

THE MESSENGER

A Monthly Publication of St. John's Lutheran Church, Sterling, IL

July 2025

Preparing for a new Presiding Bishop



From July 28 through Aug. 2, 2025, members from all parts of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will gather for the 2025 ELCA

Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona. Like with all Assemblies, be they Synodical or Churchwide, much important business will be discussed, including various resolutions, memorials, the enactment of new ministries, revisions of policies and governing documents, as well as elections of officers.

This year's Churchwide Assembly is of particular interest as Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is coming to the close of her second six-year term, and she has not indicated she would be open to standing for a third term. As such, come the end of the Churchwide Assembly, there will likely be an election of a new Presiding Bishop.

In these moments, I can't help but reflect a bit on some interesting crossing of paths I've had with two of our Presiding Bishops. I got to know Bishop Mark Hanson, Bishop Eaton's predecessor, while in high school. As circumstances go, after Bishop Hanson was elected in 2001, his family moved to Chicago as it is the location

of the ELCA Churchwide Offices. In the late fall of that year I was introduced to his daughter, Elizabeth, who became a new classmate of mine at Luther High School North. Over the next two years I would regularly find myself interacting with Bishop Hanson at either school events or on occasion at my home congregation, as the North West Lutheran Parish had just completed its own merger to form United in Faith. At the time, the idea that nine very different Lutheran congregations would be willing to work together and even choose to form a wholly new shared ministry and congregation together was exciting stuff.

I wouldn't get a chance to interact with Bishop Hanson again until 2011, when I was a Vicar serving at St. Paul in Alliance, Ohio. Funny enough, St. Paul was a congregation in the Northeastern Ohio Synod where Bishop Eaton served at the time as the Synodical Bishop. While serving at St. Paul I'd occasionally get to interact with Bishop Eaton at conference meetings or the Synod Assembly. In October of 2011, I had the unique opportunity of assisting at a special service with both Bishop Hanson and Bishop Eaton during the presiding bishop's visit to the Northeastern Ohio Synod. After the service that evening I joined both bishops for dinner at Applebee's in Alliance and I remember thinking to myself, "How cool is this."

A little over a year later, in 2012, I would find myself back in Chicago preparing for first call synodical assignment and once again bumped into Bishop Eaton at an event at LSTC. We struck up a conversation where she let slip that her name had surfaced during the identification process for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly presiding bishop election. I recall her saying at the time something like, "Ha! That'll never happen."

I consider myself fortunate to have met and worked with both Bishop Hanson and Bishop Eaton. And I'll always be stuck by how profoundly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Branches News Briefs	2
Saying Thanks	2
Council Highlights	3
Financial Update	4
Nurse Notes	4
Synod Assembly Followup	5
Grace Place → Faith Now	6
Business After Hours	7
Calendar & Events	8
Birthdays & Anniversaries	8
About St. John's	9
Parish Register	9
Announcements	10



St. John's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Youth & Family Ministries News



SAVE THE DATE FOR COMMUNITY VBS!

Registration is now OPEN for **Community VBS 2025!** Join us **July 20-24** at **Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rock Falls** for True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World—an unforgettable week of adventure, worship, and faith-building fun for kids **entering Pre-K through 5th grade**. VBS runs from **6:00–8:00 PM each night**, with a **free dinner served at 5:30 PM**. We're also looking for volunteers (6th grade through adult) to help lead games, crafts, music, Bible stories, and more. Whether you love being on stage or serving behind the scenes, there's a place for you! Scan the QR code to register kids or sign up to volunteer. Let's help kids discover that when life gets wild, Jesus is our True North!



YOU MAKE YOUTH MINISTRY POSSIBLE

With the start and end of every school year the start and end of another youth ministry program year also arrives. To keep providing meaningful experiences for youth within our congregation and community we need your help.

We are fortunate that our St. John's family as a committed group of volunteers who assist in teaching Sunday School and setup and clean up for many of the events offered during the year. If you have access to Thrivent Action Teams (TAT) you can help provide the funding to help keep making these events happen.

