



20165 Heath Ave. Lakeville MN
952-469-4916

Journal September 2024

Kim Kylo - Pastor

Sunday Schedule starting September 8th

8:30am Worship
9:15 Fellowship/Education Hour
10:30am Worship
Nursery open from 8:30-11:30am

Wednesday Schedule starting September 11th

5:30pm-6:45 pm meal
5:30pm-6:00pm Elementary
Choir - Jesus and Me (JAM)
6:00-6:30pm Middle School
Choir (FLY)
6:00-6:30pm HIGHLIGHTS of
Sunday School (pre-k-4th
grade)
6:30-7:00pm worship
7:00pm-8:00pm Affirm, Ablaze
and Adult Choir

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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**

Thank you Pastor Nate!

One of my favorite books about grief is called *The Wild Edge of Sorrow: Rituals of Renewal and the Sacred Work of Grief* by Frances Weller. It is not an easy read by any means and it is definitely not for the faint of heart but if you are up to the challenge, it is a really good book on grief. Weller believes that it is only when we embrace the different forms of grief in our lives that we are able to fully live. He writes, "There is some strange intimacy between grief and aliveness, some sacred exchange between what seems unbearable and what is most exquisitely alive" (p. 1). Weller believes that we can grieve many of the different types of losses that we have in life, not just death.

I have found myself grieving having to leave St. John's when it feels like I just got here. It feels like I have just started to get to know many of you and now it is time to move on to the next chapter in my life. I have never done an interim of any kind before and if I keep doing interim work, I will have to find ways to deal with my grief. I would imagine, that if I have enough practice at moving in and out of churches, I will get better at saying goodbye. But I'm not there yet.

The thing is, saying "goodbye" is always hard (at least it is for me) even when you have been in a place only for a short while. I have had a great time serving as your

bridge interim and it is hard to believe that my time at St. John's has come to an end. You have been so gracious and helpful during my time here and I will remember these three months with affection. Thank you so much for sharing these summer months with me!

As I leave I will keep you in my prayers and I hope you will do the same for me. As you might know, I have been working on a master's degree in counseling and addiction studies at St. Mary's University and I will now apply the things I have learned in my studies as I move into my time of practicum. For the next nine months, I will be at Park Avenue Center in Minneapolis working with people who are suffering from both mental health issues and issues of substance abuse. It will be incredibly challenging work but I am excited to find out if I am up to the challenge.

Good bye and may God bless you all!

In Christ,

Pastor Nate

References

Weller, F. (2015). *The Wild Edge of Sorrow: Rituals of Renewal and the Sacred Work of Grief*. North Atlantic Books.

For Your Information

September Worship News:

Fall Worship Schedule:

Starting Sunday, September 8th

Sunday Worship 8:30 and 10:30 am

Wednesday Restorative Worship 6:30 pm, begins September 11th

Sunday, September 1 - Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 and 10:00 am

(final Sunday of Summer Worship Times)

Sunday, September 8 - Rally Sunday Worship at 8:30 & 10:30 am

Wednesday, September 11 - First Restorative Worship at 6:30 pm

Sunday, September 15 - "Get Involved" Sunday + "Rooted in God's Love" Worship with Holy Communion

Wednesday, September 18 - Restorative Worship at 6:30 pm

Sunday, September 22 - "Stump of Jesse: Legacy of Faith" Worship

Wednesday, September 25 - Restorative Worship at 6:30 pm

Sunday, September 29 - "Nesting in the Branches" Worship



Adult Christian Education (ACE) in September

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

September 1 - No ACE (Labor Day Weekend)

September 8 - No ACE (Rally Sunday)

September 15 - "Get Involved" Sunday - Service Fair

September 22 - Get to Know Roxanne Litchfield, Director of Music

September 29 - Stewardship "Growing in Generosity" Theme

Get Involved Sunday: September 15th



We are the church together, and when we all use our time and talents, the church blossoms as a vibrant community of faith! On Sunday, September 15th, leaders of ministry groups will be available to answer

questions and help you sign up for a wide variety of ways to get involved and serve with St. John's. There is truly something for everyone! Whether you're looking for a small commitment or something a bit more substantial, we want you to be involved. Stop by the narthex to check it out!

