

THE MESSENGER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, STERLING, IL
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PASTOR'S POINTS

The Witch of Endor



October is here and the start of autumn has me thinking about Halloween and all the spooky stories folks like to share. Almost naturally my

mind turns to childhood memories. In the late 90s and early 00s when the Harry Potter novels and films were coming out, I remember there were some folks that started petitions that the books and films be banned from schools and libraries because they promoted “witchcraft.”

I recall my little sister at the time was particularly fond of the series. She first started reading the Harry Potter books when she was about nine or ten years old and in 2001 when the first film came out, she was especially excited. However, because of some of the negativity being spread about the books and soon after about the films, I recall there were issues at the LC-MS schools we both respectfully attended. The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod seemed to have gotten swept up in the so-called “dangers” of these books. As such, I recall one

Missouri Synod pastor telling my high school classmates that the real main concern was that our young minds might become lured into occultism. The irony of this was members of the same class were actively reading The Chronicles of Narnia series by C. S. Lewis.

It would seem that the magical encounters of an anthropomorphized lion and young children in a fantasy world were more palatable than the tales of young witches and wizards in a different fantasy world.

Stories of mystical encounters, fantasy, and adventure have and will likely always be of interest for people of all ages. And very truthfully, it is those similar components within scripture that become a source of interest and deeper reflection. An excellent example of this is the Biblical story of the Witch of Endor. Now some may very well be thinking, “There are no witches in the Bible.” And you’d be only half correct since the story that appears in 1 Samuel 28 only reads “Witch” depending on which English translation is used. In either case, this spooky Bible story is quite interesting.

In 1 Samuel 28, approximately three

chapters after we read of the prophet Samuel’s death, we find that Saul has received word that the Philistines are gathering for battle. Upon seeing the Philistine army, Saul becomes scared fearing that this will be his end, so he tries to appeal to the Lord who doesn’t answer. This is likely because the Lord has already made clear that David will lead Israel. Saul is unable to get word from the prophets, likely again because Samuel the prophet has died. We also find that Saul has expelled the witches and wizards from the land, so they seem to not be available for help. Yet Saul is desperate for guidance and asks one of his servants to go seek out a witch.

As it just so happens, the servant knows of a witch in Endor. Saul then disguises himself to go see the witch who, it turns out, is reluctant to help the disguised Saul since she and other witches and wizards have been forcefully driven out from the land, and she doesn’t want harm to come to her for being revealed as a witch. Only after Saul promises in the name of the Lord no harm will come to the witch does she finally agree to call forth the deceased Samuel.

Continued on page 3

OCTOBER 2023

Branches News Briefs	2-3
Saying Thanks.....	4
Rally Day Photos	5

Council Highlights	6-7
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	8
Nurse Notes.....	9

About St. John’s.....	10
Parish Register.....	10
October Calendar & Events.....	11

Youth & Family Ministries news



YOUTH OUTING AT SELMI'S

On October 24 from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, youth from St. John's, St. Paul, and Immanuel will gather at Selmi's in Rock Falls for some autumn time fun. We'll walk the corn maze, visit the Haunted House, play Tug-o-War, maybe even go on a Hayrack Ride or get some Cliff's Donuts. You'll have to come to find out and join the fun! We'll all meet up at Selmi's (1206 Dixon Ave, Rock Falls, IL 61071) at 4:00 pm. Parents/guardians are welcome to stay if they'd like. Pick up time is 6:00 pm. Let pastor know if you'd like to go by Sunday, October 22 so we know about how many to expect.

CHILDREN'S NOISY OFFERING

ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) shares God's hope, healing, and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. LDR responds domestically to flooding, hurricanes, severe storms, tornadoes, and wildfires throughout the United States. LDR also continues to respond internationally by supplying aid in Eastern Europe Crisis Response, Horn of Africa Drought, Middle East Crisis, Middle East & Europe Refugee Crisis, South Sudan Relief, as well as AMMPARO: Protecting Migrant Children.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 31. It's time once again for Trunk-or-Treat at St. John's! You're once again invited to decorate the trunk of your car, truck bed, or back of SUV and hand out candy and other goodies to trick-or-treaters on Halloween night. You will not be required to stay the entire time; if you're available anytime from 4:30-7:00 pm, please feel free to stop by and join us. You're also welcome to dress up in costume. Please provide store-bought wrapped candy for children or other small toy items like stickers, spider rings, etc. Not interested in decorating your car but want to join us and hand out candy? Great! Bring your candy and lawn chairs and we'll park you between the cars.

