

# St. John's Journal

## Spring/Summer 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

### Starting May 24

8:30am Worship/Communion  
10:00am Worship/Communion  
Nursery every Sunday from 8:30-11:00am

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

**Submit information for the  
Fall Kickoff issue by the  
15th of July to:  
[candy@sjlcl.org](mailto:candy@sjlcl.org)**



20165 Heath Ave. Lakeville MN  
952-469-4916

Dear St. John's,

This summer, we are doing something special in worship that has not recently been part of St. John's worship life in the summer months: a sermon series!

Normally, we have simply followed the Revised Common Lectionary schedule of bible stories for worship, and crafted our thoughtful, multi-sensory, traditional, engaging worship around those particular stories. However, for this summer, from May 31 - September 6, we will explore the series "On Jesus' Timetable: The Spiritual Practices and Pace of Jesus."

Each week in worship, we'll explore a story that highlights a particular spiritual practice that Jesus practiced in the scriptures. To help orient you to these spiritual practices, I want to encourage you: this is not intended to give you a long list of 15 things you need to add to your to-do list. This is also not intended to overwhelm you or give you the impression that if you are not already practicing all of Jesus' spiritual practices, that you are lacking in some way.

Rather, these practices are an invitation to 1) engage with the stories of Scripture with a particular focus on practices (and remember, "perfect" is never the expectation when we are practicing a skill or activity), 2) slowdown, which might mean that rather than *adding* one or more of these practices to your existing list of practices and to your schedule, you might consider taking something *off your current list* before adding something in its place. In other words, this series is not about doing more, but perhaps it's an opportunity to take stock of what has been helpful and good in your spiritual life, and explore something that might refresh, renew or restore you, *in a pace that feels life-giving and manageable*.

More often than not, my proverbial "plate" is overly full, without much, if any room to spare. If your plate also feels full enough already, you are invited into this sermon series, to explore slowing down, to try out a rhythm of prayer that might actually work for your life, and to remember that rest is not a reward, it's an essential spiritual and physical practice of life.

Peace to you, my friends! I look forward to your companionship in this summer series!

Pastor Kim



## For Your Information

### Spring/Summer Worship News

*\*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.*

### Summer Sermon Series:

**On Jesus' Timetable: The spiritual practices and pace of Jesus**

#### Sundays | May 24 - September 6

This summer, let's slow down and rediscover the spiritual practices Jesus himself lived with unhurried trust in God. Each week we'll explore how Christ's rhythm of prayer, compassion, community, and rest shapes our own lives as baptized people called into grace. Together, we'll learn to follow Jesus not at the world's pace, but at the pace of the One who meets us with mercy and leads us into life.

#### Worship Highlights for May

**Sunday, May 3** - Blessing of the Households Sunday

**Sunday, May 10** - Mother's Day

**Sunday, May 17** - Last Day of Sunday School

**Sunday, May 24** - **Pentecost.** Memorial Day Weekend, Worship times change to 8:30 and 10:00am

**Sunday, May 31** - Graduating Senior Sunday  
Week 1 of the summer sermon series:

#### **Service & Humility**

Jesus washes His disciples' feet. - John 13:1-17

#### Worship Highlights for June

**Sunday, June 7** - **Prayer**

"Jesus prays through the night before choosing the Twelve." - Luke 6:12

**Sunday, June 14** - **Sabbath Rest**

"The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Mark 2:27-28

**Sunday, June 21** - **Fasting**

Jesus fasts forty days before beginning His ministry. - Matthew 4:2

**Sunday June 28** - **Worship**

Jesus reads Scripture and worships in the synagogue. - Luke 4:16

#### Worship Highlights for July

**Sunday July 5** - **Community Life**

Jesus appoints the Twelve to be with Him. - Mark 3:13-15

**Sunday July 12** - **Hospitality & Table Fellowship**

Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners. - Luke 5:29-32

**Sunday July 19** - **Solitude & Silence**

"Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." - Luke 5:16

**Sunday July 26** - **Compassion**

"He had compassion on them." - Matthew 9:36

#### Worship Highlights for August

**Sunday August 2** - **Healing & Restoration**

Jesus heals Jairus's daughter and the bleeding woman. - Mark 5:21-43

**Sunday August 9** - **Teaching & Discipleship**

The Sermon on the Mount. - Matthew 5-7

**Sunday August 16** - **Forgiveness**

"Father, forgive them..." - Luke 23:34

**Sunday August 23** - **Generosity & Self-Giving Love**

"Greater love has no one than this..." - John 15:13

**Sunday August 30** - **Obedience to God the Father**

"I have come... to do the will of Him who sent me." - John 6:38

**Sunday September 6** - Final Summer Sermon

Series Sunday: **Proclaiming Good News**

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... to proclaim good news." - Luke 4:18-19.

