



20165 Heath Ave. Lakeville MN
952-469-4916

Journal

April 2024

Kim Kylo - 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—6:15—Supper
5:30—6:00—JAM Choir
6:00—6:30—Middle School Choir
6:00—6:30—Sunday School Highlights
6:30—7:00 —Worship
7:00—8:00 Affirm
7:15—8:15—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**

“Beloved Easter People”

Christ is Risen! He is risen,
indeed! Alleluia!

We have entered the season of Easter in full force, right on time. After 10 months of discernment, thoughtful curiosity, and wondering what God is up to among us, we are taking a big step forward into new life, and I am humbly thrilled that you, St. John's, have called me to be your next Senior Pastor! This is a wonderful congregation, and as I have said before, I love being your pastor. It is a joy for me to have the privilege of walking beside you, supporting and challenging you to be the beloved community of faith that God calls you to be, and I am abuzz with possibilities and hope for our future together.

Thank you for these 10 months since Pastor Andy's retirement, which have given me time, experience and encouragement to discern what is best for St. John's next chapter of life together. To those who asked me back in May 2023, I may have given a different answer, but having walked with you during this time of transition, I am confident in the clarity the Holy Spirit has given to us, as I step into the role of your next Senior Pastor. And as I do, it is worth mentioning that this is precisely what it means that we, church, are beloved Easter people. We are people who live in the hope and reality of resurrection each and every day. Which means that we

should anticipate that God has new life for us, and that we get to be part of it! This next chapter of new life, Easter life, in no way diminishes your history as a congregation. God has been faithful to you, and God continues to be faith now in this newest Easter time. Thanks be to God!

What does God have in store in this new life? With hopeful anticipation, we get to find out. Now, we will turn to the next step of this transition, of embracing yet more new life among us, as we move toward calling a new Associate Pastor to join us at St. John's.

As we embark on this next step, in the spirit of the fullness of Easter, let me share my hopes with you. I have hope in God's ongoing faithfulness among us, that God will continue to lead and guide us in our ongoing discernment of who God is inviting our church community to be. I also have hope that because we, together, have done such thoughtful discernment thus far in the “big picture” of the pastoral call process, that calling a new Associate Pastor will be an efficient, expedient process. Many members of the Senior Pastor Call Committee desire to continue to serve as the Associate Pastor Call Committee, and we will simply need to update the position-specific aspects of the Ministry

Site Profile (MSP), rather than starting over from scratch.

Finally, I have hope that God is already stirring in the heart of our next Associate Pastor! Over the years, this congregation has been blessed with a variety of wonderful pastors, and we

should have every expectation that God will call another fantastic pastor to St. John's.

Let's continue onward together, into the new life God has in store for us, as beloved Easter people!

Pastor Kim Kylo

For Your Information

April Worship News:

April 7 - Second Sunday of Easter: Worship with Holy Communion

April 14 - Third Sunday of Easter; Baptism at 10:30 am; Member Exploration Lunch

April 21 - Fourth Sunday of Easter: Worship with Holy Communion, New Member Sunday

April 28 - Fifth Sunday of Easter: Affirmation of Baptism Sunday

Worship at Winsor Plaza April 4th 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!



Faith Resources Altar Echo Podcasts

Did you know St. John's creates 3 podcasts? All podcast episodes can be found on St. John's Facebook page and website. Use the QR code for each podcast to go access the podcast page, and subscribe to receive new episodes of each!

Altar Echo Podcast (the OG) is our weekly Scripture + Message podcast, a recording of the focus reading and sermon from Sunday worship. If you can't make it to church on Sunday, or you want a preview of the sermon, this podcast is for you. Episodes are released Friday or Saturday weekly.



Altar Echo Podcast



Altar Echo Text Study Podcast is our weekly deep-dive conversation between two or three pastors on the upcoming focus reading for Sunday. Episodes are released on Tuesday afternoons, and can be a great way to pique your curiosity about the upcoming Sunday's Scripture reading. Because this podcast includes multiple pastors, you get added content of multiple perspectives, questions, and ideas, many of which don't make the cut for the actual Sunday sermon.