2024 YOUTH QUAKE

6TH-12TH GRADERS: The 2024 Youth Quake is January 26-28 at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg! Mark your calendars and make plans to attend! Join Echelon (the event band), speaker "Packer" Dave Gunnlaugsson and hundreds of youth for this life-shaping weekend of faith-filled teaching, activities and music. The event cost is \$200 if you register by October 15th, after October 15th the price increases to \$230. To pre-register for the Schaumburg Youth Quake turn in your \$50 deposit by October 15th. We hope to raise the rest of the funds for this event! Friends are welcome! Participants are also responsible for purchasing a few of their meals. If you would like to participate and have financial need please speak with Pastor privately.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- 10/1: Jesus is Born
- 10/8: Music & Popcorn
- 10/15: Wise Men
- 10/22: Pumpkin Carving; Christmas Program handout
- 10/29: No Sunday School

2024 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

8TH-12TH GRADERS: If you would like to participate in the Youth Gathering, there is still limited time to get you registered. Registration forms and a \$150 deposit are due October 15. For those who wish to attend and financial assistance is needed, you are strongly encouraged to speak with Pastor Jacob. If a youth wants to participate in the Youth Gathering, we will find a way to make it happen. After October 15, registration fees for the gathering become considerably more expensive, with just the event registration not including transportation, meals, or lodging jumping to \$425 per person come November. If your household has a youth that is considering going, please at the very least turn in a registration form as soon as possible. Registration forms can be picked up by asking Pastor Jacob, picked up from the church office or from the Youth Gathering folder on the bulletin board outside Pastor Jacob's office. Completed forms can be given to Pastor Jacob, placed in Pastor's mailbox in the library, or turned into the church office.

Continued from page 1

Once the ghostly appearance of Samuel arrives, the witch discovers Saul has tricked her and Samuel gives Saul an earful for disturbing the dead; further reminding him from beyond the grave that the Lord has taken Israel out of Saul's hands and given it to David. As the encounter with the Witch of Endor ends, Samuel's ghost lets Saul know that after the battle ends Saul will join him among the dead. Even though both Saul and the witch know he'll die the next day,

she with the help of Saul's servants encourage Saul to get up and eat in preparation for the battle. She even goes out to slaughter her fatted calf and make unleavened cakes.

It's quite interesting that the story of a witch in the Bible is of one who provides service for a desperate king trying and failing to hold on to power and even a story of the same witch offering hospitality to the king who has become aware he will soon die. If you ask me, that's a good Halloween story.

Whether your Halloween be filled with ghosts, goblins, witches, or wizards, please keep in mind that sometimes the most truly harmful forces in this life are not the characters in a story but the people that try to keep others from knowing the story in the first place.

A blessed All Hallows' Eve to each of you,

Rev. Jacob M. Lawlik

Combined Confirmation with St. John's, St. Paul, and Immanuel is off to a fun start:



SAYING THANKS

Thank you to everyone who donated shoes/socks or contributed to the children's offering for Another Child Foundation. Three pairs of shoes, 49 pairs of socks and \$56 was collected to aid the orphans. God Bless,

Denise Carl

St. John's Lutheran Church,

The Sauk Valley Foodbank would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$125.00. Your gift is very much appreciated and was put to good use.

Your dollar goes far with us. For example, \$10 may allow us to purchase 50 boxes of cereal, 45 boxes of granola bars, or 50 pounds of chicken!

2.5 million pounds of food (or about 1.9 million meals) were distributed through the Sauk Valley Foodbank in 2022.

Over 35,000 families needing food assistance were helped by our area pantries, organizations and through our direct giveaways in 2022 alone. Your donations have helped ease the strain in order to meet the needs of families in our community.

