



20165 Heath Ave. Lakeville MN  
952-469-4916

# Journal February 2025

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 weekly

## 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:

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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)**

St. John's,

As we dive into 2025 together, I invite you into our new annual theme, as revealed at the Annual Meeting in January: In God's Mission.

This annual theme for 2025 is based on Jesus' words from Matthew 28:18-20, which reads, "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

Jesus speaks these words to his disciples *after his resurrection from death to life*. These are Jesus' final words of encouragement and instruction for his disciples, and they are his final words in the gospel of Matthew. These particular words of Jesus are known as "The Great

Commission," and have become a driving, central force for the whole church.

As people of faith in the Christian church throughout the world, we are invited to see ourselves as disciple and are thus into Jesus' words of command and mission. We are called and empowered into the work of the collective Body of Christ to participate in Jesus' work named in this commission: go, make disciples, baptize, teach and remember.

As we embark on this year *In God's Mission* together, I invite you begin pondering the following: How does St. John's ministry and mission participate in The Great Commission? How does our life together as a Lutheran Christian community of faith reflect Jesus' radical love, grace and salvation to Lakeville and beyond? And, how might the Holy Spirit be beckoning us to live more fully into our particular mission in 2025 and beyond?

Our church has a rich history and

Cont. on p. 2

And Jesus came and said to them.  
"All authority in heaven and on earth  
has been given to me.

**GO** therefore  
and  
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**BAPTIZING** them in the name  
of the Father and of the Son  
and of  
the Holy Spirit  
and **TEACHING** them to obey  
everything that I have  
commanded you.

And **REMEMBER**

**Matthew**  
2025 I am with you always, to the end of the age. 28:18-20

tradition of living out our mission in Lakeville. This history has formed and shaped who St. John's is today and who St. John's is continuing to become. How will we continue to listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit together, in order to fulfill God's mission for us, for the sake of the world?

Throughout this year, we'll explore these questions of mission and ministry together. We'll listen to the

Holy Spirit and to each other. We'll discern what the needs of our congregation and community might be. And, of course, we'll respond in faith, trusting that God is always nurturing us and calling us as we explore how to live out God's mission in this broken yet beautiful world that God loves beyond measure.

Pastor Kim Kylo

## For Your Information

### February Worship News:

**Sunday, February 2** - Worship with Star Words & Holy Communion

**Wednesday, February 5** - Restorative Worship at 6:30 pm

**Sunday, February 9** - VBS Reveal Worship with Holy Communion, Choir Sings at 8:30 am; Sunday School Kids sing at 10:30 am

**Wednesday, February 12** - Restorative Worship at 6:30 pm

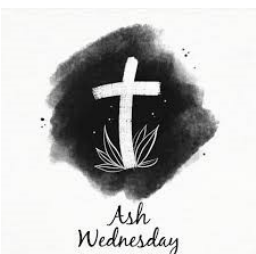
**Sunday, February 16** - Tanzania Sunday Worship with Guest Preacher Pastor Joyce, Baptism at 10:30 am

**Wednesday, February 19** - Restorative Worship at 6:30 pm

**Sunday, February 23** - Worship with Holy Communion, with JAM Choir singing at 8:30 am

**Wednesday, February 26** - Restorative Worship at 6:30 pm

### Save the Date for Ash Wednesday: March 5, 2025



Do you know why the date of Ash Wednesday changes every year?

Ash Wednesday is always 46 days before Easter. Easter is determined as the Sunday following the first full moon that

happens on or after the March equinox (which is always 21 March).

Lent is 40 days long, not including Sundays. According to the calendar, that means the season is 46 days long overall.

This year, that means Ash Wednesday falls on March 5. This is a sacred and holy day of prayer that is observed widely across the Christian church in many denominations. At St. John's, we'll gather for worship at 6:30 pm that evening for worship that includes repentance, prayer, and the marking of ashes. We'll hear the promise of God's love infused into the reality of human mortality in the words from Genesis 3:19, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Join us for this deeply moving service, as we gather around the promises of God. Stay tuned to the March newsletter (and all St. John's communications) for more information about our Lenten theme, worship, practices, meals, and more.

### Worship at Winsor Plaza

**Gathers February 6th 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!

### Worship with Communion

#### @ Highview Hills:

**February 12th, 2 pm** Join Pastor Nathan and Roxanne for worship with Scripture & message, hymn singing, and holy communion.

