



Holiday Worship & Events 2019

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

November 27th, 7:00 p.m.

Give your Thanks...at Worship

Join us on Thanksgiving Eve. Communion shared.

Thanks for Giving...Fellowship

Sign-up in your bulletin to donate a pie in a disposable pan and drop it off before worship. After worship, stay for pie and hot beverages served by our youth. All uncut pies will be donated to MorningStar Mission on Thanksgiving morning.

Church Building Closed

November 28th – 29th

November 28th – Happy Thanksgiving! Extra pies delivered to Daybreak.

November 29th – No Food Pantry pickups.

Church Decorating Event

December 1st, 12:15 p.m.

Adults join us as we decorate the sanctuary and church in anticipation of Advent and Christmas. Come, ye joyful people, come. Sign up on your bulletin insert.

First Sunday of Advent

December 1st

Advent officially begins with the lighting of the first candle.

Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal

December 7th, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Grades PreK – 6th, arrive at 1:00 p.m.

Meet in the Sanctuary for rehearsal.

Sunday School Christmas Program, *God's Greatest Gift*

December 8th

3:00 p.m. – PreK through 6th arrive, meet in classrooms

3:30 p.m. – Beginners arrive, meet in classrooms

4:00 p.m. – Program starts

Advent Evening Prayer

December 5th, 12th and 19th, 7:00 p.m.

Midweek Advent prayer calms your mind, warms your soul, and prepares your heart to receive God's gift of the infant Christ child.

Cantata

December 22nd both services

It sounds as if angels hover above, singing songs of great joy, for all people.

The Longest Night

December 22nd, 7:00 p.m.

What is one to do when Christmas doesn't feel Christmassy? When your heart is heavy and it's hard to find joy during "the most wonderful time of the year," join us for The Longest Night service. No matter the loss you've experienced, there are healing words and understanding waiting for you.

Christmas Eve

Food Pantry Closed

December 24th 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m.

Worship Services

Services celebrate Christmas with communion and the lighting of candles to *Silent Night* at all services.

Christmas Day

Church Office, Food Pantry Closed

December 25th & 26th

Peace and joy to Christian families around the globe celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

New Years Eve & New Years Day

December 31st & January 1st

May 2020 bless you every day, in every way.

12.31 Church Office closes at Noon

12.31 Food Pantry open 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

1.1 Church Office and Food Pantry Closed



December 8th at 4:00 p.m.

Join us as our Sunday School students tell the birth story of the Christ child through scripture, song and celebration!

Mwangaza Ministry Sunday

Sunday, December 8th

On Sunday, December 8th, we will welcome Daudi Msseemmaa, senior advisor for Mwangaza Education for Partnership in Tanzania, East Africa. Daudi and his wife Kellen also serve as ELCA missionaries, serving Global Missions as its East Africa representatives. Daudi will share his first-hand experience of the scope and need for Mwangaza's work during our sermon time and will lead a Q & A forum between worship services on December 8th.

St. John's long history with Tanzania began in the 1960's when longtime members Gerry and Marilyn Walters completed five years of volunteer work in Tanzania. Subsequently, in 1996, St. John hosted Tanzanian educator Elisante Nkini for two months as part of a new project called Mwangaza Education for Partnership. Following that, St. John member Jim Talarico re-joined Mr. Nkini in Tanzania as one of Mwangaza's first U.S. volunteer teachers, introducing new teaching strategies to Lutheran high school teachers nationwide and returning many times to continue that work.

Today, St. John member Debbie Kogelman continues that work as a teacher volunteer for Mwangaza, a grassroots, faith-based organization engaging participants in leadership development in all 26 dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Since its inception as a vehicle to improve secondary education in Lutheran secondary schools, it has expanded to programs for students, women leaders, and community members. St. John commits approximately \$3,500 a year towards Mwangaza through our Octoberfest fundraiser and General Budget.

Workshop

In Sure and Certain Hope: Stewarding Our Dying and Death

Sunday, January 26th, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

This workshop is designed to relay information on:

- How to talk to your loved ones about end-of-life directives, including palliative and hospice care
- Options to consider when pre-planning funerals (including worship services)
- St. John Columbarium and "green" burial options
- End of life ministries that accompany people from earthly life to eternal life

Join us as we hear from your own pastors and people in the fields of hospice care and professional funeral services, who regularly have conversations with people who face end-of-life decisions and planning. You will learn information and receive resources to help you steward your lives' end. *Our speakers are not here to solicit, but to help guide our thoughts as we steward our lives for ourselves and our loved ones.*

Sign up by emailing stjohn2650@gmail.com.