Sincerely,

Pam Martinez

Executive Director

Dear Friends at St. John's,

I want to thank the children and everyone at St. John's for their generosity and continued support of the people on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The donation you sent us will be used for groceries and pet food for a family on my next trip to Pine Ridge which will be in October.

I was finally able to travel to Pine Ridge last weekend after a much too long dry spell. My last trip was

in December of last year and my involvement has been done long distance since then. It has been hard not being able to travel to Pine Ridge and my annual trip to Iowa which includes my visit to St. John's. My husband has been fighting cancer for a year which has kept me close to home to see his care. However, they now have him on a different chemo treatment and things are looking up. He is not totally out of the woods yet, but we are hopeful and he was able to travel with me last weekend to Pine Ridge.

Again, Thank You

Susan Duhn

Blue Feather Alliance

Dear Friends of Pads,

It seems like just yesterday my time began here at the PADS shelter, 12 years ago I started, and we have come a long way and helped hundreds of people. I wish I could say that this is my accomplishment, but it's not just my accomplishment but all of you as well! I have noticed that among our churches, businesses, and individuals around 300 people regularly support the shelter.

Normally we reach out only during the holidays, which is a very important time for us because a quarter of our funding comes in at that time. This last year in the aftermath of COVID-19 we have seen a huge change and in our last 3 months of the shelter year to go we have already seen more people than any year prior. The shelter used to shut down in the summer because we didn't have the demand to stay open. This last month we have averaged 15 people a night which is more than any night during the entire winter season.

Because of the changes in demand the shelter has made some changes with the addition of a full time Client Advocate to help with our residents. We still need help with COVID-19 not the issue it once was. We hope all our church will consider coming back to help at the shelter. We no longer need help for the whole night, just help with 6-11 shift and nightly meals. The increase in homelessness has also put a strain on our resources such as paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, tea, sugar, personal items, and funds.

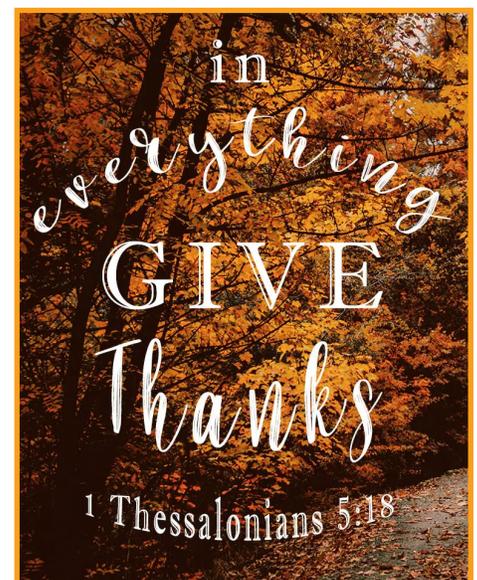
Any help would be greatly appreciated to help with the growing number of homeless individuals in our area. You can donate items directly to the shelter, send a donation in the mail, or donate online at twincitiespads.org/donate-to-homeless-shelter.html To sign up to help, you can call the shelter, or go to signup.com/go/hxKPAqq

The shelter continues to be humbled and grateful for all your support.

Sincerely,

Myles Newberry

Administrative Director



Photos and fun from the Rally Day Luau:



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

PASTOR'S REPORT

- On August 20 St. John's, St. Paul, and Immanuel teamed up for a God's Work Our Hands service day at the LSSI Office in Sterling.
 - Following Sunday services at each congregation, members from the TriChurch congregations gathered at LSSI for a variety of projects.
 - Each of the projects that were planned for the day were completed successfully.
 - After all expenses were calculated LSSI received an additional \$206.77 in the form of a Menards Merchandise Credit and dedicated cash donation.
- Moving Beyond the Page-the St. John's book discussion group has had some very spirited conversation about Brian Spahr's book *Don't You Care That We Are Drowning*
 - The group looked forward to Pastor Brian's visit at Immanuel on September 24 for a special presentation and conversation about the book
 - September 14 the group started conversation on *Primal Myths* by Barbara Sproul
 - Reminder that the second and fourth Thursday of the month are usual meeting days - conversation starts at 6:30 pm in the library
- 2023 Christmas Eve Barn Service
 - Copper Bit Ranch is onboard to be the host site for the service
 - Wahl Clipper has agreed to let us make use of their parking lot for shuttling participants to and from the service
 - We are in need of volunteers to help coordinate and arrange bussing for the event
- Looking Ahead:
 - September 27 Youth Service