Below you will find a list of three annual events, their dates and when you can apply for a TAT to make them not only possible but successful.

Event Name	Event Date	Apply for TAT
Sunday School Rally Day	8/24/2025	7/24/2025
Halloween Trunk-or-Treat	10/31/2025	9/30/2025
Palm Sunday Breakfast	3/29/2026	2/29/2026

If you would like to assist by providing a TAT for any of these events, please contact Pastor Jacob and then make sure you apply early for the TAT before the event. Together we can help grow a culture of generosity that supports the work of ministry within our congregation and community.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

genuine and human they both are. I can honestly say I have no sense of what the Holy Spirit has in store for 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly or the upcoming election of the Presiding Bishop. What I do hope and pray for is, whoever that person may end up being, that they, too,

are just as genuine and human and that they possess a pastoral and servant heart for all whom they encounter.

Yours in Christ,

SAYING THANKS

Dear St. John's Church,

Thank you for donating the grocery items. We appreciate you thinking of us. Your church's kindness means so much.

*May God Bless,
FISH Pantry*

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Deaths: John G. Hall Jr. (Jack) died June 6, 2025. A service was held on June 9, 2025, at Schilling Funeral Home.
- A planning meeting for CommUNITY VBS was held on June 3 at Immanuel. Registration is now open. Volunteers and participants, please register early so we can have accurate counts for meals and materials for the evening activities.
- On June 8, we had the honor of Ashley O'Dell, a staff member from Cledy's House of Hope in Rock Falls, a sober living home for women, with us to share her recovery story. Many thanks to the Tri-Church partnership for helping to arrange the visits and spreading the word about the ministry taking place through the work at Cledy's.
- The Unhoused Resource Center is now available at the Sterling Salvation Army thanks to a partnership with the Whiteside County Healthier Communities program. The Resource Center is available Monday through Friday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Thanks to this partnership, opportunities are available for transitional housing, emergency shelter, and housing assistance. Those in need of help can call 815-625-1622 for more information.
- June 13-14 was the Synod Assembly at Augustana College, Rock Island. Thank you to Karen Wolfe and Denise Norman for participating in the Assembly as voting members.
- On Pentecost 2024, Grace Place Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University, along with several local ministers in the surrounding community of NIU, helped establish an ecumenical, open, and affirming community for young-ish adults in DeKalb County called Faith Now. After nearly a year of partnership with the newly formed Faith Now and much deliberation, the board

of Grace Place voted on March 13, 2025, to dissolve Grace Place Campus Ministry. Faith Now has been accepted as an ELCA Young Adult Gather site, joining a network of young adult communities throughout the ELCA, and is the spiritual successor of Grace Place Campus Ministry. The ministry of Faith Now is not limited solely to campus ministry, but to the broader "young-ish" community, including college students, young professionals, parents of young children, Gen X through Gen Z, or anyone who looks around their church and feels, "I'm too young for this crowd."

- Information was shared with me at the Synod Assembly that the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) support group, which meets monthly at St. John's, is the largest NAMI group in all of Whiteside County.

July Dates of Note:

- July 9 - Student Orientation Online meeting for Garrett Seminary
- July 20-24 - CommUNITY VBS
- July 27 - CommUNITY VBS Worship Service at Grandon Civic Center

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Partners in Prayer and Care

- The committee met on May 29th.
- Fourteen nursing homes and eleven shut-in Easter deliveries of flowers and cards were made on April 14th.
- During May, 13 visits were made to nursing homes, and four shut-in members were contacted.
- One get-well card and three sympathy cards were sent to members in May.
- A decision was made to move forward to contact inactive members. Each committee member will take five names to contact or send a card with a note

Property Committee

- This was a verbal report given on behalf of the committee by Denise Norman.
- The carpeting project leading to the east entry to the sanctuary has been completed.
- Cleaning the carpets in the offices, library, and education wing hallways has been completed.
- The plumbing repairs in the janitor's closet in the basement have been completed.
- Three quotes have been received to paint the soffit on the educational building. The lowest quote was from Total Construction Services (TCS) for \$5,250.00.

