



20165 Heath Ave. Lakeville MN
952-469-4916

Journal

January 2024

Kim Kylo - Pastor
Eric Leshner Interim - Pastor

Sunday Schedule

8:15am Worship
9:15 Fellowship/Sunday School/ACE
10:30am Worship
Nursery open from 8:15-11:30am

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 - 8:30—MS Youth Group
8:00 - 8:30—HS Youth Group
Nursery open from 5:30-7:15pm

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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**

January 2024 The Year of **Beloved Community**

beloved



community

2024

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Lakeville**

Happy New Year,
St. John's!

As we begin this new year together, I'm reflecting on everything that 2023 held for us: Pastor Andy's retirement, the start of Interim Pastor Eric's time with us, the formation of new small groups, many baptisms and funerals, vibrant worship, children and youth ministry abuzz with faith and joy, the

welcome of many new members and families, and so very much care and support for one another.

These, of course, only scratch the surface of what God has done among us and how God has accompanied us in the last twelve months. But these notable events reveal that a lot has happened in 2023, the year of "The Legacy of Faith."

As the calendar turns to 2024, I want to celebrate all of the meaningful ministry that St. John's continues to curate, even as we continue in the Lead Pastor transition. Some congregations might "spin their wheels" or feel paralyzed in the temporary absence of a called, long-term lead pastor. But it is clear to me that we are not taking this time for granted as time to do good ministry for the sake of the kingdom of God. My friends, you have persisted in the work of the gospel!

So for 2024, we turn our focus toward who God is calling us to be and how we will move forward together as a church family. We will use the theme "Beloved Community" to shape our ministry and mission together. I will lead a fuller presentation about "Beloved Community" as a guiding theme during ACE on Sunday, January 7 at 9:30 am, but for the time being, consider these faithful guideposts:

- In baptism, we are each claim as God's beloved child. This means

that God calls us to be whom God created us to be in the fullest, truest sense of our identity. We do not have to pretend to be someone we are not, nor aspire to be a better version of ourselves. God calls us beloved for who we actually are.

- When we come together as a faith community, this is how we are invited to see ourselves and one another: beloved children of God. Our welcome, acceptance and belonging among beloved community are not conditional.
- To live in community as beloved, we are invited to see and be seen in authentic relationship with one another. Many of us are fortunate to experience this kind of relationships with a spouse and maybe a few friends. To know others and be known by others requires honesty and trust, and when we can grow into such good relationships, it can be a deeply valuable gift. This our call to one another in faith.
- Our church rejoices in welcoming new members and families, and we have many in our midst! Whether you are new to St. John's or have been part of this congregation for many years, go out of your way to meet someone new and have a conversation. Listen well to each other. You never know what kind of connections you might discover!

Let's journey together in 2024 holding Beloved Community as a value, a practice, and a work-in-progress, and see how the Holy Spirit will gather us in and draw us deeply together, united in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Kim Kylo

For Your Information

Sound Tech Needed

The Sound Tech team is looking for 1 or 2 new individuals to volunteer to run the sound board during Sunday morning worship. Training is provided! Sounds Tech volunteers generally serve for one worship service every eight weeks. Contact Danny Barth for more information or to sign up!

Adult Christian Education (ACE) Schedule for January

Join us for ACE on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary at 9:30 am. ACE will resume in January - stay tuned. ACE sessions are for everyone - bring a friend! Join us for ACE in the sanctuary or tune in via livestream on your YouTube Channel.



Worship at Winsor Plaza January 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!

Worship at Kingsley Shores January 18 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!

Coffee & Conversation at Highview Hills January 25 @ 2 pm

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, January 25th at 2 pm to continue our study of other religions and other Christian denominations. St. John's members, friends and residents of HVH are welcome!



St. John's Book club

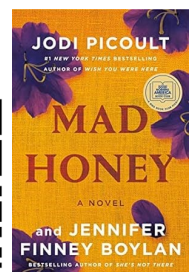
This group reads one book every other month and meets to discuss it on a Wednesday.

The next **Book Club** discussion is **Wed., January 10 1:00 pm** around the book, "*Mad Honey*" by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan.

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, January 18 at Easter by the Lake at Cliff and Pilot Knob Road.**

Loaves and Fishes provides free, chef prepared meals that are 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!

Care and Compassion Team

Food shelf news

The care and compassion team is excited to announce St. John's will begin supporting a food shelf being run through the **360 Communities** organization at Messiah Lutheran church. They have a beautiful facility with fresh fruit and vegetables available, along with milk and other refrigerated items that are hard to find at food shelves. Patrons are given a full shopping experience when they come to the food shelf and it is open several times a week.