- Night - Packing LWR School Kits
- Reminder I'll be vacationing with family October 2-8
- October 15 is the budget hearing
- October 20 \$50 deposit is due for those who wish to attend the Schaumburg Youth Quake (January 26-28, 2024)
- October 29 is the annual meeting
- October 31 is Trunk-or-Treat in the St. John's Parking Lot
- November 5 All Saints Sunday & the All Saints Breakfast
- November 17-18 LOMC Middle School Retreat (registration fee is \$30 payable to St. John's no later than November 1)
- November 22 Wednesday Night Worship - Thanksgiving Eve Gathering
- November 26 Christ the King Sunday
- December 3 Start of Advent Season
- December 14 St. John's will be hosting LSSI for their annual Holiday Open House from 5pm - 8pm
 - This informative event will include refreshments, speakers, and fellowship
 - The event is open to both LSSI clients and congregation members
 - Thanks to the hard work of LSSI and their partnership with NAMI they have outgrown the conference room at the Sterling Office with approximately 55 persons attending last years event
- December 17 Sunday School Christmas Program
- December 24 Christmas Eve

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY:

- On August 27 the Sunday School year officially kicked off with the

Rally Day Luau.

- During worship youth also received pocket sized hand sanitizers during their back to school backpack blessing.
- Many thanks to the Sunday School Teachers & helpers for preparing and organizing the Rally Day event - additional thank you to a generous member whose Thrivent Action Team covered the cost of food, crafts, and other event activities/expenses.
- Lots of positive feedback has been received about the event, especially the food!
- On Rally day 10 youth were registered for Sunday School. Ages ranging from 3years old to 11the grade.
- With Rally Day being held on August 27 the first regular day of Sunday School classes were held on September 3.
 - The 1st monthly confirmation class between St. John's, St. Paul's & Immanuel were held on September 10th at St. Paul's. This class has approximately 10 youth participating in the collaboration (2 from St. John's).
 - As the new monthly classes meet for three hours on Sunday each congregation will have its share of hosting students.
 - Each congregation is also encouraged to find volunteers to provide a light lunch for the students during the days their congregation is hosting a class meeting. St. John's is hosting classes on October 1st, January 14th, and April 14th. Please contact Pastor Jacob if you'd like to help.
- Early registrations and deposits for the ELCA Youth Gathering were due September 11

- St. John's, St. Paul, and Immanuel are actively planning to attend as a group for the gathering
- I've sent a message out to families with youth in grades 8-12 to please have at least their registration form in by the end of Wednesday service on September 13 so the group can take advantage of the early registration rate
- If there are youth who want to attend I don't want to cost of the event to be a deterrent to registering - we will find a way to send those youth who want to attend
- Current registration count for the group is 7 youth between St.

John's, St. Paul, and Immanuel and each congregation has ample chaperones

- On September 17 there was a meeting with participants to discuss additional fundraising opportunities for the gathering and other youth events.

OLD BUSINESS

- Surveys-Larry has received 27 surveys plus 10 from council. Next meeting he will have figures ready to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of \$11,500 August transfer
- Budget-Motion passed to approve 2024 budget with corrections that

- were made tonight.
- Corrections- Endowment wording needs to be changed to investments interest instead of endowment interest.
- Question about pension/insurance for Pastor.
- Library-Dave Geil's sister straightened out the library and organized it with new tags etc. Motion passed to purchase a \$50 gift card for her.
- Special Offerings:
 - Oct- LSSI Holiday Hope Chest
 - Nov- First United Methodist Breakfast Program
 - Dec-Helping Hands Nazarene Church-food distribution



WORSHIP LIVESTREAMING

Please share with family, friends, co-workers, neighbors etc. the following options available to watch or listen to weekly worship with St. John, St. Paul, or Immanuel.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsSterlingIL/streams> is where you can find the livestream every Sunday. There will also be links on the St. John's website (<https://stjohnssterling.org/worship-services/>) and on the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SterlingStJohns>).

