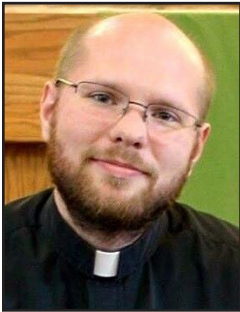


THE MESSENGER

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

Living in a spirit of thanksgiving



If you've found yourself passing through the grocery store lately, you may be seeing more and more decorations for Christmas and

less and less for Halloween. Each year I'm a little more surprised by how the holidays seem to rush up and blur together. Despite how they seem to come up quickly, I am always grateful for the month of November and its reminder for the need to pause and give thanks.

November truly is a month of thanksgiving, and I don't just mean the month that holds the holiday of Thanksgiving. There truly is something special about being able to identify time when we individually and collectively can pause and honestly give thanks for all that we have and all that we are.

In 1 Corinthians 15:57 we hear these words: "... thanks be to God,

who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." These words from St. Paul remind us that all that we are and all that we have are gifts from God.

It reminds me of when I was a child. Every Sunday morning I'd find myself sitting at the kitchen table while my father prepared offering envelopes for that Sunday's worship service. When I was little, I asked my dad why he did that, and he said, "God has been so good to me and given me so much with you, your mom and your sisters that I want to be generous, too, and give thanks."

That moment has left an impression on me that each day is an opportunity for thanksgiving. By the grace and mercy of God we have what we need for this day, and when



we open our hands and arms in generosity, we are becoming living examples of our Lord Jesus Christ's own graciousness.

As we enter into this month of thanksgiving, let us do so with a renewed sense of graciousness and

thankfulness for all that we are and all that we have received from God's

LUNCH/DINNER WITH THE PASTOR

If you have not done so yet, I strongly encourage you to call and pick a Thursday you'd like for meal and conversation. In a really neat way, this time is also becoming a bit of a spiritual discipline.

I hope that if you have not yet come out, that you please do call and set up a time. And if you already have, I'd love to eat and chat with you again. Until then, I'll be keeping you in prayer.

In peace, Pastor Jacob

bounty. May our hearts and minds not just be looking toward a day of thanksgiving but rather a spirit of thanksgiving that opens each of us up to see the abundance the Lord provides each and every day.

God's blessings to each and every one of you in this thanksgiving season.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Jacob M. Lawlik

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BRANCHES BRIEFS

Youth & Family Ministries news

SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUPS

It has been fun meeting outdoors for Sunday school this fall. However, the colder weather is moving us indoors. 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. This month we are planning our children's Christmas worship, which is tentatively scheduled for December 5th. More details to come.

High schoolers will be meeting with St. Paul high schoolers after the 9:30am worship service, from 11am to noon.

- First Sunday of the month: St. John's
- Second and fourth Sundays of the month: St. Paul
- Third Sunday of the month: Youth Gathering Getting Ready meetings.

Please see the Sunday school/youth group calendar for the monthly schedule.

INTERESTED IN ACOLYTING OR ASSISTING IN WORSHIP?

If you have not been contacted but would like to be trained on acolyting, please contact the church office. Maybe your whole family would like to assist at worship (acolyting, ushering, helping with communion, reading the lessons, helping with altar guild etc.) If you want to give it a try, speak with Pastor Jacob or call the office. Thanks be to God for all worship assistants who help us to worship God.

TRI-CHURCH CONFIRMATION

Confirmation for seventh- and eighth-grade students meets from 7 to 8:15pm Wednesdays at St. Paul. This year we are learning about Luther's Small Catechism, Luther and the Reformation, and other faith topics.

This month our group will be serving at Wesley United Methodist Church on Wednesday, November 10th from 7-8:15pm, assembling Buddy Bags. Meet at St. Paul.

YOUTH & FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

Last month we celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism for Martin F., Brynna C., and Jersey S. at St. John's. May God continue to guide them in faith. The people of St. John's give God thanks for our confirmands and will continue to support them in their lives of faith.

High schoolers enjoyed the corn maze, hay ride, cider donuts and more at Selmi's in Rock Falls on October 26th!



