in the church's narthex by the main entry. A completed stole is located in a cabinet in Mark for viewing. Thank you for helping.



Thrivent Action Teams:

Service Projects for Fall Programs that need sponsoring:

- Fleece blankets to tie for Lewis House
- Rally Sunday Breakfast
- Christmas cookie baking

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

- Summer Stretch Service Projects
- Palm Sunday and Senior Breakfasts
- 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.

thrivent®

St. John's Book club

This group reads one book every other month and meets to discuss it on a Wednesday.



The next **Book Club** discussion is Wed., Sep. 13, 1:00 pm around the book, "Take My Hand," by Dolen Perkins-Valdez.

To sign up click on this QR code and click on the book club message on that page.



Book Club
Sign Up

Loaves and Fishes Community Meal

We have a serving opportunity at Loaves and Fishes on **Thursday, September 21 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 or Sign up on this link now. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F4AA8AC29AAF49-loaves>

Thank you for serving!

St. John's Prayer Chain

St. John's has an active Prayer Chain ministry

"Are you in need of prayer for yourself or for someone else? The St. John's Prayer Group would be happy to pray for you. Prayers can be requested by:

1. Calling the Church Office at (952) 469-4916
2. Emailing Stacy Stanek at sstanek06@gmail.com

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



Children, Youth and Family News

Faith Education Teachers and Mentors needed

We hope that you consider being part of this wonderful team! We are now recruiting Sunday School Teachers, Ablaze and Affirm Mentors.

(Middle School and High School Students can help teach Sunday School)

We would love to have you part of this wonderful team! There is a place for you in many areas of our Children, Youth and Family Program.

Sunday School will be needing many teachers for each grade level in pre-k -4th grade. We are so excited for the new education year!

Our Ablaze, 5th grade program and Affirm, 6th-9th grade confirmation program will need leaders and mentors so that each child can form a relationship with a meaningful faith mentor.

Please fill out this form if you are interested or contact Amanda Boe or Pastor Kim Kylo for more information. <https://forms.gle/JaiwCSwAdBMmq3dr6>



Rally Sunday September 10!

Everyone is invited to join us for Rally Sunday, September 10. We will have a youth led worship at our 8:15am and 10:30am worship services. Between services, we will have a special breakfast, many fun activities, Gaga Ball Pit induction, and service fair. Please sign up to help with this special event on [Rally Day](#).

Education Program dates and times to mark your calendar:

Sept. 6 Wednesday Program Schedule begins

5:30pm-6:45pm Meal
6:30pm Wednesday Night Worship Begins
7:00pm Affirm & Ablaze Orientation

Sept. 10 Sunday Program Schedule begins Rally Sunday

8:15am Youth Led Worship
9:30-10:15am Fun fellowship event- special breakfast and activities
10:30 Youth led Worship

Sept. 13 First day of Affirm, Ablaze, Highlights, Choirs and Youth Group

5:30pm-6:45pm Meal
5:30pm Elementary Choir
6:00pm Highlights Sunday School
6:00pm Middle School Choir
6:30pm-7:00pm Worship
7:00pm-8:00pm Affirm (Confirmation) Ablaze and Adult Choir
8:00pm-9:00pm Youth Group



Sunday School

Ages: Preschool-4th grade
Sundays 9:30am-10:15am

[Sunday School Registration Link](#)

Sunday School: We are looking forward to diving into the Bible for some amazing adventures! We will begin each day in our large group with fun Bible Camp Songs led by our Children's Music Director, Malynda Riehle. We will also have special visits from our amazing puppet duo Abel and Zabel. New this year, we will introduce our students to Veggie Tale movie clips to help introduce the Bible point and story of the week. Following our large group, we will go to our classrooms and learn more about the Bible Story and do some fun activities.

NEW THIS YEAR! Sunday School Highlights

Ages: Preschool-4th grade
Wednesdays- 6:00pm-6:30pm

Sunday School Highlights: Life is busy! Sometimes Sundays don't work out for families, maybe it is just a few weeks or for the entire calendar year. A Wednesday night option hopes to give the opportunity for all of our students to connect with their church friends and learn about the Bible story every week. Please come to our Sunday School Highlights program on Wednesday nights at 6:00pm. Please register for this program using the Sunday School Registration link, no additional registration is needed, we will have a sign in at the welcome desk each Wednesday night.

