

THE MESSENGER

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

September 2025

Exploring a Spiritual Direction Practice



Greetings, good-spirited people,

As you are aware from the article I included in the June newsletter and from

announcements on Sunday mornings before service, I have begun doctoral studies in Spiritual Direction. After having just completed the first intensive course in the program, my mind is swimming in the deep sea of possibilities for ongoing conversation with the Holy Spirit and the ways we can grow together in the spiritual practice of discernment.

To help with this endeavor, I've decided to use this month's article to

explore a spiritual direction practice that we can all do either on our own, with those in our household, or perhaps a close friend would be open to exploring a time of prayer together. The practice is called Mindfulness Prayer and the form I'll be sharing has been adapted from the book *Right Here Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness* by Dr. Amy Oden.

This exercise includes four parts: attentive breathing, attentive embodiment, acknowledgment, and discovery.

First find a comfortable location in your home or maybe someplace in nature that you find relaxing. Be that a park, campground, out by the river. You pick the location that is most comfortable for you. Once there, allow yourself about thirty

seconds to become mindful of you breathing. Breathe slowly then deeply. As you breathe, take notice of your breathing. Take note of the feeling of your chest as it rises and falls, the sensation of air in your nose and lungs. Do not rush your breath, instead take your time to breathe in and out purposefully. Allow yourself to fully experience your body breathing. In this first step you already have a precious gift God has given you. You do not have to choose each time you take a breath, rather your body chooses that for you! You can choose to breathe in an attentive and mindful way, drawing your focus to this moment.

As you continue to breathe, start

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Save These Important Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting Dates

In our effort to keep everyone duly informed, we will have several opportunities to discuss our ongoing financial struggles before we vote on the 2026 budget at our Annual Meeting. There will be a temple talk on this issue at worship on October 5th. Our Budget Hearing is scheduled for October 12th, and we will vote on the 2026 budget on October 26th. The Finance Committee and Congregation Council are working diligently on this critical piece and plan to have the Council-approved budget available for your review well ahead of the Budget Hearing.

As we walk in prayerful consideration on our journey together,
Your Congregation Council members

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St. John's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

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WEBSITE: StJohnsSterling.org • **FACEBOOK:** [@SterlingStJohns](https://www.facebook.com/@SterlingStJohns)

Youth & Family Ministries News

2025-26 CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Those participating in Confirmation Class during the 2025-2026 school year were sent an email with a class schedule and some important notes on upcoming events. These were also available during the Rally Day celebration on August 24. If you somehow did not get a copy or lost/misplaced the one that was sent, please contact Pastor Jacob. Remember our first class is September 7 at St. John's. Classes will typically run from 11:00am-2:00pm and rotate from month to month between the congregations.

Confirmation SCHEDULE		2025-2026
SEPT	7 th 11:00am-2:00pm	Class @St. John's
OCT	1 st 7:00pm 5 th 11:00am-2:00pm 28 th 4:00pm	Assemble School Kits Class @St. Paul Selmi's trip
NOV	19 th 7:00-8:00pm 23 rd 11:00am-2:00pm	Buddy Bag Packing @Wesley United Class @Immanuel
DEC	7 th 11:00am-2:00pm	Class @St. John's
JAN	11 th 11:00am-2:00pm	Class @St. Paul
FEB	1 st 11:00am-2:00pm 13 th -15 th	Class @Immanuel (TBD)Quake
MAR	1 st 11:00-2:00 11 th 7:00-8:00pm	Class @St. John's Buddy Bag Packing @Wesley United
APR	19 th 11:00-2:00	Class @St. Paul
MAY	3 rd 11:00-2:00 13 th 7:00-8:00pm	Class @Immanuel Buddy Bag Packing @Wesley United

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped set up and prepare for this year's Rally Day on August 24!

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 two 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
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.

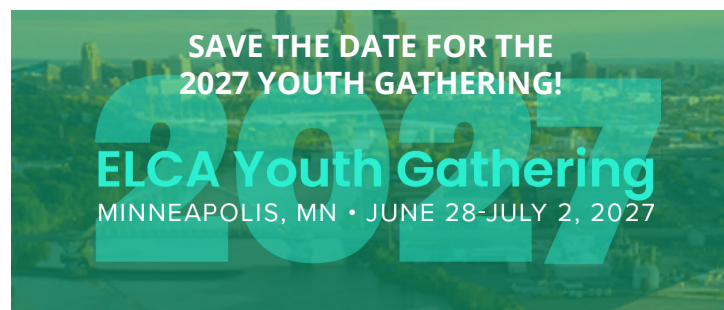
BUTCHER SHOP FUNDRAISER

In connection with The Butcher Shop, a fundraiser for youth activities will be starting October 12th. Order forms will be on the table across from the sanctuary entrance. Please put completed order forms along with cash or checks made out to St. John's Lutheran Church in the manila envelope on the same table by Sunday, October 26th. Orders will be available for pickup on November 14th at 4pm. Monies raised will go toward St. John's youth activities.

TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF

The Sunday School children will be collecting donations for Trick or Treat for UNICEF on October 19th after the church service. Children, please wear your Halloween costume that day!

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WISCONSIN DELLS QUAKE PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY

Save the dates for the Wisconsin Dells Quake: February 13-15. St. John's youth grades 6-12 are encouraged to attend the Quake as either part of Confirmation Class or for ongoing faith formation. If you would like to go, a \$20 deposit is due November 2. Please contact Pastor Jacob for more information or if you'd like to attend. St. John's will once again be partnering with other community congregations for this event. Sign-up, come out, build relationships, and grow in faith, together.



Speaker "Packer" Dave Gunnlaugsson has been involved with Quake events for several years as a speaker, staff member and

team member with Cross Fire to East Africa. Currently Dave works with Feed My Starving Children in Minnesota. Prior to FMSC Dave served as a youth



pastor and church planter and spent several years at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Colorado.

Musicians The Junker Georges are an acoustic-based rock/folk duo/tri/quartet, depending on who actually shows up. Founding member Ryan and Todd have been playing music coast to coast since 2003. As primary songwriter and guitarist, Todd is a Level-12 Disney trivia master, coffee connoisseur, and was voted "Most Likely to be Killed by a Pirate." Ryan (drums/muscle) would much rather be playing for the Flyers, Eagles, or Phillies. He is serving a record 23rd consecutive term as President of the West Roebing Aerosmith fan club. They love Jesus, eating, and

hanging out. What else is there? Be on the lookout for special "Mystery Band Members" this weekend for extra bonus points! More information is available on Facebook: @TheJunkerGeorges.

Quake Director Jennifer Miller discovered her love of youth ministry while traveling as a member of Captive Free, a music ministry team



sponsored by Youth Encounter. She then received a call to serve as an Event Director at Youth Encounter, where she remained for nineteen years, planning and managing weekend youth events. She feels blessed to now be working for Life Promotions and to be able to continue serving in the role of event planner as a Quake Coordinator. Jennifer works from her home near Fredericksburg, VA, where she lives with her husband, Todd, their two children and their dog. She enjoys traveling, watching movies, spending time in the sun, scrapbooking, all things Disney and spending time with her family!

PASTOR'S LETTER CONT. FROM PAGE 1

becoming more mindful of your body. Visualize the oxygen filling your lungs, then your torso, then your arms and legs, providing life-giving oxygen throughout your bloodstream from the tip of your head down to your toes. Focus your attention as you continue breathing, noticing what your body is telling you. Are there sensations or feelings, perhaps there's a tightness here or a warm tingle here or there? Simply noticing is all that is required. The goal is not to analyze, justify, or fix any of these sensations. The goal is to dwell in our flesh as Christ was en-flesh-ed and dwells among and within us.

Take thirty seconds and acknowledge whatever arises from your mindful

breathing and embodiment. Acknowledge the thoughts, feelings, sensations, or attitudes that are in you within this moment. Whether it is positive or negative, whether you like it or don't like it, acknowledge what is. Too much time and a lot of energy are used every day trying to avoid, deny, repress, or reject what is actually happening in our bodies. This is a time some have called nonjudgmental observing or prayerful attentiveness. To be clear, your acknowledgment does not mean that you must accept any harmful or unjust situation, only the thoughts or feelings that arise, recognizing that each is there.

As you acknowledge whatever arises, holding it within God's presence, see what you discover. Do thoughts or feelings shift shapes? Are there

images or sensations that are more noticeable than before? Does a sensation move elsewhere in your body? Does a thought or attitude disappear altogether or is it lingering? Again, the point here is to notice and acknowledge what you are discovering, not to analyze, or judge it. Simply noticing is the primary objective. This deep noticing requires being present, so it needs to be intentional, not rushed.

When you get the opportunity, please do take a moment to try this practice. If you'd like, you can even talk to me about the experience. I would love to hear how it went for you.

