



20165 Heath Ave. Lakeville MN
952-469-4916

Journal February 2024

Kim Kylo - Pastor
Eric Leshar - 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

See how it changes in Lent on p. 9

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**

Created for Community: A Midweek Lenten Series

The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that “we are created for communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.” Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of “repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love,...” Lent is also a time for deepening of community. Because our theme for 2024 is “Beloved Community”. This year's series invites us to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God. This series includes a prayer of the day, reading, reflection activity and hymn of the day embedded within Holden Evening Prayer.

We have included the focus reading and brief overview of each Wednesday so that you can prepare for this year's Lenten Midweek Series:

Week 1, February 21- In community with creation

Genesis 9:8-17 - *God establishes a covenant with creation*

While we often think of community as limited to human beings, our human existence is interdependent with all the created world. What is our role in sustaining and restoring creation?

Week 2, February 28 - In community with all the saints

Mark 9:2-5 - *Jesus is in conversation with those who have gone before him.*

Jesus stands with Moses and Elijah as a reminder that our faith is intertwined with those who have gone before us. How has the faith of others influenced our own faith and how do we influence others after us.

Week 3, March 6 - In community with our neighbor

Mark 2:3-5 - *A community brings a neighbor in need to Jesus*

The story of the paralyzed man brought to Jesus through the roof of a crowded room, highlights the way in which it takes a community to care for one another. What care do we offer within and outside of our congregation?



Week 4, March 13 - In community with the marginalized

Mark 5:15, 18-20 - *Jesus crosses barriers to reach those on the margins*

When Jesus crosses over to the land of the Gerasenes, he encounters and brings healing to a man who has been left on the margins and restores him to community. Who are the marginalized in our community? How can we restore them to community?

Week 5, March 20 - In community with Christ

Mark 10:32-34 - *Jesus reminds us that we are walking the way of the cross*

When we are at the limits of our own power, overwhelmed by guilt or shame, or confronted with death, we find ourselves in the company of Jesus, who is our community even when all else fails. The cross reminds us that Jesus is all in when it comes to restoring community with him and for him. How does the cross shape how we live together as community?

That is it for now! Looking forward to your participation in this Lenten journey.

Interim Pastor Eric Leshner

For Your Information

Created for Community Lenten Wednesday Worship 6:30 PM



To help us explore our 2024 annual theme of "Beloved Community," our Lenten Worship will focus on the theme "Created for Community." Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to *individual* acts of "repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love," Lent is also a time for *deepening of community*. Though we can each explore our Lenten practices alone, when we experience Lenten practices alongside one another, our collective faith deepens as we walk together. Using readings from Mark's gospel, this series invites us to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God. Join us for Lenten worship, starting on Ash Wednesday, February 14th.

Ash Wednesday February 14th - Created for [Life and Death] in Community

February 21st - In Community with Creation

February 28th - In Community with All the Saints

March 6th - In Community with Our Neighbor

March 13th - In Community with Those on the Margins

March 20th - In Community with Christ

Wednesday Eve Lenten Schedule

- 5:00-6:15 - Lenten Supper
- 5:30 - 6:30 - Youth choirs
- 6:00 - 6:30 - Highlights
- 6:30 - 7:15 - Lenten Worship Service
- 7:15 - 8:00 - First Communion Classes, Affirm 6th/7th Lenten mentors, Affirm 8th/9th panel discussions
- 7:30 - 8:45 - Chancel Choir
- 8:00 - 8:30 - Youth Group

Loaves and Fishes Community Meal

We have a serving opportunity at Loaves and Fishes on **Thursday, February 15 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!





Adult Christian Education (ACE) Schedule for February

Join us for ACE on Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary from 9:30-10:15 am. ACE sessions are for everyone - bring a friend! Join us for ACE in the sanctuary or tune in via livestream on our YouTube Channel.

For the whole month of February, ACE continues in our "Adult Confirmation" theme, with guest teacher Rev. Emmy Kegler. You may remember Rev. Emmy Kegler as our guest presenter in ACE for the "Faith & Mental Health" series in winter 2023.