Ablaze: Pre-confirmation program

5th grade students
Wednesday nights 7:00pm-8:00pm

[Ablaze Registration Link](#)

The program goals for Ablaze are to prep students for confirmation by reviewing key points of the Bible. We start around the campfire for the first five weeks reviewing the Old Testament, then we move indoors with a large group/small group model. In spring, we focus on preparing students to receive their Rite of First Communion.

Affirm: Confirmation Ministry

for 6-9th Graders
Wednesday nights 7:00pm-8:00 pm

[Affirm Registration Link](#)

In Affirm, we believe that each person is a child of God, with faith given as a gift from God. In Affirm, we build relationships in small groups, where each person can show up and be their true self, ask their real questions, and grow in faith together. Affirm operates on a four-year cycle, specifically oriented to deepening the life of faith, so that each youth can 1) develop a confidence in reading their Bible thoughtfully and well, 2) approach the world around them with spiritual curiosity, and 3) claim faith for themselves.

Grades 6-8 have one year focusing on each: "Who is Jesus," "Practicing Faith," and "I am a Lutheran." Grade 9 becomes a capstone year, emphasizing discovering each one's self, faith and gifts for service, culminating in Affirmation Sunday, when 9th graders affirm their baptismal promises surrounded by family, friends, and our faith community.

Each Affirm year includes small group lessons, service projects, fellowship bonfires, lenten mentors, and Family Milestones.



Save the date! Affirmation Sunday is April 28, 2024!

Your help is greatly appreciated and needed, please take a look at these opportunities to help in our Children, Youth and Family Programs.

[Sign up to help](#)

Every year there are faith milestones to achieve: learning the Lord's Prayer, Apostles Creed, learning of the Beatitudes and Parables! Most importantly knowing all that God has done for us and the amazing love and hope of Jesus! To achieve this, each class needs a team of teachers. Please consider joining the team, no experience necessary to teach! Please consider joining a wonderful team of people who have a heart for sharing the love of Jesus with our students.

Elementary and Middle School choirs

Choir Registration

We are looking forward to a new year with our awesome choirs!

JAM Choir (Jesus and Me) is for strong readers through 4th grade and will meet Wednesdays from 5:30pm to 6:00pm. We will sing one Sunday of every month during service!



The Middle School Choir (permanent name to yet be decided) is for 5th through 8th Grade (or older if you want!) we will meet on Wednesdays from 6:00pm to 6:30pm. We will sing and lead service one Wednesday every month!

Do you play an instrument and want to be involved with the choir, but not sing, GREAT! We would love for you to join us and play instrumental parts with our choir!! If you have ANY questions, please reach out to Malynda Riehle! You can talk to her on Sundays, or email her at Malynda@sjlcl.org.

Parent's Night Out

Time: One night per month, time: 4:30pm-7:30pm
[Sign up for Fall and Winter Parent's Night Out events](#)



Please join us for an evening adventure night 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. Parents will have the option to donate to the youth camp accounts for the babysitting service (suggested donation \$10.00 an hour per kid.)

Parenting Littles Small Group

Parenting Littles Registration

Meets the 2nd Sunday of each month

Meets next: October 8

Are you parenting a child(ren) ages 3-10? Parenting Littles is for you!

St. John's Parenting Little Small Group 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 best practices, parenting questions, and build community.

For this second year of this small group, we'll add a focus on strategies shared in the book, "The Sandbox Revolution: Raising Kids for a Just World." You are welcome to purchase your own book, or borrow copies from St. John's.

This small group will be facilitated by Amanda Boe and Pastor Kim Kylo.

St. John's Youth Group

For all youth 7th-12th grade
8:00pm-9:00pm Wednesday nights

Registration for Youth Group

St. John's youth group's focus is to inspire youth to grow stronger in their faith. We do that by fun fellowship, bonfires and finding creative ways to listen and support and serve each other and our community.





Nursery Care

Children, Youth and Family ministries 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 ser-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 a safe, nurturing environment of the nursery is essential in order for parents to tend to their own spiritual care. As a part of that journey, **we encourage and support parents to participate in choir, teaching, mentoring, Adult Ed Classes (ACE) Bible Studies, and worship. Children are always welcome in worship yet we realize 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.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns about any of these programs or registration.

amanda@sjlcl.org pastorkim@sjlcl.org

NEW This Year: Sunday School Grandparent

Serving Opportunity for our Sunday School
Sundays, 9:30am-10:15am
Sunday School Mentor

For Sunday School, we are looking for seniors who would be able to participate in our Sunday School class in a new and unique way. This would not be a teaching position, we do have teachers and teacher assistants for each class. This would be a friendly, calming mentor investing in the faith and future of our young people. Someone interested in getting to know our students and assisting in the smooth transition into the school year.

