

# St. John's Journal

## Fall 2025



Kim Kylo  
Senior Pastor



Nathan Lyke  
Associate  
Pastor

### Sunday Schedule

8:30am Worship/Communion  
9:30 Fellowship/Education Hour  
10:00am Worship/Communion  
**until September 7**  
10:30am Worship/Communion  
**begins September 14**  
Nursery open Sundays from 8:30-  
11:30am

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And Much More!

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

**Submit information for the  
winter issue by the  
7th of November to:  
[candy@sjlcl.org](mailto:candy@sjlcl.org)**



20165 Heath Ave. Lakeville MN  
952-469-4916

Dear people of St. John's,

I recently heard a stand up comic bemoaning his peers talking about all the upgrades they'd been doing to their homes and yards. After a long list of extravagant upgrades his friends had been making, he quipped: "The only thing I can afford to upgrade is my personality!" I laughed - but then I thought more about this line. The comedian was right. One of the amazing things about being a human being is that there is an inner world in each of us that we can't *buy* our way into upgrading. To grow, to change, to adapt, learn, refine, develop, and enhance something inside of us. There may be costs associated with tools to help us do those things, but in this age of information most of us have access to a trove of ideas and concepts that we could freely use to develop who we are in our *inside* world, which in turn changes how we engage with the world *outside* of us that we are connected so deeply to. And I'm not simply talking about upgrading our "personality." *Metanoia* is a Greek word that means to change our outlook or understanding. To transform, to reorient, or to change our trajectory in life. I'd also add the word "repent" but it may also bring to mind street preachers with signs and bullhorns telling people who is and isn't going to their idea of hell. There can be a lot of baggage with that particular translation of the word. Nevertheless, *metanoia* is used 24 times in the New Testament alone, and usually in the gospels. It would seem that this type of "upgrade", to use the comedian's language, is an important part of our life of faith.

Romans 12:2 (NRSVUE) says, "Do not be conformed to this age, but be *transformed* by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." In this verse I hear not only an invitation to metanoia, but also a way to follow God in a world that often seems unsure of where it is going. Metanoia isn't something we merely *do*; it's something that happens *to* us. As we follow the "will of God," we can expect these moments of transformation as a *natural* byproduct of a *supernatural* gift of faith we've each been given free and clear by God.

How might God be calling us from a life of *conforming* to the old dead-end tricks the world may try to offer us and instead be *transforming* to become the Body of Christ as the church both

**Transforming**  
**Transforming**

individually and collectively?  
Our hope is that this newsletter will provide you with ample opportunities - many of them free - to dare to experience

*metanoia* in our spiritual lives. After all, we are the church with a beautiful sculpture in front of our building to remind us of this process each time we walk by...

Blessing to you as we journey together,  
Pastor Nathan

# Newsletter Updates: Quarterly Newsletter

Dear people of St. John's

As you may know, the cost of postage has increased again, and this time significantly. One of the primary expenses for the church's postage budget is our monthly church newsletter. St. John's continually asks how we can best steward the church's resources, including the funds generously entrusted to us for mission and ministry. Seeking to spend responsibly given this (and other) rising costs, we have found a creative approach: adjusting the frequency of our church newsletters. So, starting in August, instead of distributing a monthly newsletter, St. John's will issue *quarterly* newsletters, following the change of seasons in the ministry of the church:

- a late-August newsletter for the start of the program year,
- a mid-November newsletter to preview Advent, Christmas and the start of the new year,
- a mid-February newsletter to prepare you for Lent, and
- a May newsletter to highlight upcoming summer ministries.

As always, we will strive to do our best to communicate with the whole congregation about our ministries; St. John's will continue in our regular frequency with weekly bulletin announcements, weekly E-News on Wednesdays, weekly Sunday emails with links for online worship, as well as specific CYF emails sent to program groups.

