



20165 Heath Ave. Lakeville MN  
952-469-4916

# Journal December 2024

Kim Kylo - Senior Pastor  
Nathan Lyke - Associate Pastor

## Sunday Schedule

8:30am Worship  
9:30 Fellowship/Education Hour/ACE  
10:30am Worship  
Nursery open from 8:30-11:30am  
Communion is served on the first  
and third Sunday each month

## 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  
Sunday School (pre-k-4<sup>th</sup>  
grade)  
6:30-7:00pm worship/communion  
7:00pm-8:00pm Affirm, Ablaze  
and Adult Choir

## Inside this issue:

Podcast Information.....p. 3  
Calendar .....p. 15  
Children, Youth & Family.....p. 5  
Small Groups .....p. 7  
And Much More!

More information is available on the  
website: [www.sjlcl.org](http://www.sjlcl.org)

**Submit information  
by the 15th of the  
month to:  
[candy@sjlcl.org](mailto:candy@sjlcl.org)**

People of St. John's,

I hope you had a chance to read my article in the November newsletter, previewing our upcoming shift to weekly sacraments. This shift will go into place in January, so that we can live more fully into our Lutheran identity, as a faith of Word and Sacraments.

As we prepare for this intentional shift in our community, I want to invite your reflection about communion in your own life and faith. Here are a few questions for you to ponder:

What has communion meant to you, over the course of your life? Has this meaning changed or evolved over time?

What does it mean to you at this time in your life? What is the event of receiving communion like for you? In other words, how is your spiritually life impacted in receiving body and blood of Christ?

Have you ever had the experience of being denied communion at a church? If so, what was that like?

Ultimately, what matters most to you about communion? Why do you think that aspect is so important for you specifically?

I invite you to reflect on these questions because it is a healthy and productive spiritual practice to exam-

ine our motivations and the meanings we make around any area of our faith and life together as a congregation. Our formative experiences shape the way we view and approach practices like communion today.

As the Worship Arts Ministry (WAM) Team and the Church Council prayerfully considered the shift to weekly sacraments for St. John's, one of the values that arose repeatedly is our Lutheran practice of what's known as *open table*: the belief and practice that each and every person who desires to receive is fully welcome at Christ's table, without merit and without exception. We have heard many stories about individuals being denied access to communion and various types of Christian churches – for a number of different reasons – and because it is our Lutheran belief that we are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8), we want to live into this central belief by opening up the communion table more often. Since the radical welcome of Christ for us is not “the way things work in the real world,” it is our call and mission, as people of faith, to proclaim the unconditional love of Jesus to each and every person who gathers at this table.

*“Saved by grace,  
through faith.”  
Ephesians 2:8*

Likewise, the apostle Paul writes about the Lord's Supper that we are to receive communion

“as often as you’re able” (1 Corinthians 11:25-26). Since communion is a “means of grace,” that is, a way we experience and encounter God’s grace for us individually and corporately, then communion is a living, concrete encounter with grace instead of judgment, and with mercy instead of condemnation. As we remember that “since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23) *daily*, then don’t we

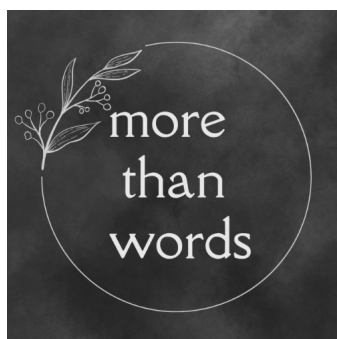
come wholeheartedly and hungry to be assured *yet again* that nothing could ever separate us from God’s love?

Thank you for reflecting with me, and with each other, on what communion means to you and for all of us as a community of faith together. God’s grace is a gift to be treasured and celebrated!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Kim Kyllö

## For Your Information

### "More Than Just Words" Worship Series



It’s almost Advent, and it’s time to get the words out of storage.

Maybe you’ve seen them engraved in the material of an Advent wreath, embroidered on ribbons hung by each candle, or applied on banners for the sanctuary walls. *Hope. Peace. Joy. Love.*

These words weave their way through the season of Advent, inviting us to prepare for the arrival of Jesus the Word himself. They have a sense of familiarity, like heirlooms passed down the generations. And just like heirlooms, the original meaning and impact can be dulled by a patina of too much familiarity. How about a polishing cloth?