There is a similar program at Luther Crest Bible camp, "camp grandparents" are seniors that come to camp. During the week they interact with the campers and often befriend kids that may be struggling with homesickness or just a friendly, calming mentor to greet them and hear about their day. This program is a positive, valuable experience for the campers and the seniors who volunteer their time.

Our Sunday School Grandparents can help out when your schedule allows. We will have a training session and a special name tag for you. If this sounds like a good fit for you, please contact Amanda Boe amanda@sjlcl.org.



Music News

September marks the return of the choirs to regular rehearsals and offerings in church. Our St. John's choirs provide an opportunity for us to support and encourage one another in our faith journey¹, as well as contribute beautifully and meaningfully to parish worship life. The Middle School Choir leads in Wednesday Night Worship, which the elementary grades JAM Choir and HS/Adult Chancel Choir rotate in Sunday morning services.

This fall, the Middle School Choir will sing for Reformation and Advent services. The JAM Choir will be featured on Commitment Sunday in October, and Advent II. The Chancel Choir will collaborate with singers and instrumentalists from two other metro Lutheran churches in a special, family-oriented Christmas presentation.

Choir rehearsals start Wed., September 6, with JAM Choir at 5:30 pm in Mark, Middle School Choir at 6 pm in Mark, and Chancel Choir at 7 pm in the Choir Room after the 6:30 pm Wed. Night Service. Join us – come for the music and stay for the fellowship!



¹For *The Mental-Health Benefits of Singing in a Choir*, check out the updated article in the July 6, 2023 *Psychology Today*.

Dennis Friesen-Carper, Director of Music
Malynda Riehle, Director of Children's Music

Creating a Culture of Generosity

Ponder these words from Luke:

²¹*So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."*
Luke 12:21

Consecration Sunday is set for October 15 so watch for more information to come regarding the next Stewardship campaign.

Gratitude and Generosity Team:

Bob Rustvold, Wendy Welsh, Christie Wright, Dan Brown and Jim Buckley

September 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|--|-----|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 8:15am Worship/ Communion 9:15 Fellowship 10:30am Worship/ Communion | 4 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED | 5 8:30AM Global Missions Team meeting 7pm CYF Team meeting | 6 8:45am Yoga With Clarity See Wed Schedule Below | 7 9am Paper Crafters 2pm Worship at Winsor Plaza | 8 | 9 |
| 10 RALLY SUNDAY 8:15am Worship 9:15am Fellowship/ Service Fair 10: 30am Worship | 11 5:15pm Yoga With Clarity | 12 10:00am Staff Meeting | 13 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 1:00pm Book Group See Wed Schedule Below | 14 9am Quilters 11am Kingsley Shores Worship | 15 | 16 |
| 17 8:15am Worship/ Communion 9:15am Fellowship/ Sunday School/ACE 10: 30am Worship/ Communion | 18 5:15pm Yoga With Clarity 11:30am More Than Just Lunch | 19 10:00am Staff Meeting | 20 8:45am Yoga With Clarity See Wed Schedule Below | 21 9am Quilters 11am Worship at Kingsley Shores 3pm Loaves and Fishes | 22 | 23 3:30pm Tom Orndorff & Amber Hruby Wedding |
| 24 8:15am Worship 9:15am Fellowship/ Sunday School/ACE 10: 30am Worship 11:30am New Mem- ber Orientation Lunch | 25 5:15pm Yoga With Clarity 5:30pm Memorial Garden Team meeting | 26 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Council 7pm Young Adults at FMSC | 27 8:45am Yoga With Clarity See Wed Schedule Below | 28 9am Stitchers 2pm Coffee and Conversation at HVH 3:30pm Dementia Caregivers Support Group | 29 | 30 |

Wednesday Schedule:

5:30 - 6:00—JAM Choir
 6:00 - 6:30—Middle School Choir
 6:00 - 6:30—Sunday School Highlights
 5:30 - 6:45—Meal
 6:30 - 7:00—Worship
 7:00 - 8:00—Affirm/Ablaze
 7:00 - 8:30—Chancel Choir
 8:00 - 9:00—HS Youth Group
 Nursery open from 5:30-7:15

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.