Labor Day Weekend, Worship times change to 8:30 and 10:30am

### 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

## 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, held on the first Thursday of each month at 2 pm. This summer, we'll gather: May 7th, June 4th, July 2 & August 6. 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 summer, we'll gather, May 21st, June 18, July 16 & August 20

## Coffee & Conversation at Highview Hills

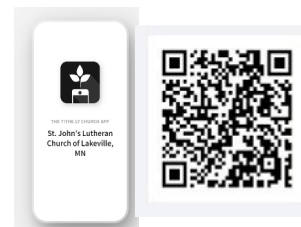
**Meets on the 4th Thursday @ 2 pm**

Pastor Kim hosts a monthly "Coffee & Conversation" at Highview Hills. This summer, we'll meet: May 28, June 25, July 23 & August 27 We continue our study of the book of Revelation. St. John's members, friends and residents of HVH are welcome!



## 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.



## 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!



## 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@sjlcl.org](mailto:candy@sjlcl.org)) and she will help you find the spot that works for you.



Readers



Clicker Team



Worship Coordinator

## May Blood Drive

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

The next Blood Drive is scheduled for **Thursday July 30** from noon to 6pm. Watch for sign up details soon!



## 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.



## 4th Annual Pastor's Picnic at the Kyllos

Join us on Sunday, August 16th from noon-2 pm for a congregational picnic lunch, with fun for the whole family - including a bounce house for our littles! Pulled pork sandwiches, sweet corn and beverages will be provided. Families are welcome but not required to bring either a side dish or a dessert to share. We will certainly have tables and chairs set up for eating, but feel free to bring lawn chairs along as well. Stay tuned for an RSVP this summer!

# 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 Wabasha Street Cave on the 12th of May. This manmade cave has been used for a variety of things since it's conception in the 1800's. Its colorful past includes a mushroom farm, speakeasy and a gangster's hideout. The cost is \$15 which needs to be paid in advance. Please pay Ginger directly. We will meet at the church at 10:00. After the tour we will have lunch at Joseph's Grill. Watch for more outings this summer.

### 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 each month from 9am - 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 Wednesday of every month at 9:30 am from September through June.

**We will not meet in July or August.**

Where: St. John's

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

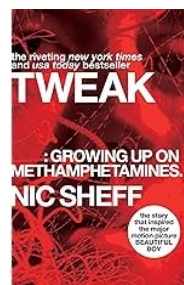
### Book Group.

The book for the May session is:

**"Tweak" by Nic Sheff**

**May 13 at 1:00pm**

This *New York Times* bestselling memoir of a young man's addiction to methamphetamine tells a raw, harrowing, and ultimately hopeful tale of the road from relapse to recovery.



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](mailto:l.coldren63@gmail.com).

Minimum class size is now three, so Lynn asks that you let her know the day before if you'll be attending. Because summer schedules get busy, we know that we will **NOT** meet on the following dates:

- May 29
- June 10–12
- July 1–3
- July 8 and 15
- July 31
- August 12
- September 1–11

## 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.



## Grief Share Small Group

**When:** Wednesdays May 13th - August 5th, 6:30-8:00 pm

**Who:** Anyone who is grieving; whether your loss is recent or years ago, you are welcome. If you know someone who might benefit from the support of a grief group, please invite them and/or ask them to consider joining you at Grief Share.

**Why:** Because grief is hard, and it's a little less painful with support from good people. We believe that the more we learn to understand our grief, the better we can cope.

*\*We know summer can include travel; even if you'll miss a couple of weeks due to travel or other commitments, please feel free to sign up and participate in this small group anyway.*



Grief Share  
Small Group  
Sign Up



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



Dear St. John's

Thank you for your recent gift of \$1000 received on April 2, 2026. By making this donation, you have strengthened Dakota County's community safety net, reinforcing our

shared commitment to ensuring no neighbor goes hungry. We could not do our work without you.

Your support is more critical now than ever. As traditional support systems for families are shrinking, the Open Door is helping more people than ever. Your contribution directly addresses this challenge, empowering us to be the dependable, community-driven resource families can count on when other systems are stretched thin.

