

St. John's Journal

Winter 2025/2026



Kim Kylo
Senior Pastor



Nathan Lyke
Associate
Pastor

Sunday Schedule

8:30am Worship/Communion
9:30 Fellowship/Education Hour
10:30am Worship/Communion
Nursery every Sunday from 8:30-11:30am

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And Much More!

More information is available on the
website: www.sjlcl.org

**Submit information for the
Spring issue by the
9th of February to:
candy@sjlcl.org**



20165 Heath Ave. Lakeville MN
952-469-4916

Dear people of St. John's,

We enter into the cold and often snowy season of winter, proclaiming a profound message of hope for all people, wrapped up in a small and seemingly insignificant package: a baby (of all things).

Yes, we know *who* this baby is and *who* he will become for the sake of the world, but for now, let's stick with the initial form in which God send the Messiah into the world. A fragile, helpless, ordinary human baby, who at least for the first years, could do nothing of particular significance... unless you consider eating, sleeping, pooping and crying to be especially significant.

My message for you – and for all of us together – is to notice God's presence and work not only in obvious, significant works, but also in what appears insignificant, in what might be easily overlooked or missed.

Do we long for God to do great works that bend the arc of history towards justice and peace, towards God's kingdom come in the world (as it is in heaven)? Of course! And in faith, we trust that God *is most certainly* working in those ways, regardless of whether we are able to see it or not.

And, the Christmas story reminds us that God's work is not always nor only *glaringly obvious to us*. Not only was the Word-made-flesh born as a human baby in "the little town" of Bethlehem, but our Biblical stories of his birth describe that merely a handful of people were even remotely aware that it had happened. I wonder: how long did it take before anyone besides the shepherds, and eventually murderous King Herod and the magi, even heard that *this particular baby* had been born? It took *decades* before the Christ-child consistently engaged in ministries of proclaiming healing and hope, after all!

My point is this: sometimes God chooses intentionally to show up in ways that seem ordinary, simple, or relatively regular *yet* does great and amazing work!

It is tempting in our humanity to long for God's work to be painfully obvious, grandiose, and make a sweeping impact on the world rather instantaneously. But let us not get so caught up in that longing that we miss out on the transformative work God does through seemingly-ordinary, easy-to-overlook events, too. Are you and I so preoccupied by our expectations about how God will show up in the world to make things right that we aren't paying attention to the less obvious, often subtle ways that God is making a difference, today, all around us?

This winter, in the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany (basically, the time until Lent begins), let us practice paying attention to what seems simple, to what seems insignificant, to what seems ordinary, with eyes expecting God to not only show up in them, but anticipating God's goodness and mercy, God's peace and justice.

And, as people of faith, let us also be paying attention for opportunities to share the light of Christ in our lives: in our homes, in our neighborhood, in our church, and in the world, without downplaying the positive impact of even a simple act of grace or support. Does a neighbor need your listening ear? May the light of Christ shine. Does your coworker need your grace in understanding? May the light of Christ shine. Does your child need your undivided attention after a hard day? May the light of Christ shine. Does your hungry neighbor need a meal (or more)? May the light of Christ shine.

May the light of Christ shine in our hearts, in our church, and in this weary world. May it shine for us, for all who are hurting and suffering, and for all people.

Pastor Kim

Newsletter Updates: Quarterly Newsletter

Dear people of St. John's

As you may know, the cost of postage has increased in 2025 and one of the primary expenses for the church's postage budget is our 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, in August, instead of distributing a monthly newsletter, St. John's changed to *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 November newsletter to preview Advent, Christmas and the start of the new year,
- a 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. If you have information that needs to be shared with the congregation, contact Candy in the church office and she will get the information out.

Pastor Kim Kylo

For Your Information

Winter 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 December

Wednesday, December 3 - Restorative Worship: Message

Sunday, December 7 - Second Sunday of Advent Worship

Wednesday, December 10 - Restorative Worship: Creed

Sunday, December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent Worship w/ Christmas Music Spectacular (8:30) & Sunday School Christmas Program (10:30)

Wednesday, December 17 - Restorative Worship: Message

Sunday, December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship with Christmas Music, Candle Lighting, and Holy Communion at 2:00, 4:00, & 6:00 pm

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

Sunday December 28 - First Sunday of Christmas Worship at 10:00 am (one service only)

Wednesday, December 31 - NO Restorative Worship

Worship Highlights for January

Sunday, January 4 - God's Work Our Hands

Sunday: All-Congregation Service Projects!