This year, St. John’s Advent series *More Than Words* helps these four Advent themes sparkle, adding the themes of *care, faith, and justice* in November to complete the extended season. *Together, we will* explore how each Advent word invites us, challenges us, and prepares us for Jesus’ arrival, drawing us closer to the God who is even now drawing closer to us.

### December Worship News:

**Sunday, December 1** - Advent 1 "*More than Just Words: Hope*" Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 and 10:30 am

**Wednesday, December 4** - Restorative Worship at 6:30 pm

**Sunday, December 8** - Advent 2 "*More than Just Words: Peace*" Worship with Guest Musician: David Cherwein

**Wednesday, December 11** - Restorative Worship at 6:30 pm

**Sunday, December 15** - Advent 3 "*More than Just Words: Joy*" Worship with Holy Communion, with the Sunday School Christmas Program at 10:30 am only

**Wednesday, December 18** - Restorative Worship at 6:30 pm

**Sunday, December 22** - Advent 4 "*More than Just Words: Love*" Worship

**Tuesday, December 24** - Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion and candlelight at 3:00, 5:00 & 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, December 25** - Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 am

**Sunday, December 29** - 1st Sunday of Christmas Worship at 10:00 am, with Carols You Love to Sing

## "Good News of Great Joy" Christmas Eve Worship

Join us at 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, or 7:00 pm on December 24 as we celebrate the birth of Christ! Worship will include Holy Communion, candle lighting, and music from Chancel Choir.



### Sound Techs 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 Techs 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 December 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 & Conversation at Highview Hills

**Meets Next January 23rd @ 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. **We will not meet in the month of December.** In January, 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 2 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 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

## ACE in December

**Dec 1**-NO ACE-Thanksgiving

**Dec 8**-NO ACE-Christmas program dress rehearsal

**Dec 15**-NO ACE-Sunday School Christmas Program

**Dec 22**- "ACE in the New Year" Join pastor Nathan and the Christian Education team as we brainstorm, discuss and dream of what topics and areas of focus could be part of Adult Christian Education in 2025.

**Dec 29**-NO ACE-Christmas weekend





## Everyday Bible Conversations (EBC's)

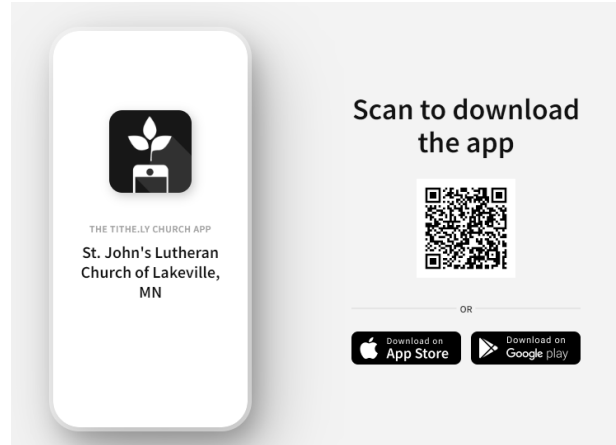
Join us as we find God EVERYWHERE! Every week, we look for God in our Everyday Lives with a video and devotions based on the week's Gospel, wherever we happen to be. We've found God in the hilltops above Lisbon, Portugal, at the American Revolution in Boston, MA, in the desert in California, on the shores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



## 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!

# Children, Youth and Family News

## The Season of Advent

The Advent Season is a time to reflect and prepare. We have many opportunities for families to engage in this joyful season.

If you missed our Advent Festival, you can still receive the advent calendar and the resource guide that we have available for you. The Advent Guide is a companion for your family's Advent journey. It is both a calendar and guidebook, featuring one practice per day to prepare your heart and home for the birth of Christ. The calendar is formatted as strips of paper that can be cut out and either placed inside the doors or pockets of a traditional Advent calendar, or made into a countdown paper chain.