### Coffee & Conversation at Highview Hills

#### Meets Next February 27 @ 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 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, 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 February

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

**February 2:** NO ACE

**February 9:** Parenting Littles—NO ACE

**February 16:** President's Day Weekend—NO ACE

**February 23:** The Theology of Star Wars



## 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!

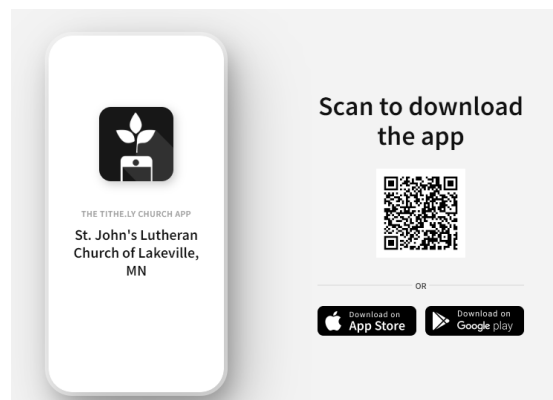
Our weekly messages include a 3-5 minute video (available on St. John's YouTube channel, and through the website and app), as well as a one page devotional that summarizes the reading, asks a few questions, and encourages an action step for the week to come. The videos and devotional are both built so 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.



# thrivent®

Thank you so much for your generosity this past year donating your Thrivent Action dollars to St. John's programs and service projects! It makes a huge impact in our ability to serve and love our neighbors! Please use your Action TEAM benefits to support a project like one of these. If you need help to complete your application for your project, please call Amanda or Candy and we can help answer the questions you may have.

Opportunities for this year:

Feb. 12 - Fleece Blanket making for Lewis House - shelter for women and Children

Feb 16 - Sunday School will pack diapers for 360 communities

March 2 - pancake breakfast for mission trip

March 5 - Lent meal for summer camps and programs

March 16 - Minneapolis Mission Trip - (2 cards needed this day: one for making breakfast for Simpson house and one for the sandwich project)

March 19 - Lent meal for Mission Trip

April 13 - Pancake breakfast for summer camps and programs

May - possible compost project/garden project

June/July - Summer stretch service projects

Thank you again for your support and generosity!

## 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

## Sunday School

During the month of February we will be exploring Jesus says about LOVE!

**February 2** - 1 Corinthians 1-13

**February 9** - VBS Reveal day, Sunday School sings at 10:30am service

**February 16** - Service day- loving our neighbor (donations of diapers are welcome)

**February 23** - Love others even when it is hard, JAM singing at 8:30am service

**March 2** - Pancake Breakfast!

### Sunday School Service Day on February 16: Diaper Donations needed

We will be collecting Diapers and Wipes for Lewis House, a shelter in Eagan for women and children. Diapers will be repacked in small bundles of 10. Opened packs of diapers are ok to donate. Please bring before or on February 16 by 9:30am.

## 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 or our VBS REVEAL and VBS pop up FUN!

## Summer Stretch

**What?** Participants put their faith into action! They are encouraged to be the light of Christ through participation in service projects for the greater community. Each day includes fun adventures with faith leaders and friends. Yes, friends are welcome as participants and leaders!

**Who?** St. John's Summer Stretch is a program for Upper Elementary and Middle Schoolers (students entering Grades 4,5, 6, 7 and 8 in Fall 2025) Volunteer Guides: Students who will be in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade in the fall of 2025 can apply to be small group guides and adult chaperones will be welcomed.

### When?

Dates: June 25, July 9, July 16 and July 24  
Times: 9:00am-4:30pm



Summer  
Stretch  
2025

## Mission Trip

**What?** God's work is in our hands. The Mission trip is an opportunity to humbly serve in God's beautiful creation and serve people in unique and meaningful ways. We will be making food and serving food, working at urban gardens, working at food banks and many organizations that are helping to support folks navigating deep levels of poverty.

Benefits of this trip:

- Serving our WI neighbors in a meaningful way. Serving at different service locations assisting in working at shelters, facilitating food distribution.
- Close distance- will rent 12 passenger vans.
- Budget friendly and impactful service.