Newest Small Group:

Young Adults Serving Faithfully

Young adults (post high school to age 29) who are committed to serving together joyfully and faithfully, are invited to serve together with various service partners once a month.

Some of the wonderful and impactful places to serve in our community are: Loaves and Fishes, Simpson Shelter, Lewis House, Feed My Starving Children, VEAP, ARC Value Village and Bridging.

Meeting times will vary depending on the service partners that we will work with.

For September: We will be serving at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan, September 26, 7:00pm-8:45pm. Please sign up at:

<http://www.fmssc.org/join-group?joincode=X83NNV>

To be added to the email list please Amanda Boe amanda@sjlcl.org

Yoga with Clarity

Lynn Coldren, Certified Yoga Instructor will be offering Yoga Classes, both in person and via Zoom **Monday evenings** at 5:15pm and **Wednesday mornings** at 8:45am, for 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.



"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!

Did you know that the only lavender farm in Minnesota is located in Farmington? We will be going to the Lavender Barnyard on the 18th of September to learn about growing and the uses of lavender. The tour is at 1:00, however for those of you who like to have lunch first, we will meet at the Better Half in Lakeville at 11:30, driving from there to the Lavender Barnyard.

When signing up please indicate whether you want to lunch or just the tour.

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 op-



tions will be discussed as the group develops. Sign up at church or by calling the church office.

"Parenting Littles" Small Group

Co-Facilitators: Amanda Boe & Pastor Kim Kylo
When: 2nd Sunday of each month during Sunday School; **meets next October 8th**
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.



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 September 28th**.
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 September 7th**
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 September 14th & 21st**
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 September 28th**
Where: St. John's

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

Hannah Circle Small Group

Facilitator: Ruth Weber
Meets: 1st Wednesdays of every month. **Meets next September 6th**
Where: **This month we will meet at Perkins at 11:30am for lunch. Contact Ruth if you need a ride or have questions.**

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

Mary Breakfast Bunch

Facilitator: Jackie Knauff
Meets: 1st Tuesday of every month at 8:30 am; **Meets next September 5th**
Where: Cracker Barrel, Lakeville

Mary Breakfast Bunch is a women's fellowship group open to all women.

Memorial Garden Update

We are getting closer to the planting phase of the memorial garden project. Plan to attend A.C.E on September 17 to get the latest update and to see the plantings that are planned. Watch for a listing of all of the plants that will be needed to complete the plantings and see how you can be involved.



Notes from the Finance Office:

Pink envelopes in September support Armful of Love, a program of 360 Communities

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.



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.
 3. There are 4 ways to give with Tithe.ly:
- Give on the church website. Click on "Give"
 - Give online - go to [Tithe.ly/Give](https://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!
 - In addition you can Contribute cash or by check when you worship at Church, or drop off or mail your contributions to Church if you're not able to attend Sunday in person



Contact Tyra (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 Report

The Ministry Finance Team presents this **Financial Performance Report (“FPR”) for July 2023** to the Saint John’s Lutheran Church Congregation and St. John’s Lutheran Church Council.

For July, net overall financial performance of the General Fund was less favorable than projected. Offering revenues exceeded the budgeted amount for the month, which is positive. Expenses for the month were higher than budgeted, but the major expense items were “one-time” items and were not items that recur every month. The result for the month was a cash flow deficit, even with the monthly PPP transfer.

With summer in full swing, worship attendance is running as expected, and contributions are deferred until people return to worship in the fall. We have budgeted for this summer’s revenue reduction and have sufficient funds to get through additional deficit months, but it would be preferable to see revenue increase to match our expenses. To help us manage cashflow, we strongly encourage you to consider contacting Tyra and set up an automated giving program. See below for details on how to set up such an account.

The budget process implemented for 2023 continues to match our financial reality and provides us with an accurate picture of financial performance. As outlined in the July MFT Report, based on current trends, year-end offerings will likely come in below budget. In addition, we will have exhausted our cash reserves and will face revenue challenges for 2024 if contributions do not increase in the late 3rd quarter and 4th quarter of 2023.

Now, with continuing fervor, we ask you to prayerfully consider signing up to provide regular financial gifts, contributions, and support to St. John’s. The year 2023 is proving to be as challenging as we projected at the Congregation meeting in January. 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. As noted when the 2023 budget was approved, we can weather 2023, but absent increased financial support by the congregation, 2024 will be very challenging.