Pastor Kim Kylo

## For Your Information

### Fall Worship News

**Sunday Worship at 8:30 & 10:30 am + Wednesday Restorative Worship at 6:30 pm**

*\*As a faith community rooted in Lutheran theology and identity, we are gathered for sacramental worship. This means that either a baptism or holy communion will be celebrated at every worship service.*

### Worship Highlights for September

**Sunday, September 7** - Worship times change to 8:30 and 10:30am - ACE resumes

**Wednesday, September 10** - Restorative Worship Resumes

**Sunday, September 14** - Rally Sunday Worship with Luther Crest Bible Camp Celebration

**Wednesday, September 17** - Restorative Worship

**Sunday, September 21** - Mission Trip Sunday + Generosity Appeal Begins

**Wednesday, September 24** - Restorative Worship

**Sunday, September 28** - Get Involved Sunday + Generosity Appeal

### Worship Highlights for October

**Wednesday, October 1** - Restorative Worship

**Sunday, October 5** - Summer Stretch Highlight Sunday + Generosity Appeal

**Wednesday, October 8** - Restorative Worship

**Sunday, October 12** - Commitment Sunday + Generosity Appeal Concludes with Commitment Cards Given

**Wednesday, October 15** - NO Restorative Worship (MEA)

**Sunday, October 19** - (MEA Weekend) Worship

**Wednesday, October 22** - Restorative Worship

**Sunday, October 26** - Reformation Sunday, with Sunday School Kids Leading the Lord's Prayer

**Wednesday, October 29** - Restorative Worship w/ All Saints Candles

### Worship Highlights for November

**Sunday, November 2** - All Saints Sunday

**Wednesday, November 5** - Restorative Worship

**Sunday, November 9** - New Member Lunch + Orientation

**Wednesday, November 12** - Restorative Worship

**Sunday, November 16** - New Member Sunday

**Wednesday, November 19** - Restorative Worship

**Sunday, November 23** - Advent Festival Sunday

**Tuesday, November 25** - *Thanksgiving Eve Worship at St. John's*

**Wednesday, November 26** - NO Restorative Worship

**Sunday, November 30** - First Sunday of Advent

### Weekly Wednesday Schedule:

5:30pm-6:45pm 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

## 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 three or four 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 Podcasts are 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. Listen to our archives on a variety of parenting topics and email us if there's something you'd like to hear discussed on the podcast! New episodes will resume in September.



Altar Echo Families

### Fall Adult Bible Study

#### "Old & New - Revelation & God's Persistent Promise"

Revelation is a wild and wooly text full of visions and beasts and dragons and fire and fear. But at its core, Revelation is a book of promise and hope. Don't let the angrier or louder voices in our culture take the book from us. We invite you into a conversation about how the last book of the Bible might offer a beginning for us as people of faith.

With this seven-part video-and-discussion-based Bible study, you'll hear stories that invite you to see the promise of God calling from the pages of Revelation. You'll build skills to read Scripture from its original context and in ways that resonate with our daily lives. With beautifully filmed videos and a helpful discussion guide, you'll have everything you need to hear a word of hope in a disorienting and chaotic world.

We are offering two time options for this Bible Study:

- Mondays 2-3 pm, September 15 - October 28

- Wednesdays 7-8 pm, September 10 - October 8, and October 22-29

To sign up, scan the QR code OR call the church office.



### A.C.E. (Adult Christian Education) in 2025-2026

The Adult Christian Education (A.C.E) ministry provides opportunities to hear from guest presenters and ministries, dive into specific topics, and grow in your walk with Jesus in new ways. A.C.E is held on Sunday mornings, September through May, at 9:30 in the Sanctuary in between worship services, and is also available via livestream. Past A.C.E sessions can be viewed on our YouTube channel.



#### September 7: Reflections From Tanzania

This past June, Gabby and Pastor Nathan were able to visit our companion parish in Muhunga, Tanzania. Come to hear and see some of the stories Gabby will share about this extraordinary trip.

#### September 21: A Dive Into The St. John's Historical Archive

As we launch into another program year at St. John's, come to learn about some of the long history of the church pulled from over 100 years of news clippings, bulletins, and other gems from the past with Jeanne and Pastor Nathan.