In peace,

Rev. Jacob M. Lawler

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Glenn (Jim) Keime died July 15, 2025. Service was held on Wednesday, July 23, 2025.
- CommUNITY VBS was held on July 20-24 at Immanuel. It was an amazing week with great participation and fully engaged youth. Registration count: 52 youth (age 5 - grade 5). The CommUNITY VBS worship service was held on July 27 at Grandon Civic Center. Bethel Reformed will host in 2026 and will continue with the 5-day format.
- A planning meeting was held for shared confirmation classes between Tri-Church congregations on July 31.
- Sunday School teachers met on August 3rd. Preparations are underway for Rally Day on August 24th.
- Staff performance reviews are underway.
- We welcomed the Rock River Valley Barbershoppers on August 3rd. They offered a Sermon-in-Song. We are thankful for their offering to share their gifts of music and story.
- August 11-15 was the first intensive class at Garrett Seminary. I had very good conversations with instructors and classmates. The cohort group I am assigned to is highly diverse, and each participant is engaged to learn and grow together. The cohort includes pastors, chaplains, and faith-based counselors. A wide variety of faith traditions is also present, including Lutheran, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, and Church of Christ.
- Final preparations are underway for Finding Vitality In Scrappy, Small Congregations event. Many thanks to all those who are helping with hospitality, set-up, and clean-up for this special event
- September 15-17 is the Professional Leaders Conference. The conference is once again at

Lutherdale in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. This year's theme is Roots of Racism and Seeds of Justice, and the keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Jia Starr Brown.

- September 22-28 - I will be vacationing with my family. A list of emergency pastoral contacts will be available in the church office.
- October 1 - School kit assembly packing party
- October 11 - Sterling Halloween Town Parade. Starts at 6:30 pm. Participants start and end at the church parking lot.
- October 31 - Halloween Trunk-or-Treat

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Approval of Minutes

- There were no communications during the month.

Finance Report

- The committee met on August 11th. They reviewed the July financial statements and approved them. Using the figures provided by the departments and committees of the congregation, there was discussion on the 2026 budget. Discussion also continued on the expected deficit that is likely to continue into 2026, and whether there will be sufficient funds to cover all expenses.
- Denise Norman moved to approve the July financials as approved by the Finance Committee. Larry Kradle seconded the motion, which carried.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Social Ministry

- The committee met Saturday, August 9th.
- The collection of school kit items continues. The "Packing Party" is scheduled for October 1st, and the kits will be delivered to Zion Lutheran in Rockford on October 4th.

- Our LSSI Birthday Buddy, Thomas, was celebrated on August 17th. We delivered cards, gifts, and cupcakes to him at the group home.
- Conversation continues around our desire to fund our collections for personal care items, to make it a year-round effort that will be housed and distributed from St. John's. We are exploring grants available through the NIS, collaborating with local businesses, and partnering with our Tri-Church and CommUNITY VBS to support our initiatives. The Bear Necessities program, located at the Rock Falls Methodist Church, has been successful in supplying similar items to the community. We hope to use them as a resource as we expand our program.
- The committee will meet again on September 6th and will set up the tree for "Christmas in September"

Partners in Prayer and Care

- The committee met on July 24th. During the month, members made five nursing home visits and contacted three shut-ins. Notes were sent to thirty of our inactive members, welcoming them back to worship.

FROM THE GALLERY

- Druann Bushman was a guest at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Deposit Safe

- The deposit safe has been put into use. Dave Geil and Denise Norman, with the assistance of Nina Peters, Office Manager, have begun putting processes in place for the continued use of the system by not only the Congregation Council, but also the offering counting group. The "Opening and Closing the Church for Worship" and the "Offering Counting Procedure"

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have been updated and will be presented to the Congregation Council, hopefully in September.

Policy Manual Updates

- Of the nearly forty policies that reside in the church's policy manual, roughly thirty have been reviewed, and updates will be presented, hopefully in September. Amendments have been made to seventeen policies to date. There are approximately ten policies that are still in the process of being reviewed. Two new policies are being written. When the Personnel Committee has completed all necessary updates, copies will be forwarded to all Council members. Because this discussion will likely be lengthy, Council members should review the packet of updates before the meeting at which they will be discussed.

Congregation Council Seats/Voting Members to Synod Assembly

- Two three-year terms and one two-year term will need to be filled for the 2026 Congregation Council.
- Two voting members to the 2026 Synod Assembly will need to be filled. We are also entitled to send one youth to the Assembly three-year term.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of July Transfers

In July, transfers totaling \$16,833.00 were made.