On Sunday, September 26th the Confirmation students attended a one-day retreat at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) in Oregon.

UPDATES COMING FOR VOLUNTEER YOUTH WORKERS

ATTENTION SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, VBS VOLUNTEERS, AND ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS: Over the course of the next few months we will be updating our volunteer applications for anyone who works closely with children and youth. This also includes updating background checks for volunteers who have not had a background check completed within the past three years. Thank you in advance for your patience as we work through this process together. Thank you to volunteers who have already turned in their updated forms! And thank you for helping us to create and maintain safe spaces for our young people and volunteers!

Don't skip medical care

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, declines have occurred in the U.S. in the use of some health care services.

At times, Americans were unable to get certain types of medical care because health care facilities were limiting services, especially in the early months of the pandemic. But others skipped care because they didn't want to risk contracting the virus in the emergency room or in a doctor's office.

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report found that emergency department visits decreased by about 20 percent for both heart attacks and strokes in the early months of the pandemic. Another CDC report showed that as of June 2020, 12% of adults had avoided or delayed urgent or emergency care due to worry about the pandemic and 32% had avoided routine care.

While caution is understandable, avoiding medical care can have serious consequences. Data from March and April 2020 in five states found a 96% increase in deaths due to diabetes and an 89% increase in deaths due to heart disease. Decreased health care use is considered a contributing reason.

Always seek emergency care when needed. Stay on top of vaccinations. Keep up with your care to manage chronic conditions. For other medical services, contact your doctor for guidance.

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



2022 YOUTH GATHERING NEWS

Current 8th through 12th grade students: You are invited to the next ELCA Youth Gathering, July 24-28, 2022 in Minneapolis. **Please email, text or message Gerad or the church office if you are interested in participating.**

Early registration for the gathering ends November 21st. A \$100 deposit from each student participant is due by November 21st (checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church), unless you have received a scholarship. After November 21st, participants will have an increase of \$50 out-of-pocket expense. Based on the early registration rate, we anticipate the gathering will cost around \$1,000 per participant. We will continue to fundraise to offset the cost of this trip. Scholarships applications through the ELCA will remain open until funding runs out. Ask Gerad about the scholarships.

Our next "Getting Ready" meeting is from 11:45am-12:45pm Sunday, November 14th at St. Paul. Lunch will be provided.

Sign up for the Gathering e-newsletter, G-News, and get the latest updates at elca.org/gathering, facebook.com/youthgathering, instagram.com/elcagathering and twitter.com/elcagathering.

BUTCHER SHOP FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all who helped to

sell or purchased meat bundles. NOVEMBER 4TH is pick-up day. Eight through 12th graders, we need help distributing orders. You may deliver your orders after school on November 4th, or help hand them out at St. John's from 3 to 4:30pm. Orders that are left at St. John's on November 4th after 4:30 pm will be kept in the freezer and available for customers to pick up on Sunday, November 7th. Our youth made \$650 from the fundraiser!



YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED; APPS OPEN NOW

If you are a senior in high school this year, or older, and will be at least 19 years old by July 22, 2022, applications for servant companions open November 22nd. Please contact Gerad if you are interested in sharing a week of your time to help at the Youth Gathering. Your travel, room and board expenses will be covered. This is a great opportunity to serve, and to learn and grow in your faith. Our young adults who have volunteered for the gathering in the past have had life-giving experiences. For full details and to apply go to: elca.org/YouthGathering/Attend/Volunteer.