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

- Contribute cash or by check when you worship at Church

- Drop off or mail your contributions to Church if you’re not able to attend Sunday in person

- Text “Give” to 218.210.7853

- Go to the St. John’s website at www.sjlcl.org

- Click on “Give” at the upper right of the home page, and scroll down to:

- “We have three ways to give,” click on “Give Online”

- Gifts of stock, bonds, real estate, or other assets are gladly accepted

- Call Tyra at St. John’s (612) 469-4916 for assistance with set-up or any gifting Questions

- Encourage friends, relatives, neighbors, and others to attend St. John’s and join St. John’s as members

Remember that you may contribute at worship with cash, check or electronically using your phone or computer. If you use 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 support St. John’s using Tithe.ly, please consider increasing your gift to cover our processing costs. While a small of your gift, the fees add up and your covering them with a small increase to your gift is very helpful to St. John’s

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 July 2023:

- Offering revenue was \$42,849 which is 10% over budget for the month
- General Fund revenues & transfers were \$49,811, which is 9% above budget for the month
- General Fund expenses were \$54,838, which is 9% above budget for the month
- General Fund net operating performance was a negative \$5,027 for July

Excluding PPP funds (a one-time funding source), net operating performance was a negative \$10,527 for July

Full Year 2023:

- General Fund revenue is \$348,583 which is 99% of budget for the year
- General Fund expenses are \$359,174, which is 4% below budget for the year
- General Fund actual net performance compared to Budget is a positive \$10,256 for 2023 year to date
- Net of receipts to expenses through July 31 is (\$10,591) including PPP allocation

Net of receipts to expenses through July 31 is (\$49,091) excluding PPP allocation

Comments & Observations:

July financial results were below budgeted amounts, for both income and expenses even when including the PPP allocation. 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 nearly 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. There were a number of large cash expenditures July, but those will be funded from funds set aside in the "800" Funds, which are separate from the operating account for general expenditures.

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.

The MFT will work closely with Council to monitor and manage, to the extent possible, the financial effect of the staffing changes.

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 July 2023:

- Benevolence Fund allocations and revenue received is \$3,726 for July 2023, which is 27% over budget for the month
 - Other Benevolence income contributed \$300 for July 2023, which is 545% over budget for the month
 - Benevolence Fund distributions for July 2023 were \$1,740 which is 119% over budget for June 2023
- Net Benevolence income and distributions for the first seven months of the year are at 123% of budget. The 2023 Benevolence fund is 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

| <i>For July 2023:</i> | | <i>Full Year 2023:</i> | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| • Building Fund revenues were | \$ 9,096 | • Building Fund Revenue is | \$64,346 |
| • Building Fund expenses were | <u>\$10,094</u> | • Building Fund expense is | <u>\$70,658</u> |
| Building Fund Net is: | <u>\$ (996)</u> | Building Fund net is: | <u>\$ (6,312)</u> |

Comments and Observations:

July was another negative month for the Building Fund cash flow. For the first seven months of 2023, the building fund has experienced a net cumulative shortfall of \$6,312. This compares to a net surplus of \$1,462 for the first 7 months of 2022.

Funds that were accumulated from 2022 and prior years that have been retained in the Mortgage account are being used to pay the 2023 and 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 reasonably good financial shape for the building fund for the near-term future.

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

Serving on Sundays:

Looking ahead to Rally Sunday on September 10, we will plan to have a special volunteer fair inviting you to sign up to help each week.

There are several roles to fill and we are always in need of more helpers to make each service work such as:

- Communion Prep
- Communion Clean up
- Communion server
- Lector/reader
- Worship coordinator
- Ushers (4 per service)
- Sound Booth Tech

- Clicker Team
- Livestream Team
- Offering Counters
- Coffee servers
- Wednesday worship helpers
- Wednesday meal servers

If you think that one of these roles would work for you, or if you have any questions about what any of these tasks involve, let Candy know. She will help you plug in to something that works for you.





Interested in Membership?

There will be a **New Member Orientation** on

Sep. 24 at 11:30 am and

New Member Sunday coming up on

Oct. 8 at both services.

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

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

Join us for Rally Day

Sunday September 10.

Worship times are

8:15 and 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Sunday School begins with an

orientation, service fair and

fun for the whole family!

A light breakfast will be served!

(See more details on p. 4)



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