If you have questions or requests for topics you'd like to see covered, please contact Pastor Nathan ([pastornathan@sjlcl.org](mailto:pastornathan@sjlcl.org)). No registration is required and all are welcome to participate!

### 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!

### Worship at Winsor Plaza

#### Gathers First Thursday of every month at 2 pm

St. John's hosts a monthly worship service with Holy Communion in the community room at Winsor Plaza. This fall, worship will meet September 4th, October 2nd, and November 6th. Come join us for worship!

### Worship at Kingsley Shores, with Pastor Andy

#### Meets 3rd Thursdays at 11 am

Join friends at Kingsley Shores for worship with holy communion. This fall, worship will meet September 18th, October 16th, and November 20th.

### Coffee & Conversation at Highview Hills

#### Meets on the 4th Thursday @ 2 pm

Pastor Kim hosts a monthly "Coffee & Conversation" at Highview Hills. In 2025, we will continue our study of other religions and other Christian denominations. This fall, we will meet on September 25th, October 23rd, but not in November due to Thanksgiving Day. St. John's members, friends and residents of HVH are welcome!



## 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.

#### 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.



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

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

More Than Just Lunch will be going to the **Planetarium at the Bell Museum** on **September 19th**. We will be viewing the MN Nights Skies at 10:30. The cost is \$9 that needs to be paid in advance if there are 15 the cost is reduced to \$8. We will **meet at church at church at 9:30**. We will be having lunch at the Stouts Pub and Grill.

Suggestions for future trips are welcome! Contact Ginger or call the church office to share your ideas! Please watch the Sunday bulletins and the weekly E-blast for information about upcoming events.

#### Caregiver Conversations Small Group

Facilitators: Dawn Gudel and Judy Strand

Meets: 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month from 2-4 pm

Where: St. John's - Mark classroom

If you are a caregiver or someone who cares for a caregiver, Dawn and Judy invite you to join the Caregiver Conversations Small Group. This small group is a safe place to share your joys, concerns, struggles, questions, and wins with other caregivers or listen and be in the presence of those who understand. Our focus is on conversation and connection. The journey you are traveling is not an easy one, but you do not need to travel it alone. As singer Bill Withers sings "We all need somebody to lean on."

### **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

Where: Highview Hills

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

### **Paper Crafters Small Group**

Facilitator: Jackie Knauf

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

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

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;

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

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.

## **Surviving the Holidays Grief Support Event**

**When:** Monday, November 24th 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.



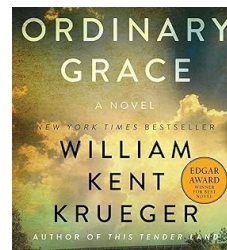
You're welcome to share this invitation with a friend, family member, or neighbor who might also benefit from grief support. Scan the QR code to register.

## **Book Group—Two dates this fall!**

Facilitator: Kathy Ziller

### **1. September 10 at 1:00pm**

**The book for the September session is:  
"Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger**



Ordinary Grace is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.



Book Group Sign Up

### **2. November 12 at 1:00pm**

**The book for the November session is:  
"To Catch a Storm" by Mindy Mejia**

In this brand-new series from national bestseller Mindy Mejia, a physicist and a psychic reluctantly team up to solve two missing persons cases during an ice storm in Iowa.



## Yoga with Clarity

Lynn Coldren, Certified Yoga Instructor offers Yoga Classes.

**Wednesday mornings** at 8:45am, for ages 15+.

You will need to bring your own mat and props. Class size is limited, so if you have any questions or are interested please email Lynn at [l.coldren63@gmail.com](mailto:l.coldren63@gmail.com).



Our first class will be on **Wednesday September 17th**.

Minimum class size is now three, so Lynn is asking that you let her know the day before if you'll be attending.

