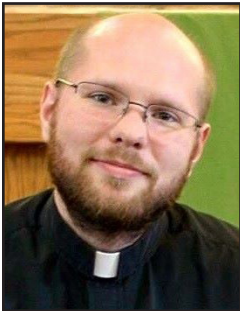


# THE MESSENGER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, STERLING, IL  
703 Third Avenue, Sterling, IL 61081 • 815.625.2634 • office@stjohnsonthird.org • StJohnsSterling.org • 

## PASTOR'S POINTS

### A time for collective reflection



March 2nd marks the start of the season of Lent. This season of reflection and repentance officially begins at

sundown and has for centuries been commemorated with the Ash Wednesday service, which includes the imposition of ashes.

While it may seem odd to some in the 21<sup>st</sup> century that we'd mark our foreheads with ashes as a sign of humility and repentance, this ancient practice draws us back to the time of Christ and even centuries before, when faithful communities were considerably more collectively minded, rather than the hyper-focused individualism we see within our world today.

The use of sackcloth and ashes in ancient faith communities was not just a way of identifying those within the community that were in mourning or seeking repentance, it also served as a cue to the whole community that this is a time for collective reflection and support. This is what St. Paul writes about in 1 Corinthians where we read, "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." (1 Corinthians 12:26, NRSV)

St. Paul's connection between the actions of the faith communities of old and the faithful in Christ as members of Christ's body echo into our modern times, as well. While our society as a whole may not take on the same types of public displays of mourning or repentance, within our faith communities we can still surround

one another in prayer and mutual support.

After all, since we are all equally members of Christ's body and, by extension, members of each other, we are only at our best when the whole body is striving for mutual care and support of each of its parts. As we enter into this season of Lent, I ask that we be willing to open our hearts and minds to how God is calling us to care for Christ's body in our community and in our world. May our prayers be of support and compassion for the whole body of Christ and may our actions reflect the work of the Holy Spirit gathering us in and sending us out with God's own grace, mercy and love. Amen.

God's peace to you,

*Rev. Jacob M. Lawick*



## ASHWEDNESDAY

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 6PM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES AT 6PM EACH  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9TH-APRIL 6TH

## MARCH 2022

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# Youth & Family Ministries news

## SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUPS

We will continue to meet in person for Faith Formation groups at St John's. For the safety of our families, all students and teachers are required to wear masks for all indoor activities and events.

Preschool through second grade and third through sixth grade Sunday school classes will meet from 10:45am (or after 9:30am worship) until 11:30am. The third Sunday of each month, these students will meet in the sanctuary for music time with Julie McCord.

### JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

• 10:45-11:30am Sundays, March 6th and 20th with Gerad in the Youth Room


## TRI-CHURCH CONFIRMATION

Confirmation for seventh- and eighth-grade students has returned to in-person classes.

The class moves to meeting at St. John's on March 9th from 6:45-7:30pm. During the season of Lent (March 9th through April 6th), students are encouraged to attend mid-week worship services at St. John's at 6pm, then participate in class immediately following. No class March 2nd (Ash Wednesday).

## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2022 SAUK VALLEY UNITE CAMP

UNITE is happening June 22nd-25th! Current seventh through 12th graders and adult volunteers can now register online at



**2022 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING**  
**boundless**  
GOD BEYOND MEASURE

**YOUTH GATHERING CANCELLED**  
**DUE TO CONCERNS ABOUT HEALTH SAFETY FOR PARTICIPANTS OF THE GATHERING, THE PLANNING TEAM HAS CANCELLED THE 2022 YOUTH GATHERING.**

Our eighth through 12th graders still gathered on February 27th at Immanuel Lutheran Church for lunch and to grieve the cancellation, as well as to begin planning an alternative event for later this year.

[saukvalleyunite.org/registration](http://saukvalleyunite.org/registration).

This year we plan to return to having an overnight event. The UNITE planning team will make a final call in April (at the latest) on whether housing/overnight will officially be a part of the camp experience this summer.