**We will have these available throughout the Advent season.**



## Wednesday Night Faith Education, choirs, meals and worship!

**Faith Education Fall theme verse, Psalm 139:14**

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

A special thank you to our leaders and families for their support. Our weekly attendance has increased. Some of that is reflective of sports schedules and activities being scheduled before or after our Wednesday classes and also students inviting other students to join us.



CYF  
Webpage

Affirm, our 6th-8th grade groups will explore four words: Care, Faith, Hope and Joy! These four words will also accompany Bible stories that will teach how these words can be used as tools to help ourselves and others.

We pray that our students will encounter each of these words as **more than words**. We hope that they will experience each of these words as signs of the Spirit's stirring. Let these words spark a transformation that God has already begun. As we learn these words and Bible stories, our hope is that they challenge, comfort, equip, and inspire our students so that they will be more than words: they will be the Word, incarnate in Christ's body and Christ's church.

Wednesday meals are served 5:30pm-6:45pm. All are welcome to participate in our evening meal, they are made with love, care and are delicious!

Wednesday Night Calendar Notes:

**December 4** - Service Blitz at St. John's serving 360 communities to help families in need with basic needs.

**December 11** Christmas Party – Hot cocoa bar and minute to win it games!

**December 18** Service Blitz! Caroling to Highview Hills, Windsor Plaza and downtown Lakeville.

**December 25 and January 1**, we will be on break and resume classes January 8.



Affirm Small Group

## Sunday School Notes:

Sunday School students have been learning the program songs and parts during Sunday School during the month of November. They will have rehearsal December 8<sup>th</sup> in the Sanctuary.

Sunday School Students have been learning the Christmas Story and making a special ornament each week that is a part of the story that they learn.



## Christmas Program

December 15, at the 10:30am worship

All are invited to watch our little angels, shepherds and wiseman retell the Christmas Story featuring classic Christmas Carols, new favorite songs, and readings from Luke:2.

Children, Youth and Family programs have had a wonderful beginning to our faith education year.

Sunday School Calendar Notes:

**December 1** – No Class, Sunday School break

**December 8** – Dress Rehearsal in Sanctuary

**December 15-** Christmas Program at 10:30am worship

**December 22 and 29** no class for Christmas Break

**Sunday School Highlights: No Classes on December 18, 25 and January 1.**



## Affirm Service Blitz—Making tie blankets for Living Well



**100 youth assembled and tied 15 blankets on Wednesday October 30**

# 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+ **and Friday 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](mailto:l.coldren63@gmail.com).

### Men's Monday Breakfast Small Group

Facilitator: Peter Gudel  
(contact: [pjgudel@gmail.com](mailto:pjgudel@gmail.com))  
Meets: 3rd Monday of every month at 8:30 am.

**Meets next December 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!

More Than Just Lunch will be heading to the Union Depot in St. Paul on **December 13<sup>th</sup>** for a tour of the historic depot. This building was started in 1921 and after several fires, completed in 1926. It

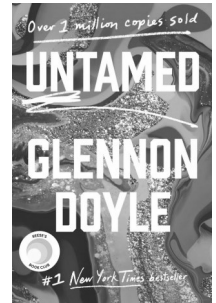
was a destination for immigrants from the east as well as a stop for the orphan train which brought children to homes in Minnesota. The cost for the tour is \$10. After the tour we will have lunch at the 1881 restaurant in the depot. After lunch there will be an opportunity to stroll through the European Market, weather permitting. We will **meet at church at 9:15am.**

### Book Group

Facilitator: Kathy Ziller  
Save the date for the next Book Group  
**January 8** at 1:00pm

**The book for this session is:**  
**"Untamed" by Glennon Doyle**

Untamed (2020) is a story of unexpected love. In it, Glennon Doyle reveals how falling in love with Abby Wambach completely derailed all her plans for her life – but allowed her to become fully herself.



### 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 December 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.





### **"Parenting Littles" Small Group:**

Co-Facilitators: Amanda Boe & Pastor Kim Kylo

When: 2nd Sunday of each month during Sunday School; **meets next December 8th**

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 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.