NOV. BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1

- Hadley Allen
- Alexey Wolfe

2

- Dylan Goss
- Kay Janssen*
- Adam Schmidt

3

- Linda Morehead

6

- Margaret Benson
- Nancy Caudillo
- Barbara Peugh*
- Braeden Ruiz

9

- Eve Gawlik
- Abigayl McFalls

11

- Erica Armstrong
- Jordan Henson
- Jennifer Latchford

13

- Christine Murphy
- Marisa Perales
- Isabelle Workman

14

- Mary Lou Baker
- Kayla Smith
- Mike & Tammy Doughty

15

- Brenda Greer

16

- Susan Gillespie
- Jeremiah & Shauna Kramer

17

- Amy Grevengeod
- Logan Wolfe
- Jim & Marcia Keime

18

- Betty Schmitt*
- Mark & Kim Sciacero

19

- Johanna Collins

21

- Skyler Goodwin
- Larry Judd
- Brandon Luebke
- Clarence Wolf*

24

- Susan Bertolozzi
- Ashleigh Reaver
- Diana & Michael Hosler*

25

- Michael Bushman
- Angela Langley
- Denise Norman

26

- Brandi Barron
- Susan & Roderick Gillespie

28

- L. Leroy Baer

29

- Madison Goss
- Timothy Schmitt
- Nicholas & Laura Barthel
- Kelley & Matthew Breneman

30

- Tammy Doughty
- Kathryn Douglas
- Dennis Redfield

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

PASTOR'S REPORT

Quotes are still needed from council members about what motivates them to be active in ministry. Teri Holldorf offered to write up her story.

Pastor suggested having a Blue Jeans Sunday in November to set up the Christmas tree, decorate and sing Christmas carols.

Pastor Jacob thanked everyone for the care and concern for the passing of his mother-in-law.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in the operating account is \$785.41. No money has been transferred from the Charles Moore account. Behrens account money has helped pay the bills for the month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property: Repairs were made to the Third Avenue door sidewalk in October.

Youth & Family Ministries: Gerad attended a Youth Gathering meeting but is putting off some decisions until spring due to health and safety. Picnic table materials have arrived, and the tables will be put together in the spring.

Ministry: Shawn Wolfe reported that 41 Health Care Kits went to St. Paul to be sent to Rockford. The YWCA is collecting hats, mittens and bars of soap.

Worship Arts: Pew torches will be put up and stay up through Advent.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Dave Geil met with Bud LeFevre, and Bud will be drawing up plans for the Prayer Garden. Bud has offered to help with the entire process and has volunteered to supply plants for the project.

Festival of Trees is November 14th-21st at Northland Mall. The council discussed offering free gift wrapping.

Sights and Sounds will be December 3rd. The council is looking for volunteers to man a hot chocolate stand during the event.

Stahr Media's quote of \$1,200 to redesign the church website was approved.

There was a Memorial funding request for network upgrades — replacing wiring for wifi at a cost of \$380.30. The request was approved.

PRAYER SHAWLS AVAILABLE

Prayer shawls are available in the cabinet in the East Room and next to the elevator on the Sanctuary level. Please sign the form so we can keep track of where they are being used.

Volunteer & Donate

- Rock River Hospice & Home will celebrate the 2021 Festival of Trees at Northland Mall from November 14th-21st. St. John's is being asked to donate 30 dozen cookies for its health department approved bake sale. Please bring cookies to the kitchenette at St. John's on Wednesday November 16th in containers that do not have to be returned. Hospice will package the cookies. If you have questions, contact Sharon Zinanni at (815) 508-2585.
- 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 Heerdt 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.

Rock River Hospice & Home
"The Best Year Yet"
2021 FESTIVAL OF TREES



**Trees on Display for Viewing
& Bidding**

November 14-21 ~ Northland Mall

Trees on Display for viewing & Bidding.
 Trees included in online auction.
 Table Settings & Wreaths for Bidding & Viewing
 Bid Sheets Will Be Used; Please Bring Your Own Pen

Country Store

November 11-21 ~ Northland Mall

Sponsored by Comed, CGH Caring Fund,
 Johnson Oil, and Sterling Federal Bank

"Best Year Yet" Non-Event Gala

November 11-21

Choose your date/location and then gather with
 close friends and family

Sponsored by Astec Mobile Screens

Online Auction

November 13-21

Online auction for "Live" and
 "Silent" auction items

Dessert Auction

Check www.hospicerockriver.org or the
Rock River Hospice & Home Facebook Page for
 links to the Auction

Presenting Sponsors



**Breck & Sheri
Loos**



Rock River
Hospice & Home



Wanted: Red poinsettias for Christmas

Decorate St. John's Chancel for Christmas. You can order on the group order or purchase your own. If you purchase your own, please bring to the church **no earlier than December 22nd** and place a tag with your name on it. All poinsettias should be **RED**. Plants can be picked up after the 6pm worship service on Christmas Eve. Payment should accompany the form. Make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church. Deadline to turn in form & payment is December 12th.