The theme for 2022 UNITE is **reNEW** - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!* (2 Cor 5:17, NIV)

We kick off this year's service event on Wednesday, June 22nd at Bethel Reformed Church in Sterling, with worship led by Dan Scharnhorst and Pete Smith. Dan and Pete will be with us throughout the week, leading worship, sharing



Dan & Pete, 2022 UNITE speakers and musicians

stories and hanging out with us. Painting days will be June 23rd-25th. We will be painting three or more homes in Sterling and Rock Falls. Stay tuned to announcements for further details.

If you know of someone who would benefit from UNITE (needs their home painted), please direct them to [saukvalleyunite.org](http://saukvalleyunite.org) to apply. If you'd like to support UNITE but you're not sure how, please email [saukvalleyunite@gmail.com](mailto:saukvalleyunite@gmail.com).

## CHILDREN'S OFFERING

The February and March children's offering is going to Sauk Valley UNITE Service Camp. UNITE is a three-and-a-half-day local teen service camp organized by several local congregations in Sterling and Rock Falls that paints houses for homeowners in Sterling and Rock Falls who have a financial need and who cannot physically paint their own home. Our goal is to offer \$500 for 2022. For more information on Sauk Valley UNITE, visit [saukvalleyunite.org](http://saukvalleyunite.org). Thank you for your ministry of giving.

# Welcome new member Mont Cessna!

Mont was born in Illinois and joined the Marine Corps after high school; he was stationed in Washington, D.C., as a musician with the Drum and Bugle Corps. Following the Marines, Mont went to Bible College in Kansas, then moved to South Dakota, on to Michigan, and finally spent 20 years in Pennsylvania before returning to Illinois. He has five adult children, of whom he is extremely proud! Mont's passions are drumming and Bible Study. He likes his custodial and maintenance work at St. John's where he has been since September of 2019.



## NURSE NOTES

### Habits to boost your immune system



**Healthy eating:** Eating lots of fruits and vegetables provides antioxidants and anti-inflammatory nutrients that aid the immune system and help it fight infections.



**Exercising:** Regular moderate exercise increases the activity of virus-killing immune cells.



**Managing stress and making connections:** Calming activities as well as supportive relationships minimize stress, reduce cortisol production and also enhance the immune system's function.



**Getting enough sleep:** Adequate sleep helps boost the number of immune cells that circulate in the body and also improves infection outcomes.

*From the Mayo Clinic Health Letter.  
Submitted by Nancy Rasmussen, Parish Nurse.*

## SAYING THANKS

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia and Christmas gift bag. It was a very thoughtful surprise.

Sincerely,  
*Janet Carl*

We send our grateful thanks to you for the wonderful, thoughtful and comforting prayer shawls given to us recently at the passing of our loved one, Robert Novy. He was my father and your Pastor Jacob's grandfather.

Your prayer shawls touched us and gave/give us comfort during this grieving time, and will for many years to come.

May the piece and comfort of God's abiding love lift you daily and remain with you always.

*Lyn Gawlik and family*

I want to thank St. John's, Pastor Gawlik and many church members for the many cards and prayers while I was at rehab for four months. Many blessings to all in the new year.

Sincerely,  
*Marianne B. Hartshorn*

Thank you for your generous gift of \$365 to ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through ELCA Good Gifts.

Through your gifts, you share the everlasting joy of transformation with our neighbors around the world. Your Good Gift is a very good gift indeed. With seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable garden, Bibles and blankets, you're equipping God's people — around the world and around the corner — with what they need to live abundant lives.