Looking ahead:

- Thanksgiving break is November 27 and 28th
- No class on December 19th
- Christmas break is December 24-January 2 (Don't worry we will repost these dates again)

## Caring Calls and Conversation (CCC) Ministry






St. John's has a great team of trained volunteers to provide spiritual and emotional support for individuals who are homebound or living in assisted living facilities, through both community and individual visits. In addition to the community opportunities described below, worship services are periodically coordinated with Fairfield Terrace and Highview Hills as well. If you or someone you know may be a good recipient for CCC support, please contact Lynn Coldren or the church office.

## General Information

### WaveCAST Hearing Aid-Compatible Sound System is installed and ready to use.

- Follow the instructions below or check in at the welcome desk for help in getting it set up.
- Plan to come to worship early enough to get help with setup.
- Bring your login information for your phone and your hearing aid app.

Stream audio directly to your smartphone with the WaveCAST™ App in three easy steps:

-  **Make sure you are connected to St. John's Wireless Network**  
SSID: SJLC-WiFi  
Password: wifi-sjlc
-  **Download the Free WaveCast App**  
Using your Smartphone scan the appropriate QR code below to download and install the app  
 App Store  
 Google Play
-  **Open the App and Follow the Prompts to select **WAVECAST\_C** and Listen**

### Worship Helpers—and More Ways to Get Involved

We are so thankful to have many volunteers to serve in worship and in other areas at St. John's. It takes many volunteers to support the worship services. Some of the roles available are: readers, communion assistants, ushers, worship coordinators, clickers and running the sound and livestream during worship. We need helpers in these areas weekly, all year around so you have many opportunities to serve!

Outside of worship times, volunteers are needed to assist as Vacation Bible School teachers and leaders, chaperones for youth trips, serving in-home communion, serving coffee on Sunday mornings, quilting, card making, and the list goes on.

Please consider how you can support worship and ministries at St. John's. Maybe you are willing to try something new or have an idea for a new small group. Please sign up on one of the options below or contact Candy in the church office ([candy@sjcl.org](mailto:candy@sjcl.org)) and she will help you find the spot that works for you.



Readers



Clicker Team



Worship Coordinator

## 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.



Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?

Life Line Screening will be here at St John's Lutheran Church Lakeville on **Friday, September 12, 2025** 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.

There is no time like the present to take action!

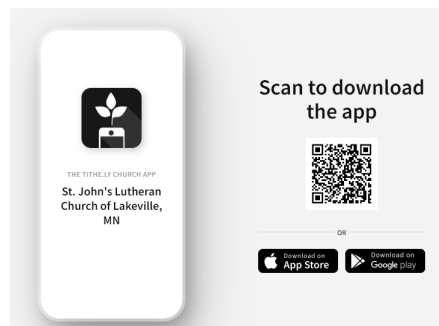
**Three ways to register:**

- **Call toll-free: 1-800-324-9458 promo code HABC001**
- **Online: [LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC](https://www.llsa.social/habc)**
- **Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607**

SIGN UP ONLINE AT: [www.llsa.social/habc](https://www.llsa.social/habc)

## 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.



## Red Cross Blood Drive

We could really use your help as we prepare for our upcoming Blood Drive on **Monday November 10** from noon to 5pm. There are lots of open appointment times and here are three ways you can help us meet our goal.

1. Sign up to schedule your appointment by logging into [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code: SJLC or download the Blood Donor App.
2. Invite your spouse or significant other. Share the love as you share the lifesaving gift of blood together.
3. Invite a friend to our drive. Donating blood is always more fun with a friend so bring one along!

If you have any questions about donating blood, don't hesitate to get in touch. Each donation can help save up to three lives, so by meeting our goal, we can touch so many lives in our community and around the country.

Your commitment to our blood drive's success is greatly appreciated. Let's get those appointment times filled up!