Social Ministry

- The committee met on June 14th.
- Collection for school kit items continues.
- The need for personal care kits in our committee is great. There is an ongoing discussion of the possibility of distributing the kits from our location.
- It was suggested that we investigate the possibility of there being grant money from the NIS that will help support this ministry.

FROM THE GALLERY

- Denise Carl was a guest at the meeting. She wondered if one of the future Special Offerings could be designated to Safe Water Access for \$250 from the ELCA Good Gifts initiative. Unfortunately, our monthly Special Offerings are not sufficient to cover this donation.

NEW BUSINESS

- The May transfers will be approved at the July meeting of the Council.
- This topic will be included on the New Business agenda for the July meeting.
- The homework assignment for each Council member from the Council

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Retreat was to bring a general list of things that we might be willing to try to get involved in within our community. This will be an agenda item for the July meeting of the Council.

- St. John's is hosting an NIS event August 22-23 as part of its Finding Vitality initiative. The program is called "In Scrappy, Small

Congregations." A brochure was supplied to all Council members, along with a request that they visit the NIS website to learn more about the program. We hope that several of our members, along with Pastor Jacob, will be able to attend the event. Approximately half of the congregations in the NIS fall into the category targeted by this discussion point: those with 50 or fewer active members.

- Jack Flick provided the Financial Update that will appear in the July Messenger.
- The Special Offerings for July, August, and September will be designated at the July meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS

- Executive Committee, Thursday, July 10, 2025, 5:00 pm
- Congregation Council, Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 6:00 pm

FINANCIAL UPDATE

With guidance from the Finance Committee and approval by the Congregation Council, the following is the financial operating situation for St. John's. The following information will be published each month for the remainder of 2025. Any questions should be directed to the members of the Finance Committee. *Report prepared by Jack Flick.*

St. John's Operating Performance	May 2025	Year-to-Date 2025
Total Offerings	\$11,173.14	\$65,641.51
Operating Expenses	\$25,187.42	\$127,762.01
Operating Deficit	(\$14,014.28)	(\$62,120.50)
Transfer of money from the Behrens account to cover expenses	\$16,900.00	\$55,753.00
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$2,885.72	(\$6,367.50)

NURSE NOTES

Skin medication types

Many factors go into determining the right type of topical medication. These include your skin condition, where the product is being applied and the product's stability. Types of topical medicines you may encounter include:

Ointments — These are mostly made up of lipids such as oils, fats and waxes and have low water content. They're often thick, greasy, and tough to spread on and wash off. But they are powerful moisturizers and can hydrate even thickened skin. "Ointments act like a greenhouse roof," says Dawn Marie Davis, M.D., a Mayo Clinic dermatologist. "This allows your skin to catch up with its own self-humidification versus having the moisture leak out."

Creams — These contain more water and less lipid, making them less greasy and easier to spread — but less hydrating. Creams can be used on the body and face and work well on skin folds.

Lotions — These contain even more water, so they tend to be

runnier and thinner and to soak in more — and more quickly. The water evaporates quickly, making lotions a good choice for "weepy" skin conditions such as eczema.

Gels — Many gels have an alcohol base, so application can sting. Gels wash off easily, but this means they can come off with sweat. "Acne medications often come in gel. The alcohol base helps break down oil and dead skin," says Dr. Davis. "And there's no greasy residue."

Solutions — These are clear liquids that are easy to spread and work well on the scalp. Like gels, some solutions contain alcohol. They soak in quickly, but they can run.

Foams — These dry quickly and leave little residue, making them particularly good options for the scalp and other oily, hairy areas.

From Mayo Health

Submitted by Nancy Rasmussen, Parish Nurse.