### **Paper Crafters Small Group**

Facilitator: Jackie Knauff

Meets: 1st Thursday of every month at 9 am - 2pm

**Meets next December 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 & 3rd Thursday of every month at 9am

**Meets next December 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;

Will not meet in December

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 8:30am

**Meets next December 3rd**

Where: Cracker Barrel, Lakeville

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

### **Hannah Women's Study Small Group**

Facilitator: Ruth Weber

Meets: 1st Wednesdays of every month at 9:30 am from September through June. Meets next December 4th.

Where: St. John's

Women's Study is a fellowship group with treats, and open discussion open to all women.



### **We welcome the following new members who joined St. John's in November:**

1. Angela & Joshua Borchardt, Tobias & Roland
2. Katie Clemence, Aubrey, Blake & Emerson
3. David & Jenee Dettmann
4. Kim & Mike Grove, Aspen & Brantley
5. Mary King
6. Elliott & Christine Mann, Elijah, Noah, Louis, Maya & Violet
7. Lisa & Matt Marcellus, Natalie & Emilia
8. Michael & Crystal Nurmela, Ellie & Riley
9. Deborah Sandhoff
10. Jackie & Carl Sorenson
11. Judy Strand
12. Eric & Carol Vogel
13. Katie & Patrick Withers, Asher, Lane & Charlotte
14. Nancy Miller

(42 in total)



# Thank You•Thank You•Thank You•Thank You•Thank You

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for having our team out on Monday, November 11. You ran another incredible blood drive! From your hard work promoting the event, to coordinating a smooth drive day for our team, you executed at an incredibly high level. Job well done!

As for results, you absolutely crushed our anticipated goal for the day, collecting an impressive 33 pints of lifesaving blood! That's 3 units over our goal, which correlates to potentially 9 additional patients in need that will be able to receive care thanks to your efforts. In total, the blood collected at yesterday's drive has the potential to touch the lives of 99 patients in need, beginning as early as this time next week. How great is that!

Again, thank you so much for supporting our mission and coordinating these lifesaving blood drives. I'm really looking forward to working with you on our upcoming blood drives (listed below):

Current Future Drive Dates:

- Monday, February 3rd - 11:00am - 5:00pm
- Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> - 11:00am - 5:00pm

Thanks again for the fantastic results! It was a pleasure supporting your efforts and we are so grateful for your support.

Have a wonderful day!  
Katy

To St. John's Staff,

You are such a blessing. Making sacrifices, big and small. Giving willingly, going all out, putting others first. That's just you, serving God, being you and it really makes a difference. You create a wonderful monthly newsletter. We appreciate all the work you do for St. John's congregation and youth.

Sincerely,

Mike and Karen Cichosz

Dear friends,

On behalf of all the homeless who share the fruits of C.A.T.C.H. activities, I send heartfelt thanks to the St. John's Lutheran Congregation. The generous gift of \$1,000 will be used to support our emergency fund program and help provide shelter and assistance.

May God continue to bless your community.

Sincerely,  
Robin Kieffer, Treasurer

C.A.T.C.H.—Coalition on Affordable Transitional  
Community Housing



## CATCH

Coalition on Affordable Transitional Community Housing

# Worship and Music News

## Save the Date Now For these amazing Music Events

### Sunday, December 8

**David Cherwien** – will be leading an Advent Hymn Festival at 4pm. In addition to being a nationally known composer, arranger and conductor, Dr. Cherwien is known for these unique events which weave together a blend of song and spoken word in a profound interactive presentation. If you've not had a chance to attend one of his hymn festivals before, you will want to take part in this! Our choir will also be collaborating that day.

### Sunday, December 15

**Laura Pettis Piano Students Recital** – St. John's will host the piano recital for the students of Laura Pettis. The group is split into two times, 4pm and 5:30pm. You are welcome to attend one or both.

### Christmas Festival Concert - *Healing: of the Nations*

Join the National Lutheran Choir at the beautiful Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis for the Christmas Festival tradition. This year's program, titled *Healing: of the Nations*, seeks to bring a beacon of hope to all who open their hearts and listen.

This year, singers from a newly-formed Children's Christmas Choir will sing alongside NLC during the concert and will be featured on our live-streamed performance.