All donations to the food bin outside the sanctuary will be taken to Messiah's food shelf. Supporting this food shelf means more of our donations will be supporting our local Lakeville community and the surrounding areas.

For more information on Messiah's food help program, please visit their website at <https://messiahonline.org/messiah-community-food-shelf/>. Or email elisa@sjlcl.org

NAPS program for seniors

Messiah is also a distribution site for the NAPS program boxes for seniors. NAPS is a USDA program funded through the Farm Bill. Qualified seniors in our community will receive a 35-pound box of wholesome food, low in salt and sugar, that may include canned fruits, vegetables, juice, dry and shelf-stable milk, American cheese, canned meat, peanut butter or dried beans, cereal, rice or pasta.

Low-income seniors, 60 or older, from our congregation, may qualify for a free box of healthy groceries each month.

For more information or to apply for assistance, please visit <https://www.2harvest.org/get-help/csfnaps> or contact Elisa at elisa@sjlcl.org.

Notes from the Finance Office:

Pink Envelopes in January and February support St. John's Youth Assistance Fund. Your gift helps kids go to Bible Camp, Mission Trip, Summer Stretch and summer activities.

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.



If your pledge has changed in 2024;

and you use Tithe.ly, you will need to make that change in Tithe.ly in **January**.
and you use Simply Giving, contact Tyra so your account can be updated.



TITHE.LY

Q4 2023 contribution statements will be emailed to all members for which the church has an email address around January 15. Please call or email Tyra (tyra@sjlcl.org) if you have any questions.

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

Children, Youth and Family News

Affirm News:



Affirm is St. John's confirmation program for youth beginning grades 6-9, and runs September - April. Affirm features a variety of experiences and activities, including Service Blitz activities, Family Milestones classes bringing parents and youth together

for important conversations, Lenten Mentors, and small group lessons with activities on our yearly theme.

For 2023-24, our 6-8th graders will explore what it means to be a person of Lutheran faith, focusing primarily on Luther's Small Catechism: the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles Creed and the 10 Commandments. 9th graders will explore their own faith and what it means to them in their final capstone year, as they prepare to Affirm their faith in April.

Affirm Schedule for January

January 3 - Family Milestones 1:
Safe & Healthy Relationships

January 10 - Family Milestones 2:
Online Safety

January 20 - Family Milestones 3:
Making a Safety Plan

January 24 - Service Blitz - Feed My Starving Children (sign-up required)

January 31 - 6-8th Graders: 10 Commandments week 1; 9th Graders: Faith Statement week 2: "I Believe" Statements.

Affirm Family Milestones Theme for 2024: Safe & Healthy Relationships

For each Family Milestones class, a parent (or trusted adult) is expected to attend with each student. **Family Milestones** is for all 6-9th graders AND parents. Family Milestones classes facilitate open, honest conversations between parents and students, often on tricky or challenging topics.

These conversations are intended to equip you with tools and practices for continuing ongoing, healthy conversations together as families at home.

This year, we will be using a curriculum developed by Lutheran Social Services of MN and Cherish All Children to explore what it looks like to have safe and healthy relationships as youth in our world today, including online safety and making a safety plan in your family.



Affirm Youth at the Fall Service Blitz

Sunday School

Thanks so much to our teachers, parents and students for making this fall season of faith learning a successful adventure! We are looking forward to a new winter season where we will continue to create a fun and nurturing environment of faith learning for our students.

Sunday School Highlights

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

Sunday School Calendar Notes: [Sunday School full calendar link](#)

January 3 –JAM Choir resumes 5:30pm-6:00pm, Sunday School Highlights 6:00pm-6:30pm

January 7 Sunday School – Abel and Zabel Puppets, Blessing of Households

January 10 [Sunday School Highlights 6:00pm-6:30pm](#)

January 14- Sunday School Abel and Zabel Puppets

January 17- Sunday School Highlights 6:00pm-6:30pm

January 21- Sunday School and Sledding Day

January 24- Sunday School Highlights 6:00pm-6:30pm

January 28 Sunday School Sings at 10:30am worship

Christmas In A Box

a Christmas Musical
by Cathy Skogen Soldner

The St. John's Sunday School students presented during worship on December 17.

A special thank you to the Sunday School teachers, accompanists, parents, Children's Music Director, Malynda Davis and CYF director, Amanda Boe for all their help to create a wonderful experience for the children so that they can share the love and joy of Jesus.



