



20165 Heath Ave. Lakeville MN  
952-469-4916

# Journal

## January 2025

Kim Kyllö - 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

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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,

What do pita bread and Welch's grape juice have in common? If you grew up in the Vineyard church I did, it's what communion looked and tasted like. I can still imagine the scent of the bread in my mind and the sweet taste of the purple grape juice. My family and I would go up to a set table where the pita bread had been cut into smaller pieces and the juice was served from the clear plastic cups like we use. My father would pass out the elements, say a prayer, and we'd go back to our seats while beautiful music was being played by the band.

Back then, my understanding was that we were doing this because it's what Jesus told his disciples to do, and I figured it was usually a good idea to do what Jesus tells you to do. (I never did manage to sell all my Star Wars action figures and give the money to the poor though...)

Many years ago, when I fell in love with a life-giving Lutheran theology and its remarkable history, I read about the "real presence" of Jesus in the sacraments: baptism and communion. One author described it as a five sense encounter with Jesus that we can see, hear, taste, smell, and perhaps most importantly, touch. That thought has stuck with me ever since.

I've often compared coming up to

receive communion to an encounter I have with a dear pastor friend of mine who lives in Tennessee. We usually see each other once a year, and every year I know what I'm in for when I see him. He brings me in for a huge dad-hug and gives me a big ol' kiss on my cheek with his bristly bearded face. It reminds me of being in the arms of my grandpa John when I was a kid. He'd give me bristly beard kisses like that too.

Now, do I believe that my friend *still* loves me when we're many miles apart? Of course! But when I have that first encounter with him when we see each other every year, there's no doubt in my mind that he's a friend who loves me dearly.

I think the same thing can be said about communion.

When you and I gather together as the church and share this simple meal, it's more than just packing-peanut wafers (not that I would have eaten a few packing peanuts as a curious kid...maybe), wine or white grape juice. The Real Presence of Jesus is there too, wrapped up in a mystery we can catch glimpses of through faith and five senses. For me, it's an embrace from Jesus that reminds me how loved I am all the time, and *especially* in that sacred moment.

After prayerful consideration, faithful conversation between the Worship & Arts Ministry Team (WAM)

and St. John's Church Council, and individual conversations with many members of our congregation, the council has approved the WAM Team's recommendation to adopt weekly sacraments in our worship life, starting January 2025. Most recently, St. John's has observed communion twice monthly, with baptisms on alternate Sundays, as requested by families. Moving forward, St. John's will observe one sacrament at every Sunday and Wednesday worship service. Com-

munion will be served weekly, except for worship services when a baptism(s) will take place.

Our hope is that this weekly encounter with Jesus' real presence will strengthen you and keep you in his grace for the rest of your week. That the next time you come to the Lord's table, you'll know *especially* just how loved you are.

In Christ, Pastor Nathan Lyke

## For Your Information

### Annual Meeting

**Sunday, January 26th at 11:45 am**

Please join us for the Annual Meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church. Business will include voting on the proposed 2025 Budget and voting on new members of the 2025 Church Council and 2025 Nominating Committee. The meeting will be held in-person in the church sanctuary; if you would like to attend via zoom, please contact Candy in the church office for the zoom link.

### January Worship News:

**Sunday, January 5** - Second Sunday After Christmas Worship with Holy Communion + Blessing of the Households

**Wednesday, January 8** - Restorative Worship at 6:30 pm

**Sunday, January 12** - Baptism of Our Lord Worship with Holy Communion, Guest Preacher: Pastor Maddie Elliott, Luther Crest Bible Camp

**Wednesday, January 15** - Restorative Worship at 6:30 pm

**Sunday, January 19** - Second Sunday after Epiphany Worship with Holy Communion + Star Words

**Wednesday, January 22** - Restorative Worship at 6:30 pm

**Sunday, January 26** - Third Sunday after Epiphany Worship with Holy Communion + Star Words

**Wednesday, January 29** - Restorative Worship at 6:30 pm



### Epiphany 2025: Star Words

*"When [the Magi] had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage." Matthew 2:9-11*

This year during the season of Epiphany, we will follow the way of the Magi, using the modern practice of Star Words. Star words are words that are chosen to guide people through the year and are a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year. Here's how the practice works:

**Choose a word:** A list of words is shared, and participants choose a word at random. The words are often printed on paper stars.