Your gift provides immediate, tangible relief. It allows a senior on a fixed income to fill their basket with fresh produce, a child receive a healthy lunch when school is out, and a family facing a crisis to find nourishment and hope. In 2024 we

distributed 4.6 million pounds of food,; in 2025, thanks to partners like you, we provided over 5 million pounds.

Behind every statistic is a personal story. Not long ago, a mother transitioning out of homelessness visited our pantry. Her kitchen was empty, and her children were hungry. Thanks to caring volunteers that greeted her at the door, she left with not just food, but relief and renewed hope—knowing her children would be nourished in their new home.

Thank you for choosing to stand with us. Your generosity strengthens our entire community and ensures that, here in Dakota County, we continue to show up for each other.

Please share our gratitude with the entire congregation! We will put this straight to work helping families.

Gratefully,

Jason Viana  
Executive Director, the Open Door

## Membership and Outreach Team News

On Sunday April 19, the Membership and Outreach Team held a Welcome Lunch after worship inviting people who were interested in learning more about St. John's and what we have to offer.

It was a lovely lunch gathering where new to us people came to ask questions and meet some of the staff. There were new bibles given to those who are new to Sunday School and youth programs.

On the following Sunday, April 26, 39 new members were officially welcomed into the membership at St. John's. We are so happy to see our membership grow and welcome these new members. It's a good reminder to all of us that if you see someone who is new to you, be sure you meet them and help them feel welcome. You never know when you will meet a new friend.

- Jennifer Allen
- Eric & Megan Alm + Parker
- Heather & Jeremy Carlson + Autumn & Samantha
- Laura & Cody Dirksen + Weston & Calla

- Brian & Alyssa Dunekacke + Reese & Luca
- Lauri & James Englund
- Diane Henriksen
- Melissa & Josh Jacobsen + Margaret, Gilbert & Calvin
- Lauren & Todd Mielzarek + Kelly
- Ardith Paarni
- Brooke & Jared Plotz + Griffin & Miles
- Dylan & Lily Thoreson
- Paula & Brandon Torvick + Madeline & Graham

# Children, Youth and Family News



Amanda Boe  
Children, Youth  
and Family Director



## Summer Stretch

July 8- FMSC & Pan-o-prog  
July 15- ARC & waterpark

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)

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!

Students who will be in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade in the fall of 2026 can sign up to be small group guides and adult chaperones will be welcomed.

**Dates and Events planned for program:**  
Dates will be- July 8 and July 15

**Activities and service partners:**  
Activities: Cascade Bay Water Park  
Service Partners: Arc Value Village, Feed My Starving Children, 360 communities,

**Cost-\$40.00 a day per participant - students will need to pack a lunch each day.**  
**Time:** 9:00am-4:30pm drop off and pick up at St. John's Lutheran Church front doors.

**Transportation:** We will be taking a school bus from Schmitt and Sons.

**Register:** Please sign up as soon as possible, there will be a limit of participants due to our transportation.



Please reach out to Amanda Boe [amanda@sjlcl.org](mailto:amanda@sjlcl.org) if you have any questions. Thank you!



**Serve Boldly Nashville, TN August 2-6**

**St. John's Mission trip this year includes 22, 8th grade-12th grade St. John's Youth along with 6 adult chaperones! Please keep us in your prayers as we prepare for our trip!**

We will be serving our TN neighbors in meaningful ways. We will be serving at different service locations assisting at shelters and facilitating food distribution. We will be learning about challenges that homeless individuals face that are unique to Nashville. Serve Boldly, an ELCA based organization is our trusted service partner that has coordinated our trip. Our students will work hard during the day and will enjoy evening activities such as line dancing and touring local parks and tourist spots!



**Luther Crest Bible Camp, Alexandria MN**  
**This summer, we will have 48 youth from St. John's attending Luther Crest bible camp.**

Luther Crest exists to inspire faith, stewardship, and community in God's creation. At camp, kids and teens unplug and immerse themselves in God's great outdoors.

From the friendships formed around the campfire to the inspiring lessons learned in our daily devotionals, a week spent at Luther Crest is sure to be an experience that campers will treasure for a lifetime.



**ELCA Youth Gathering  
Imagine More  
June 28- July 2 2027**

***Imagine more.***

**Will you imagine more with us in Minneapolis?**

*To God – whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine.*

*Ephesians 3:20 (Inclusive)*

To every one of you attending the Gathering for the first time ...

To every one of you doubting that you are worthy of God's love ...