I/we want to order the following plant(s):

----- (#) Poinsettias at \$12 per plant.

----- Will purchase own and bring to church on December 22nd.

All poinsettias should be red. Please return this slip whether you purchase through the church or on your own.

BULLETIN INFORMATION

From _____
 In honor of (living person(s)/occasion)

 In memory of (deceased person(s))

 As a gift:

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
Rev. Mark & Rev. Cynthia Rich, Missionaries to Tanzania
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

- Andrew Stutzke, president*
- Dave Geil, vice president*
- Kandra Cook, secretary*
- Teri Holldorf, treasurer*
- Andrew Doughty
- Jan Klocke
- John Lichner
- Chrissy Murphy
- 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
- Jannet Taylor

ENDOWMENT

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

FINANCE

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

MEMORIAL

- Dave Geil, chair
- Brian Luebke
- Nancy Rasmussen
- Jannet Taylor

PERSONNEL TEAM

- 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

All Saints Breakfast

November 7th after worship • All are welcome

Biscuits & Gravy, Egg Bakes,
Pecan Rolls, Coffee & Juice

Hosted by Adam's Rib. Matching funds by Thrivent.

Donations support Self Help Girls.



SJLC Activities ~ Nov. 2021

November Open/Close:
Andrew Doughty

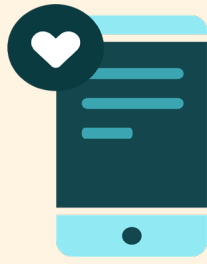
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 6:00-Worship 7:00-Confirmation (St. Paul)	4 Lunch/Dinner with Pastor Jacob 2:30-5:00-Fundraiser pickup (The Butcher Shop, Rock Falls) 7:00-Al-Anon	5	6
7 All Saints Day FISH collection 9:30-Worship Acolyte: Martin F. 10:45-Pastor's Bible Study 10:45-Sunday School 10:45-All Saints Breakfast 11:00-HS Group	8	9	10 6:00-Worship 7:00-Confirmation (St. Paul)	11 Veterans Day Lunch/Dinner with Pastor Jacob 4:15-Exec mtg 7:00-Al-Anon	12	13 9:30-Prayer Shawl Coffee Hour
14 9:30-Worship Acolyte: Jersey S. 10:45-Pastor's Bible Study 10:45-Sunday School 11:00-HS Group (St. Paul) 11:45-Youth Gathering Getting Ready meeting (St. Paul)	15	16 Newsletter due 6:00-Council mtg	17 1:30-Parkway communion 2:30-Heritage Woods communion 3:30-Morningside communion 6:00-Worship 7:00-Confirmation (St. Paul)	18 Lunch/Dinner with Pastor Jacob 2:30-Regency communion 3:30-Citadel communion 7:00-Al-Anon	19	20
21 Youth Gathering Earlybird reg ends 9:30-Worship Acolyte: Alena T. 10:45-Pastor's Bible Study 10:45-Sunday School 11:00-HS Group	22 Youth Gathering Servant Companion applications open	23 7:00-Al-Anon	24 9:00-Newsletter assembly 6:00-Worship 7:00-Confirmation (St. Paul)	25 Thanksgiving Office Closed	26 Office closed	27
28 1st Sun in Advent 9:30-Worship Acolyte: Jason M. 10:45-Pastor's Bible Study 10:45-Sunday School 10:45-Caroling & Hanging of the Greens 11:00-HS Group (St. Paul)	29	30	 <div> <h3>Join us for Caroling & Hanging of the Greens</h3> <p>Sunday, November 28th after worship</p> <p>Decorate our sanctuary and start the season with favorite carols! Bring an ornament for the tree or hang one from St. John's treasures.</p> </div>			

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.

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.

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Sterling, IL 61081

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