**Place the word:** Participants put the star word somewhere they'll see it regularly, like on a bulletin board, mirror, or in their wallet.

**Reflect:** Participants reflect on how God might be speaking to them through the word. They might consider what it means to take the word seriously, or what they might need to pay attention to.

Join us for this prayer practice of Star Words in worship this January!

### 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 January 2nd 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. 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



Altar Echo Text Study

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 Podcast

are twice monthly conversations about faith and parenting in our real lives. How does faith guide our parenting and family values? Pastor Kim, Pastor Nathan 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 January

Join us on Sundays for Adult Christian Education (ACE) at 9:30 am.

**January 5:** Why Jesus? Pastor Nathan kicks off a new recurring format where the people of St. John's share their answer to these questions: Why are you a Christian, and what difference has Jesus made in your life?

**January 12:** Special guest - LutherCrest Bible Camp. Learn more about Lutheran Outdoor Ministries and what's happening at LutherCrest this year.

**January 19:** 2025 Budget Preview - The Church Council will present and answer your questions on the proposed budget for 2025.

**January 26:** Pancake Breakfast and ANNUAL MEETING - NO ACE

## Everyday Bible Conversations (EBC's)



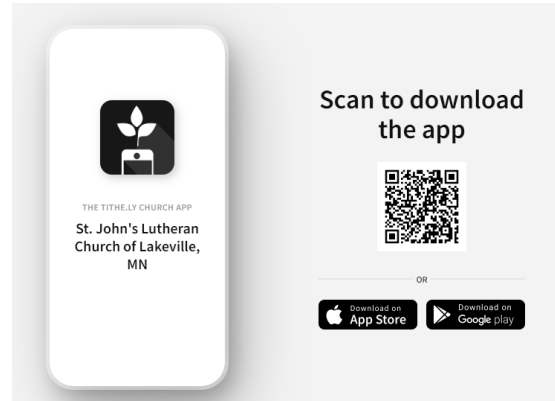
Join us as we find God EVERYWHERE! Every week, we look for God in our Everyday Lives with a video and devotions based on the week's Gospel, wherever we happen to be. We've found God in the hilltops above Lisbon, Portugal, at the American Revolution in Boston, MA, in the desert in California, on the shores 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 [ssstanek06@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



## Christmas Program

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

## Sunday School

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

If you would like to assist with our program, we would love to have you as a teaching assistant, sort, put away or prep supplies. There are so many ways you can help! Contact [amanda@sjlcl.org](mailto:amanda@sjlcl.org)

### Sunday School Calendar Notes:

- **January 5** Sunday School – Abel and Zabel Puppets, Blessing of Households
- **January 8** Sunday School Highlights 6:00pm-6:30pm
- **January 12** Sunday School – Luther Crest Bible Camp Sunday- Sunday School Sing at 10:30am
- **January 15** Sunday School Highlights 6:00pm-6:30pm
- **January 19-** Sunday School
- **January 22-** Sunday School Highlights 6:00pm-6:30pm
- **January 26-** Sunday School and Sledding Day- Annual Congregation meeting
- **January 29-** Sunday School Highlights 6:00pm-6:30 pm



Sunday School  
Registration



## Sledding Day and Family Fun Day

**When?** January 26 12:00pm-2:00pm

**Where?** Sledding in the St. John's Backyard!

**Details:** Meet by St. John's Garage and enjoy hot cocoa, pizza and fun with church family and friends!

**No snow plan:** In the event that we do not have snow, we will plan to meet in the fellowship hall for family winter games.



## Luther Crest Bible Camp Sunday January 12

Join us for some Summer Bible Camp Fun!  
We will have special guests lead us for our  
Sunday School opening!  
Parents, please join our camp guests for a  
discussion about camp during ACE.



## Vacation Bible School (VBS) Save the Date

**June 16-19 9:00am-12:00pm**

Join us February 9<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School and  
worship for our VBS REVEAL and VBS pop up  
FUN!