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! Sound Tech volunteers generally serve for one worship service every eight weeks. Contact Danny Barth for more information or to sign up!



Livestream Tech Needed

The Livestream team is looking for 1 or 2 new individuals to volunteer to run the livestream during Sunday morning worship. Training is provided! Contact Francine Capasso or the church office for more information or to sign up!

Worship at Winsor Plaza

Gathers September 5th 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!

Coffee and Conversation at Highview Hills on September 26th @ 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 continue our study of other religions and other Christian denominations. St. John's members, friends and residents of HVH are welcome!

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 access the podcast page, and subscribe to receive new episodes of each!



Altar Echo Podcast

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 Text Study

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 Families

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.

Everyday Bible Conversations (EBC's)

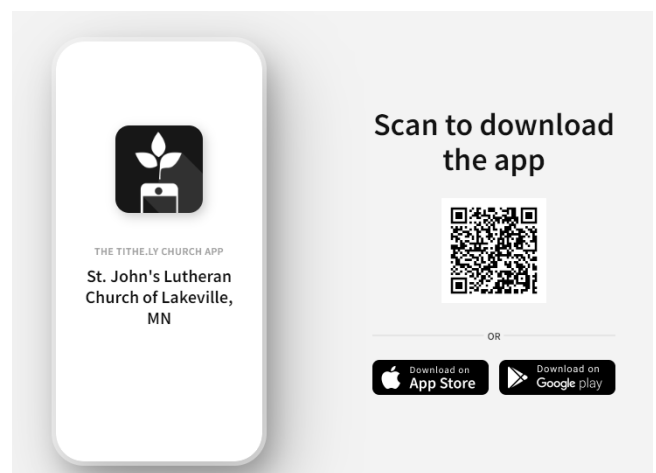
Join us as we find God EVERYWHERE! Every week, we look for God in our Everyday Lives with a video and devotions based on the week's Gospel, wherever we happen to be. We've found God in the hilltops above Lisbon, Portugal, at the American Revolution in Boston, MA, in the desert in California, on the shores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



St. John's 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.

Save the Date

Veritas Concert October 13, 2024

Veritas will return to St. John's on **Sunday, October 13** for Generosity Sunday, to celebrate our financial commitment to St. John's mission and ministry for 2025. Veritas will share music during both Sunday worship services, and will hold a concert at St. John's on Sunday evening, October 13. Stay tuned for more details to come! This year, we encourage you to not only make plans to join us yourself, but to also consider inviting family and friends to join you for this special music experience.



Children, Youth and Family News

RALLY SUNDAY 

September 8

Family Fun 9:30am and
Sunday School Orientation
8:30am and 10:30am services led by our
summer program youth 

High School Youth Group!

Summer session has completed, we will start our school year schedule soon.

8:00pm on Wednesday nights, begins September 11 around the bonfire. Use this QR code to get weekly reminders.



Duluth Mission Trip Thank you for your support!

Thank you so much for your support of our Duluth Mission Trip! Without congregation support this trip would not have been possible for our youth. We had 20 youth and 4 adult chaperones join me on this amazing and inspiring adventure. We worked with Service Learning Camps, an organization that partners with local service agencies and community members to identify the needs of the community that can be best met by church groups that come each week through the summer.

Each day we had new service experiences, we worked at a food distribution center, painted a homeless men's shelter, built



a stone landscaping wall for a safe and sober home, we packed 405 backpacks with weekend meals, worked at a community garden, spent time with seniors helping them with technology questions and we packed food boxes for people in need. Our High School Seniors served one evening at Union Gospel Mission, feeding 45 people a tasty dinner and sorted out clothing donations.

Each night we went on a fun adventure and spent time together as a group. A few highlights were white water rafting and evening bonfires. We are forever changed by our time in Duluth. We could feel the love of Jesus at work through all those who we had the honor to humbly serve. All of our youth want to go on another mission trip as soon as possible!

Our chaperones, Kristi Winkels, Mike Stuber, Jason Kesti, and Alison Wohlhuter were absolutely amazing and worked so hard to support our youth!