- **February 4** - Reading the Bible 101
- **February 11** - Books of the Bible: Topics & Genres
- **February 18** - Synoptic Gospels & Non-Canonical Gospels
- **February 25** - People of the Book: 3 Monotheisms



Worship at Winsor Plaza February 1st 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!

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., March 13 1:00 pm** around the book, *"Lessons in Chemistry"* by Bonnie Garmus.

To sign up click on this QR code and sign up.



Coffee & Conversation at Highview Hills February 22 @ 2 pm

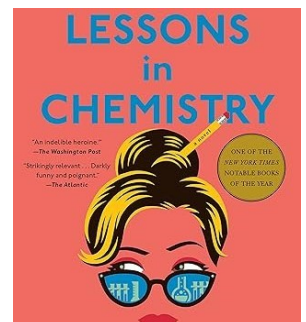
Pastor Kim hosts a monthly "Coffee & Conversation" at Highview Hills. This will take place on the 4th Thursday of every month at 2:00 pm. This month, we will gather on Thursday, February 22 at 2 pm to continue our study of other religions and other Christian denominations. St. John's members, friends and residents of HVH are welcome!

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!



Book Club Sign Up



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 February

February 7

- 6-8th Graders: 10 Commandments, part 2 of 2;
- 9th Graders: Faith Statement 3: Apostles Creed & Choosing Scripture

February 14 - Ash Wednesday Worship (no Lenten Mentors this week)

February 21 - Lenten Worship

- 6-7th Graders: Lenten Mentors 1;
- 8-9th Graders: Panel Conversation 1

February 28 - Lenten Worship

- 6-7th Graders: Lenten Mentors 2;
- 8-9th Graders: Panel Conversation 2

Affirm on Lenten Wednesdays

During the church season of Lent (starting February 14 with Ash Wednesday), Affirm pivots to focus on 2 things: worship & mentors. All Affirm families are expected to worship together at 6:30 pm. Immediately following worship, there will be Mentor experiences for all 6-9th graders. 6-7th graders will meet 1-on-1 with a Lenten Mentor of their choosing (parent, grandparent, baptismal sponsor, church member, etc.) using a mentor conversation guide provided for you. At the same time, 8-9th graders will gather as a large group for panel conversations with a group of church members who can share faith and reflections on a variety of faith topics.

Please join us for Camp Sunday February 4!

Congregation members, please join in the fun by wearing your favorite camp t-shirts, VBS shirts, camp attire or St. John's shirts! We will reveal our summer Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme! We will have special contributions during worship highlighting summer opportunities at Luther Crest Bible Camp, Youth Mission Trip, Vacation Bible School and Summer Stretch!

Fellowship hour special treats: kids camp snack mix and butter braid samples!

Last call for Summer Bible CAMP! Our Camp registration deadline is February 14.

St. John's has reserved spots for Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria, MN on the following dates: **July 14-19** and **July 28-August 2**. There are program options for campers who are K-12th grade. We have a discount and many fundraising opportunities to make it affordable for all families, please contact Amanda for more information. amanda@sjlcl.org.

Butter Braid Sale to support our Summer Campers and Mission Trip!

Sale begins February 1 and runs through March 6. Butterbraids will be delivered to St. John's on Wednesday **March 20** and will be ready to pick up during evening activities.

We will have paper order forms and also online orders can be taken. <https://store.myfundraisingplace.com/SelectProducts/99563a24-2ab9-4491-a3eb-dbb1c83b6c49/3027141>

All proceeds go to campers who participate.



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 a wonderful place to go for a vacation, despite its beauty, however, Duluth has plenty of challenges. It is estimated that 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 Site Duluth: ELCA based organization.

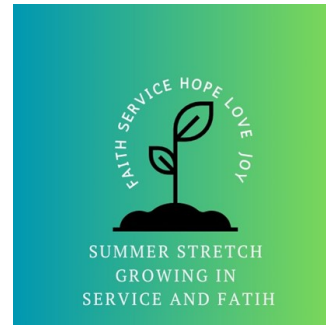
Please Contact amanda@sjlcl.org if you are interested in attending the Mission Trip.



Mission Trip- registration open! <https://forms.gle/a6x2y66uf8NSKPuj7>



Summer Stretch



Summer Stretch Registration Link: Please register as soon as you are able, it is helpful in the planning process.