# Children, Youth and Family News



Amanda Boe  
Children, Youth  
and Family Director

## 2025-2026 Children, Youth and Family Program Descriptions

### Save the Date for Rally Sunday, September 14th

#### Sunday Schedule for Worship and Education Hour

- 8:30am-11:30am nursery staffed
- 8:30am Worship
- 9:30am Sunday School
- 9:30am A.C.E (Adult Christian Education), Parenting Littles (Monthly, Sept-Apr)
- 10:30am Worship

#### Wednesday Schedule for Affirm, Ablaze, Highlights, Choirs and Youth Group

- 5:30pm-6:45pm Meal
- 5:30pm Elementary Choir
- 6:00pm Highlights Sunday School
- 6:00pm Middle School Choir
- 6:30pm-7:00pm Worship
- 7:00pm-8:00pm Affirm (Confirmation) Ablaze and Adult Choir
- 8:00pm-8:45pm Youth Group

Rally Sunday Helpers needed, please sign up to help make this day a success!

#### Dates to note:

- **Sept 3** Affirm and Ablaze Orientation/ Fly Choir
- **Sept 7** Return to Fall Worship Times 8:30am and 10:30am
- **Sept 10** Affirm/Ablaze/ Bonfires/Worship/Meal/ Choirs/HS Youth Group
- **Sept 14** Rally Sunday
- **Sept 21** First Day of Sunday School
- **October 26** Trunk and Treat

### Sunday School

Ages: Preschool-4th grade  
**Sundays** 9:30am-10:15am

Join us as we dive into the Bible for some amazing adventures! We begin each day in our large

group with fun Bible Camp Songs led by our Children's Music Director, Malynda Riehle. We have special visits from our amazing puppet duo Abel and Zabel. Following our large group, we go to our classrooms and learn more about the Bible Story and engage in fun activities, crafts and games that connect to our story.

#### Wednesdays 6:00-6:30pm

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

Sign Up for Sunday School Today!

### Ablaze

**Ablaze: Pre-confirmation program  
5th grade students  
Wednesday nights 7:00pm-8:00pm**

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

The program goals for Ablaze are to prep students for confirmation by reviewing key points of the Bible. We start around the campfire for the first five weeks reviewing the Old Testament, then we move indoors with a large group/small group model. In spring, we focus on preparing students to receive their Rite of First Communion.



### Affirm

**Affirm: Confirmation  
Ministry for 6-9th Graders  
Wednesday nights 7:00-8:00pm**

#### Dates to note:

**September 3rd**, Family Orientation Night  
**September 10**, Affirm Kickoff Night

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

Content covers the message of scripture, Lutheran theology, Christian discipleship, and serving opportunities.

Grades 6-8 have one year focusing on each: "Who is Jesus," "Practicing Faith," and "I am a Lutheran."

Grade 9 becomes a capstone year, culminating in Affirmation Sunday, when 9th graders affirm their baptismal promises surrounded by family, friends, and our faith community.

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

Contact Pastor Nathan ([pastornathan@sjlcl.org](mailto:pastornathan@sjlcl.org)) with questions, and use the QR code below to register.



## Elementary & Middle School choirs

**JAM Choir** (Jesus and Me) is for students who love to sing, all ages through 4th grade and meet Wednesdays from 5:30pm to 6:00pm. We will sing one Sunday of every month during service!

### Fly Choir

FLY is for youth 5th grade and up AND IS UP TO SOMETHING NEW for our new year!

Join us on **September 3**, 6pm for a special "Come and See" rehearsal

A special message from our Children and Youth Choir Director, Malynda Riehle:

*"This year, FLY Choir will take on more of a leadership role in Wednesday worship! We are very excited about this opportunity to engage our youth in worship! This will include songs our youth love to sing, their leadership is needed to make it all work!"*

*I want to invite you to a "Come and See" rehearsal. At this rehearsal, you will get to see what FLY Choir is all about!*

*We will meet with Roxanne and the **Wednesday Band** and learn how worship leading works as well as hear some of the music that has been selected to sing.*

*We will hand out schedules for the entire year and some of the music that has been selected. Perhaps you have been wanting to sing something specific, we can discuss that as well!! This will take place Wednesday **September 3rd at 6pm** in the sanctuary at St. John's. I hope to see you all there!"*

Please let Malynda know if you are able to come, Malynda Riehle [malynda@sjlcl.org](mailto:malynda@sjlcl.org)

Do you play an instrument and want to be involved with the choir, but not sing, GREAT!