## Affirm: Confirmation Ministry for 6-9th Graders

**Wednesday nights 7:00pm-8:00 pm**  
**Winter - Spring 2025 Dates:**

- January 8** - Stained Glass Stories - Creation
- January 15** - Stained Glass Stories - Crucifixion
- January 22** - Coping with Loss: Death & Dying
- January 29** - Coping with Loss: Grief
- February 5** - Coping with Loss
- February 12** - Stained Glass Stories - Resurrection
- February 19** - Stained Glass Stories - Ascension
- February 26** - Stained Glass Stories - Pentecost
- March 5** - Ash Wednesday
- March 12** - Lent 1: Worship & Mentors
- March 19** - Lent 2: Worship & Mentors
- March 26** - Lent 3: Worship & Mentors

- April 2** - Lent 4: Worship & Mentors
- April 9** - Lent 5: Worship & Mentors
- April 16** - NO AFFIRM: HOLY WEEK Break  
(Worship Thursday @ 6:30 pm, Friday @ 6:30 pm)
- April 23** - Stained Glass Stories - Shepherd
- April 27** - Affirmation Sunday during 10:30 am  
worship
- April 30** - Year-End Celebration



Affirm  
Registration



## High School Youth Group

All 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students are welcome to join our  
High School Youth group. At youth group, we dive  
into a Bible verse, story or theme and have a lot of  
fun learning and strengthening our faith. This group  
also does various service projects throughout the  
year. please contact Amanda or join our group me  
app to get weekly updates.

**When?** Wednesdays, 8:00pm-8:45pm  
**Connect?** Click here to join:  
[https://groupme.com/  
join\\_group/100966262/4OyGNTEq](https://groupme.com/join_group/100966262/4OyGNTEq)



# 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 January 20**

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 in January will be going for lunch on January 21st at Bourbon Butcher in Farmington. We will meet at church at 11:00 for the short drive to Farmington. Our hope is that those attending will come with some suggestions for this

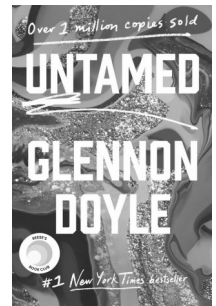
year's tours, as well as, what you liked or didn't like about the tours you have been a part of.

### 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 January 9th**  
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 January 12**  
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 Knauf

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

**Meets next January 2**

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 January 9 and 16**

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 January 7**

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. **Will Not Meet in January**

**January**

Where: St. John's

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

## **Notes from the Finance Office:**

### **Pink Envelope Donations:**

The pink envelopes in January and February support the St. John's Youth Assistance Fund to help kids who need financial assistance go to camp, mission trips, and summer stretch events. 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 Tithe.ly too, just choose "pink envelopes" from the dropdown menu and write "Youth Assistance Fund" in the note box.

### **Giving Updates:**

If your pledge has changed for 2025;

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

Q4 2024 contribution statements will be emailed to all members for which the church has an email address around January 14. Please call or email Tyra ([tyra@sjlcl.org](mailto:tyra@sjlcl.org)) if you have any questions.

### **Tithe.ly - Did you know?**

1. Has Auto-recurring giving.
2. Has the option to cover the credit card fees so St. John's receives 100% of your gift.

There are 4 ways to give with Tithe.ly.

- Give on the church website. Click on "Give"
- Give online - go to [Tithe.ly/Give](https://tithe.ly/give).
- Give with the Tithe.ly App. Want to give to your church using the convenience of your smartphone? No problem! Download the Tithe.ly App from the [App Store](#) (iPhone) or [Google Play Store](#) (Android). Once you've downloaded the app, create an account or log in, locate your church and tap "Give Now" to complete your gift!
- Text to Give – 218-210-7853. On your smartphone send a text to this number and in the message type in "Text to Give". You will receive a link to set up text giving!