<https://forms.gle/rdhGdcv2s1uj2w1EA>

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 3,4,5, 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 these dates
June 19, June 26, July 10, July 17 and July 24

Times: 9:00am-4:30pm

Vacation Bible School

Save the date!
June 10-13
9:00am-12:00pm



Important VBS Dates:
Registration Open March 1!

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

Parent's Night out! Feb 25

Please register at <https://forms.gle/zda48krJsqi5JXVXA>

4:30pm-7:30pm.

More information will be sent about possible parent activity to those who register.



thrivent®

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

- Making Fleece blankets for Lewis House and Highview Hills Memory Care
- Meals for Living Well Disability Services
- Homeless Care Kits
- Diaper drive for VEAP
- Summer Garden, growing veggies for senior living communities

Thrivent Action Teams is a program that gives \$250.00 twice a year to any person who has Thrivent, 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.

Sunday School News

In Sunday School this January we have learned about the early ministry of Jesus from his Baptism to the Beatitudes! Our Sledding Day transformed into a indoor family fun day due to the lack of snow! Fun was still had by all! Our Sunday School Highlights group continues to meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:00pm. Our Wednesday Sunday School Highlights group learns the Sunday School story and participates in a few "highlights" from the lesson. Thank you to all of our teachers and families for your amazing support of our Sunday School programs! Between our two programs, we have had almost 100 percent attendance in January!



Ablaze- 5th grade group

First Communion class for current 5th grade students and older students who may not have had First Communion classes.

Our First Communion Classes will begin in February and will continue through the season of Lent. Each class will have a "hands on activity" where your student will need the support of a parent or trusted adult. A special part of this Faith Milestone is St. John's long tradition of making special communion cups for students and parents to take communion on this special day.

First Communion Parent/Student Class Schedule

- **Feb. 21** Cup Making and Last Supper class, 7:15pm-8:00pm
- **Feb. 28** Bread making, Catechism and Sacrament class 7:15pm-8:00pm
- **March 6** Cup Glazing and "try the wine" class at 7:15pm-8:00pm
- **March 13** Review and walk-through 7:15-8:00pm
- **March 17** Rite of First Communion at 10:30am service



High School Youth (9th-12th grade)

High School Youth Group continues to meet on Wednesday nights from 8:00pm-8:30pm.

Our youth High School leaders met in January and will continue to meet in February to plan for spring and summer events. Events that we are planning for spring and summer are: Mission Trip to Duluth, Canoe day to Osceola Landing in Taylor's Falls, Dog Shelter Volunteer Day, Summer Book Club and Garden Club.

If you are a High School Student and would like to be involved in planning dates, activities and times for these groups please contact Amanda Boe [aman-da@sjlcl.org](mailto:amanda@sjlcl.org).

Call Process Update

Now that the Call Committee has been installed, they have begun working on their organizational structure have several meetings set. 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.

Please support these call committee members with your prayers and thankfulness:

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



Thanks to everyone who is making the call process here a successful and faithful one.

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 February 19th**
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 **February 20th** the More Than Just Lunch group will be heading to the Russian Museum in South Minneapolis. It is in the old Mayflower church building. The display itself is the only

museum of this type in North America. The art work includes many types of artworks from stacking dolls to paintings by a local Ukrainian artist. The cost is \$12 for a guided tour. We will meet at the church at 9:45. We will have lunch at the Wise Acre Eatery close to the museum.

"Parenting Littles" Small Group

Co-Facilitators: Amanda Boe & Pastor Kim Kylo
When: 2nd Sunday of each month during Sunday School; **meets next February 11th**
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, **NEW DATE & TIME 10 -11 am, on the 2nd Thursday of each month; meets next February 8th.**
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 February 1st**
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 February 8th and 15th**
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 February 22nd**
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 February 6th**
Where: Cracker Barrel, Lakeville
Mary Breakfast Bunch is a women's fellowship group open to all women.

Hannah Bible Study Small Group

Facilitator: Ruth Weber
Meets: 1st Wednesdays of every month at 9:30 am; **Meets next February 7th**
Where: St. John's
Hannah Circle is a Women's Bible Study, with fellowship and treats, open to all women.