Sledding Day and Family Fun Day

January 21 12:00pm-2:00pm

Sledding in the St. John's Backyard! Meet by St. John's Garage and enjoy hot cocoa, pizza and fun with church family and friends! In the event that we do not have snow, we will plan to meet in the fellowship hall for family winter games.



Camp Sunday

Save the date for **February 4**, we will have a special preview of our Vacation Bible School Theme and a look ahead to our summer programs.

Duluth Mission Trip

When? Aug 4-9 (Sunday-Friday)

Who? Completed 8th grade-12th grade

Where? Serving the Duluth area, lodging at University of Superior Wisconsin.

What? God's work is in our hands. The Duluth Mission trip is an opportunity to humbly serve in God's beautiful creation and serve people in unique and meaningful ways.

Duluth is beautiful and a wonderful place to go for a vacation, despite its beauty, however, Duluth has plenty of challenges. 17% of the population lives below the federal poverty level, while the rest of Minnesota averages 11%, meaning Duluth has become a hub for providing services to those in need. Service Learning Camps works with a variety of the area service providers to help meet the many needs present in the community.

Benefits of this trip:

Serving our MN neighbors in a meaningful way. Possibility of 8 different service locations assisting in home repair, working at shelters, facilitating food distribution.

- Close distance - will rent 12 passenger vans.
 - Budget friendly and impactful service.
- Service Learning Camps, Duluth: ELCA based organization.



Early Bird Registration Deadline is March 17 please contact amanda@silcl.org if you are interested in the Mission Trip.

Summer Stretch

What?

Participants put their faith into action! They are encouraged to be the light of Christ through participation in service projects for the greater community. Each day includes fun adventures with faith leaders and friends. Yes, friends are welcome as participants and leaders!

Who? St. John's Summer Stretch is a program for Upper Elementary and Middle Schoolers (students entering Grades 4,5, 6, 7 and 8 in Fall 2024)
Volunteer Guides: Students who will be in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade in the fall of 2024 can apply to be small group guides and adult chaperones will be welcomed.
Cost - \$15.00 per day.

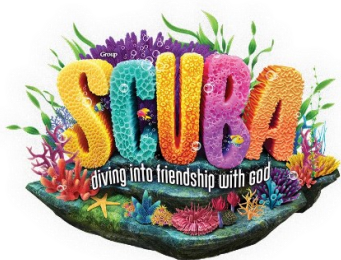
When? Save the dates, registration will be sent out Feb 1.

Dates: June 19, June 26, July 10 and July 24
Times: 9:00am-4:30pm

Vacation Bible School June 10-13 9:00am-12:00pm

Important VBS Dates:

May 22, Station Leader meeting
June 2nd Crew Guide Meeting
June 7th Fellowship Hall Decorating
June 9th Sanctuary Decorating



VBS games in 2023



When?

July 14-19

- Elementary Explorers (K-2)
- Seekers (2-4)
- Leapers (3-6)
- Middle School Witnesses (6-8)
- High School Blazers (9-12)

July 28-Aug 2

- Elementary Leapers (3-6)
- Middle School Witnesses (6-8)
- Wet & Wild(erness) (7-9)
- High School Blazers (9-12)

Pastor Kim and/or Amanda will be there each day of camp supporting our campers wherever needed.

Where?

Luther Crest Bible Camp, Alexandria MN

What?

Luther Crest exists to inspire faith, stewardship, and community in God's creation. At Luther Crest, kids and teens unplug and immerse themselves in God's great outdoors.

From the friendships formed around the campfire to the inspiring lessons learned in our daily devotionals, a week spent at Luther Crest is sure to be an experience that campers will treasure for a lifetime.

Who?

Luther Crest offers a variety of summer programs for students who have completed Kindergarten-11th grade. These programs with the specific ages for each program are detailed in this document.

If your student is interested in Summer Camp, please email Amanda, there are a few openings in some of the programs. amanda@sjlcl.org

On the beach at Luther Crest



Call Process Update

The Ministry Site Profile has been completed and posted with the St. Paul Area Synod. This moves us into the interview phase of the Call Process. To accomplish this we have assembled a Call Committee. Approved by the church council, the Call Committee is responsible for interviewing Lead Pastor candidates and selecting a final candidate to recommend to the Church Council.

If the candidate is approved by the Council then that candidate is recommended to the Congregation for their vote of approval. This committee reports to the council and works with the St. Paul Synod in acquiring candidates to be interviewed. Our constitution requires six members and two alternates to serve on this committee.

Please note that the work of this committee is confidential. They can answer questions about the process but cannot answer questions about who they are interviewing. This helps protect any candidate that is interviewing for the position.