The Longest Night...

...is another name for the Winter Solstice, the day with the shortest period of daylight, and the longest night of the year.

...is the name given to one unique worship service in December that invites us to grieve in a sacred space for losses that make *the holidays* difficult.

...is when the chaos of the day dissolves into a silent night of shadows and darkness that stretch longer, and deeper, than any other time.

...is when the voids in our lives open the widest, and befriend us in our darkness during everyone else's *most wonderful time of the year*.

...is when loneliness befriends us, and the holly on our own front is not a pretty sight.

...is when being numb has nothing to do with the snow and mistletoe, frosty snowmen, or a foggy Christmas Eve.

...is when your church family gathers together, to just be present with you during your grief.

...is a time to remember, process, and recognize the grief, sadness, and losses that loom within you for the first, or fiftieth, Christmas season.

...is on December 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at St. John.

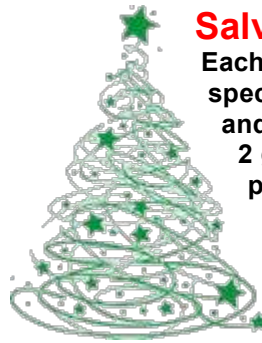
...is an opportunity St. John gives you to converse if you feel like it, or sit quietly among others feeling as you do.

...is a welcome for you, the real you who keeps it together for reasons known only to you; the real you who holds both merry, and teary at the same time; the real you who puts one foot in front of the other, and walks the road to Bethlehem to see the infant Christ child.

...is a time for our pastors to offer you healing words, God's promises, and tissues too. They'll be there, waiting for you.

Helping Trees

We have two great opportunities to help others during this holiday season. Starting November 24th, there will be two giving trees located in the Narthex, the Salvation Army Angel Tree and the Giving Tree. Below are details on both opportunities.



Salvation Army Angel Tree

Each card will have the name of a specific child, their age and gender, and an identification code along with 2 gifts they would like to receive, plus their coat size.

St. John has committed to helping the Salvation Army by providing you the opportunity to pick one or more of the 100 Angel Tree tags from the tree. *If you are not able to afford everything (or something similar) that is on the tag, please get what you can or combine your efforts with another person or family to help a needy child.*

Here's how it works:

1. Pick a tag. Locate the Code # on the tag, and find the corresponding Code # on the clipboard located on the table by the tree. Write your name and phone number on the line next to your Code #.
2. **Return your unwrapped gifts in one sturdy box** with the Angel Tree tag taped to it **by Noon, Friday, December 13th**. Place it under the same tree where you got the tag. **DO NOT PUT GIFTS IN GIFT BAGS**, if you would like to give gift bags to your child, please put the folded bags in the sturdy box.
3. We will deliver all gifts to the Salvation Army.

You will have a warm feeling in your heart and smile on your face knowing that a child has had a better Christmas because you cared!



Giving Tree

Our Giving Tree helps individuals and families that we serve in the community.

Although it is fun to shop for a gift for a child, families need so much more to survive day-to-day living; thus, we have created the opportunity for you to provide gift cards in \$10 increments to area stores and gas stations.

Here's how it works:

1. Take one or more tags and buy gift cards in \$10 increments from the store named on your tag(s).
2. Return your gift cards to the church office during December.
3. Cards are given out throughout the year on an as needed basis by the pastors and church office staff.
4. Take comfort in knowing that you have helped a needy family put gas in their car, buy diapers for their baby, pay for needed medicine, buy needed clothing or other necessary items.

October 24, 2019

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church VBS,

Thank you for your generous gift of books for the Storybook Project at Statesville Correctional Center.

Each month, a team of volunteers digitally record prisoners reading books to their children and grandchildren. The recordings are placed on CDs, then the books and CDs are mailed to the children. The children enjoy listening to their fathers or grandfathers read a book to them.

When asked why they participate in Storybook, some of the men said:

I enjoy it and the kids love it. It may be a small token, but my children can hear my voice. Storybook is a beautiful thing. You never know what these books may do for a child!

It's good to read and to connect with your child.

I do it "so my kids know I care and am there to teach them how to read. I enjoy it. They enjoy it and I appreciate it."

I do it "so my son can know I care about him in a different way because I can't show him I love him. I think about him all the time."

Not only do the children and prisoners enjoy Storybook, the volunteers look forward to it knowing that they make a difference in the lives of the children and men they serve by sharing the love of Jesus.