Followup to the 2025 Synod Assembly

Dear Ones,

Thank you for taking the time to say yes and to participate in the 2025 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. We worshiped, we voted on essential things to keep our synod living out its mission, we discerned and discussed, and we wondered how we are being called as disciples in the church of today and the church of tomorrow. Thank you for showing up, engaging, and taking what you experienced back home to your congregations.

Below you will find a recap of the Synod Assembly that you are encouraged to share with your congregations. Additional resources including recordings of the plenaries can be found at www.nisynod.org/assembly. More information on the actions taken at Synod Assembly will be coming out in the coming months, so make

sure you are signed up for the Synod E-News by visiting nisynod.org/resources/e-news and follow us on social media.

During my report on Friday, I invited you to start wondering about your why. As you begin to think about your why and invite others into that conversation, I wanted to remind you that you are not journeying this alone. More information to help guide these conversations will be coming this fall, but we wanted you to have these questions to have a place to start.

- What memories about our ministry are still part of us? What was important in those memories that we still live out today? What have we released? How was following Christ, being a disciple, part of those ministries?
- What ministries today are important to our congregation? What are the

memories the next generations will look back on? How is following Christ, being a disciple, part of those ministries?

- What do you think we value as a community? How do you think that value shows up in our life together? How does it reflect Jesus?
- How do you describe our congregation to others? Does everyone around the table think that is accurate? How does it lift up being followers of Jesus over being a member of a club or another group?

As the body of Christ, as disciples continually growing, remember that you are a beloved child of God, and God is journeying with you in your wonderings.

*Walking with you,
The Rev. Stacie Fidler, Bishop
Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA*

ACTIONS TAKEN

- Blessed new synod paraments, thanks to the 38 congregations who pieced together quilt blocks
- Heard from Deacon Jessica Noonan from LEAD Connects about learning from our neighbors
- Passed the Fiscal Year 2027 Northern Illinois Synod Budget
- Passed the 2026 Rostered Minister Compensation Guidelines
- Elected several members to serve on Synod Council and Synod Committees
- Heard from Bishop Fidler about discovering our why
- Heard from Ms. Becca Payne and Mrs. Rahel Mwitula Williams from the ELCA
- Blessed those who will be voting members at the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
- Celebrated our Rostered Minister ordination anniversaries and remembered our Rostered Ministers who died in the last year

ELECTIONS

- **Synod Council:** Trace Gallagher, Ms. Janice Forrest, Mr. Bill Wescott, The Rev. Shellie Knight, The Rev. Rob James

- **Congregational Life Committee:** Mrs. Somar Bryson, Deacon Laura Gorton, The Rev. Tom Redig
- **Global Missions Committee:** The Rev. Amy Michelson, The Rev. Ron Larson
- **Ministry Support Committee:** Ms. Susan King, The Rev. Dr. Sharon Rogers
- **Outreach Committee:** Ms. Cortney Breeden, Mr. Don Kinney, Mr. Dirk Hellinga, The Rev. Anthony Windau
- **Social Ministry Committee:** Mrs. Kim Halper, The Rev. Frank Langholf
- **Committee on Discipline:** Ms. Marcia Clausen, Mr. Shawn Wolfe, The Rev. Elise Rothfusz, The Rev. Joel VanderWal
- **Consultation Committee:** Ms. Bev Lindsay, Mr. Ray Bergles, The Rev. Jill Flynn, The Rev. Bill Callister

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were passed by the assembly:

- R-1: Resolution for National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding School
- R-2: Northern Illinois Synod to Be a Reconciling in Christ Synod

Grace Place Campus Ministry becomes Faith Now

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY IN ILLINOIS – STATE BOARD

In the Fall of 2024, the bishops of the three Illinois ELCA synods met in intentional conversations around the future of Lutheran Campus Ministry in Illinois (LCMI). Since the beginning, LCMI has served as a board that oversaw the fundings for the campus ministries across the three synods. With the recent changes in grants from the ELCA, it was clear that the function of this board was no longer needed.