In-person performances:

Friday, December 13th, - 4:30pm, Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis  
Saturday, December 14th - 1:30pm, Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis  
Saturday, December 14th - 8:00pm, Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

Adults and Seniors: \$35 | Students: Pay what you can | 18 and Under: Free

Discounts for groups of 10+! Call the NLC office at 612-722-2301 for group tickets

Livestream performance:

Saturday, December 14th - 1:30pm CT  
free to all - visit [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com) to watch

For tickets and more information, please visit [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com).



### 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 Thrivent logo consists of the word "thrivent" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by a registered trademark symbol (®).

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.

# Compassion Team News

## Holiday Giving Info

The holidays are right around the corner! If you are looking for a way to give to families or others in need this holiday season, here are some wonderful options:



### Armful of Love

This holiday giving opportunity is run through 360 communities and gives out gift cards, purchased by donors, to families in need which are then used by the families to purchase gifts.

There are two ways to donate to this program:

1. Pick up a pink donation envelope from the pew rack while at church and place your check or cash inside and place in the offering plate during service. Or you can give on Tithely too, just choose "pink envelopes" from the dropdown menu and write "AOL" in the note box.

2. Sign up to sponsor families on your own at this website:



Armful of Love

For more information on 360 communities and their programs, visit :



360 Communities



## Hope for the Holidays

This holiday giving opportunity is run by the CAP agency for Dakota, Scott, and Carver counties. Donors sign up through their website and receive the wish list of a family from the agency. You then purchase gifts off the wish list and bring them to the drop off on the designated days. You can also sign up purchase care packages for seniors in need or select items to purchase off an Amazon wish list that are then delivered to the agency. To sign up for this giving opportunity, visit

Hope for the Holiday



## Loaves and Fishes

(year-round opportunities)

This organization, which St. John's sponsors, provides meals for people in need at several locations in and around the twin Cities. They need volunteers to help prepare the food and also to help serve. For more information and to sign up for this giving opportunity visit



Loaves and Fishes Program

These are just a few of the many opportunities out there. If you have other organizations you'd like to see on this list or if you have questions, please contact Elisa Brown at [elisa@silcl.org](mailto:elisa@silcl.org)



# Ministry Finance Team Report

The Ministry Finance Team presents this **Financial Performance Report (“FPR”) for October 2024** to the Saint John’s Lutheran Church Congregation and St. John’s Lutheran Church Council.

We are already preparing for Advent and the Christmas season. For October, the overall financial performance of the General Fund was positive, helped by lower both higher than budgeted revenues and lower than budgeted expenses. Offering revenues were above budget for the month. Expenses for the month were lower than the budget. That resulted in a positive financial performance for October. The actual contributions exceeding budgeted contributions is especially welcome. We need this trend to continue to complete 2024 in a positive manner and build on the success of 2024/2025.

To help us continue to manage cashflow, we recommend you 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](http://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
- Scan this QR code and follow the prompts



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 October 2024:*

- Offering revenue was \$59,902 which is 11% above budget for the month
- General Fund revenues & transfers were \$63,930, which is 11% above budget for the month
- General Fund expenses were \$40,493, which is 18% below budget for the month
- General Fund net operating performance was a positive \$22,437 for October  
Excluding PPP funds (a one-time funding source), net operating performance was a positive \$20,916 for October

### *Full Year 2024:*

- General Fund revenue is \$494,323 which is 102% of the budget for the year
- General Fund expenses are \$447,543, which is 9% below budget for the year
- General Fund actual net performance compared to Budget is a positive \$55,745 for 2024 year to date
- Net of receipts to expenses through October 31 is \$22,437 including PPP allocation
- Net of receipts to expenses through October 31 is \$20,916 excluding PPP allocation

### *Comments & Observations:*

October financial results were very strong, with income exceeding the budget, and operating expenses coming in below budgeted amounts. Net cash flow for the month was positive and re-

mained positive after excluding the transfer of PPP funds.