Altar Echo Text Study

Altar Echo Families Podcast are twice monthly conversations about faith and parenting in our real lives. How does faith guide our parenting and family values? Pastor Kim and Amanda chat about good questions and practical strategies for raising good humans in this complicated world. Episodes are released on Thursdays, and can be helpful for parents, grandparents, or anyone who cares for children and kids of any age.



Altar Echo Families

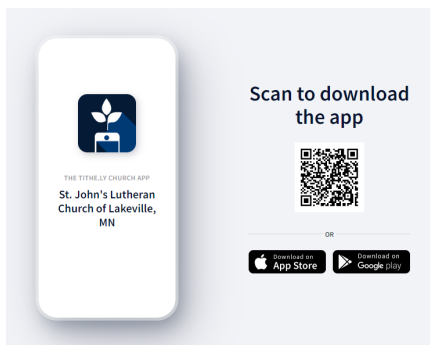
Everyday Bible Conversations (EBC's)

Join us as we find God EVERYWHERE! Every week, we look for God in our Everyday Lives with a video and devotions based on the week's Gospel, wherever we happen to be. We've found God in the hilltops above Lisbon, Portugal, at the American Revolution in Boston, MA, in the desert in California, on the shores of the Cook Inlet in Anchorage, AK, and every place and week in between!

Our weekly messages include a 3-5 minute video (available on St. John's YouTube channel, and through the website and app), as well as a one page devotional that summarizes the reading, asks a few questions, and encourages an action step for the week to come. The videos and devotional are both built so that they can be used alone or together, and while the Bible reading is always encouraged, no advance Bible reading or knowledge is needed to enjoy EBC. EBC emphasizes Jesus' love, God's purpose for us, and how we can relate the week's message to our lives in 2024. EBC is a work of joy and love, driven by the faithful belief that the Bible can be applied to our Everyday Lives all things big and small, all the time, everywhere!

Thank you for all of you who already make EBC a part of their week, and we encourage everyone to enjoy! If you would like to access EBC, but need help, please ask Candy in the church office. And let's go find God!!

Download St. John's App St. John's App is a great way to access information, give online, access weekly EBC and podcast resources, and more.



Are You Interested?

We are in the earliest planning stages of creating a new Pictorial Church Directory sometime in the next year. It has been seven years since we last created one. If you would like to be involved or want to know more, contact Candy in the church office.

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 April

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 April, ACE continues in our "Adult Confirmation" theme, focusing on a variety of expressions and aspects of being a Lutheran Christian.

- April 7 - 10 Commandments
- April 14 - Apostles Creed
- April 21 - Lord's Prayer
- April 28 - NO ACE - Affirmation Sunday

Coffee & Conversation at Highview Hills April 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, April 25 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!



Global Missions Scholarship Update

St. John's Lutheran Church continues to support the educational needs of many children within our companion congregation in Muhanga, Tanzania. The Global Mission Committee is pleased to report that 2023 was another very successful year, with three students completing their education and ten students moving up to the next school level. Please contact any staff or global mission committee member if you are interested in supporting this effort through scholarship assistance. This is a wonderful opportunity to enrich the lives of these children in a meaningful way.



Altar Flower Sponsorship

Reserve a date to sponsor Altar flowers. Each bouquet is \$45 and you can choose one or two bouquets per Sunday. Please review the available slots in the QR code and sign up. Or call the church office and place your order with Candy. Thank you!



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.



Notes from the Finance Office:

If you need another copy of your 2023 Contribution Statement as tax day approaches, call Tyra. Her contact information is below. Look for your Q1 2024 Contribution Statement around the 19th of April. Many of these statements are emailed to members.

Pink Envelopes in April support St. John's **God in My Life College Scholarships** which will be awarded to our graduating seniors in June. There are pink envelopes included in your quarterly envelope packets and in the pews.

Through Tithe.ly, you can give to many of St. John's programs including Pink Envelopes, Vacation Bible School, Youth, Columbarium Funding Campaign and more. All of these funds can all be found in Tithe.ly. Open the drop down box to select the program you are giving to.



Please email Tyra (tyra@sjlcl.org) or call 952-469-6322 if you have any questions.

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 April

April 3 - Service Blitz: Game Night/Tech Help for Seniors at Highview Hills

April 10 - 6-8th Graders: 2 Sacraments; 9th Graders: What is Affirmation of Baptism?