As of February 1, 2025, all three synods have stopped contributing to LCMI. It is being dissolved. Metro Chicago Synod will fund the campus and young adult ministries within their geographic area through special funds within their synod. Central/Southern Illinois Synod will become the financial custodian of the remaining funds in LCMI to assist in the ongoing ministries of St. Andrew's Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) and University Lutheran Campus Ministry at Illinois State University. The plans for our synod can be found below.

GRACE PLACE CAMPUS MINISTRY AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

There has been a Lutheran presence at Northern Illinois University (NIU) since the 1950s. Over the last 75 years, this ministry has looked different, yet their mission to serve the NIU community stayed firm. In the wake of the 2008 NIU campus shooting, this ministry

became known as Grace Place Campus Ministry, a joint effort between the ELCA and the Episcopal Church. This ministry became a beacon for those who were seeking something deeper as the larger community was processing the aftermath of the tragic events.

Throughout Grace Place's ministry, it was clear that the NIU campus community was seeking an inclusive, affirming community, one that not only fed folks' spirits but also nourished their bodies. Weekly meals and free lunches became a staple of the ministry and is what their mission became — to show radical, authentic hospitality. The pandemic shifted how that was lived out as more students stayed home to save money while doing online courses. As students were coming back in the fall of 2021, it became obvious that a shift was taking place in the community. Grace Place was no longer just attracting students but also local young adults seeking a place to belong.

It was with renewed energy that Grace Place began new partnerships with the Inclusive Collective, the campus ministry supported by the United Methodist Church, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. As ministry continued to happen, the board began having hard conversations around the building on the corner of Normal and Lucinda, just steps away from campus. The building has been a steady presence throughout the years, but the building conditions became dangerous, and it needed to be torn down and rebuilt. Unfortunately, without the fundraising capacity to do this, the board decided to sell the building. This



GRACE PLACE NIU CAMPUS MINISTRY

created a new opportunity to partner with St. Paul Episcopal Church as we moved in. The move made sense for the community; the funds previously used to maintain the old building were put toward continuing the ministry that was bringing in new people. After the departure of our last called campus pastor, the board filled the gap in ministry through the end of the 2022-2023 academic year. It was clear after a search for a new campus pastor that the model that the board always knew was no longer a viable option.

In the fall of 2023, several local ministers got together to dream about how to better support young adults in the area. Through these conversations and intentional partnerships with our ecumenical partners, Faith Now was created. Faith Now is an ecumenical young-ish adult community that is designed from the ground up to create space for young adults to explore what faith means in a world we never could imagine. Faith Now was officially launched on Pentecost 2024 and has been creating connections.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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.

Faith NOW

AN ECUMENICAL YOUNG-ISH* ADULT
COMMUNITY IN DEKALB COUNTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

As the board continued to have conversations and watch the success of Faith Now, it was clear that this model better served the population that Grace Place had been called to serve. After much deliberation, the board of Grace Place voted on March 13, 2025, to dissolve the ministry. According to the bylaws, part of the funds will be transferred over to the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago with the remaining funds being transferred to the Northern Illinois Synod to fund a new model of young adult ministry in the DeKalb area.

FAITH NOW

Faith Now is an ecumenical, open and affirming community for young-ish* adults in DeKalb County. Our goal for this community is to create space for young-ish* adults to come and explore what faith means today, here and now. We are for the doubters, believers, questioners, the church and unchurched, the nones and does and anyone in between. Through conversations and discussions, service to the community, and worship and prayer opportunities, we will build a community where all feel they belong.

You might be wondering what we mean by young-ish*. The thing is that we don't know; this category is constantly changing, like the rest of the world. We care less about the category and more about the people. Young-ish* could include college students, young professionals, parents of young children, Gen X through Gen Z, or anybody who looks around their church and feels, "I'm too young for this crowd."

Faith Now has been accepted as an

ELCA Young Adult Gathersite, joining a network of young adult communities throughout our church.