The positive net operating result is due both to stronger revenues and expenses that were lower than budgeted levels. For 2024, we have experienced positive cash flow for 6 of the 10 months through September. The installation of Associate Pastor Nathan in late October will bring us to full staffing levels and increase our monthly expenses. To ensure strong financial stewardship, the MFT will continue to work closely with the Council to monitor and manage, to the extent possible, the financial effect of all expense 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 benevolence contributions from dedicated contributions. Benevolence Fund expenditures are distributed periodically according to need and the amounts available from the Benevolence Fund.

#### *For October 2024:*

- Benevolence Fund allocations and revenue received is \$5,209 for October 2024, which is 14% over budget for the month
- Benevolence Fund distributions for October 2024 were \$3,238  
Net Benevolence distributions for the first ten months of the year are at 92% 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 October 2024:*

- Building Fund revenues were \$ 11,672
  - Building Fund expenses were \$ 10,094
- Building Fund Net is: \$ 1,578

#### *Full Year 2024:*

- Building Fund Revenue is \$ 93,073
  - Building Fund expense is \$100,940
- Building Fund net is: \$ (7,867)

#### *Comments and Observations:*

September 2024 was a positive month for the building fund. The fund received a one-time gift which will be allocated equally to each remaining month of 2024. For the first ten months of 2024, the building fund has experienced a net cumulative shortfall of \$7,867.

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 Building fund is in good financial shape 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, Joe Stoddard, 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.

## Notes from the Finance Office:

Pink Envelopes in December support The Open Door. As the largest food shelf in Dakota County, The Open Door serves roughly 14,000 Dakota County residents each month through a combination of innovative programs.

**DID YOU KNOW** Pink Envelopes supports St. John's Benevolence Programs? We have 6 Designated Programs your gifts support. If you give by envelope your envelope packet has pink envelopes included. If you give through Tithe.ly, on the "Give to:" box click the drop-down arrow. Then select Pink Envelopes. There are also Pink Envelopes in the Welcome Pad in each pew.

### Year-end Updates:

All offerings received by 12/31/2024 by 4:00 p.m. or postmarked 12/31/2024 will be recorded as a 2024 gift. All offerings received after 12/31/2024 will be recorded as a 2025 gift.

## "Growing in Generosity" 2024 Pledge Appeal

On Sunday, October 13, we celebrated God's abundant generosity shared in our congregation by offering our "2025 Offering Intent" (Pledge) cards to God in gratitude for all that God has and continues to do for us. If you are still prayerfully considering your financial commitment to St. John's for 2025, there is still time to turn in your Offering Intent (Pledge) card. Every gift matters! Bring your pledge card to the church office OR submit the online pledge card via [silcl.org](http://silcl.org).

Each of you has your  
own gift from God.

-1 Corinthians 7:7



## Surviving the Holidays: Grief Support Event

**December 9th at 6:30 pm**

**Facilitators:** Lisa Horn, Judy Strand, Heather Theel, Pastor Kim Kylo

**When:** Monday, December 9th at 6:30 pm at St. John's

**Event Description:** While the holiday season can be filled with merriment and cheer, for many of us who are grieving a loved one, the holidays can be uncomfortable and filled with sadness. Especially if you are surrounded by people who seem overly joyful, the holidays can feel hard or even impossible for a grieving person. If you are hoping to simply get through these next weeks, join us for this one-night "Surviving the Holidays" grief support event. Come, experience a momentary reprieve and be with other people who get it. All are welcome. Child care MAY be available, upon request. Scan the QR code to register.