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

You can access the St. Paul livestream worship through their YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@stpaul Lutheran Sterling 721/streams>

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Is offering toll free phone-in worship at 1-888-975-5536 that is a recording of the worship from the prior Sunday.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1

•Tom Breed

2

•Jessica Allen

3

•Marcia Keime*

4

•Jeff Fisher
•Isabella Gaffey
•Steven & Shawna Kester

5

•Julie McCord
•Diane Sands

6

•James Eshleman*

7

•Eugene & Sarah LeFevre*
•Gary & Amanda Smith

8

•Lois Anderson-Rowzee*
•William & Erica Grim

10

•Stanley Rasmussen

11

•Randal Davis
•Linda Geil

12

•Treaven Barron

14

•Timothy Baer
•Edwin Schmitt

15

•Michael & Kathleen Schmidt
•Leonard & Brenda Turner
•Jennifer Vasquez

17

•Kennedie Vilmont

18

•Jill Leesman
•Matt Miller

19

•Ruth Ramirez*

20

•Gerald Baker
•Ruth Dietz*
•Aislinn O'Connell
•Joe Perales

21

•Julie Johnson
•Corey Judd

22

•Karsyn Goss
•Patrice Redfield
•Emily Taylor

23

•Jill Workman

24

•Shari Baker

25

•Gloria Heuck
•Leo Patterson*

27

•Kelly Granzow
•Noah Rucker

28

•Melissa Goodwin

29

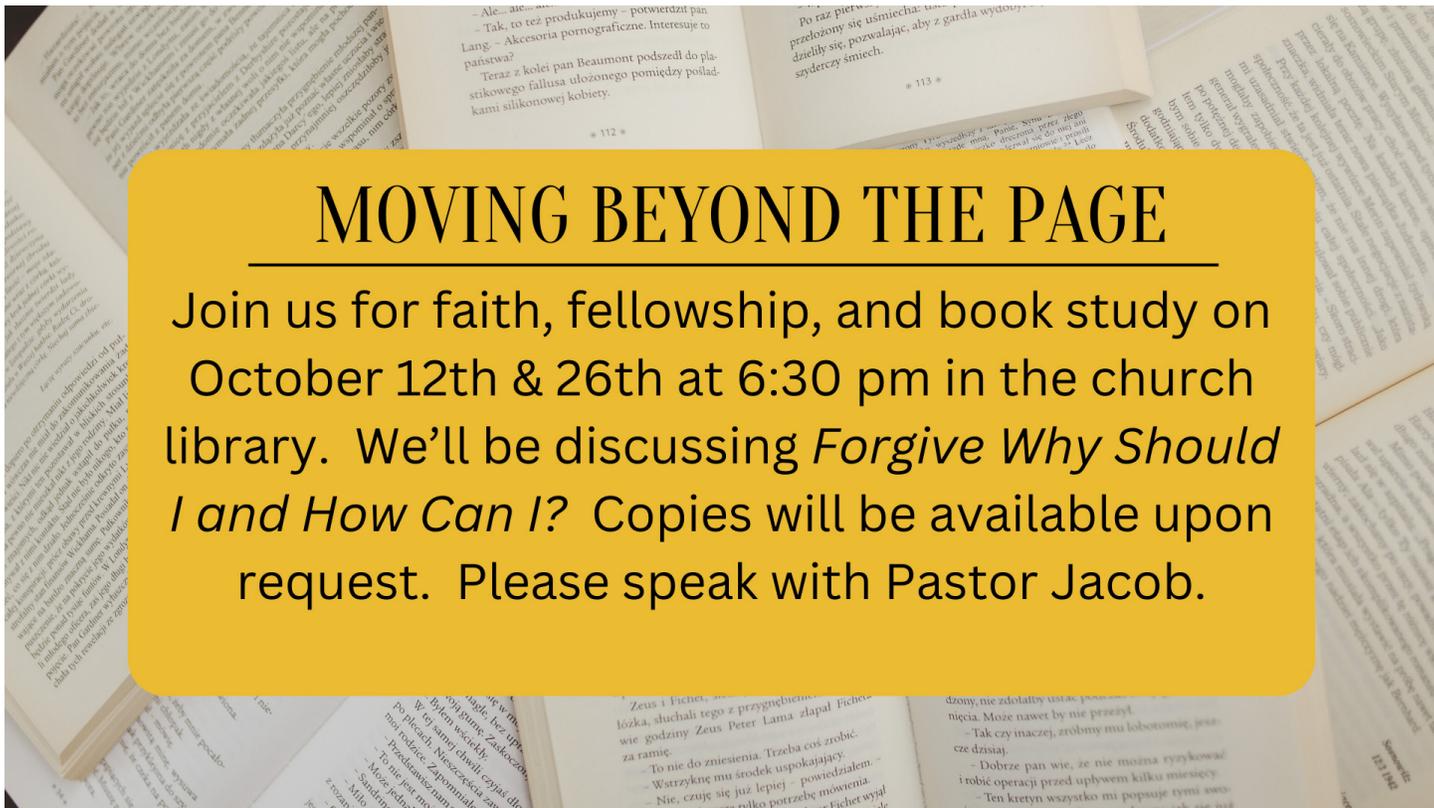
•Alyssa Henson

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



At the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Congregation Council has approved updates to five policies over the course of several months. Most of the updates were necessary due to the elimination of the treasurer's position in our congregation. This also completes the required biennial review of the complete St. John's Policy Manual. The updated policies included: Disbursements of Funds; Investment Policy; Memorials, Bequests, Thrivent Choice Dollars, and Non-Monetary Gifts; Offering Counting Procedure; and Organizational Accounts.