In Matthew 25, Jesus says, "And the King will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

Thank you for letting us serve Him through your gift of books.

The Storybook Project at Statesville



The Storybook Project is a ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois.

Read more at

<https://www.lssi.org/prisoner-family-ministry/pfm-the-storybook-project.php>



**Fall
Appeal
Update**

Thank you for your generosity! Your gifts and financial commitments for 2020 will make a difference in the lives of so many people.

We've had a very wonderful response to our fall appeal! As of the printing of this newsletter, we've received 225 financial commitments to the General Fund.

Our goal is to receive 260 financial commitments to support the work of the church in 2020. When we make this goal, we will have the most number of financial commitments ever recorded in the history of St. John. It's a sign of what we can do when we share in generosity. During this joyous season, may the grace of God be with you and may your joy in giving continue to grow!

KNIT. CHROCHET. PRAY.
Coming next month
January 2020



Do you like to knit or crochet? Would you like to meet others with the same interest? If so, join us at the newly formed Prayer Shawl Ministry and spend time with new friends knitting or crocheting prayer shawls.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet monthly and create prayer shawls for people who need extra comfort and support during life's tough times. The first meeting is Thursday, January 9th from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. We anticipate meeting the 1st Thursday of the month for fellowship, supply replenishment, knitting/crocheting and packing finished shawls. Contact Rachel at rcyergler@gmail.com or sign up in the Narthex.

To receive a shawl, fill out a request card at the Welcome Center or contact Rachel at the above email.



2019 Donations

Due December 31st

All donations must be received **by Noon on December 31st** to be recorded on your 2019 statement.

November 23rd

Scouting for Food: Food Drive

Cub Scout Pack 83 will be receiving donations for the St. John Food Pantry from 9:00 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, November 23rd. Drive up to the front door and they will help to unload your car!

November 27th, 7:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship, Fellowship, and Pie

Take an hour for yourself to give thanks to God for all of the blessings in your life on Thanksgiving Eve. This blended service features all of St. John's worship styles. St. John's Confirmation youth prepare and serve pie after worship.

December 1st

Church Decorating Event

All adults are welcome to help prepare our building for the Christmas season. We'll decorate at 12:15 p.m. Look for the sign up in your Sunday bulletin.

December 5th

December Daybreak Dinner

The cold weather means more Daybreak clients are seeking a hot evening meal; your continued support of the monthly meal is greatly appreciated! The sign up board is posted near the Welcome Center area. A great big thank you to the Food Pantry and the Illinois Food Bank for food items for our meal! If service hours are needed for confirmation, your assistance is greatly welcomed!

If you are able to help with transportation, food prep or service for Daybreak, please call Pam Atkinson (586-260-2480) or Stacey Fowler (815) 531-9188.

December 7th

Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal

All Sunday School children in grades PreK through 6th will be rehearsing the *God's Greatest Gift* program from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

December 8th

Fair Trade Coffee for Sale

Fair Trade Coffee will be on December 8th in between services. Stop by and check out our goodies!

Sunday School Christmas Program

St. John Sunday School presents *God's Greatest Gift* on Sunday, December 8th at 4:00 p.m.

December 13th

Return Angel Tree Gifts

Please make sure that if you took a tag from the Angel Tree that your **unwrapped** gifts are back on or before Noon on Friday, December 13th. Thank you for helping make a child's Christmas brighter!

January 3, 2020

Annual Committee/Ministry Reports Due

Please email your annual committee/ministry reports to Lisa Marshall by January 3, 2020 at stjohn2650@gmail.com for inclusion in the 2019 St. John Annual Report. Thank you!

February 16th – 22nd**

Adult Mission Trip

Destination: Albany, Georgia

Imagine having your home destroyed without the means to repair it. If you are a "do-it-yourselfer" or a "handyman," want to learn some new skills from the experts, or just have a listening ear and a sense of adventure, you are qualified to help repair and rebuild homes and hope. Help people move back into their homes and begin their lives anew.

Join us for a road trip to Georgia, where we will work in disaster response after a 2015 category 3 hurricane and a 2017 F2 tornado pummeled the region. We will be travelling comfortably in a coach bus and lodging in a building with camp-like facilities (bunk beds, showers, kitchen facilities, washer/dryer).

Contact Pastor Robin at pastorrobincaldwell@gmail.com or Steve Costello at scostello@mccannonline.com to have your questions answered and to let us know you will be joining us.