- \$968.00 from the Contingency

Account #0128 to SVB checking for payment of repair to the concrete steps and sidewalk

- \$7,500.00 from Undesignated Account #8005 to SVB checking to cover July 15th payroll and payroll taxes
- \$4,000.00 from Undesignated Account #8005 to SVB checking to cover July 30th payroll
- \$2,625.00 from Undesignated Account #8005 to SVB checking for Pastor Jacob's first semester tuition to Garrett Theological Seminary. This amount will be returned to the Undesignated Account when funds are received from the withdrawal from the ELCA Grewe/Steinke Seminary fund
- \$1000.00 from Undesignated Account #8005 to SVB checking
- \$790.00 from the Families in Need Account #0129 to SVB checking
- Larry Kradle moved to approve the transfers totaling \$16,833.00. Marci Fisher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Renewal of CD

- The Don Duhm CD, held at the Sauk Valley Bank, which was established to provide for altar flowers, is due for renewal. Rates were provided at the meeting. It has been suggested that the interest from the CD be rolled into the SVB checking account. This recommendation is made because the balance in the flower account is ample for an extended period.
- Jack Flick moved to renew the CD for 7 months at 3.977% and an APY of 4.05%, with interest from the CD

being added to the SB checking account. Tammy Doughty seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Charles D. Morris Withdrawal

- Because the quarterly disbursement from the ELCA Behrens account will not arrive until the end of September, approximately \$27,000 will be needed to cover payroll and payroll taxes for the remainder of August and September. The Finance Committee approved this withdrawal via email.
- Denise Norman moved to approve a withdrawal from the Charles D. Morris ELCA Investment account for \$27,000 to cover the payroll expense. Larry Kradle seconded the motion. Motion carried. This will leave a balance of less than \$10,000 in the Morris account.

Tree on Property Line

- A neighbor has called the church to request the removal of a tree on our property that is becoming a nuisance for her. The City of Sterling has also contacted us to say that the tree needs to be removed. The Property Committee believes the tree is not on our property and has engaged a survey team to formally survey the property lines and tree position. The removal plan will proceed based on the results of the survey.

NEXT MEETINGS

- Executive Committee, Thursday, September 11, 2025, 5:00 pm
- Congregation Council, Tuesday, September 19, 2025, 6:00 pm

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL OFFERINGS



statewide social service providers and welcomes and serves people from diverse backgrounds. Critical social and human services include foster care, mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, affordable senior housing, home care services for older adults, and residential programs

Lutheran Social Service of Illinois (LSSI) has served in our state since 1867. It is one of the largest nonprofit,

for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our congregation, in partnership with our Tri-Church congregations, works with this organization to celebrate the birthdays of men in one of the LSSI group homes. Funding for some organizations, like LSSI, has been cut, making our support even more important. Please join the Congregation Council in supporting this Lutheran organization with a generous donation to the St. John's Special Offering initiative in September.

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	July 2025	Year-to-Date 2025
Total Offerings	\$9,065.00	\$88,599.41
Operating Expenses	\$30,144.16	\$192,472.54
Operating Deficit	\$21,079.16	\$103,873.13
Transfer of money from the Behrens account to cover expenses	\$12,468.00	\$90,747.08
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$8,611.16)	(\$13,126.05)

NURSE NOTES

Who Should Get The Shingles Vaccine?

The shingles vaccine (Shingrix) is recommended for adults ages 50 or older, even if you:

- Have had shingles before
- Received an older shingles vaccine called Zostavax (it's less effective and is no longer given in the United States)
- Don't recall having had chickenpox

It's unclear how long you should wait to get the shingles vaccine if you've just had shingles. At a minimum. Wait until after all signs of shingles have resolved. Some experts recommend waiting a year.

Don't get the vaccine if you currently have shingles, are allergic to any components of the vaccine, are pregnant or breastfeeding, or have a history of Guillain-Barre syndrome. For people with certain health conditions — such as those who have specific autoimmune conditions or types of cancer, or are receiving certain types of immunosuppressive treatments — the decision about whether to get the Shingrix vaccine should be made with their health care provider.

From Harvard Health

Submitted by Nancy Rasmussen, Parish Nurse.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Trudy Tupper	4	5	6 Greg & Joan Moran
7 Ava LeFevre	8	9	10 Kelli Vilmont	11	12	13 Mary Heppel*
14	15	16 Rhonda Stutzke	17	18 Mary McCune*	19	20
21 Richard Rucker	22	23 Braylon Briggs	24 Michelle Sanders	25 Joan Moran	26	27 Joyce Baer* Matt & Christine Murphy Eleanor Ufkin
28	29	30	*Indicates 80-plus-year birthdays and 50-plus-year anniversaries			