A complete policy manual, in the form of a three-ring binder, can be found in the East Room and the Library. A copy may also be obtained from the Office Manager. Please familiarize yourself with these updates. Questions may be directed to any member of the Personnel Committee or Congregation Council.



MOVING BEYOND THE PAGE

Join us for faith, fellowship, and book study on October 12th & 26th at 6:30 pm in the church library. We'll be discussing *Forgive Why Should I and How Can I?* Copies will be available upon request. Please speak with Pastor Jacob.

NURSE NOTES

Physical therapy effective for knee osteoarthritis

Osteoarthritis develops when the protective cartilage that cushions the ends of the bones deteriorates over time. While treatment recommendations vary, it's been shown that people with osteoarthritis are up to four times more likely to receive a steroid injection to reduce inflammation than be directed to a physical therapist. However, a recent study found greater benefits for people participating in physical therapy.

The study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, involved 156 people with knee osteoarthritis. Half of the participants were given periodic injections of steroids (glucocorticoids). The other half regularly attended physical therapy. After a year, those in physical therapy reported significantly improved knee pain, stiffness and function over those

who received injections.

Mayo Clinic experts say that this study supports other evidence that rehabilitation and strengthening programs are a good option for managing arthritis and other joint diseases. Doing light exercise with arthritis is safe and can reduce pain and stiffness while improving overall health, mood and quality of life. Physical activity can also help fend off the natural loss of joint strength and range of motion that comes with arthritis. Try to be as physically active as your abilities and symptoms allow. A physical therapist, in consultation with your doctor, can help guide an exercise routine that's tailored to your health needs.