*** Departure date may be subject to change.*

Green Team Solar Forum Recap

The Green Team Solar Forum went very well with over 20 people in attendance. John Shafer, Kevin Egly and Ron Crabb shared their experiences with going solar and fielded lots of good questions.

There were even questions if St. John's could go solar! This is something that the Green Team is actively discussing. If you weren't able to attend and are interested, please feel free to contact John Shafer for information at john.shafer@me.com.



St. John Youth & Family Ministries

Faith Formation for Youth and Families



Day	Time	Activity	Participants
Wednesday, December 4th	7:00 – 8:15 p.m.	Learning Event	Students & Leaders
Wednesday, December 11th	7:00 – 8:15 p.m.	Fellowship Event Christmas Party!	Students & Leaders
December 19 – January 15th	Winter Break	Winter Break	No Confirmation

December 15th Tween GO!

Tween = 4th, 5th, and 6th grade kids
GO = God & Others

If you are in 4th, 5th, or 6th grade, you can be part of our Tween GO ministry! We meet one Sunday afternoon a month. Come join us for our meal, creative activities, small groups who learn about the Fruits of the Spirit and participate in highs/lows.

Our next meeting date is December 15th from 12:15 - 2:30pm. Registrations are taken at the door when parents drop off their youth. Come to our Karin Johnson Fellowship Hall at 12:15 p.m. on December 15th and be part of a great afternoon!

FEAST of FIRE and FIRE 2

Feast of FIRE and FIRE 2 are “mini-Sabbaths,” providing time for our high school students to hang out and check in with one another, our adult leaders, and Pastor Evan. It’s a casual time, very similar to a confirmation care group where we share highs and lows, prayer, and food. All high school students are welcome to attend and you can bring a friend. You can find us in the Youth Room.

December 4th and 11th H.S. FIRE2

We meet on Wednesdays after Confirmation from 8:15 - 9:15 p.m. in the Youth Room. If Confirmation is on break, we are on break. Snacks, sharing highs and lows and prayer at the end. Plenty of time to hang out and take a mid-week break.

December 22nd

H.S. Feast of FIRE Christmas Party

It’s that time of year again, Feast of FIRE is having its annual Christmas party on December 22nd from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Bring your favorite Christmas outfit! Save the date!

H.S. Feast of FIRE happens once a month on Sunday nights from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. We meet for a longer time, and you are encouraged to bring food to share with others, like a potluck. We eat and usually play games, hang out, have a short reflective time, share highs and lows, and prayer.

January 17 – 19, 2020

H.S. Winter Retreat

If you are in high school, be sure to make plans to take some time off at the H.S. Winter Retreat. Sign up online at stjohnjoliet.org

Dates: January 17 – 19, 2020
1.17 arrive at St. John by 6:00 p.m.
1.19 return to St. John at 10:00–10:20 a.m.

Who: 9th – 12th graders
Location: Dickson Valley Retreat Center
8250 Finnie Rd. Newark, IL 60541
630.553.6233 <http://dvcr.com>
Cost: \$125
\$50 deposit due January 5th
\$75 balance due January 12th
Sign Up: Online only – stjohnjoliet.org

We have a series of things planned for our retreat, including: tubing, gym time (basketball, volleyball, carpetball, ping pong, etc.), devotions, BIG bonfires, GaGa ball, food, games, LASER TAG, challenge course, broomball, hanging out, etc.

The cost includes all meals, 2 nights of lodging, and all activities. Make checks payable to St. John Lutheran Church and write 2020 Winter Retreat on the memo line. Please remit payment to Pam Kornauss in the church office. Scholarships available by request. Email pastorevanmayhew@gmail.com if you are interested in having a friend outside of St. John join you on retreat.



College Care Packages Recap

On November 6th, our high school youth took time to put together 32 care packages for our college-age students! We had a lot of fun writing messages to our friends and decorating boxes. Thank you for all your generosity in making this happen! See photos above.

College-Age Ministries

If your child is interested in hearing more about college-age ministries, please have them download the Remind App and join the group by texting **@collegechk** to **81010**. We meet once a month at local restaurants to check in, and are currently planning a college-age mission trip for June 2020!

Sunday School Christmas Program

December 8th

Our Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 8th at 4:00 p.m. Children need to arrive at 3:00 for costume fitting.

Rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 7th from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

The Beginners Class does not attend rehearsal. Children with speaking parts are to arrive at 1:00 p.m.



All other children are to arrive at 1:30 p.m. If you are a Sunday School Teacher and available to attend the rehearsal, we would appreciate your help.