Here are the members of the Call Committee:

Danny Barth
John Hartwig
Joshua Mack (youth)
Mark Renze (chair)
Michelle Colbert
Steve Wurst
Travis Tacheny
Tricia Murphy



Please support them with your prayers and thankfulness. Thanks to everyone who is making the call process here a successful and faithful one.

Pr. Eric

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.

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.



Men's Monday Breakfast Small Group *NEW*

Facilitator: Peter Gudel
(contact: pjgudel@gmail.com)
Meets: 3rd Monday of every month at 8:30 am; **Meets next January 15th**

Where: Perkins in Lakeville
Would you like to spend time chatting with old friends or get to know other men from St. John's? Gather with us at Perkins for fellowship and food.



"More Than Just Lunch" Small Group

Facilitator: Ginger Gustafson

Meets: Once/month

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!

On **January 25th** we will be going to the Mill City Museum in downtown Minneapolis for a self-guided tour. It is built into the ruins of what was the world's largest flour mill, sitting on the bank of the Mississippi River. We will meet at church at 9:45. There is an advance payment of \$10 that can be left in Ginger's box or given to Candy in the office. We will have lunch at "Crooked Pint" right by the museum.

"Parenting Littles" Small Group

Co-Facilitators: Amanda Boe & Pastor Kim Kylo

When: 2nd Sunday of each month during Sunday School; **meets next January 14th.**

Where: St. John's

Are you parenting a child(ren) ages 3-10?

Parenting Littles is for you! [Click here to sign up.](#)

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.



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 January 11th**

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 January 4th**

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 January 11th & 18th.**

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 January 25th.**

Where: St. John's

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

Mary Breakfast Bunch

Facilitator: Jackie Knauff

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

Where: Cracker Barrel, Lakeville

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

Hannah Circle Small Group

Facilitator: Ruth Weber

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

Where: St. John's

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

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day Holiday OFFICE CLOSED	2 8:30am Mary Breakfast Bunch at Cracker Barrel 10:00am Staff Meeting	3 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 9:30am Hannah Circle See Wed Schedule Below	4 9am Paper Crafters	5	6
7 8:15am Worship/ Communion— 9:15am Fellowship/ Sunday School/ACE 10: 30am Worship/ Communion	8 5:15pm Yoga With Clarity 6:30pm WAM team meeting	9 8:30am Global Mis- sions Team meeting 10:00am Staff Meeting 7pm CYF Team Meeting	10 8:45am Yoga With Clarity See Wed Schedule Below	11 9am Quilters 2pm Worship at Winsor Plaza	12	13
14 8:15am Worship 9:15am Fellowship/ Sunday School ACE/Parenting Littles 10: 30am Worship	15 Martin Luther King Holiday OFFICE CLOSED 8:30am Men's Breakfast Small Group-Perkins	16 10:00am Staff Meeting	17 8:45am Yoga With Clarity See Wed Schedule Below	18 9am Quilters 11am Kingsley Shores Worship 3pm Loaves and Fishes	19	20
21 8:15am Worship/ Communion 9:15am Fellowship/ Sunday School/ACE 10: 30am Worship/ Communion	22 5:15pm Yoga With Clarity	23 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30PM Council	24 8:45am Yoga With Clarity See Wed Schedule Below	25 9am Stitchers	26	27
28 8:15am Worship 9:15am Fellowship/ Sunday School ACE 10: 30am Worship 11:45am ANNUAL MEETING	29 5:15pm Yoga With Clarity	30 10:00am Staff Meeting	31 8:45am Yoga With Clarity See Wed Schedule Below		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 - 8:30—MS Youth Group 8:00 - 8:30—HS Youth Group Nursery open from 5:30-7:15	

Music News



Late in December, the Church Council received a letter of resignation from Dennis Friesen-Carper, our Director of Music. Dennis has taken a position at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul, closer to his home. Dennis' resignation was effective December 31.

In his years with St. John's, Dennis has served us well, leading music with integrity, beauty, and incredible skill. Dennis came to us toward the end of the pandemic, and reinvigorated our music ministry out of its pandemic "pause." We are so thankful that Dennis has shared his time, expertise, and faith with us, and he will be deeply missed. Join us in sharing our gratitude to Dennis for his leadership as Director of Music!