With gratitude,  
*Rachel Wind, Executive for Philanthropy, ELCA*

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

**1**

• Wayne Moore\*

**2**

• Martha Benson  
• Hannah Hubbard  
• Elly Redfield  
• Cody Walker  
• Edward & Patricia Loos\*  
• Douglas & Beatrix Zientara

**4**

• Brad Eakle  
• David & Julie LeFevre  
• Charlene & Doug O'Connell

**6**

• Dwight Oltmanns  
• Gary Smith  
• Douglas Zientara

**11**

• Mallory Sisson

**12**

• Olivia Barton  
• Gerry Byar\*  
• Crystal Scott  
• Stanley & Nancy Rasmussen\*

**13**

• Bradley Davis  
• Marlene Green\*  
• Jake Klocke  
• Brian Luebke  
• Kelli & Jarrett Vilmont

**14**

• Jennifer Bennett  
• Elizabeth Hubbard  
• Seth Schmitt  
• Teri & Jim Moses  
• Peggy & Steve Sucher\*

**15**

• Neil Morehead\*  
• Joseph Vasquez  
• Dianne & Daryll Sands

**16**

• Madison Leesman  
• Peggy LeFevre  
• Morgan Luebke  
• Dennis & Elaine Winebrenner

**17**

• Audra Goff  
• Ronald McCord  
• Russell & Marsha Francis\*

**18**

• Charlene O'Connell  
• Virgle Onnen\*  
• Joshua Smith

**19**

• Jersey Schmidt

**20**

• Christopher Judd

**21**

• Jameson Kester

**22**

• John McCormick

**24**

• Cameron Di Raimondo  
• Adam Duffin  
• Craig Mayer  
• Nick Mapson & Nel Reulend

**25**

• Amanda Smith

**26**

• Michelle Gawlik  
• Kate & Alex Gomer

**27**

• Leonard Turner

**30**

• Damus Shipma

## VOLUNTEER & DONATE

• The Loaves & Fishes Breakfast Program at First United Methodist Church, Sterling, is in need of donations and volunteers. Checks can be made out to Loaves & Fishes and mailed to First United Methodist Church, 501 Broadway Ave., Sterling, IL 61081. Sign up to serve meals by calling Lois Heerdts at (815) 626-4773 or Paul Gould at (815) 499-2041.

• The PADS shelter has transitioned to year-round access and volunteers are needed. Contact Administrative Director Myles Newberry at (815) 626-2210 or mylesnewberry.PADS@gmail.com.

\*Indicates 80-plus-year birthdays and 50-plus-year anniversaries.

# GIVING MADE EASY

## 3 SECURE WAYS TO MAKE YOUR DONATION



**ONLINE**  
**StJohnsOnThird.org**



**MOBILE**  
**Tithe.ly app**



**IN PERSON**  
**Check or cash**

*All donations will be included on your yearly contribution statement.*



# Annual Meeting highlights

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held January 23rd after worship. A quorum of 55 active members (31 in person and 24 on Zoom) were in attendance.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

St. John's received a check from the Charles Morris estate in the amount of \$100,000. \$15,000 was deposited in the Contingency account for future use, and \$85,000 was deposited in a separate account with ELCA. To date, the church has not needed any money transferred.

A very generous member of the church matched up to \$8,000 to help with the church's expenses. Member offerings with this match were \$14,215. With the match, a total of \$22,215 was donated.

The 2022 budget reflects a 2 percent increase for salaries of all employees, a 16.5 percent expected increase in offerings and a 7 percent increase for expenditures.

## NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Denise Norman, Dave Geil, Christine Murphy and

Lois Rowzee were nominated to the Congregational Council. A motion was made by Dave Geil to approve the nominees by unanimous vote. The motion passed, and all nominees were voted onto the council.

Shawn Wolfe and Art Frey were nominated and approved to the Endowment Committee.

Denise Norman and Shawn Wolfe will be St. John's delegates with Kandra Cook as an alternate as voting members for the 2022 Synod Assembly.

## BUSINESS

A motion to approve the 2022 budget as printed in the Annual Report was made by Dave Geil with a second by Jan Klocke. Motion carried.

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

The 2022 church council met immediately after the annual meeting. The new executive committee is as follows:

- Dave Geil, president
- Denise Norman, vice president
- Teri Holldorf, treasurer
- Kandra Cook, secretary

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### PASTOR'S REPORT

The Finance Committee will be meeting monthly on the Monday the week before the council meets.