Wednesday, January 7 - Restorative Worship: Confession

Sunday, January 11 - Camp Sunday, with Visitors from Luther Crest

Wednesday, January 14 - Restorative Worship: Message

Sunday, January 18 - Epiphany Worship, with Star Words

Wednesday, January 21 - Restorative Worship: Creed

Sunday, January 25 - Epiphany Worship, with Star Words; Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 28 - Restorative Worship: Message

Worship Highlights for February

Sunday, February 1 - Epiphany Worship, with Star Words

Wednesday, February 4 - Restorative Worship: Confession

Sunday, February 8 - Epiphany Worship, with Star Words

Wednesday, February 11 - Restorative Worship: Message

Sunday, February 15 - Transfiguration Sunday

Wednesday, February 18 - Ash Wednesday Worship

Sunday, February 22 - First Sunday in Lent

Wednesday, February 25 - Wednesday Lenten Worship

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-4th grade)
6:30-7:00pm worship
7:00pm-8:00pm Affirm, Ablaze and Adult Choir
8:00pm HS Youth Group

Luther College's Nordic Choir Concert - Sunday, January 25th at 4 pm

We are thrilled to announce that St. John's will be hosting a concert of Luther's Nordic Choir. This is a ticketed event; tickets will be sold directly through Luther College online. When ticket sales go live, we will share the link to purchase tickets with the whole congregation. During the concert, a free-will donation for Messiah Community Food Shelf will be gathered. This concert will be open to the public - invite your friends and neighbors!

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 a variety of parenting topics and email us if there's something you'd like to hear discussed on the podcast!



Altar Echo Families

Muhanga, Tanzania Medical Clinic Fundraiser: November 23 - December 21, 2025

During Advent, St. John's will be collecting a special offering to complete the next phase of the medical clinic we've been supporting with our longtime partner-parish. Our goal is to raise enough money to complete the walls and install a support beam and roof. With your help, we may even be able to go beyond that goal! Look for specially marked envelopes or the dropdown on Tithe.ly during Advent to contribute.

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 2026. 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 winter, worship will meet December 4th, January 8th and February 5th. 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 winter, worship will meet December 18th, January 15th, and February 19th.

Coffee & Conversation at Highview Hills

Meets on the 4th Thursday @ 2 pm

Pastor Kim hosts a monthly "Coffee & Conversation" at Highview Hills. This normally takes place on the 4th Thursday of every month at 2:00 pm. This winter, we'll meet: January 22nd & February 26th. We continue our study of the book of Revelation. St. John's members, friends and residents of HVH are welcome!



Lent Bible Study:

Wednesdays February 25 thru March 25, 2026 from 7-8 pm in the conference room



Mondays March 2 thru March 30 2026 from 2-3 pm in the Sanctuary

For many, Lent is a time to lean into spiritual practices and reflection. You're invited to be a part of a five-week study to enrich your life of faith and learn in community during this holy season. Attendees may choose which day of each week and time works best for them and attend a corresponding group if they would otherwise miss a Wednesday or Monday session. Details and sign-up form coming soon!

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)

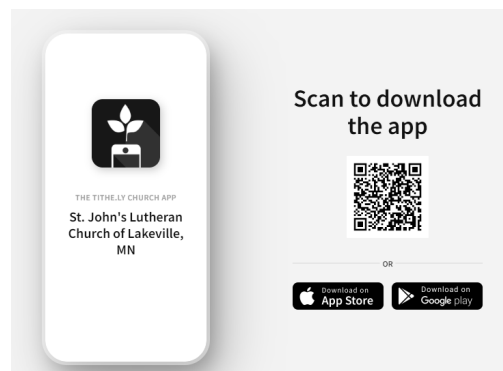
If you would like to be part of St. John's Prayer Chain, new members to this team are welcome.