Green Lake Serve Boldly: ELCA based organization. <https://www.gllm.org/sb-summer-youth.html>

**Cost and Deposit:** Once we receive your deposit of \$150.00 and completion of the registration form, you have secured a spot. Total cost is 450.00, please don't let cost be an obstacle. We have many ways to earn money toward camp and scholarships are available.

**Deadline is FEBRUARY 15, please register as soon as possible for this trip and contact Amanda Boe for more information.**



**MISSION TRIP**

**JUNE 29-JULY 2**



CONTACT: AMANDA@SJLCL.ORG

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR BY SERVING WHERE  
YOU ARE NEEDED

SERVE BOLDLY IS A MINISTRY OF GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN MINISTRIES.

# Minneapolis Mission Trip

March 16, Minneapolis

Serve at Loaves and Fishes, Union Gospel Mission, Arc Value Village, VEAP and more local organizations.

Action Items: Please contact [amanda@silcl.org](mailto:amanda@silcl.org) if you are interested.

Approximate cost \$85.00 (bus and food)



## Luther Crest Bible Camp

### When are St. John's youth going?

Programs available for pre-k-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Costs vary from free programs-\$100.00 per day. Please contact Amanda regarding prices and program availability. Currently we have 45 St. John's attending camp this summer, we'd love to have your student join us! Please contact [amanda@silcl.org](mailto:amanda@silcl.org).



Find more information about summer camps and dates here:

**Final early bird registration is due Feb. 14.**

- June 22-27
- July 13-18
- July 27-Aug 1



Luther Crest Summer 2024

# Congregation Support for our Summer Camps and Programs!

We have many opportunities to support our St. John's youth on their summer camps and mission trips! We thank our congregation and community for their support to make these programs possible and affordable for our youth!

**March 2** Pancake Breakfast

**March 5** Ash Wednesday soup supper

**March 2-April 2** Butter Braid sale, Delivery: April 14

**March 19** soup supper

**April 13** Pancake Breakfast Palm Sunday

**April 26 and 27** Cub Bagging- 7435 179th street West Lakeville

## 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:



Children's Choir



Sunday School fall 2024



Youth Outdoor Worship

# 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 February 18, President's Day

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 February will be going to the St. George's Greek Orthodox church in St. Paul on **February 18th**. The architecture and iconography of the temple helps to explain the history of Orthodox Christianity. The Greek community

was not recognized until 1918 and it was many more years before a church was built. There is no charge for the tour, but a donation box is available. After the tour we will have lunch at the Red Rabbit. We will meet at the church at 9:30 with the tour starting at 10:30.

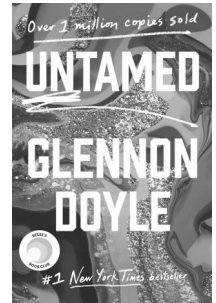
### Book Group

Facilitator: Kathy Ziller  
Save the date for the next Book Group

**March 12** 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. Sign up on this QR code to join the group discussion.



### Dementia Caregivers Support Group

Facilitators: Pastor Kim Kylo & Ace Yang (of Highview Hills)

Meets: Once/month, 10 -11 am on the 2nd Thursday of each month; **meets next February 13**  
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 Nathan Lyke



When: 2nd Sunday of each month during Sunday School; **meets next February 9th**

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 February 6**

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 February 13 & 20**

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 February 27**

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 February 4**

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.

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 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 were emailed to all members for which the church has an email address in January. 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.



# February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><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</p> </div>						1
2 8:30am Worship/ Communion 9:30am Fellowship/ Sunday School /ACE 10:30am Worship/ Communion	3 11am-3pm Red Cross Blood Drive 7pm Worship Arts Team Meeting 7pm Scouts	4 8:30am Mary Breakfast Bunch 10:00am Staff Meeting	5 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 9:30 Hannah Wom- en's Study 3pm Worship Planning See Wed Schedule Above	6 9am Paper Crafters 2pm Worship at Winsor Plaza	7 8:45am Yoga With Clarity	8
9 8:30am Worship/ Communion 9:30am Fellowship/ Sunday School/ Parenting Littles 10:30am Worship with Baptism	10 7pm Scouts	11 8:30am Global Missions Team Meeting 10:00am Staff Meeting	12 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 2pm Worship at High view Hills 3pm Worship Planning 5pm HR/Admin meeting See Wed Schedule Above	13 9am Quilters 10am Dementia Care Givers Sup- port Group	14 8:45am Yoga With Clarity	15
16 8:30am Worship/ Communion 9:30am Fellowship/ Sunday School/ACE 10:30am Worship/ Communion	17 President's Day Holiday Office Closed 8:30am Men's Breakfast Small Group-Perkins 7pm Scouts	18 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Ministry Finance Team Mtg	19 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 3pm Worship Planning See Wed Schedule Above	20 9am Quilters 11am Worship at Kingsley Shores	21 8:45am Yoga With Clarity	22
23 8:30am Worship/ Communion 10:30am Worship/ Communion	24 7pm Scouts	25 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:30 Gratitude and Generosity Meeting 6:30pm Council	26 8:45am Yoga With Clarity 3pm Worship Planning See Wed Schedule Above	27 9am Stitchers 2pm HVH Coffee and Conversations	28 8:45am Yoga With Clarity	