To learn more:

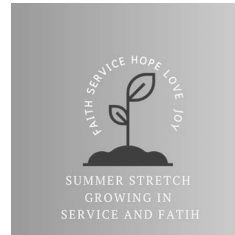
Our youth will be talking more about our trip at the Rally Sunday service on September 11. If you get a chance to visit with one of our youth who attended the mission trip, they would love to tell you more about their experiences there.



Do you have a student interested in going on our Mission trip next year?

We will have an information night about 2025 Summer Programs on **October 9th** at 5:30pm and 8:00pm.

Summer Stretch



During the month of August our St. John's Summer Stretch Youth met for our last time this summer.

We served our Highview Hills neighbors in two ways, we did yard work and played games with seniors. We went on an adventure to Lebanon Hills in Eagan. We went on a hike, kayaked, canoed and paddle boarded. It was a great way to finish our summer stretch program for this year. We will look forward to next year's adventures! Please keep in mind this program is for upper elementary and middle school students and meets on Wednesdays in the summer from 9:00am-4:30pm. We'd love to have your students join us next year!



Luther Crest Bible Camp!

We had 44 campers attending Luther Crest Bible Camp. Our first group attended in mid July and our second group was there the first week of August.

The Bible Verse our campers learned this summer was: Psalm 139:14

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well."

We are so thankful to our St. John's congregation for your support to make this opportunity possible! Camp continues to be an amazing faith milestone event where campers are learning, growing in faith and community. Our campers are very excited to share some songs and stories of their many adventures at our Rally Sunday worships.



A look at our Fall Education Schedules and Programs

Sunday Schedule

- 9:30am-10:15am Sunday School for Pre-K-4th grade
- 9:30am-10:15am ACE Adult Christian Education
- Nursery will be open for both early and late services
- Parenting Littles small group will meet once a month
- Sunday School, Middle School Fly Choir and JAM, Jesus and Me Choir will sing once a month in Worship

Wednesday Schedule:

- 5:30pm-6:45 pm meal
- 5:30pm-6:00pm Elementary Choir - Jesus and Me (JAM)
- 6:00-6:30pm Middle School Choir (FLY)
- 6:00-6:30pm HIGHLIGHTS of Sunday School (pre-k-4th grade)
- 6:30-7:00pm worship
- 7:00pm-8:00pm Affirm, Ablaze and Adult Choir

Fall Education Program Dates to Mark your Calendar:

- Sept 4 Affirm & Ablaze Orientation 7:00pm
- Sept. 8 Rally Day, Sunday School parent meeting
- Sept. 11 First day of Affirm, Ablaze, Highlights

Sunday School

Ages: Preschool-4th grade
Sundays 9:30am-10:15am or
Wednesdays 6:00-6:30pm



Sunday School
Registration

Sunday School: We are looking forward to diving into the Bible for some amazing adventures! We will begin each day in our large group with fun Bible Camp Songs led by our Children's Music Director, Malynnda Riehle.

We will also have special visits from our amazing puppet duo Abel and Zabel.

Following our large group, we will go to our classrooms and learn more about the Bible Story and engage in fun activities, crafts and games that connect to our story.

Sunday School Highlights

Ages: Preschool-4th grade

Wednesdays- 6:00pm-6:30pm

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

Ablaze: Pre-confirmation program

**5th grade students Wednesday nights
7:00pm-8:00pm beginning, September 11, 2024**

Ablaze was created to form a transitional bridge from Sunday School to our confirmation program, Affirm.

The program goals for Ablaze are to prep students for confirmation by reviewing key points of the Bible. We start around the campfire for the first five weeks reviewing the Old Testament, then we move indoors with a large group/small group model. In spring, we focus on preparing students to receive their Rite of First Communion. Ablaze Orientation will be held on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00pm. Ablaze campfires and classes will begin Wednesday, September 11, 7:00-8:00pm. Registration is open now.



Ablaze
Registration



Affirm News:



**Save the Date for
Orientation Night:
September 4th!**

All 5-9th grades and parents should make plans to join us on September 4th at 7 pm for Orientation! We make updates to these ministry programs each year, so youth and families are strongly encouraged to attend every year.