April 17 - Year-End Reflections

April 24 - Bonfire Celebration with DIY S'mores!

How MAY I help YOU? Mission Trip Youth for hire!

How MAY I help YOU? Mission Trip Youth for hire!

Yardwork? Window washing? House projects?
Furniture rearranging? Childcare?

Support our Mission Trip Youth this Spring by hiring a youth for Spring Clean-Up projects! Last year we began this unique fundraiser during the month of May. This year we are starting early to include the months of April as well as May. Mission Trip Youth will be happy to help with yardwork, house projects or childcare. Please fill



out this form and you will be matched with a Mission Trip youth ready to work and earn some extra income for their mission trip account! Paper forms also available in the Narthex.

<https://forms.gle/7yEdYkeCv1uCtccx7>



Summer Stretch

Please register as soon as you are able, it is helpful in the planning process.

Summer Stretch Registration Link: <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



25th ANNUAL Cup-making 2024

St. John's 5th Graders First Communion

The Rite of First Communion was held in worship on Sunday March 17. Nineteen students in grade 5 & 6 received their first communion. As is tradition at St. John's, the students and their parents made their own chalice to use during the worship service with the assistance and instruction of Rollie and Phil Brandt. This was the 25th year that the Brandts have lead this project. Thank you Rollie and Phil!

And, Welcome to the table of the Lord!





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

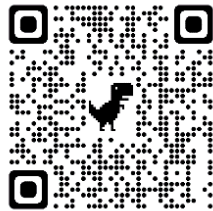
Thrivent Action Teams is a program that gives \$250.00 twice a year to any person who is a Thrivent member. These funds are used to purchase the materials needed for projects like these. Please contact Candy or Amanda if you would like to sponsor one of our service projects with your Thrivent Dollars 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 in the future.

Trivia Night Fundraiser

- April 14th from 4-6pm
- Create your own team up to 8 people or sign up and join a team
- 6 rounds with an image round and a sound round
- Fun Snacks and drinks
- Nursery will be available

Please sign up for this fun event: <https://forms.gle/Fm8vDEaiQMN69MTU9>



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 offers 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

Facilitator: Peter Gudel
(contact: pjgudel@gmail.com)

Meets: 3rd Monday of every month at 8:30 am; **Meets next April 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.



Dementia Caregivers Support Group

Facilitators: Pastor Kim Kylo & Lola Amendt (of Highview Hills)

Meets: Once/month, **10 -11 am, on the 2nd Thursday of each month**

Meets next April 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.

"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!

This month, on **Tuesday April 16**, we will be traveling to Faribault to the Cathedral of Our Merciful Savior for a guided tour of the building and its history. It was the first Episcopal cathedral built in the United States under the direction of Bishop Whipple in 1862. A donation of \$5 is asked for the tour. We will **meet at St. John's at 9:45am** for the 30-minute drive to Faribault. We will have lunch at the historic Depot after the tour.

"Parenting Littles" Small Group

Co-Facilitators: Amanda Boe & Pastor Kim Kylo

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

Where: St. John's

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



Parenting Littles
Registration

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.



Parenting Littles

Paper Crafters Small Group

Facilitator: Jackie Knauf

Meets: 1st Thursday of every month at 9 am - 2 pm; **Meets next April 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 April 11th and 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 April 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 April 2nd**

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 April 3rd**

Where: St. John's

Topic: A study of other religions and other faiths, with fellowship and treats.

The study group is open to women of all ages and backgrounds.

Confirmation Photos Needed

Missing ... FOUR ... Confirmation or Affirmation of Baptism photos!

If you have a class photo for 1963, 2004, 2008 or 2017, we would like to make a copy for St. John's Confirmation photo album. All classes dating back to 1914 are accounted for except these four years. This is truly amazing.

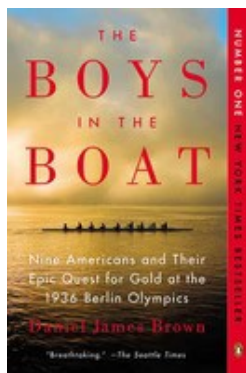
Loaves and Fishes Community Meal



We have a serving opportunity at Loaves and Fishes on **Thursday, April 18th 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 QR code now.