# Ministry Finance Team Report

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

The Ministry Finance Team is pleased to report that financially St. John’s experienced both a strong December and strong full year 2024. December continued a string of positive monthly financial results, where again the financial performance of the General Fund was positive, helped by lower both as projected budgeted revenues and lower than budgeted expenses. Offering revenues were right at budget for the month. Expenses for the month were lower than the budget. That resulted in a positive financial performance for December.

We are pleased to see more people signing up for automated giving. Signing up for this service helps us manage cashflow and be more efficient, reducing operating costs. 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 December 2024:*

- Offering revenue was \$65,549 which is right on budget for the month
- General Fund revenues & transfers were \$68,450, which is right on budget for the month
- General Fund expenses were \$83,408, which is 59% higher than budget for the month
  - Overages were from timing of expenses paid, one-time transfers and expenses
  - General Fund net operating performance was a negative \$14,598 for December

Excluding PPP funds (a one-time funding source), net operating performance was a negative \$16,479 for November

*Full Year 2024:*

- General Fund revenue is \$613,253 which is 102% of the budget for the year
- General Fund expenses are \$575,869, which is 4.5% below budget for the year
- General Fund actual net performance compared to Budget is a positive \$32,191 for 2024
- Net of receipts to expenses for 2024 is \$37,384 including PPP allocation  
Net of receipts to expenses for 2024 is \$19,134 excluding PPP allocation

### *Comments & Observations:*

December financial results were strong, continuing a four-month trend, with income at 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 allowed us to transfer \$15,000 to the capital improvements account, which will help us manage future equipment breakdowns and provide funds to replace worn out equipment.

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 attendance and contribution trends, and expressions of interest in membership, we are hopeful that January 2025 and the following

months will show continuing and improving 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 December 2024:*

- Benevolence Fund allocations and revenue received is \$5,770 for December 2024, which is 1.5% over budget for the month
  - Benevolence Fund distributions for December 2024 were \$5,615
- Net Benevolence distributions for the year are at 110% of budget

*Full Year 2024:*

- Benevolence Inflows are \$58,521
  - Benevolence Distributions are \$52,639
- Funds Awaiting Distribution: \$ 5,882
- The 2024 Benevolence fund in good financial shape to respond to St. John's and larger community needs in 2025. The Funds Awaiting Distribution will be distributed to beneficiaries in early 2025 as funding needs are identified and approved.

### Building Fund Report

*For December 2024:*

- Building Fund revenues were \$ 19,238
  - Building Fund expenses were \$ 10,094
- Building Fund Net is: \$ 9,147

*Full Year 2024:*

- Building Fund Revenue is \$123,397
  - Building Fund expense is \$121,128
- Building Fund net is: \$ 2,268

### Comments and Observations

December 2024 was a very positive month for the building fund. The fund received several "catch-up" contributions that moved us from a shortfall to a surplus for the full year 2024.

We have approximately 8 months of mortgage payment reserves built up to secure the mortgage payment, meaning St. John's Building fund is in strong 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.

### Blood Drive

Give blood & show your support for patients this winter. Join us at our Red Cross blood drive **February 3 from 11:00am to 5:00pm** at St. John's.

You'll get a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant you choose when you come give blood Jan. 27-Feb. 28. Book now & give hope:

<https://rcblood.org/4gLIElq>



Save the date for an adventure with Jesus!  
June 16-19, 2025 from 9am-12pm  
St. John's



February2025 Newsletter  
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