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9am Paper Crafters 2pm Worship at Winsor Plaza	2	3
4 CAMP SUNDAY 8:15am Worship/Communion 9:15am Fellowship/Sunday School/ACE 10: 30am Worship/Communion	5 12pm—6pm Red Cross Blood Drive 5:15pm Yoga With Clarity 6:30pm WAM team meeting	6 8:30am Mary Breakfast Bunch at Cracker Barrel 10:00am Staff Meeting	7 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 9:30am Hannah Bible Study Small Group 5:45pm Call Committee See Wed Schedule Below	8 9am Quilters 10am Dementia Caregivers Support Group 2pm Worship at Winsor Plaza	9	10
11 8:15am Worship 9:15am Fellowship/Sunday School ACE/Parenting Littles 10: 30am Worship 12pm CYF Team Meeting	12 8:30am Men's Breakfast Small Group-Perkins	13 8:30am Global Missions Team meeting 10:00am Staff Meeting	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 8:45am Yoga With Clarity See Wed Schedule Below CAMP REGISTRATION DEADLINE	15 9am Quilters 11am Kingsley Shores Worship 3pm Loaves and Fishes	16	17
18 8:15am Worship/Communion 9:15am Fellowship/Sunday School/ACE 10: 30am Worship/Communion	19 5:15pm Yoga With Clarity	20 9:45am More Than Just Lunch 10:00am Staff Meeting	21 8:45am Yoga With Clarity See Wed Schedule Below	22 9am Stitchers 2pm Coffee and Conversation at HVH	23	24
25 8:15am Worship 9:15am Fellowship/Sunday School ACE 10: 30am Worship	26 5:15pm Yoga With Clarity	27 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30PM Council	28 8:45am Yoga With Clarity See Wed Schedule Below	29	Wednesday Schedule during Lent: 5:00-6:15 - Lenten Supper 5:30 - 6:30 - Youth choirs 6:00 - 6:30 Highlights 6:30 - 7:15 - Lenten Worship Service 7:15 - 8:00 - First Communion Classes, Affirm 6th/7th Lenten mentors, Affirm 8th/9th panel discussions 7:30 - 8:45 - Chancel Choir 8:00 - 8:30 - Youth Group Nursery open from 5:30-7:15	

Music News



2024 is off to a strong and speedy start! I blinked and all of a sudden it's February! Our youth choirs and Sunday School Singers have a few contributions under their belt for the 2023-2024 season, and are gearing up with some new and exciting pieces to share with all of you. Speaking of new and exciting things, our middle school choir officially has a name! This is something I have been thinking about since stepping into this position. I have struggled with it. I wanted something that describes these kids. The JAM choir came so easy, Jesus And Me. It sure fits that group of kindergarten to fourth graders, who are learning and feeling the love of Jesus and so excited to share it with you.

As for the "middle school plus" group, it wasn't as easy. They range from fifth grade to ninth grade currently, and are on so many paths of their faith journey. The one thing they all have in common, is they are a Faithful group of Youth! With that, I would like to introduce you to our FLY Choir! Faithful Lutheran Youth. They all have Jesus loving, serving, and excited spirits!

The Sunday School Singers are joyful in sharing their fun, spirited and energetic songs and actions with you every month as well! Sunday School singers will be leading a song February 25th at the 10:30 am service. JAM Choir will be sharing with you again on February 11th, also at the 10:30 am service. The newly branded FLY Choir will be cantoring and sharing a piece on Wednesday February 28th at 6:30pm.

Wednesday Youth Choir Schedule

5:30pm - JAM Choir

6:00pm- FLY Choir

Thank you, for praying for and supporting our choirs in all the ways you do.

Blessings today, and always,

Malynda Riehle, Children's Music Director

Notes from the Finance Office:

Pink Envelopes in January and February support St. John's Youth Assistance Fund. Your gift helps our St. John's 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.

and you use Simply Giving, contact Tyra so your account can be updated.

Q4 2023 contribution statements were 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 or if you would like help you getting signed up with Tithe.ly, our online giving platform.

The end of December financial information can be found in the 2023 Annual Report which are available in the Narthex at church and on our website: www.sjlcl.org. Contact the church office if you have any questions.