The ELCA Youth Gathering for 2022 has been cancelled. There may be a Synod or Tr-Church event instead.

Mid-week Lenten services will be at 12:15pm at St. Paul and 6pm at St. John's.

The Northern Illinois Synod Congregational Resourcing Event will be March 12th on Zoom. Synod Assembly will be June 5th and 12th on Zoom.

Pastor Jacob installed Denise Norman and John Lichner onto the St. John's Congregational Council.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**TREASURER:** No transfers were made in the month of January. Account balances as of February 15th were:

- Checking ..... \$2,391.06
- Undesignated ..... \$15,973.12
- Building ..... \$1,329.49

- Parish Nurse ..... \$1,843.18
- Music ..... \$2,101.63
- Contingency Checking..... \$15,292.73
- Bld Reserve ELCA..... \$8,788.66
- Christian Ed ELCA ..... \$3,192.24
- Parish Nurse/Music ELCA ..... \$45,000.00
- Grewe/Steinke Seminary ELCA..... \$33,033.28
- Charles D. Morris ELCA ..... \$86,743.39

**YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES:** Sunday school continues to meet in person, but attendance has dropped significantly since the beginning of the year. Gerad meets twice a month with the junior and senior high youth, and Tri-Church Confirmation classes will move from Zoom back to in person at St. John's during Lent. UNITE Service Camp registration is now open for seventh through 12th graders.

## BUSINESS

The council approved Personnel and Memorial committee assignments. Members will review responsibilities before the next meeting.

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to continue discovering God's will for us in His kingdom through prayer, Bible study and building relationships.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Jesus is our Lord and Savior.
2. We make prayer, Bible study and dialog the center of our decision making.
3. We are willing to change as we discover God's mission for us.
4. We invite everyone. Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." ~ Matthew 28: 19a
5. We recognize and give thanks for our blessings.
6. We act for the discovery and fulfillment of God's mission.

## COUNCIL AFFIRMATION STATEMENT

The Council affirms that ministry is a core tenant of our Mission and that established ministries will continue and the opportunity for expanding into additional ministries will be evaluated when presented. The Council fully understands the complex nature of ministry, but as long as God's people are willing to engage in good works, we will do everything in our power to support those ministries.

## PARISH REGISTER

### DEATHS

- None

### WEDDINGS

- None

### BAPTISMS

- None

### MEMBERS RECEIVED

- None

### MEMBERS REMOVED/TRANSFERRED

- None

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- None

### STAFF BIRTHDAYS

- None

## WHO'S WHO AT ST. JOHN'S

### PERSONNEL

Rev. Jacob Gawlik, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Leo Patterson, On Call/Visitation Pastor  
Gerad Von Holten, Director of Youth & Family Ministries  
Daudi & Kellen Msseemmaa, Missionaries to East Africa  
Dawn Zeigler, Minister of Music & Bell Choir Director  
Julie McCord, Praise Sunday Director  
Nina Peters, Office Manager  
Andrew Stutzke, Systems Administrator  
Kyle Morgan, Technical Director  
Mont Cessna, Facility Maintenance  
Stahr Media, Newsletter & Website  
Nancy Rasmussen, Parish Nurse  
Jan Klocke, council rep to Tri-Church

### CONG. COUNCIL

- Dave Geil, president\*
- Denise Norman, vice president\*
- Kandra Cook, secretary\*
- Teri Holldorf, treasurer\*
- Jan Klocke
- John Lichner
- Chrissy Murphy
- Lois Anderson-Rowzee
- Shawn Wolfe

*\*Exec Committee member*

### CHRISTIAN ED

- Tammy Doughty
- Brian Luebke
- Chrissy Murphy

### CONG. LIFE

- Denise Norman, chair
- Lois Anderson-Rowzee
- Michelle Gawlik
- Nancy Rasmussen
- Pat Redfield

### ENDOWMENT

- Mike Doughty, chair
- Art Frey
- John Lichner
- Rhonda Stutzke
- Shawn Wolfe

### FINANCE

- Teri Holldorf, chair
- Nancy Breed
- Druann Bushman
- Mike Doughty
- John Lichner