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



# January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Wednesday Schedule:</b> 5:30pm-6:45 pm meal 5:30pm-6:00pm Elementary Choir - 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 7:00pm-8:00pm Affirm, Ablaze and Adult Choir 8:00pm HS Youth Group			1 New Year's Day Holiday Office Closed	2 9am Paper Crafters 2pm Worship at Winsor Plaza	3 8:45am Yoga With Clarity	4
5 8:30am Worship/ Communion 9:30am Fellowship/ Sunday School /ACE 10:30am Worship/ Communion	6  7pm Worship Arts Team Meeting  7pm Scouts	7 8:30am Mary Breakfast Bunch 10:00am Staff Meeting	8 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 3pm Worship Planning See Wed Schedule Above	9 9am Quilters 10am Dementia Care Givers Sup- port Group	10 8:45am Yoga With Clarity	11
12 8:30am Worship/ Communion 9:30am Fellowship/ Sunday School/ACE/ Parenting Littles 10:30am Worship/ Communion	13  7pm Scouts	14 8:30am Global Missions Team Meeting 10:00am Staff Meeting  7pm CYF meeting	15 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 3pm Worship Planning 5pm HR/Admin meeting See Wed Schedule Above	16 9am Quilters  11am Worship at Kingsley Shores	17 8:45am Yoga With Clarity	18
19 8:30am Worship/ Communion 9:30am Fellowship/ Sunday School/ACE 10:30am Worship/ Communion	20 Martin Luther King Day Holiday Office Closed  8:30am Men's Breakfast Small Group-Perkins	21 10:00am Staff Meeting  5:15pm Gratitude and Generosity Team Meeting 6:00pm Ministry Finance Team Mtg 6:30pm Council	22 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 3pm Worship Planning See Wed Schedule Above	23 9am Stitchers 2pm HVH Coffee and Conversations	24 8:45am Yoga With Clarity	25
26 8:30am Worship/ Communion 9:30am Pancake Breakfast 10:30am Worship/ Communion 11:45 Annual Meeting	27  7pm Scouts	28 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:30 Gratitude and Generosity Meeting	29 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 3pm Worship Planning See Wed Schedule Above	30	31 8:45am Yoga With Clarity	

# Ministry Finance Team Report

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

By the time you read this report, we are into the third week of Advent and getting ready to celebrate Christmas. For November, 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 November. The actual contributions exceeding budgeted contributions is especially welcome. We believe this trend to continue to complete 2024 in a positive manner and build on the success for 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
- 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 November 2024:*

- Offering revenue was \$47,067 which is right on budget for the month
- General Fund revenues & transfers were \$50,481, which is 2% above budget for the month
- General Fund expenses were \$44,921, which is 14% below budget for the month
- General Fund net operating performance was a positive \$5,560 for November

Excluding PPP funds (a one-time funding source), net operating performance was a positive \$4,039 for November

*Full Year 2024:*

- General Fund revenue is \$544,802 which is 102% of the budget for the year
- General Fund expenses are \$492,462, which is 14% below budget for the year
- General Fund actual net performance compared to Budget is a positive \$64,057 for 2024 year to date
- Net of receipts to expenses through November 30 is \$52,340 including PPP allocation

Net of receipts to expenses through November 30 is \$35,611 excluding PPP allocation

## *Comments & Observations:*

November financial results were strong, continuing a three-month trend, with income exceeding the budget, and operating expenses coming in below budgeted amounts. Net cash flow for the month was positive and remained positive after excluding the transfer of PPP funds.

The positive net operating result is due both to slightly stronger revenues and expenses that were lower than budgeted levels. Expenses were below budget due to the timing of when our building insurance premium is paid. That will reverse in December. We are at full staffing and monthly expenses for compensation will more closely match budgeted levels for December and 2025. 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 November 2024:*

- Benevolence Fund allocations and revenue received is \$5,064 for November 2024, which is 5.4% over budget for the month
- Benevolence Fund distributions for November 2024 were \$5,591

Net Benevolence distributions for the first eleven months of the year are at 102% 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 November 2024:*

- Building Fund revenues were \$ 11,082
  - Building Fund expenses were \$ 10,094
- Building Fund Net is: \$ 988

*Full Year 2024:*

- Building Fund Revenue is \$104,155
  - Building Fund expense is \$111,034
- Building Fund net is: \$ (6,879)

### *Comments and Observations:*

November 2024 was another positive month for the building fund. The fund received a one-time gift earlier this year which will be allocated equally to each remaining month of 2024. For the first eleven months of 2024, the building fund has experienced a net cumulative shortfall of \$6,789.

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.





## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the St. John's congregation will take place in the Sanctuary on

**Sunday, January 26, at 11:45 am.**

Included on the meeting's agenda will be key leader reports, the 2025 ministry budget (we will vote on this during the meeting), and information about the year ahead at St. John's. If a zoom link is needed, contact the church office.

### **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 can be 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 more projects like these in the future.

January 2025 Newsletter

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