Beginning May 1, 2025, Faith Now is led by Bridget Johnson of Sycamore.

A MESSAGE FROM BRIDGET JOHNSON

I'm Bridget Johnson, and my journey with faith has been one of both struggle and renewal. I grew up in the church, deeply connected to my faith from a young age, but as I got older, I began to feel like I didn't belong. As a queer person, I often felt unwelcome in the very community that had shaped me, and that sense of exclusion led me away for a time.



Eventually, my path brought me back through Salem Lutheran Church in Sycamore, where I found a space of true belonging—one that embraced me for who I am. That experience ignited a passion in me to help create more welcoming and inclusive spaces for others.

Now, as chairperson of the PRIDE Committee at Sycamore United Methodist Church, I am committed to ensuring that no one is made to feel like an outsider in their faith. Faith Now provides the perfect opportunity to extend that vision beyond a single church, building a community where love, support, and inclusion are at the heart of everything we do. My greatest hope is that everyone not only feels welcome, but knows they are a vital, cherished part of both our community and our shared faith. I am honored to lead Faith Now in that mission, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Together with the area chambers of commerce,
Sauk Valley Community College presents

BUSINESS *After* HOURS

THURSDAY, JULY 17
5:00 - 6:30 P.M.

SVCC WEST MALL OUTDOOR PLAZA
(SVCC WEST MALL IF RAINING)

Grab your Hawaiian shirt and hula over to
SVCC for drinks, appetizers and door prizes.

ROCK FALLS
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
GROWTH. COMMUNITY. CONNECTION.

Morrison
Chamber of Commerce

Sauk
Chamber of Commerce

Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DEKALB
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& MAIN STREET

JULY 2025 ACTIVITIES

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9:30-Text Study	2 6:00-Worship	3 7:00-Al-Anon	4 <i>Office closed</i>	5
6 <i>FISH Collection</i> 9:30-Worship Acolyte: Hannah G. Asst.: Shawn W. Offering Count: Jackie & Pat	7 6:00-Menz Group	8 9:30-Text Study	9 6:00-Worship	10 5:00-Executive Committee mtg. 7:00-Al-Anon	11	12 10:00-Social Ministry mtg.
13 <i>LSSI Sunday</i> 9:30-Worship Acolyte: Josie P. Asst.: Denise N. Offering Count: Dave & Jamie	14 6:00-Finance Committee mtg.	15 9:30-Text Study 6:00-Council mtg.	16 1:30-Parkway HC 2:30-Heritage Woods HC 3:30-Morningside HC 6:00-Worship	17 2:30-Allure of Sterling HC 3:30-Citadel HC 7:00-Al-Anon	18	19
20 9:30-Worship Acolyte: Kennedy V. Asst.: Denise C. Offering Count: Shari & Pat 5:30-VBS at Immanuel	21 5:30-VBS at Immanuel	22 <i>Nwsltr items due</i> 9:30-Text Study 5:30-VBS at Immanuel 6:30-NAMI group	23 5:30-VBS at Immanuel 6:00-Worship	24 5:30-VBS at Immanuel 7:00-Al-Anon	25	26
27 9:30-VBS Worship at Grandon Civic Center Asst.: Chris R. Offering Count: Jackie & Denise	28 6:00-Tri Church mtg.	29 9:30-Text Study	30 4:30-Worship Arts meeting 6:00-Worship	31 7:00-Al-Anon	<i>*HC=Holy Communion</i> OPEN/CLOSE: JACK FLICK ALTAR GUILD: TERI HOLLDORF (FILL); JAN KLOCKE	

JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 Lois LeFevre*	5
6 Carman Thorp*	7 Teri Holldorf	8	9 Kandra Cook	10 Elsie Iben*	11 Devin O'Connell	12
13	14	15 Jerry McCormick	16	17	18	19 Sarah LeFevre
20	21 Deb Kibodeaux	22 Gary Cassens Brian Luebke & Jamie Hay	23	24	25 Chad & Kerensa Pink	26
27 Christine Rucker	28 Tom & Sharon Leesman Matt Murphy	29 Madeline LeFevre	30	31	<i>*Indicates 80-plus-year birthdays and 50-plus-year anniversaries.</i>	