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.



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.



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.

Life Line Screening

Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?

Life Line Screening will be here at St John's Lutheran Church Lakeville on **Friday, December 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: 1-888-814-0466 promo code HSCA001**
- **Online: <https://www.lisa.social/hasca>**
- **Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607**



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:

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

WILLIAMSAV

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@sjlc.org) and she will help you find the spot that works for you.



Readers



Clicker Team



Worship Coordinator

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.

Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study: Begins Tuesday, January 13, 2026 7-8 am St. John's Conference Room

"It's back!" for some and "It's new!" for others. Pastor Nathan will be leading a weekly Tuesday morning Bible Study with men in mind as we enter the new year. Topics will vary throughout the year, but you can mark your calendars for Tuesdays from 7-8 a.m. beginning January 13!

Men's Monday Breakfast Small Group

Facilitator: Peter Gudel

(contact: pigudel@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 not be gathering again until February. Watch the emails and bulletin for what is planned for February.

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.

Dementia Caregivers Support Group

Facilitators: Pastor Kim Kylo & Colleen Dupre

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.

Book Group—Two dates this Winter!

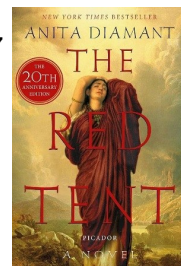
Facilitator: Kathy Ziller

1. **January 14th** at 1:00pm

The book for the January session is:

"Red Tent" by Anita Diamant

The Red Tent is a historical novel by Anita Diamant, published in 1997 by Wyatt Books for St. Martin's Press. It is a first-person narrative that tells the story of Dinah, daughter of Jacob and Leah, sister of Joseph. She is a minor character in the Hebrew Bible; Diamant broadened her story.



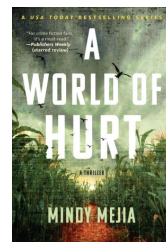
2. **March 11** at 1:00pm

The book for the March session is:

"A World of Hurt" by Mindy Mejia

When someone dies to save your life, how do you ever forgive them?

A World of Hurt is Mindy Mejia's highly-anticipated follow-up to the "propulsive" USA Today bestselling thriller To Catch a Storm where an Iowa City police officer and a DEA informant must work together to hunt down the remains of a hidden drug empire.



Book Group Sign Up

Yoga with Clarity

Lynn Coldren, Certified Yoga Instructor offers Yoga Classes.

Wednesday mornings 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.



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:

- No class on December 19th
- Christmas break is December 24-January 2
- Class will resume again on January 7th

The MomCo — Raising humans is hard — but you don't have to do it alone!

St. John's is excited to announce the start of a **MomCo group** — a place where moms can connect, laugh, and grow together in faith and friendship.
Our group meets **every second and fourth Sunday from 3–5 P.M. through May 10.**

Led by **Jackie Sorensen** and **Wendy Wells**, who have been involved with MomCo since 2019, each gathering features meaningful conversation, crafts, and guest speakers — all designed to make motherhood a little lighter and a lot more joyful.

This year's MomCo theme is **“Make It Awkward.”**

Because sometimes taking that first step — walking into a room full of new faces or sharing something real — feels awkward. But that's where the good stuff happens. When we let go of perfection and embrace the awkward, we open the door to connection, growth, and joy.

Location: Near the kitchen

Childcare provided

Registration: \$80 — includes

- MomCo International membership
- Subscription to *MomCo Magazine*
- Crafts and guest speakers
- Snacks at each meeting
- Childcare