Thank you for serving!



Book Group

Join us for the next book discussion:

Wed., May 8, 1:00-2:00 pm

"The Boys in the Boat"

by Daniel James Brown



GriefShare Small Group - Starting May

Facilitators: Lisa Horn, Heather Theel & Pastor Kim Kylo

Meets: Wednesdays at 6:30 pm from May 1 - July 31

(Except July 3; 13 weeks)

Where: St. John's

GriefShare is a weekly video and conversation seminar designed to provide support, understanding, and practical tools for coping with grief. We know it hurts, and we're here to help. Whether your grief is fresh, or if you have been coping with grief for years, we hope you'll discover support here. This is open to anyone; you don't need to be a member of St. John's to participate.

Childcare may be available, upon request; please indicate your need when you sign up. Scan the QR code to sign up.



April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OFFICE CLOSED- Easter Holiday 5:15pm Yoga With Clarity	2 8:30am Mary Breakfast Bunch at Cracker Barrel 10:00am Staff Meeting 3pm Campus Properties Meeting 5pm Springbrook HOA Meeting	3 8:30am Global Missions Team Meeting 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 9:30am Hannah Bible Study Small Group See Wed	4 9am Paper Crafters 2pm Worship at Winsor Plaza	5	6
7 8:15am Worship/ Communion 9:15am Fellowship/ Sunday School/ACE 10: 30am Worship/ Communion	8 9th grade 1 on 1's with Pastor Kim and Amanda 5:15pm Yoga With Clarity	9 8:30am Global Missions Team meeting 10:00am Staff Meeting	10 8:45am Yoga With Clarity	11 9am Quilters 10am Dementia Caregivers Support Group	12	13
14 8:15am Worship 9:15am Fellowship/ Sunday School ACE/Parenting Littles 10: 30am Worship 11:30 - New Member Lunch 4-6PM - Trivia Night Fundraiser	15 8:30am Men's Breakfast Small Group-Perkins 5:15pm Yoga With Clarity	16 9:45am More Than Just Lunch 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm CYF Team Meeting	17 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 2pm Worship at HVVH with Holy Communion See Wed Schedule Below	18 9am Quilters 11am Kingsley Shores Worship 3pm Loaves and Fishes	19	20 Scouts Court of Honor 2 – 4 pm
21 New Member Sunday 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 2pm Coffee & Conversation at HVH	26 6pm - Helland Piano Recital	27
28 Affirmation of Baptism Sunday 8:15am Worship 9:15am Fellowship/ Sunday School/ACE 10: 30am Worship	29 5:15pm Yoga With Clarity	30 10:00am Staff Meeting		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 7:15 - 8:15—Chancel Choir 8:00 - 8:30—MS Youth Group 8:00 - 8:30—HS Youth Group Nursery open from 5:30-7:15		

Ministry Finance Team Report

The Ministry Finance Team presents this **Financial Performance Report for February 2024** 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.

The first two months of 2024 have been financially challenging for St. John's. After a strong finish to 2023, it was expected that giving would take a pause in early 2024. That has occurred. Regardless of short-term challenges, we pledge to meet the needs of the congregation and the larger community outside of the church. With that as background, the following is a summary financial report for February and the year-to-date numbers.

February 2024 Summary

Financial results for February 2024 were challenging from a financial perspective. We are fortunate to have funds in reserve to cover our monthly cashflow deficit. We expect that our financial picture will improve with Easter in March and as our programs and attendance continue to grow.

We expect to have a full complement of staff in place by the end of the first quarter of 2024, which will also help in managing our budget. We encourage you to reach out with questions about Church finances and to ask about opportunities to serve and give to support the programs of St. John's.