As music is integral to the life and vibrancy of our congregation, rest assured that the Church Council is already making plans for a transition in leadership for music ministry after Dennis' departure. An Interim Director of Music, Roxanne Litchfield, who comes to us at Dennis' glowing recommendation, began on January 1. Please warmly welcome Roxanne in the new year! - Pastor Kim

I'm so grateful that the music program at St. John's will benefit from the experienced and nurturing leadership of Roxanne Litchfield! I encourage you to learn her story and the wonderful gifts she brings. Reviewing her resumé and recommendations a number of months ago, I was convinced that she would be a wonderful leader for St. John's. That opportunity arises now that I am moving into a half-time position as Director of Instrumental Music and Composer-in-Residence at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul, about fifteen minutes from our eastside home. It has been a privilege to serve St. John's for these two years, participating in the recovery from the pandemic. The Chancel Choir has been hard-working and cooperative; the pastors and staff have gone out of their way to help us achieve our goals. And the congregation has been very supportive and appreciative of our work. To the staff, I described St. John's as a city on a hill, with an exemplary commitment to living out the call to serve throughout the church, particularly in the youth program. Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you! Peace – Dennis

Ministry Finance Team Report

The Ministry Finance Team presents this Financial Performance Report for November 2023 to the Saint John's Lutheran Church Congregation and St. John's Lutheran Church Council. The MFT thanks you for your ongoing financial support and encourages you to remain faithful in your giving as the year continues and we all experience new challenges. Please contact the Church office with questions or comments.

General 2023 Summary and Preliminary 2024 Report

Financial results for 2023 continue to track with the adopted budget. Contributions are within 4% of the budget and expenses are 4.4% lower than projected. The challenge is that without a strong increase in contributions by the end of 2023, we will exhaust our PPP funds. Depending on the final level of pledged 2024 giving, along with projected unpledged contributions, 2024 fund inflows look to be materially lower than projected 2024 expenses. This will leave us with a 2024 shortfall which we have no financial resources to offset. If the shortfall materializes, there will

be a need to revise the financial operating model at the church, including changes to the current staffing model.

General Fund Report For November 2023:

- Offering revenue was \$37,656 which is 14% under budget
- General Fund revenues & transfers were \$44,393, which is 12% under budget
- General Fund expenses were \$53,218, which is 1.3% over budget
- General Fund net operating performance was a negative

\$8,825

- Excluding PPP funds (a one-time funding source), net operating performance was a negative \$14,235

Full Year 2023:

- General Fund revenue is \$540,819 which is 97.7% of budget
- General Fund expenses are \$556,552, which is 4.4% below budget
- General Fund actual compared to Budget is \$12,655 positive year-to-date
- Net of receipts to expenses year-to-date is (\$15,713) including PPP allocation
- Net of receipts to expenses year-to-date is (\$76,213) excluding PPP allocation

November financial results were above budgeted amounts, for both income and expenses even when excluding the PPP allocation. Expenses were lower than budgeted levels, showing continued prudent conservation of financial resources.

Benevolence Fund Report

The Benevolence Fund is allocated a portion (8%) of total offering revenues and all dedicated contributions. Benevolence Fund expenditures are distributed periodically according to identified need. Distributions are typically made late in the calendar year as funding needs are identified and approved.

For November 2023:

- Benevolence Fund allocations and revenue received is \$3,274, 7% below budget
- Other Benevolence income contributed \$30, 55% under budget
- Benevolence Fund distributions

were \$4,785, 2% over budget

- Net Benevolence income and distributions year-to-date are 107% of budget

The Benevolence fund in good financial shape to respond to St. John's and larger community needs in 2023. Benevolence distributions are being made as appropriate, with substantial distributions expected in November and December.

Building Fund Report

For November 2023:

- Building Fund revenues were \$9,983
- Building Fund expenses were \$10,094
- Building Fund Net is: \$(111)

Full Year 2023:

- Building Fund Revenue is \$105,911
- Building Fund expense is \$111,034
- Building Fund net is: \$(5,123)

November was a negative month for the Building Fund cash flow. Year-to-date, the building fund has a small cumulative shortfall. We have over 7 months of mortgage payment reserves to secure the mortgage payment, putting us in good financial shape for the near-term.

How can I help or contribute?

Prayerfully consider signing up to provide regular financial gifts, contributions, and support to St. John's. 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 questions
- Encourage friends, relatives, neighbors, and others to attend St. John's and join as members

If you use Tithe.ly, please consider checking the button to increase your gift to cover our processing costs.

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 finance questions or provide financial operating information about St. John's. Contact the Church office to get connected 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.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the St. John's congregation will take place in the Sanctuary on
Sunday, January 28, at 11:45 am.

Included on the meeting's agenda will be key leader reports, the 2024 ministry budget
(we will vote on this during the meeting), and information about the year ahead at
St. John's.

St. John's Lutheran Church
January 2024 Newsletter
20165 Heath Ave
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