**Wednesday nights 7:00pm-8:00 pm
September 4** - Orientation for ALL 6-9th graders and parents!

September 11 - Bonfire Small Groups

September 18 - Bonfire Small Groups

September 25 - Bonfire Small Groups
6-9th Graders

Registration link for Affirm:

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



Affirm
Registration

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

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

Elementary and Middle School Choirs

We are looking forward to a new year with our awesome choirs! We are having a parent/Student meeting on Wednesday September 11th at regular our choir times. This is so we can gather contact information, go over expectations, answer any questions you may have, as well as hand out calendars through January 2025.

Please bring your students or anyone interested in singing with us to Mark! Malynda is looking forward to a new year and continuing to learn and grow and offer our praise!! If you have any questions, please email Malynda at Malynda@sjlcl.org.

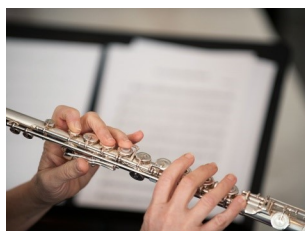
5:30 for JAM Choir - up to 4th Grade
6:00 for FLY Choir - 5th Grade and up

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

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



Youth Choirs Registration



Do you play an instrument and want to be involved with the choir, but not sing? GREAT! We would love for you to join us and play instrumental parts with our choir!! If you have ANY

questions, please reach out to Malynda Riehle! You can talk to her on Sundays, or email her at malynda@sjlcl.org.

Faith Education Teachers and Mentors needed

We hope that you consider being part of this wonderful team! We are now recruiting **Sunday School Teachers, Ablaze and Affirm Mentors.** (Middle School and High School Students can help teach Sunday School)

We would love to have you part of this wonderful team! There is a place for you in many areas of our Children, Youth and Family Program. Sunday School will be needing many teachers for each grade level in pre-k through 4th grade. We are so excited for the new education year!

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



Teachers and Leaders Sign up

Please fill out this form if you are interested or contact Amanda Boe or Pastor Kim Kylo for more Information

Parent's Night Out

Time: One night per month, time: 4:30pm-7:30pm.
Sign up for 2024-2025

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

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



Parent's Night Out Registration



Parenting Littles Small Group

Meets the 2nd Sunday of each month

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

St. John's Parenting Little Small Group meets the 2nd Sunday of each month during Sunday School. While your child learns about Jesus'; love in Sunday School, tend to your own spiritual and emotional wellbeing, gathering with other parents of littles to share best practices, parenting questions, and build community. This small group will be facilitated by Amanda Boe and Pastor Kim Kylo.



Nursery Care

Children, Youth and Family ministries at St John's strives to create a seamless line of ministry from birth through high school and to walk alongside families to raise compassionate, respectful, and service-orientated children – with hearts of faith-filled love.

Our nursery is part of that promised mission to walk alongside families. We believe that caring for children in a safe, nurturing environment of the nursery is essential in order for parents to tend to their own spiritual care. As a part of that journey **we encourage and support parents to participate in choir, teaching, mentoring, Adult Ed Classes (ACE) Bible Studies, and worship. Children are always welcome in worship yet we realize there are times when nursery care may be a better option for your family.**

When you bring your children to the nursery, they will be safely in the care of St. John's Nursery Paid Staff who are: high school juniors and seniors, are trained in CPR & First Aid, familiar with basic child development, and have passed a background check.

Parents need to stay in the building while your child (ren) are utilizing the nursery and you need to provide your contact information.



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!

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, **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 September 16



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 on Tuesdays
Where: A variety of locations, each to be announced in advance

If you would like to participate in a monthly outing with your church friends, experiencing a variety of unique places to have lunch and entertainment, then this is the small group for you!

Plans are in place for more trips starting in September. We will be going to the Faribault Woolen Mills on the 6th of September for a tour on how they produce their products. There is no charge for the tour with a discount on any pur-

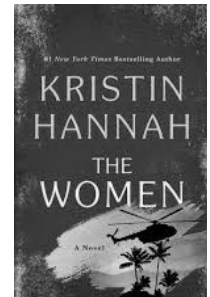
chases. After the tour, we will have lunch at Redemption in Faribault.

In October, we will be going to the History Theater for the play, "*Behind the Sun*" which is a look back at life in the 50's in Minneapolis. The date for the play is October 3rd at 10:00am. The cost of the tickets is **\$30 with payments to be paid by the 9th of September**. Please make checks payable to Ginger Gustafson.