# December 2024

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri   | Sat                                    |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| <b>1 ADVENT 1</b><br>8:30am Worship/<br>Communion<br>9:30am Fellowship<br>10:30am Worship/<br>Communion   | 2<br><br>7pm Scouts<br>7:15pm WAM<br>team Meeting                                 | 3<br>8:30am Mary<br>Breakfast Bunch<br>10:00am Staff<br>Meeting  | 4<br>8:45am Yoga With<br>Clarity<br>9:30am Hannah<br>Women's Study<br>Group<br>3pm Worship<br>Planning<br>See Wed Schedule<br>Below  | 5<br>9am Paper Crafters<br>2pm Worship at<br>Winsor Plaza                | 6<br>8:45am Yoga<br>With Clarity                                  | 7<br>5pm Scouts<br>Court<br>of Honor   |
| <b>8 ADVENT 2</b><br>8:30am Worship/<br>Communion<br>9:30am Fellowship/<br>Sunday School Dress<br>Rehearsal<br>10:30am Worship/<br>Communion<br>4pm Advent Hymn<br>Festival with David<br>Cherwien              | 9<br><br>6:30pm<br>Surviving the<br>Holidays Grief<br>Support Event<br>7pm Scouts | 10<br>8:30am Global<br>Missions Team<br>Meeting<br>10:00am Staff<br>Meeting<br>6pm Ministry<br>Finance Team<br>Meeting<br>7:00pm CYF Team<br>Meeting | 11<br>8:45am Yoga With<br>Clarity<br>10am Worship at<br>Moments Senior<br>Living<br>3pm Worship<br>Planning<br>See Wed Schedule<br>Below   | 12<br>9am Quilters<br>10am Dementia<br>Caregivers Support<br>Group @ HVH | 13<br>8:45am Yoga<br>With Clarity<br>9:15 More Than<br>Just Lunch | 14<br>9am-5pm<br>Lifeline<br>Screening |
| <b>15 ADVENT 3</b><br>8:30am Worship<br>9:30am Fellowship/<br>Sunday School/<br>Parenting Littles<br>10:30am Worship/<br>Sunday School<br>Christmas Program<br>4pm and 5:30pm<br>Laura Pettis Piano<br>Recitals | 16<br>8:30am Men's<br>Breakfast Small<br>Group-Perkins<br><br>7pm Scouts          | 17<br>10:00am Staff<br>Meeting<br><br>5:15pm Gratitude<br>and Generosity<br>Team Meeting<br>6:30pm Council   | 18<br>8:45am Yoga With<br>Clarity<br>2pm HVH worship<br>3pm Worship<br>Planning<br>5pm Nominating<br>Committee<br>See Wed Schedule<br>Below  | 19<br>9am Quilters<br>11am Kingsley<br>Shores                            | 20<br>8:45am Yoga<br>With Clarity                                 | 21                                     |
| <b>22 ADVENT 4</b><br>8:30am Worship/<br>Communion<br>9:30am Fellowship/<br>ACE<br>10:30am Worship/<br>Communion  | 23  | <b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE</b><br>3:00pm Worship/<br>Communion<br>5:00pm Worship/<br>Communion<br>7:00pm Worship/<br>Communion                              | <b>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</b><br>10:00am Worship/<br>Communion<br><br>OFFICE CLOSED<br>CHRISTMAS<br>HOLIDAY  | 26<br><br>OFFICE CLOSED<br>CHRISTMAS<br>HOLIDAY                          | 27  | 28                                     |
| 29<br>10:00am Worship   | 30  | 31   | <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>Wednesday Schedule:</b></p> <p>5:30pm-6:45 pm meal</p> <p>5:30pm-6:00pm Elementary Choir -<br/>Jesus and Me (JAM)</p> <p>6:00-6:30pm Middle School Choir (FLY)</p> <p>6:00-6:30pm HIGHLIGHTS Sunday School<br/>(pre-k-4<sup>th</sup> grade)</p> <p>6:30-7:00pm worship</p> <p>7:00pm-8:00pm Affirm, Ablaze and Adult Choir</p> <p>8:00pm HS Youth Group</p> </div> |  |   |  |



## "Good News of Great Joy" Christmas Eve Worship

Join us at 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, or 7:00 pm on December 24 as we celebrate the birth of Christ!

Worship will include Holy Communion, candle lighting, and music from Chancel Choir.



**Life Line Screening** will be here at St John's Lutheran Church Lakeville on Saturday, December 14, 2024 from 9am to 5pm offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today. Please refer to the info below about how you can sign up.

There is no time like the present to take action!

### Three ways to register:

- **Call toll-free: 1-888-814-0466 promo code HSCA001**
- **Online: <https://www.lisa.social/hzca>**
- **Text: the word **circle** to 216-279-1607**

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December 2024 Newsletter  
20165 Heath Ave  
Lakeville, MN 55044

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