WHAT WE BELIEVE

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

Jack Hall Jr., June 6;

WEDDINGS

None

BAPTISMS

None

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

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

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

Council Rep for Tri-Church, Paul Wolfe

CONG. COUNCIL

Paul Wolfe, president*

Jack Flick, vice president*

Denise Norman, secretary*

Larry Kradle

Marci Fisher

Rhonda Stutzke

Karen Wolfe

Aislinn O'Connell

Tammy Doughty

*Exec Committee member

CHRISTIAN ED

Michelle Gawlik

Chrissy Murphy

Jan Klocke

Denise Carl

Mont Cessna

STEWARDSHIP

Rhonda Stutzke

Aislinn O'Connell

PERSONNEL

Denise Norman, chair

Rev. Jacob Gawlik

Dave Geil

Nancy Rasmussen

FINANCE

Nancy Breed

Druann Bushman

Mike Doughty

Jack Flick

Dave Geil

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

Art Frey

Tom Leesman

Ken Smith

Mont Cessna

Doug Zientara

WORSHIP ARTS

Shawn Wolfe, chair

Dawn Zeigler

Denise Carl

Rev. Jacob Gawlik

Karen Wolfe

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Paul Wolfe

Shari Baker

Marsha Keime

Larry Kradle

Denise Norman

Amy Smith

Gary Smith

Sharon Zinanni

WORSHIP TECH

Dan Eads

Charlene O'Connell

PARTNERS IN PRAYER & CARE

Shari Baker

Stan Rasmussen

Nancy Rasmussen

Larry Kradle

Sharon Zinanni

Pat Redfield

Rev. Jacob Gawlik

Art Frey

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SEEKING STUDENT MUSICIANS

This summer, the UNITE churches are again hosting student musicians from the Sterling/Rock Falls area. This includes any student completing 7th grade – a just graduated college student. We ask that students share a piece with us at St. John's and then arrange to play that piece at other UNITE congregations, where you will be paid \$25/service as a guest musician. This is a chance to keep your music skills tip top over the summer, share an IMEA or audition piece you may be working on, or another special piece. Please contact Dawn Zeigler 815.275.3775 or dawn@stjohnsonthird.org for all of the details! We can't wait to hear you!

BARBERSHOPPERS TO SHARE 'SERMON IN SONG'

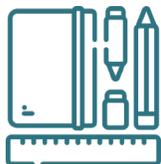
Plan to be in worship on Sunday, August 3 when the Rock River Valley Barbershoppers will share a "Sermon in Song." They are an incredibly fun, dynamic and talented group! You will not want to miss them!



SCHOOL KITS

The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting items for school kits through September 14. We had a great response last year and have asked St. Paul and Immanuel to partner with us again this year for assembly. Our time together was an awesome time of fellowship and stewardship. Some of the kits will be shared again with the Regional Office of Education (ROE) in our community. Bins will be available to receive donations in the entry area outside the east sanctuary doors and the narthex. Monetary donations will be accepted if you prefer that we do the shopping for you. Please include these items for each kit:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper
- One ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One pair of blunt scissors
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, secure with a rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink), secure with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2½ inch eraser



ST. JOHN'S YARD SIGNS AVAILABLE NOW

Please help support the ministries of St. John's by purchasing a yard sign! These durable and colorful signs are available now. The cost is \$25 each. Please see Stewardship Committee co-chairs, Rhonda Stutzke or Aislinn O'Connell before or after church services to purchase a sign. You may also contact Rhonda at (815) 441-3264 or Aislinn at a.shae.oconnell@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support!



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

703 Third Avenue, Sterling, IL 61081

Join us for worship at 9:30am Sundays and 6:00pm Wednesdays.