In November we will be touring the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. All sign-up sheets are on the counter in the hallway. Suggestions for places to attend are always welcome!

Book Group

Facilitator: Kathy Ziller
Save the date for the next Book Group
September 11 at 1:00pm



The book for this discussion is "The Women" by Kristin Hannah

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 September 12th.**

Where: Highview Hills
Right now, millions of Americans face the devastation of Alzheimer's. The disease is robbing us of our families, our futures, and our finances. If you are a family member or caregiver to someone experiencing Alzheimer's disease, join us for this small group, where you'll find an open environment for sharing feelings, thoughts, and experiences to better cope with and manage the shared problems of dementia. St. John's and Highview Hills are partnering to provide emotional, social, and educational support to caregivers. This group is open to anyone in our community. No RSVP; simply show up as you are available.

Paper Crafters Small Group

Facilitator: Jackie Knauf
Meets: 1st Thursday of every month at 9 am - 2 pm; **Meets next September 5th**
Where: St. John's

The Paper Crafters Small Group makes cards to send to congregation members.

Quilters Small Group

Facilitator: Ruth Weber
Meets: 2nd and 3rd Thursdays of every month at 9 am; **Meets next September 12th and 19th**
Where: St. John's
The Quilters Small Group sews and assembles quilts to be donated.

Stitchers Small Group

Facilitator: Kathy Ziller
Meets: 4th Thursdays of every month at 9 am; **Meets next September 26th**
Where: St. John's
Knitters create Confirmation stoles, baptismal blankets, and prayer shawls. Come when you can; leave when you must!

Hannah Bible Study Small Group

Facilitator: Ruth Weber
Meets: 1st Wednesdays of every month at 9:30 am; **Meets next September 4th**
Where: St. John's
Hannah Circle is a Women's Bible Study, with fellowship and treats, open to all women.

Mary Breakfast Bunch

Facilitator: Jackie Knauff
Meets: 1st Tuesday of every month at 8:30 am; **Meets next August 6th**
Where: Cracker Barrel, Lakeville
Mary Breakfast Bunch is a women's fellowship group open to all women.

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

The logo for Thrivent, featuring the word "thrivent" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the upper right.

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.

Notes from the Finance Office:

Did you know that Pink Envelopes are part of St. John's Benevolence Program?

St. John's has 6 designated programs that pink envelope support throughout the year. **In September and October Pink Envelopes supports Armful of Love.**

What is Armful of Love? Armful of Love through 360 Communities has delivered holiday joy to thousands of families over the decades. Armful of Love supports families in need with gift cards to purchase gifts and groceries during the holiday season. The support of our generous donors helps reduce financial stress for families in Dakota County.

St. John's gives 8% of all general offerings to our benevolence program that supports the many programs of our Global Mission outreach, Local Outreach, & the Saint Paul Synod. Pink envelopes are an additional benevolence program that is above and beyond members offerings.

There are pink envelopes included in your quarterly envelope packets and in the pews. On Tithe.ly you can give to Pink Envelopes. Make sure to open the drop down box & select Pink Envelopes. Please email Tyra (tyra@sjlcl.org) or call 952-469-6322 if you have any questions.



Tithe.ly login

Ministry Finance Team Report

The Ministry Finance Team presents this **Financial Performance Report ("FPR") for July 2024** to the Saint John's Lutheran Church Congregation and St. John's Lutheran Church Council.

We are moving towards autumn and the beginning of all the Fall activities. For July, the overall financial performance of the General Fund was positive, helped by lower than budgeted expenses. Offering revenues were above budget for the month. Expenses for the month were lower than budget. That resulted in a positive financial performance for July, a great result for a summer month. Even when adjusting the General Fund financial results for July to remove the PPP fund allocation, operating cash flow was positive.

To help us continue to manage cashflow, we beseech you to contact Tyra to set up an automated giving program.

There are many ways you can support St. John's financially. You can:

- Contribute cash or by check when you worship at Church

- Drop off or mail your contributions to Church if you're not able to attend Sunday in person
- Text "Give" to 218.210.7853
- Go to the St. John's website at www.sjlcl.org Click on "Give" at the upper right of the home page, and scroll down to:
 - "We have three ways to give," click on "Give Online"
 - Gifts of stock, bonds, real estate, or other assets are gladly accepted
- Call Tyra at St. John's (612) 469-4916 for assistance with set-up or any gifting Questions Remember that you may contribute at worship with cash, check or electronically using your phone or computer.