We are looking for donations of "NUT FREE" cookies for after our program. Email stjohn2650@gmail.com to let us know how many you can bring. Bring them in Sunday morning December 8th. Thank you for the treats!

Each year we select a ministry to receive our Christmas offering. This year our offering will support the St. John Quilting Ministry.

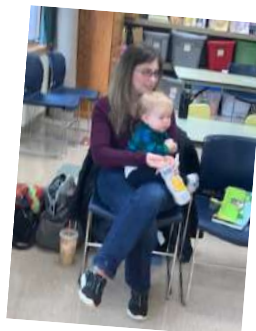
We surpassed our goal of \$400 for our "PIG" fall mission project. The final total was \$435.08. A big thank you to all who helped us exceed our goal.

Just a reminder, there will be no Sunday School on December 22nd and December 29th. Classes will resume on January 5th.

Beautiful Beginnings Fall Recap

The Beautiful Beginnings fall session ended on November 12th. Our story was about being thankful. We discussed what we are thankful for, sang a couple of songs and enjoyed some fellowship time.

The next session will be held in the spring. The exact dates are to be determined. Please watch the newsletter for information regarding the spring session. See photos below.



Announcements

Our Sympathies to:

Kathy Calahan, Michelle Korczak and Chrissy Spiecker and families
on the passing of husband and father, Phil Calahan and on the passing of Donald Calahan

Karen Thayer and Diane Goodenough and family on the passing of
their sister-in-law, Ann Thayer

Marge West, Michelle Korczak and Chrissy Spiecker and families on the passing of
Mary West and Rosemary West

Marcus Mitchell and Amy Balsley on the passing of Marcus' father, Ozzie Mitchell

Nancy Lucero on the passing of her son, Dwayne Lucero

Illness/Recovering:

Jim Alberico, Nicki Alander, Christa Arnold, Pat Bambule, Bob Barnet, Gail Bartz,
Joyce Beyer, Brian Bishop, Renee Bogacz, Bill Bromer, Cody Carter, Roy Conterez, Tiffany Crowther,
Stefanie Czoschke, Greg Domaleczny, Jeff Engelman, Arlene Erdahl, Susan Fick, Gail Hartley,
Kim Hasbrouck, Kari Hernandez, Diane Kaiser, Carmen Kehrer, Dawn Kemp,
Bill Kerschbaum, Debbie Kogelman, John Kogelman, Rick Korczak, Barb Koskiewicz,
Cathy Kush, Renee Lacivita, Caroline MacGregor, Chris Markwell, Lynn Martinek, Don Meints,
Joe Miller, Kathy Moore, Karen Morris, Madison Mumm, Cathi Niewinski, Cathi Niewinski,
Jeff Niewinski, Dana Oades, Arnie Oppenheim, Kim Pennington, Lee Perignon, Cheryl Pierce,
Mathew Rathbun, Jia Renzi, Holger & Lori Rubien, Evan Sauerwein, Joe Scaglione, Mindy Scaglione,
Jennifer Schlosser, Dick Seaberg, Jim Simmons, Phyllis Snure, Al Stadelmaier, Sharon Sullivan,
Michelle Turvey, Scot Turvey, Kurt Ulbricht, Brenn Wilcox, Al Wilke, Lori Zach, Wendy Zach

Prayer Concerns:

Robb Bobb, Megan Kasier-Olejniczak,
Quiaoit family, Rich Santoro & Julie Arinaga family, Trueblood family

Hospital/Surgery/Testing:

David Berby, Pat Block-Hay, Arlene Erdahl

Serving in the Military:

Kyle Baugh, Quinton Beyer, Daniel Bornhoeft, Thomas Bornhoeft,
Isaiah Caldwell, Erik Carlson, Nick Fischer, Andy Groh, Noah King, Aaron Mateski,
Nathaniel Richardson, Paul Shen, Jennifer Swanberg, Kyle Taylor, Emily Vance, Len Wruk

Homebound/Care Facility:

Christa Arnold, Betty Barnes, Barbara Buse, Sally Ferguson,
Ardeth Holtz, Mary Johnson, Ardys Koch, Marilyn Krautstrunk, Victor & Norene Mazylewski,
Donna Nelson, Wilkie & Carol Parrish, Norma Reed, Wilma Smith, Phyllis Snure



Jesus was wrapped in swaddling cloths because it was the only thing Mary and Joseph could find to keep their baby warm. This year's Sunday School Christmas Program offering will go to support the St. John quilting ministry, whose members make quilts for Lutheran World Relief to warm people around the world who are refugees and victims of natural disasters. Thank you for your generosity.