To every one of you who has called the church your spiritual home but still wanders in and out ...

To every one of you facing a life-altering change in the days ahead ...

To every one of you grieving the death of someone you love ...

To every one of you who believes God does not know your name ...

To every one of you experiencing the promise of resurrection in a new way in your life ...

To every one of you wondering if there is a place for you here ...

**We invite you to imagine.**

**Imagine** arms wrapped around you in love. **Imagine** a place for you at the table. **Imagine** a word of forgiveness shared with you. **Imagine** the sense of joy when you witness the unthinkable happening. **Imagine** a world waiting to hear your voice.

The power of God at work in us is a measure not of our own strength but of God's limitless ability. God is the source of our encouragement and hope, always surpassing our expectations. Ephesians 3:20 comes from a section of Paul's letter in which he prays for the early Christians in Ephesus, a major city of the Roman Empire:

For this reason I bow my knees before [God], from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to [God] who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to [God] be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever (Ephesians 3:14-21).

In Ephesus, followers of Jesus faced social rejection, opposition and even violence because Jesus' message stood in direct opposition to the pagan goddess Artemis. Our own world distinctly parallels the times Paul references in his letter. He stresses God's love, God's forgiveness of sins and the unity of those who believe in Christ.

Through the Gathering, young people come

together to experience that unity and understand their role in the community of the larger church. We recognize both the joy of community and the unique role of each participant as they return to their individual communities after this life-changing event. The apostle Paul sought to provide for the needs of the Ephesians with encouragement, hope and confidence in God's faithfulness. The needs of faithful young people today are much the same.

**Imagine** more love.  
(Mark 4:35-41 — Jesus Calms the Sea)

**Imagine** more welcome.  
(Matthew 9:9-13 — A Place at the Table)

**Imagine** more grace.  
(Luke 15:11-32 — The Prodigal Son)

**Imagine** more joy.  
(John 20:1-18 — Resurrection and Naming Mary)

**Imagine** more courage.  
(John 4:1-42 — The Woman at the Well)

The ministry of the Gathering seeks to remind young people that God is already at work in them for the sake of the whole world. Often there are pressures and fears that limit their sense of worth and their ability to change the world. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit, God invites young people to imagine more, immeasurably more, for their own lives, the city of Minneapolis, the body of Christ and the life of the world.

Youth completing 8th grade in spring of 2027- High School Seniors in 2027.

Cost - Fundraising will be **required for all participants**, more information regarding final costs will be released before the registration deadline of Oct 21, 2026.

**Will you imagine more with us in Minneapolis?**

[Please complete interest form](#)



## Pan-O-Prog Ice Cream Social Everyone Welcome!

The ice cream social is scheduled for  
**Wednesday July 8<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm.**

Dairy Delite will be serving ice cream as usual,  
special music provided by CODA

Activities, bounce house and carnival games  
provided by St. John's Summer Stretch Youth.

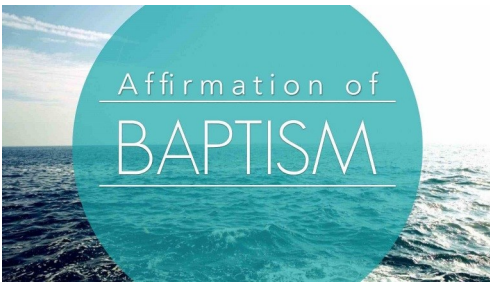


## Nursery Care

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



Affirm, Our Confirmation program, meets weekly on Wednesdays throughout the school year. Emphasis is placed on deepening faith, learning to serve, and growing community.

In Affirm, we explore each student's identity, belonging and purpose in Christ. Content covers the message of scripture, Lutheran theology, Christian discipleship, and serving opportunities.

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.

This spring, we had 21 9<sup>th</sup> graders confirm their faith in worship. Please continue to pray for them as they live out their faith in our community.



# Sunday School

## Last Day of Sunday School Celebration May 17th

May 17th is our last day of Sunday School. We have so much to celebrate! We plan to be outside and have some bouncy fun planned! VBS pop up and information table, We will have a special gratitude card making station for kids to write thank you notes for teachers.