### FUNERAL

- Dave Geil, chair
- Linda Geil, chair
- Druann Bushman, chair

### MEMORIAL

- Dave Geil, chair
- Brian Luebke
- Nancy Rasmussen

### PERSONNEL

- Denise Norman, chair
- Lois Anderson-Rowzee
- Dave Geil

### PROPERTY

- Dave Geil, chair
- Art Frey
- Tom Leesman
- Ken Smith

### SOCIAL MINISTRY

- Vacant

### STEWARDSHIP

- Jan Klocke, chair
- Nancy Rasmussen

### WORSHIP ARTS

- Dawn Zeigler, chair
- Denise Carl
- Shawn Wolfe

### WORSHIP TECH

- Anita Carl
- Dan Eads
- Charlene O'Connell

# SJLC Activities ~ March '22

March Open/Close:  
Dave Geil

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 6:00-Ash Wednesday Worship	3 7:00-Al-Anon	4	5
6 <i>FISH collection</i> 9:30-Worship <i>Acolyte: Jocelyn P.</i> <i>Assistant: Denise Carl</i> 10:45-Sunday School 10:45-Youth Group	7	8	9 12:15-Lenten Worship (St. Paul) 6:00-Lenten Worship 7:00-Confirmation	10 4:15-Exec mtg 7:00-Al-Anon	11	12 8:30-Cong. Resourcing Event (Zoom) 9:30-Prayer Shawl Coffee Hour
13 9:30-Worship <i>Acolyte: Sara D.</i> <i>Assistant: Chris Rucker</i> 10:45-Sunday School	14	15 6:00-Council mtg	16 12:15-Lenten Worship (St. Paul) 1:30-Parkway communion 2:30-Heritage Woods communion 3:30-Morningside communion 6:00-Lenten Worship 7:00-Confirmation	17 2:30-Regency communion 3:30-Citadel communion 7:00-Al-Anon	18	19
20 9:30-Worship <i>Acolyte: Olivia B.</i> <i>Assistant: Jeff Fisher</i> 10:45-Sunday School 10:45-Youth Group	21 <i>Newsletter due</i>	22 6:30-NAMI group	23 12:15-Lenten Worship (St. Paul) 6:00-Lenten Worship 7:00-Confirmation	24 7:00-Al-Anon	25	26
27 9:30-Worship <i>Acolyte: Blake L.</i> <i>Assistant: Shawn Wolfe</i> 10:45-Sunday School	28	29 9:00-Newsletter assembly	30 12:15-Lenten Worship (St. Paul) 6:00-Lenten Worship 7:00-Confirmation	31 7:00-Al-Anon		

## Soup lunches at St. Paul

During Wednesdays in Lent, (March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6), St. Paul welcomes you to join us for a light lunch. Soup, bread, and dessert will be served at 11:30am. Mid-week worship will be from 12:15-12:45pm, and you are welcome to eat after the service, as well. To-go containers will also be provided. If you would like to join in our efforts, you can sign up to bring a soup, bread or dessert by calling Sue in the St. Paul church office at (815) 625-3069. Masks will be required for worship but can be removed while eating lunch. We hope to see you there!

## Use Choice Dollars through March 31st

**thrivent**®

Thrivent members, don't forget you have free Choice Dollars to donate until March 31st. Your donation choice doesn't carry over from year to year. Call your Thrivent representative or Larry Cooper at (815) 625-2200 for more information. THANK YOU for remembering St. John's through your past Thrivent Choice giving!

Help us go green by signing up for

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Search for St. John's E-Messenger and click "Join group."

Questions? Email [messenger@stjohnsonthird.org](mailto:messenger@stjohnsonthird.org).

The Messenger is a monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church, a church of the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Join us for worship at 9:30am Sundays and 6:00pm Wednesdays. If you would prefer to receive The Messenger via email, contact the church office at [office@stjohnsonthird.org](mailto:office@stjohnsonthird.org).

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