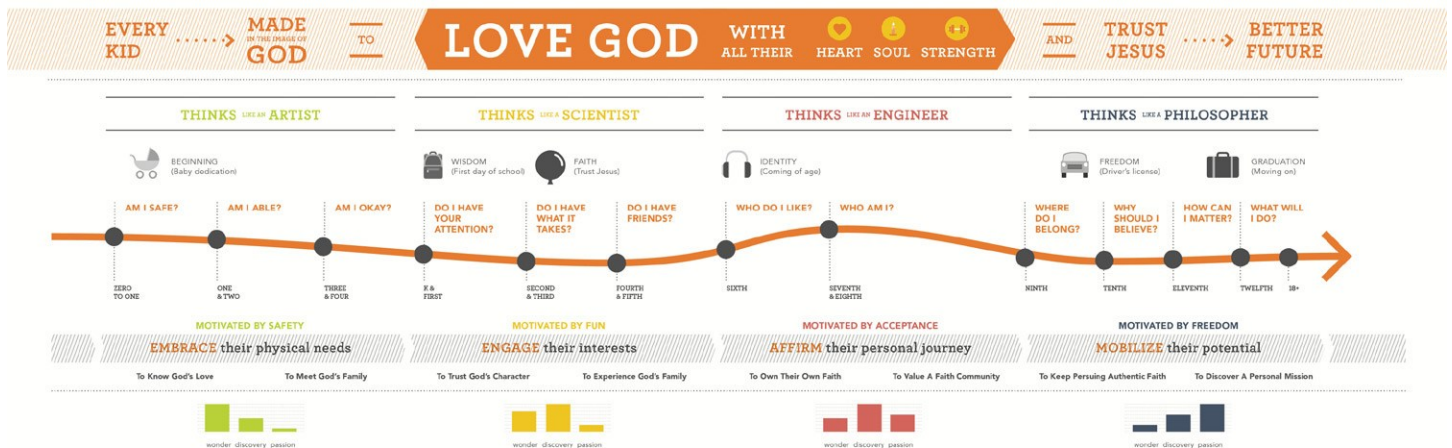


**MAKE
IT
AWKWARD**

Parenting Littles: It's Just a Phase

Sunday, February 1, 9:35 am | “Mark” classroom

The Parenting Littles group is a get-together for parents and caregivers to connect, grow, and share insights as we care for the kids God has entrusted to us. For this session, Pastor Nathan will present “It's Just A Phase”, a framework for spiritual development for your kids in all the “phases” of infancy through adulthood based on social and emotional developmental research and best practices.



Children, Youth and Family News



Amanda Boe
Children, Youth
and Family Director

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

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



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) 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 meets Wednesdays from 5:30pm to 6:00pm We will sing one Sunday of every month during worship!

Fly Choir

FLY is for youth 5th grade and up.

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

Please let Malynda know if you are able to come, Malynda Riehle 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



**All congregation event,
God's work our hands
January 4, 2026**

Join us between services in the fellowship hall

- Blanket making for Lewis house,
- Sandwich making for Lighthouse Salvation Army
- Emergency food kits for Messiah Food Shelf
- Birthday Kits

Minneapolis Mission Trip

Saturday, February 28 and Sunday, March 1 2026

All youth are invited to join us! We will serve at many places, serving our neighbors in meaningful ways. We end our day on Saturday at Whirly Ball for a fun way to end a long day of service.

Registration



Messiah Food Shelf Request

Emergency Bags for our neighbors in need.

- Boxes of cold cereal
- Cans of tuna or other canned meat
- Jars of peanut butter
- Cans of ready - to -eat and condensed soup
- Boxes of macaroni and cheese
- Cans of vegetables
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Boxes of spaghetti or other pasta shapes
- Cans of sloppy joe mix, chili or beef stew
- Boxes of raisins
- Bottles of juice
- Packages of toilet paper
- Packages of paper towels
- Boxes of tissues
- Packages of diapers and baby wipes

Cash donations are also appreciated and accepted. Make checks out to St. John's and put "Messiah Food Shelf" in the memo line.

Please donate what you can, the food shelf will assemble the bags

For an online way to donate go to:





Marriage and Pre-marriage workshop

Saturday, January 17, 2026

9:00am-2:00pm, lunch included.

20165 Heath Ave, Lakeville, MN 55044

\$85.00 total per couple, instructions for payment will be sent after registration. We invite you to a workshop hosted by Lutheran Pastors from St. John's and Christiania Lutheran Churches; Kim Kylo, Nathan Lyke, and Jon Rhodes.