## Easter At St. John's



## Vacation Bible School Needs

St. John's VBS is looking for the following supplies:

- Packing paper (like the long, thin kind you get in Amazon boxes) for making vines
- Cardboard boxes
- White Christmas lights (the small, twinkle/fairy light kind)
- Important Upcoming Dates:
- May 17th 11:45 Meeting for Adult Volunteers/Station Leaders
- May 31st 11:00 Meeting for MS/HS Volunteers - Crew Leaders and Station Assistants
- June 1-5 Decorate hallways, preschool area and classrooms 2-5pm
- June 6th Decorate the sanctuary and finish other areas 1-4pm
- June 7th Finish decorating the sanctuary and other areas 12-4pm
- VBS begins June 8th!!

## Adopt—A—Prop!

Check out the table in the Narthex for project bags that you can take home to help us get ready for VBS! Directions and supplies are in the bags. They need to be returned to church by May 17th. Once the decorating starts you will be able to see how the Rainforest Falls come together with the props you helped make.



You can choose from:

- Lei Flowers
- Mesh Ribbon Florals
- Table Cloth vines
- Cricut Tropical Flowers (Cricut users only)

Many hands make light work for all our decorating projects. Everyone is invited to help out!!

# Music News!

**Thank you** to all the wonderful musicians who have led and enhanced our worship here at St. John's this season!

We are blessed by so many talented folk involved with music ministry. It is thrilling to witness the variety of musical contributions *by all age groups!* It truly is a reflection of the gifts of God for the people of God.

This Summer, music ministry continues! If you would like to jump in and discover what it's all about, please contact Roxanne by email [roxanne@sjlcl.org](mailto:roxanne@sjlcl.org) or call 952-469-4916. She would love to hear from you and help get you plugged in!



Roxanne Litchfield  
Music Director



## 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 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 Results and in Invitation

During Advent, St. John's collected a special offering to complete the next phase of the medical clinic we've been supporting with our longtime partner-parish. Our goal was to raise enough money to complete the walls and install a support beam and roof. We raised nearly \$10,000 during Advent! Thank you for your generous donations.

**Invitation:** Are you interested in traveling to our partner congregation in Muhanga, Tanzania, Africa in the summer of 2028?

The Global Missions team will be holding a meeting on Thursday April 16th at 6:30pm.

This is an informational meeting only, no commitment to travel has to be made to attend this meeting.

All members and interested individuals are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Gabby Hasselmann in person or via email at [gabby.kutz89@gmail.com](mailto:gabby.kutz89@gmail.com)



# Notes from the Finance Office

## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH Ministry Finance Team March 2026 Financial Summary

The following is a summary of the financial results for St. John's Lutheran Church during the month of March and the year-to-date 2026. Watch the bulletins and eblasts for regularly monthly updates. Contact Barry Fick, treasurer with any questions.

### Financial Summary

General Fund Results	Month	Year to date
Revenue	\$56,267	\$147,454
Expenses	<u>\$48,534</u>	<u>\$165,544</u>
Net Change	<u>\$ 7,733</u>	<u>\$ (18,090)</u>
<b>Building Fund Results</b>		
Revenue	\$11,371	\$ 27,723
Expenses	<u>\$10,094</u>	<u>\$ 30,282</u>
Net Change	<u>\$ 1,277</u>	<u>\$ (2,559)</u>
<b>Benevolence Fund Results</b>		
Revenue	\$ 6,607	\$ 10,644
Distributions	<u>\$ 2,325</u>	<u>\$ 2,881</u>
Net Change	<u>\$ 4,282</u>	<u>\$ 7,763</u>

### Explanatory Notes

- General Fund (GF) revenue exceeded budget amount. GF expenses were below budget, resulting in a March surplus of \$7,733. Year-to-date, the GF cash balance has decreased by \$18,090
- The Building Fund is underperforming year to date. March revenue exceeded budget, resulting in a surplus of \$1,277, reducing the YTD shortfall to 2,559
- The Benevolence Fund performed well in March and year-to-date 2026. The March distribution to the Synod will occur in April, resulting in a temporary mismatch. All Benevolence revenues will be distributed during the year to charitable organizations or designated by the G&G Team

### Tithe.ly - Did you know?

1. Has Auto-recurring giving.
2. Kindly, choose 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** or **Google Play Store**. 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!

### 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.

The pink envelopes in **May and June** support Loaves and Fishes. The pink envelopes in **July and August** support Global Missions Projects. Contact the church office with any questions on these programs.



This summer, explore the nature of God  
at Rainforest Falls VBS!

What: St. John's Rainforest Falls VBS

When: June 8-11, 2026

Time: 9:00AM-12:00PM

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church 20165 Heath Ave. Lakeville

Register at:



Spring/Summer 2026 Newsletter

20165 Heath Ave  
Lakeville, MN 55044

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