General Fund Report - 2024

For February 2024:

- Offering revenue was \$36,818 which is 14% below budget
- General Fund revenues & transfers were \$40,974, which is 9% below budget
- General Fund expenses were \$52,470, which is 6% over budget
- General Fund net operating performance was a negative \$11,496

PPP funds (a one-time funding source) of \$1,521 were used to support monthly cash flow

Full Year 2024:

- General Fund revenues & transfers were \$89,016, which is 1.4% under budget
- General Fund expenses were \$102,712, which is 2.3% over budget

- General Fund net operating performance was a negative \$11,496
 - Net of receipts to expenses year-to-date is (\$13,696) including PPP allocation
- Net of receipts to expenses year-to-date is (\$16,738) excluding PPP allocation

February financial results were short of budgeted amounts, for income, while expenses exceeded budget. Pending a final decision on rostered ministry staff, monthly Staffing expenses will vary from budget. Mild weather has favorably moderated operating expenses compared to budget.

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 February 2024:

- Benevolence Fund allocations and revenue received is \$3,206, 11% below budget
- Other Benevolence income contributed \$3,525, 217% over budget
- Benevolence Fund distributions were \$2,798, equal to budget

Net Benevolence income and distributions year-to-date are on budget

The Benevolence fund in good financial shape to respond to St. John's and larger community needs in 2024. Benevolence distributions are being made as appropriate, with substantial distributions expected late in the calendar year.

Building Fund Report

For February 2024:

- Building Fund revenues were \$ 8,289
 - Building Fund expenses were \$10,094
- Building Fund Net is: \$ (1,805)

Full Year 2024:

- Building Fund Revenue is \$16,264
 - Building Fund expense is \$20,188
- Building Fund net is: \$ (3,924)

February was a negative month for the Building Fund cash flow. The surplus funds contributed to the building fund in late 2024 can absorb near term mortgage fund shortfalls. We have over 8 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 St. John's 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, Chris Olson, or Treasurer Barry Fick**, don't hesitate to talk with them.

Worship and Music News

Come and See – Come and Sing!

Do you like to Sing?
Do you want to meet fun, new people?
Do you want to be a part of an important ministry?

Come and See - Come and Sing!

Join the excitement of Chancel Choir for the *final Wednesdays of the Choir Season!*
We'll sing through the Easter Season and *end with our worship celebration of Pentecost on Sunday, May 1st!*

SO - Come and See - Come and Sing!

Beginning on Wednesday, April 10 @ 7:15-8:15pm.
Be ready to experience the joy of making music with others and singing praise to God!



Care and Compassion Team

God In My Life Senior Scholarship

The Care and Compassion Team will be awarding up to three \$500 Scholarships to active St. John's Youth who will be pursuing a post-secondary education. If you are interested in this scholarship opportunity, please submit the following by **April 30th**:



God In My Life Scholarship

1. A **one-page, 500 word, essay** entitled **"My Faith Journey"**. In your essay, describe the following:
 - Your early experiences with your faith at church and in your family (Sunday School, VBS, holiday traditions, etc.)
 - Your later, middle school and high school experiences with your faith. Include youth group experiences, mission trips, bible camp, clubs at church, activities outside of church etc.
 - Think about any special moments of faith you may have had, any "AHA" moments or stories of how you felt God in your life and include these also.
 - Your ideas about how you will continue your faith journey as you move on to this next life chapter

The essay should be submitted as a Word or Google document to elisa@sjlcl.org.*

2. A copy of an original file of your graduation photo. If you didn't have graduation photos taken, please submit a clear copy of a recent photo of yourself. **Please submit either type of photo as a .jpg**
3. Your contact information including: **your email address; phone number; parent's email and phone number; your college's name and the mailing address for the college.**

*The Compassion Team will review all submitted essays and select the scholarship recipients.

The recipients of the scholarships will be announced on Senior Sunday, June 2nd.



Pop tab and quilt delivery to the Ronald McDonald house in Minneapolis. Thank you for collecting those pop tabs!



The More than Just Lunch March outing to the Como Park Conservatory

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

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for supporting 360 Communities with your gift of \$1500.00.

Your contribution makes 360 Communities possible. Because of you we are able to continue our work of creating stability and providing needed resources to our community. In 2023 we served 18,759 individuals, an increase of 18% from last year. 360 Communities understands the need for a holistic support system and does this through our community resources, school success, and violence prevention and intervention programs. 360

Communities' community resource programs provide healthy and fresh food, housing support, and financial stability. Our school success program focuses on creating safe environments for children by increasing family stability, housing, and providing school support for students of all ages. Our violence prevention and intervention programs provide safe shelter and community advocacy.