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

PURPOSE STATEMENT

St. John's is a Lutheran family striving to build relationships that will serve our community and God's World

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

- Pastor Leo Patterson, 10/25

WHO'S WHO AT ST. JOHN'S

PERSONNEL

- Rev. Jacob Gawlik, Senior Pastor
- Rev. Leo Patterson, On Call/Visitation Pastor
- Daudi & Kellen Msseemmaa, Missionaries to East Africa
- Dawn Zeigler, Minister of Music & Bell Choir 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*
- John Lichner
- Chrissy Murphy
- Lois Anderson-Rowzee
- Paul Wolfe
- Shawn Wolfe
- Larry Kradle

**Exec Committee member*

CHRISTIAN ED

- Michelle Gawlik
- Chrissy Murphy
- Jan Klocke
- Denise Carl
- Mont Cessna

STEWARDSHIP

Vacant

PERSONNEL

- Denise Norman, chair
- Lois Anderson-Rowzee
- Rev. Jacob Gawlik
- Dave Geil

FINANCE

- Nancy Breed
- Druann Bushman
- Mike Doughty
- John Lichner

FUNERAL

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

MEMORIAL

- Dave Geil, chair
- Rev. Jacob Gawlik
- Brian Luebke
- Nancy Rasmussen
- Jannet Taylor

PROPERTY

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

SOCIAL MINISTRY

- Paul Wolfe

WORSHIP ARTS

- Dawn Zeigler, chair
- Denise Carl
- Karen Wolfe
- Shawn Wolfe

WORSHIP TECH

- Anita Carl
- Dan Eads
- Charlene O'Connell

CONG. LIFE

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

SJLC Activities ~ Oct. '23

October Open/Close:
Paul Wolfe

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <i>FISH collection</i> 9:30-Worship <i>Acolyte: Martin F.</i> <i>Assistant: Chris Rucker</i>	2 6:00-Men's Group	3	4 6:00-Worship	5 7:00-Al-Anon	6	7
8 9:30-Worship <i>Acolyte: Cayley W.</i> <i>Assistant: Mike Doughty</i>	9	10	11 6:00-Worship	12 4:15-Exec mtg 6:30-Moving Beyond the Page 7:00-Al-Anon	13	14 10:00-Social Ministry Meeting
15 9:30-Worship <i>Acolyte: Noah R.</i> <i>Assistant: Jeff Fischer</i> 10:30-Budget Hearing	16	17 6:00-Council mtg	18 1:30-Parkway communion 2:30-Heritage Woods communion 3:30-Morningside communion 6:00-Worship	19 <i>Newsletter items due</i> 2:30-Allure of Sterling communion 3:30-Citadel communion 7:00-Al-Anon	20 Deadline for Annual Reports	21
22 9:30-Worship <i>Acolyte: Joselyn P.</i> <i>Assistant: Teri Holldorf</i>	23	24 6:30-NAMI group	25 6:00-Worship	26 6:30-Moving Beyond the Page 7:00-Al-Anon	27 9:00-Newsletter Assembly	28
29 9:30-Worship <i>Acolyte: Logan W.</i> <i>Assistant: Shawn Wolfe</i> 10:30-Annual Congregation Meeting	30	31 4:30-Trunk or Treat				



St. John's continues to participate in an opportunity for community building and fellowship. Stop by Monday-Friday during normal church office hours or Sundays before or after worship and help complete the puzzle in the church library. Progress continues to be made with the puzzle. Have you helped connect any pieces yet? It really is amazing all the different kinds of connections we all make. Be sure to add your piece to the puzzle.

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

- October 15th-Budget Hearing, *Following service*
- October 29th-Annual Congregational Meeting, *Following Service*

All Saints Breakfast

Hosted by Adam's Rib on November 5th immediately following worship in the fellowship hall. Donations support the Riverview Haven Self Help Ladies. Serving biscuits and gravy, egg bakes, muffins, sweet treats, coffee, apple cider and orange juice. All are welcome! A Thrivent Action Card is assisting with this event.



October Special Offerings

The special offerings for the month of October have been designated by the Congregation Council to be donated to the LSSI Holiday Hope Chest. Typically, we are provided with the wish list of a child being served by LSSI and purchase gifts from that list to be given at Christmas. Depending on the available funds, we may be in a position to support more than one child. In the past, the youth of our congregation have done the shopping and wrapping as a group event. This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to take an active role in stewardship within our community while providing Christmas blessings to children who are in need of this care. As Christian people, we are called to serve the less fortunate. Please consider a generous donation to this cause as we move toward the holiday season.

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.

St. John's Lutheran Church
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Sterling, IL 61081
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