SEPTEMBER 2025 ACTIVITIES

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Church Office Closed 6:00-Menz Group	2 Offering Count: Sheri & Jamie 9:30-Text Study	3 6:00-Worship	4 7:00-Al-Anon	5	6
7 FISH Collection 9:30-Worship Acolyte: Caylee W. Asst.: Denise C. 10:45-Sunday Sch 11:00-Conf class	8 Offering Count: Dave & Jackie 6:00-Finance Committee mtg.	9 9:30-Text Study	10 6:00-Worship	11 5:00-Executive Committee mtg. 7:00-Al-Anon	12 3:00-Tri Church Buddy Bowling Party, Blackhawk Lanes, Sterling	13 10:00-Social Ministry mtg.
14 9:30-Worship Acolyte: Elly R. Asst.: Chris R. 10:45-Sunday Sch	15 Offering Count: Shari & Denise	16 9:30-Text Study 6:00-Council mtg.	17 1:30-Parkway HC 2:30-Heritage Woods HC 3:30-Morningside HC 6:00-Worship	18 2:30-Allure of Sterling HC 3:30-Citadel HC 7:00-Al-Anon	19 Nwsltr items due	20
21 9:30-Worship Acolyte: Hannah G. Asst.: Jeff F. 10:45-Sunday Sch	22 Offering Count: Jamie & Pat 6:00-Tri Church mtg.	23 9:30-Text Study 6:30-NAMI group	24 6:00-Worship	25 6:30-Moving Beyond the Page 7:00-Al-Anon	26	27
28 9:30-Worship Acolyte: Josie P. Asst.: Mike D. 10:45-Sunday Sch	29 Offering Count: Dave & Denise	30 9:30-Text Study	*HC=Holy Communion			OPEN/CLOSE: DENISE NORMAN ALTAR GUILD: MARCI FISHER (FILL); KAREN WOLFE

SAVE THE DATES

OCTOBER 12 AFTER WORSHIP
Church Budget Hearing

OCTOBER 17
Annual reports due to the
church office

OCTOBER 26 AFTER WORSHIP
Annual Congregational Meeting

Birthday Buddy Bowling Party

**Tri Church
Birthday
BUDDIES**

We give thanks for Tri Church Birthday Buddies! Residents of LSSI Group Homes birthdays are celebrated by Immanuel, St. John's and St. Paul on a rotating schedule. A small gift, cards and cupcakes are shared with residents and volunteers who join in the celebration. We are over a year into our partnership in this mission and it has been a mutual blessing to all involved. What a gift it is to share life and God's love together!

While birthday parties continue for the residents of the LSSI Sterling Group Home and Partnership House, a special activity is planned for September. Tri Church is hosting a bowling and pizza party on Friday, September 12th at 3pm at Blackhawk Lanes in Sterling. The party will include 2 rounds of bowling

with pizza to follow at the bowling alley. Each resident received a bowling shirt for one of their birthday gifts and will be encouraged to wear their shirts that day.

You are invited to cheer on the birthday buddies as they hit the lanes on September 12th. If you plan to attend, please let Deb Keaschall know by calling 815-718-5237 or emailing debkeaschall@gmail.com. You are invited to wear a bowling shirt if you have one.

LSSI continues to be very grateful for the Tri Church partnership with the Birthday Buddy program. Whether you have helped plan a birthday party, shop for gifts, attend a party, signed or sent a card, thank you for making these residents feel special and recognized on their birthday. We are church together!

Deb Keaschall, Tri Church Convener

AUGUST 2025 EVENTS

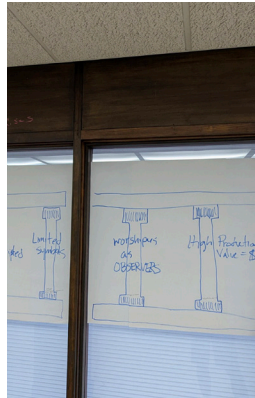
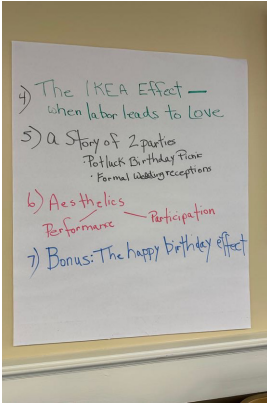
AUGUST BIRTHDAY BUDDY MEET UP!



RALLY DAY FUN!



AUGUST 2025 EVENTS
SCRAPPY CONGREGATIONS EVENT



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

None

WEDDINGS

None

BAPTISMS

None

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

None

MEMBERS RECEIVED

None

MEMBERS REMOVED/TRANSFERRED

None

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

None

STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Kyle Morgan, September 13th

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MOVING BEYOND THE PAGE

Join us for faith, fellowship, and book study on September 25 at 6:30 pm in the church library. Please speak with Pastor Jacob to learn more.

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!



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.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

703 Third Avenue, Sterling, IL 61081

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