Because of you, we deliver safety and stability that improves lives. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Warm Regards,
Marina Rossman, Annual Fund Manager

Thank you Pastor Eric!

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 3:17

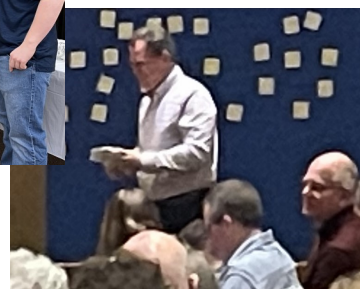
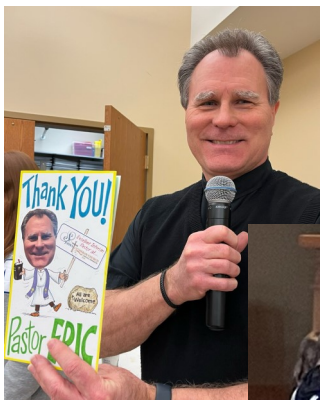
This is my last entry in the St. John's Journal. Like the verse above it is entry filled with gratitude for the ministry we have shared together during my interim pastorate here. The energy and enthusiasm here is contagious. The partnership between staff and congregation is inspiring. The commitment and comradery is refreshing.

You are in good hands moving forward into a future that now includes a new Senior Pastor and eventually a new Associate Pastor. Know that the Holy Spirit is at work among you. So, lean into that Spirit and trust in the God who has called you to be a refuge of welcome for all.

Let us pray my favorite prayer from the LBW Evening Prayer:

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pr. Eric Leshar
Interim Pastor



A special THANK YOU to the congregation for supporting our youth in the Palm Sunday Breakfast and Butter braid sales!

Fall and Spring Butter braid sales profits were 3,372.00 (individual and congregation)

Palm Sunday Breakfast Proceeds totaled over \$1,400.00

We are well on our way to reaching our goal to support our students with camp costs. Thank you for your continued support of our fundraising efforts!

Next opportunities are:

Trivia Night on April 14

How May I help you? (Rent a Youth program) in April and May

Good to know numbers about Camps and Mission trips- revised numbers

- 44 St. John's students are going to Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria, MN.
- 21 St. John's youth are going to Duluth, Minnesota on a Mission Trip.
- \$625.00 is the cost for a week of Bible Camp, \$550.00 for the mission trip.

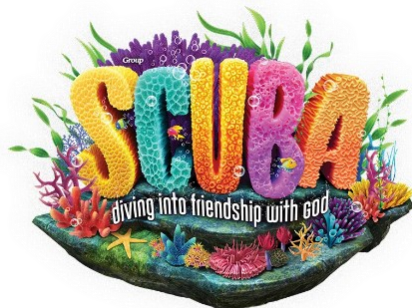
What works to make it affordable for all families? Model of 3 investment (family + church + community)

- \$200.00 is St. John's goal to support each student to reduce their tuition cost of camp. Your support is needed and really helps to reach this goal!
- \$200.00 is each student's goal to raise through individual sales in their community. (e.g. Selling Butter Braids to neighbors, family and friends)
- \$200.00 is the camper's family contribution, if families need help with this amount, church scholarship accounts are used. Thank you for your support of these pink envelopes and donations.
- Camperships: We are able to provide 6 students that need assistance this year to help with tuition.

Why go to camp and mission trips? It is one of the most impactful faith experiences one can experience in a lifetime. We know that most adult faith leaders, church goers attended camp in their childhood.



Get ready for an awesome deep-sea adventure with St. John's SCUBA VBS!!



Our explorers will be diving deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. At our Scuba VBS, kids will be immersed in the all sorts of activities, games, bible stories and experiences that will help them learn about God and His amazing love for us.

Kids from preschool (age 4)-those entering 5th grade are invited to join us this summer, June 10-13 from 9-12, on this amazing adventure!

****Donations of \$10 per child are suggested but not required****

Volunteers are also needed! Come and help our amazing explorers as a Crew Leader or Station Leader on our undersea journey! Middle School, High School and Adults are welcome to sign up to volunteer.

If you have any questions, please contact Elisa Brown at elisa@sjlcl.org.



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

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