These skilled and experienced pastors will help guide you through some of these following topics and questions:

- Do you have a shared expectation of your relationship?
- How do you manage finances together?
- What are your love languages, how are they the same and how do they differ?
- How can you effectively manage conflicts with each other and your extended families?
- What is your family map?
- How do the families you came from affect your current relationship?

If these questions are intriguing to you and would like to learn more about yourself and your relationship no matter where you are in your marriage, (just beginning or are currently married) please join us! This workshop will fulfill the 12 hours required by the state of Minnesota for marriage license discount. The Saturday workshop, plus time spent at home completing necessary requirements for the workshop, will fulfill this required amount of time by the state.

To sign up:

Fill out the following [google form](#), upon completion of the registration form. Payment information will be sent as well as a Prepare and Enrich Assessment for each person to complete.



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 Fall Highlights

This fall at St. John's has been 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.



Our Children, Youth and Family programs have been busy all fall with our Affirm and Ablaze programs, Sunday School programs, Youth led worship services, Children's choirs, Trunk and Treat and Advent Festival.

Thank you to everyone at St. John's who makes these programs possible!



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!**

Sunday December 14, 8:30am—Chancel Choir Leads us in a music focused worship service. At 10:30am the Sunday School Christmas program, *"Manger Tales"* edited and directed by our children's music director, Malynnda Riehle.

Christmas Eve, worship at 2pm, 4pm and 6pm with Chancel choir at 4 and 6 pm.

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



Roxanne Litchfield
Music Director



Membership and Outreach Team News

Spring New Member Orientation Lunch April 19 11:30 am

All prospective new members are encouraged to attend our **New Member Lunch on Sunday, April 19th** 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, April 26th** for New Member Sunday.

New Member Sunday April 26th 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

Gratitude and Generosity Team News

2026 Generosity Appeal: "Excel in Generosity"

This fall, our Ministry Finance Team (MFT) and Church Council have been working 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 spent 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?



In September, you received 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 asked everyone to bring their pledge cards to worship on Sunday, October 12th for Generosity Sunday, so that together we celebrated God's excellence among us and dedicated our gifts for God's work in 2026! **Pledge cards can be submitted at any time and are still available in the Narthex or by contacting the church office.**

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.
3. 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) or 952-469-6322. She will be happy to help you get signed up with this online giving platform.

Contribution Statements

Look for your Q4 2025 contribution statement around the 15th of January. Many of these statements are emailed to members. Contact the church office with any questions.

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

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 the name of the fund in the note box.

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.



General Information

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®

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.

Global Missions Update

Muhanga, Tanzania Medical Clinic Fundraiser: November 23 - December 21, 2025

During Advent, St. John's will be collecting a special offering to complete the next phase of the medical clinic we've been supporting with our longtime partner-parish. Our goal is to raise enough money to complete the walls and install a support beam and roof. With your help, we may even be able to go beyond that goal! Look for specially marked envelopes or the dropdown on [Tithe.ly](#) during Advent to contribute.



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 past 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.

The memorial garden team has begun the ground work (literally) to add on to the garden space in the spring. Watch for the requests to purchase more plantings for this addition.

We also have had the opportunity to meet with another local church to help them begin the process of adding a columbarium and memorial garden to their space, sharing details about where to start. This is a true testament to the work our team has done to create such a special space.

To date, 28 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.



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!

Christmas Worship at St. John's



Christmas Eve, December 24, Worship at 2pm, 4pm and 6pm with nursery available at all services

Christmas Day, December 25, Worship at 10am

First Sunday of Christmas, December 28, Worship at 10am

Winter 2025/2026 Newsletter

20165 Heath Ave
Lakeville, MN 55044

Annual Meeting of the Congregation:

Sunday, January 25th, 11:45 am

Please plan to attend our 2026 Annual Meeting to reflect on St. John's ministry in 2025, look ahead to 2026, and consider a vote on the 2026 Proposed Budget. All confirmed members of St. John's are voting members, and are encouraged to attend.

Watch for the 2025 Annual Report to become available in January, and plan to attend a Budget Preview session to become familiar and ask questions during ACE on Sunday, January 18th between services.

Team Annual Reports are due to the church office no later than January 5th.



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