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

General Fund Report

For July 2024:

- Offering revenue was \$45,465 which is 10% above budget for the month

- General Fund revenues & transfers were \$47,497, which is 10% above budget for the month
- General Fund expenses were \$45,663, which is 4% below budget for the month
- General Fund net operating performance was a positive \$1,834 for July
- Excluding PPP funds (a one-time funding source), net operating performance was a positive \$313 for July

Full Year 2024:

- General Fund revenue is \$336,610 which is 99.5% of budget for the year
- General Fund expenses are \$327,202, which is 6% below budget for the year
- General Fund actual net performance compared to Budget is a positive \$19,117 for 2024 year to date
- Net of receipts to expenses through July 31 is \$9,408 including PPP allocation
- Net of receipts to expenses through July 31 is (\$1,238) excluding PPP allocation

Comments & Observations:

July financial results resulted in income exceeding budget, with operating expenses coming in below budgeted amounts. This is a very strong result, especially for a summer month. Net cash flow for the month was positive, even after removing the transfer of PPP funds.

The positive net operating result is due both to stronger revenues and expenses that were lower than budgeted levels. This prudent stewardship shows continued conservation of financial resources. The MFT will work closely with Council to monitor and manage, to the extent possible, the financial effect of the staffing changes.

The Ministry Finance Team will continue to watch how actual financial results compare to budgeted amounts for the next few months. We will keep the Council and Congregation

informed of future developments. Based on spring attendance, summer youth participation levels, and expressions of interest in membership, we are hopeful that September and the following months will show strong financial results.

Benevolence Fund Report

The Benevolence Fund is allocated a portion (8%) of total offering revenues and all any benevolence contributions from dedicated contributions. Benevolence Fund expenditures are distributed periodically according to need and the amounts available from the Benevolence Fund.

For July 2024:

- Benevolence Fund allocations and revenue received is \$4,008 for July 2024, which is 15% over budget for the month
- Benevolence Fund distributions for July 2024 were \$3,750 which is 2 and 21/2 times over budget for July 2024. The reason for this was two large, budgeted distributions for
Muhanga Partnerships
College Scholarships
- Net Benevolence income and distributions for the first seven months of the year are at well-placed at 1044% of budget

The 2024 Benevolence fund in good financial shape to respond to St. John's and larger community needs in 2024. Benevolence distributions are typically made later in the year as funding needs are identified and approved.

Building Fund Report

For July 2024:

Building Fund revenues were	\$ 8,249
Building Fund expenses were	<u>\$10,094</u>
Building Fund Net is:	<u>\$ (-1,843)</u>

Full Year 2024:

Building Fund Revenue is	\$62,078
Building Fund expense is	<u>\$70,658</u>
Building Fund net is:	<u>\$ (8,580)</u>

Comments and Observations:

July 2024 was another negative month for the Building Fund cash flow. For the first seven months of 2023, the building fund has experienced a net cumulative shortfall of \$8,580.

Funds that were accumulated from prior years that have been retained in the Mortgage account are being used to pay the 2024 and any future shortfall in building fund revenues.

We have approximately 7 months of mortgage payment reserves built up to secure the mortgage payment, meaning St. John's is in reasonably good financial shape for the building fund for the near-term future.

Ministry Finance Team Members and How to Get Finance Questions Answered

The members of the Ministry Finance Team are always available and willing to answer any financial related questions or provide information about the financial operations of St. John's. Contact the Church office to be put in touch with a Ministry Finance Team member or if you see **Mark Gelle, Mike Sobota, Lisa Drogemuller, Andy Schultz, Brad Paulson, Mark Renze, Christopher Olson, or Treasurer Barry Fick**, don't hesitate to talk with them for additional information. We thank you for your ongoing financial support and encourage you to remain faithful in your giving as the year continues and we all experience new challenges

Global Missions

BKB Tanzania Shared Mission Trip Informational Meeting

St. John's members who are interested in visiting our partner congregation in Muhanga Tanzania are invited to participate in a shared mission trip with Gustavus Adolphus, St. Paul and Lutheran Church of Peace, Maplewood.