We would love for you to join us and play instrumental parts with our choirs!! If you have ANY questions, please reach out to Malynda Riehle! You can connect with her on Sundays, or email her at [malynda@sjlcl.org](mailto:malynda@sjlcl.org)



## Faith Education Teachers and Mentors needed

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

We would love to have you part of this wonderful team! There is a place for you in many areas of our Children, Youth and Family Program.

Sunday School will be needing many teachers for each grade level in pre-k -4<sup>th</sup> grade. We are so excited for the new education year!

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

Please use this QR code or contact [amanda@sjlcl.org](mailto:amanda@sjlcl.org) if you are interested in being part of this amazing education team for our students this faith education year.



## High School Youth Group

# LEARNING TO COOK WITH GRANDS



Meal Prep and learning basic kitchen skills for 7th-12th youth

Learn to cook and prepare nutritious meals for busy, active youth from the very best St. John's Church Grandparents!

Youth and Grands will work together to prepare freezer meals to take home!

Meeting Wednesday and Sunday evenings once a month. Choose the times that work best for you!

Sign up using the QR code or contact [amanda@sjlcl.org](mailto:amanda@sjlcl.org) for more information.

**Wednesday, Sept. 17** 7:00pm-8:00pm

**Sunday, Sept. 21** 11:45am-12:45pm

**Meal:** Chicken Alfredo Bake

**Wednesday, Oct. 8** 7:00pm-8:00pm

**Sunday, Oct. 19** 11:45am-12:45pm

**Meal:** Easy homemade pizza pockets

**Wednesday Nov. 19** 7:00pm-8:00pm

**Sunday Nov. 23** 11:45am-12:45pm

**Meal:** Tater Tot Hotdish



## Trunk Or Treat! October 26 3:00pm—5:00pm

Helpers needed! Sign up to host a trunk, donate candy, help with set up/clean up.



## Nursery Care

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

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

When you bring your children to the nursery, they will be safely in the care of St. John's Nursery Paid Staff who are: high school juniors and seniors who are trained in CPR & First Aid, familiar with basic child development, and have passed a background check Parents need to stay in the building while your child(ren) are utilizing the nursery and you need to provide your contact information.

## CYF Summer Highlights

This summer at St. John's was truly incredible, filled with fun, spiritual growth, and wonderful opportunities for our youth to develop as leaders! We are so grateful for the many ways St. John's supported our youth in serving and loving our neighbors, both near and far.

Summer started with our VBS program where 126 children and more than 50 volunteers spent the week in a True North Adventure. The new preschool program was an overwhelming success!

Our Summer Stretch program involved 37 upper elementary and middle school students who dedicated their time to serving at Arc Value Village, the Pan-O-Prog ice cream social, Highview Hills, and Feed My Starving Children. Beyond service, they also enjoyed exciting adventures at Windy Willow, Ninja Gyms, Urban Air, and a special trip to downtown Northfield for ice cream.

This year's Mission Trip to Milwaukee was facilitated by Serve Boldly, a ministry of Green Lake Lutheran Ministries. Our group of 20, including 14 youth and 6 chaperones, focused on daily food distribution, providing hot meals and groceries to those in need. We learned so much about the creative and resourceful ways the Milwaukee community addresses the needs of its residents.

Additionally, 50 Luther Crest Bible camp adventurers attended camp over three separate weeks, participating in eight different programs. Our younger elementary campers experienced an overnight stay with a parent, while many middle school and elementary campers who stayed for a half or full week learned exciting new ways to be brave and courageous in their faith. Our high school students even served as counselors in training, gaining valuable leadership skills.

Thank you, St. John's community, for your unwavering support of these summer program participants through your prayers and crucial financial contributions, which made all of these experiences possible.

To learn more about our summer adventures, please join us for our youth-led worship services on September 21st.