Thank You•Thank You•Thank You•Thank You•Thank You

We receive many thank you notes and letters for the work St. John's does in the community and beyond. Here are a few of the more recent ones.

From The Open Door:

Dear Pastor Kim,

Thank you for supporting the Open Door's hunger relief efforts with your generous gift of \$1055.00, received on 12/31/2023. Your financial gift comes at a high need time at our food pantry as the Minnesota winter arrives (finally!) and we brace for colder temperatures.

As we settle into 2024, we want to thank you for choosing The Open Door as a partner in your philanthropy and local community support. Your commitment to alleviating hunger in Dakota County is not only deeply appreciated, it makes a huge impact.

Thanks to your kindness, we have been able to provide nourishment and support to an astounding 15,000 people each month. Your donations have not only filled pantries and stomachs but have also filled the hearts of our staff and volunteers with gratitude.

Looking towards the future, we are bracing for impactful and expansive growth in 2024. We are working to expand our Mobile Pantry program to reach even more individuals in need, particularly in senior living facilities. This initiative aims to bring the convenience of access to fresh and healthy food directly to those that are often overlooked and most in need.

Your continued support is the driving force behind these initiatives, and we are genuinely excited about the positive impact we can make together.

Thank you again for your partnership in ending local hunger in Dakota County.

With sincere thanks,
Jason Viana,
Executive Director
The Open Door

PS: Please share our gratitude with the entire congregation! You can also share with them that we

are starting a new distribution at a Senior Living Community in Lakeville in two weeks! Thank you for helping us help so many!

From Loaves and Fishes:

Dear St. John's Volunteer Team,

During this season of gratitude, we want to express our appreciation to you for passionately supporting and advancing the mission of Loaves & Fishes. Together, we are making significant strides toward reducing barriers to hunger in Minnesota. Thank you for being an essential part of our mission.

PS: We are so grateful to have you at our Easter meal site. Thank you for your time and dedication.

Latisha

From Lutheran Social Service:

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church,

Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors. Thank you for your generous give to support the services of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota (LSS).

Your contribution of \$3,000.00 was received on 11/1/2023.

From adoption and foster care to shelter and safety for youth experiencing homelessness to support people with disabilities to nutritious, home-delivered meals for older adults, LSS impacts 1 in every 65 Minnesotans. I invite you to learn more about our services and see how your generosity is already inspiring hope, changing lives, and building community at lssmn.org.

With gratitude,
Jesse M. Stremsha, VP of Development

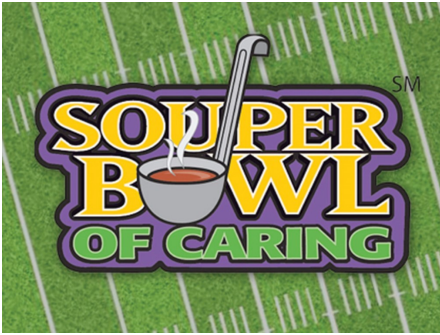
From Campus Faith Clubs:

Thank you for your 2023 CFC Gala sponsorship of \$1,000.00. It is with humble gratitude and deep appreciation we thank you for your support of faith in our public schools. Your partnership is indispensable in reaching every student with hope and love.

Your friend in Christ,
Mark Meier, CFC Founder and Exec. Director

Care and Compassion Team

Get ready to celebrate St. John's annual Souper Bowl Sunday!!



In celebration of the "big game", St. John's is collecting soup, crackers and all the fixings for our neighbors in need. On Sunday February 11, wear your football gear and bring a can of soup, a box of crackers or other food item for our food pantry partner. For ease of use, please try to bring ready to eat soups with pop off tops. That way our neighbors don't need water, milk or can openers to use our food.

Let's score a touchdown for our neighbors and bring in this seasons biggest score (of food)!!

If you'd like to contribute even more for our neighbors in need, here is a list of the most requested items at food shelves:

Rice + Applesauce + Cereal + Peanut butter + Canned proteins (chicken, tuna, salmon, etc)
Canned beans + Pasta + Pasta sauce + Flour + Sugar Condiments + Canned vegetables
Cooking oil + Spices + Formula + Baby food + Feminine hygiene products

St. John's Lutheran Church
February 2024 Newsletter
20165 Heath Ave
Lakeville, MN 55044

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