The trip is planned for June of 2025 and will be around \$4,000 a person. Fundraising will be planned to help make this opportunity possible for those interested.

There will be an informational meeting at Gustavus Adolphus (1669 Arcade St. N, St. Paul) on **Sunday September 22** at 12:30pm led by Pastor Ruthie Mhanga. Please talk with people on our global missions team if you are interested or have any questions.

Worship and Music News

A lot of wonderful things have been happening at St. John's with our Music Ministry! Throughout the summer we have had many folks contribute to worship with musical gifts. Thank You! A lot of dreaming and planning has gone on as well and there are many opportunities to see God through music coming up! One of them is our Chancel Choir!

Chancel Choir rehearsals begin Wednesdays at 7:15 beginning Sept 4th.
New this year, you are invited to participate in our first annual
Choir Retreat on Saturday, September 14th from 9-Noon.

This will be a great chance to hear about the new season, new opportunities to enhance our worship, choir techniques and fellowship! **Please make plans to take part in this fun event and get to know about what goes on with all of our music ministry!** As always, if you have any questions, contact Roxanne Litchfield at 715-864-1983!

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am Worship 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship	2 LABOR DAY Church office closed	3 8:30am Global Missions Team Meeting 8:30am Mary Breakfast Bunch at Cracker Barrel 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:15pm WAM tam Meeting	4 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 9:30am Hannah Bible Study Small Group 3pm Worship Planning 7pm Affirm Orientation	5 9am Paper Crafters 2pm Worship at Winsor Plaza	6 10am More Than Just Lunch trip to Faribault	7
8 Fall Worship Times begin RALLY SUNDAY 8:30am Worship/Communion 9:30am Fellowship/Sunday School/ACE 10:30am Worship/	9	10 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm CYF Team Meeting	11 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 1pm Book Group 3pm Worship Planning 5:30pm & 6:00pm Children's Choirs parent meetings	12 9am Quilters 10am Dementia Caregivers Support Group @ HVH 11am Kingsley Shores Worship	13	14 9am-noon Choir Retreat
15 GET INVOLVED SUNDAY 8:30am Worship 9:30am Fellowship/Sunday School/Service Fair 10:30am Worship	16 8:30am Men's Breakfast Small Group-Perkins	17 10:00am Staff Meeting 6pm Ministry Finance Team Meeting	18 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 3pm Worship Planning See Wed Schedule Below	19 9am Quilters 2pm Worship at Fairfield Terrace 2pm-8:30pm Church Directory Photo sessions	20 2pm-8:30pm Church Directory Photo sessions	21 10am-4pm Church Directory Photo sessions
22 8:30am Worship/Communion 9:30am Fellowship/Sunday School/ACE 10:30am Worship/Communion 12:30pm BKB Trip Info Meeting	23	24 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Council	25 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 9am-4:30pm 3pm Worship Planning See Wed Schedule Below	26 9am Stitchers 2pm Coffee and Conversation at HVH	27	28
29 8:30am Worship 9:30am Fellowship/Sunday School/ACE 10:30am Worship	30	<p>Wednesday Schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm-6:45 pm meal 5:30pm-6:00pm Elementary Choir - Jesus and Me (JAM) 6:00-6:30pm Middle School Choir (FLY) 6:00-6:30pm HIGHLIGHTS of Sunday School (pre-k-4th grade) 6:30-7:00pm worship 7:00pm-8:00pm Affirm, Ablaze and Adult Choir 				

Church Directory Time!

We need **YOU** to make our directory complete! Please help by having your picture taken! Plus, you receive a free directory & a free 8 x 10 portrait just for being photographed!

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply scan the QR code or go to www.ucdir.com & click the "Photography Appointment Scheduling Login" button.

Enter **mn462** in the "Church Code" field and enter **photos** in the "Church Password" field

Online scheduling may not be available Saturday or Sunday so we can have paper sign-ups at church. *Appointments fill up quickly, so sign up as soon as possible to get the best date and time for you.*



Schedule Your Appointment Online!

Photo Dates: Thursday - Saturday September 19-21



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

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