## Music News!

So many wonderful things are happening with the Music Ministry here at St. John's! Here are a few of the highlights - **You Are Invited!**

**Wednesday, September 3**, 6pm - Open Rehearsal for anyone interested participating in music for our Wednesday Restorative Worship!

**Wednesday, September 3**, 7:15pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsals Begin!

**Wednesday, September 7**, 7:15pm - Chancel Choir Open Rehearsal. Come and Sing or Watch, or...!

Updated Choir Schedules are available for you outside the Music Office.

**St. John's Music Ministry is open for all and all are invited!**

Any questions? Contact Roxanne - 715-864-1983 or [roxanne@sjlc.org](mailto:roxanne@sjlc.org)



Roxanne Litchfield  
Music Director

## Membership and Outreach Team News

### Fall New Member Orientation Lunch November 9 11:30 am

All prospective new members are encouraged to attend our New Member Lunch on Sunday, November 9th at 11:45 am to connect with others who are new to St. John's, learn more about our faith community and ask any questions you may have. Then, if you are ready to make St. John's your new church home, please join us on Sunday, November 16th for New Member Sunday.

### New Member Sunday November 16 at 8:30 and 10:30am

Ready to learn more about St. John's or make this your new church home? Join us for New Member Lunch to get even more oriented to the ministry and mission of St. John's!

RSVP for this event using the QR code.



New Member Lunch RSVP

## Global Missions Update

This past summer, St. John's was able to reconnect with our companion parish in Muhunga, Tanzania through the Bega Kwa Bega (Shoulder to Shoulder) ministry of the St. Paul Area Synod and Iringa, Tanzania Diocese. For well over 20 years we have been partnering together on projects such as the building of a medical clinic, sponsoring students in secondary school, expanding churches and preaching points, and many others. We are very excited this fall to roll out more stories, updates, and opportunities to continue working together with our siblings in Christ on the other side of the globe. If you'd like to get involved in a greater capacity, contact Pastor Nathan ([pastornathan@sjlcl.org](mailto:pastornathan@sjlcl.org))



# Gratitude and Generosity Team News

## 2026 Generosity Appeal: "Excel in Generosity"

This fall, our Ministry Finance Team (MFT) and Church Council will work together with St. John's staff to set a budget for 2026. In order to best plan for the 2026 budget, we ask that every household prayerfully consider your financial commitment to St. John's for the upcoming year. As you do so, center yourself around the theme "Excel in Generosity" from 2 Corinthians 8:7.

This September-October, we will spend some time in worship reflecting on ways St. John's already excels in generosity in our ministry and mission together, as well as ways we can excel even more with our generosity. God is calling us to excel in the many ways our congregation shares the gospel: in worship, in service, and in nurturing community. What does it mean to "excel?" What does "generosity" mean to you? Finally, how is the Holy Spirit calling you to excel in generosity with us?

Later in September, you will receive a 2026 pledge card. Your pledge is your financial commitment to St. John's mission for the year. Is this your first time submitting a pledge card? We would love to support you and answer any questions you might have. Then, we ask everyone to bring their pledge cards to worship on Sunday, October 12th for Generosity Sunday, so that together we can celebrate God's excellence among us as we dedicate our gifts for God's work in 2026! Please make plans to join us on October 12th for this day of celebration.



## Notes from the Finance Office

### 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.
- 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.

### Contribution Statements

Look for your Q3 2025 contribution statement around the 15<sup>th</sup> of October. Many of these statements are emailed to members.

### Pink Envelope Donations:

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

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

Pink Envelopes in September and October support Armful of Love.

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

Pink Envelopes in November & December support the Open Door.

There are Pink Envelopes included in your quarterly envelope packets and in the pews. On Tithe.ly you can give to Pink Envelopes. Make sure to open the drop down box & select Pink Envelopes.



# Ministry Finance Team Report

The Ministry Finance Team presents this **Financial Performance Report ("FPR") for May 2025** to the Saint John's Lutheran Church Congregation and Council.

## General Fund Report

*For May 2025:*

- Offering revenue of \$40,570, 82.3% of the month's budget
- General Fund revenue of \$41,858, 82.8% of the month's budget
- General Fund expenses of \$53,891, 100.7% of the month's budget
- General Fund net operating performance was a deficit for the month of \$12,033

*Year to Date 2025:*

- General Fund revenue \$243,864, 92% of the annual budget
- General Fund expenses \$256,285, 97% of the annual budget
- General Fund actual net performance vs. Budget is (negative) \$9,078 for 2025
- Net of receipts to expenses for all of 2025 is (negative) \$12,601

### Comments & Observations:

The overall financial picture for 2025 is following trend. The year is going slightly less well than projected, with income running somewhat below budget, and expenses running slightly below budget. The overall cash flow is (\$12,601) for the first five months of 2025.

## Benevolence Fund Report

The Benevolence Fund is allocated 8% of total offering revenues and 100% of dedicated benevolence contributions. Benevolence Fund expenditures are made according to need and the amounts available from the Benevolence Fund.

*For May 2025:*

- Benevolence Fund offerings were \$3,433, 82.2% of budget
- Benevolence Fund total income was \$4,948, 112.4% of budget
- Benevolence Fund distributions were \$5,200, 80.8% of budget

*Year to Date 2025:*

- Benevolence Inflows YTD are \$27,837
- Benevolence Distributions YTD are \$17,934
- Funds Awaiting Distribution: \$9,903

### Comments and Observations:

Funds Awaiting Distribution will be distributed to beneficiaries in the second quarter of 2025

## Building Fund Report

*For May 2025:*

- Building Fund revenues were \$8,680
- Building Fund expenses were \$10,094
- Building Fund Net is: \$(1,415)

*Year to Date 2025:*

- Building Fund Revenue YTD is \$ 48,258
- Building Fund expense YTD is \$ 50,470
- Building Fund YTD net is: \$ (2,225)

### Comments and Observations:

- May Mortgage cash flow turned negative for the month. Mortgage contributions are less consistent than other contributions and we expect improved cash flow later in the year
- Mortgage cash reserve maintained at approximately 8 months of mortgage monthly payments

### Ministry Finance Team Members and How to Get Finance Questions Answered

If you have questions about how to give, contact the Church office and we'll get you all you need to support St. John's Lutheran Church. We encourage you to sign up for automated giving. There are many ways you can support St. John's financially, including:

- Contribute cash or by check when you worship at Church
- Drop off or mail your contributions at Church anytime the office is open
- Use the QR Code in the weekly bulletin
- 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
- 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

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, 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.

# Memorial Garden

## Memorial Garden Update

Early in 2016, members of the Land Use Team began having conversations about how to improve and use the property surrounding St. John's. One of the items that came up was to add Columbarium and Memorial Garden on the property. Lots of discussion and planning resulted in the installation of a Columbarium/Ossuary unit on one of two bases in the fall of 2022. Shortly after the installation, phase 1 of the sidewalk, from the outer Sanctuary doors to the paver base of the Columbarium was completed. A tree was donated and planted early on to kick off the soft scape plan. During the snowy winter, many able volunteers kept the access to the Memorial Garden open.

Phase 2 of the project saw the sidewalk from the parking lot completed and the garden part of the project created. Since that time, an engraved rock commemorating the gift from the Klotz family has been installed, four memorial benches were added, the garden plantings and trees have been installed and new this summer, flowering potted plants helped expand the garden area making it a true meditative space for the frequent visitors who enjoy spending time in the memorial garden. We continue to welcome any and all "above and beyond" gifts toward the Memorial Garden. The hope is that we can expand the garden area even more next spring. We thank the dedicated memorial garden team who keeps it weeded, watered and tended for everyone to enjoy.

To date, 26 units have been purchased. If you would like to learn more, just make an appointment with Candy in the church office and she can help you with a purchase of a niche or answer any questions that you might have regarding the Memorial Garden and Columbarium.





Save these Dates!



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