October 21, 2019

*St. John's Food Pantry,
I just wanted to take a
moment to thank you all for
your generous food supply.
It is deeply appreciated
and desperately needed at
times. God is good, all the
time. My son and I were
standing in line at the
Northern Illinois Food Bank
Truck on (Springfield I
think, or Republic) and a
nice lady we struck up a
conversation with told us
about you.*

*See how God works,
people of different
ethnicities, just striking a
non-chalant conversation,
and get fed*

*Just wanted to thank you,
so much. Praying for the
time that I can donate
instead of being in need.*

*Thank you again,
R. B.*

*Loved the little recipe
pamphlet, going to make
the cha-cha spaghetti.
See you on the 7th...if
need be.*



Jewel-Osco

The Jewel-Osco at Route 59 and Caton Farm Road in South Plainfield is collecting donations to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday meals to our food pantry clients! Our volunteers host the table on weekends through Christmas to answer questions and thank shoppers. Thank you Jewel-Osco and thank you, volunteers!



Imagine cooking enough food for 25,000 meals this Thanksgiving! That is how much food we distributed to 300 families at our last 2019 mobile food pantry event on November 2nd. We also distributed 160 winter coats! Thank you to all 150+ volunteers to came to serve, those who donated coats, and our sponsor, Baird & Warner of Plainfield. See you next year!



We Like You Too!

On November 18th, we received our 500th Facebook page like! We are thankful for all of your support as we work together to serve our hungry neighbors. Visit us on Facebook at St. John Lutheran Church Food Pantry to read what's going on at the pantry and view comments from our online community.

p.s. Don't forget to like our page!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 *Birthday:* Nicole Adams, Nicole Covault, Kyle Forkel, Brianna Murray
- 2 *Birthday:* Margaret Adelman, Jane Drury, Leann Lang, Sandy Smith, Greg Walega;
Anniversary: Randy & Lisa Manegold
- 3 *Birthday:* Grace Brock, Donnie Clark, Greg Duffy, Darlene Henry, Alexandra Kaste, Melissa Mariotti
- 4 *Birthday:* Michael Bowen
- 5 *Birthday:* Renee Bogacz, Jennifer Edwards, Cecilia Musa, Abigail Norris, Roger Wyss;
- 6 *Birthday:* Paul Brandl, Kristin Michalesko, Ken Niles; *Anniversary:* Tim Manning & Janel Eaton
- 7 *Birthday:* Parker Ellis, Zachary Gurzynski, Sophia Randolph, Rylie Stevens, Lisa Worthley
- 8 *Birthday:* Lynn Martinek, Ed Thorp
- 9 *Birthday:* Patti Bailey, Cathi Newinski
- 10 *Birthday:* Randy Donnelly, Emmanuel Haskell, Kay Klint, Chelsea Maulsby, Kathy Moore, Jennifer Nelson, Ella Ohlson, Sharrine Phelps, Wendy Zach; *Anniversary:* Lee & Barb Perignon
- 11 *Birthday:* Baillie Caldwell
- 12 *Birthday:* Stan Bobek, John Funnell, June Kruse, Catie Larisey, Gail Sturm, Rex Stockhausen
- 13 *Birthday:* Makenzie Edwards, Catelyn Hillebold, Paul Kaczmarek, Chris Linares, Dominic Spero
- 14 *Birthday:* Nathan Clark, Abbey Clarke, Katrice Edwards, Kelly Gossen, Sarah Knudsen
- 15 *Birthday:* Coleen Bryson, Joe Miller, Molly Murphy, Lori Rubien, Michelle Sparacio; *Anniversary:* Jim & Renee Bogacz, Frank & Maggie Kuhn
- 16 *Birthday:* Nathan Bloomquist, Kristen Graf, Eric Gurley, Stefanie Jakusz, Bryce Lang, Jack Logan, Lisa Popadowski, Amanda Turner
- 17 *Birthday:* James Andel, Emmett Boburka, Nathan Carpenter, Ethaniel Cherry, Carol Filas, Emma Hartwig, Tom Morris, William Spero, Albert Stadelmaier
- 18 *Birthday:* Graysen Bormet, Erik Carlson
- 19 *Birthday:* James Anderson, Danielle Garbis
- 20 *Birthday:* Faith Andrade, Aubrey Freeman, Aubree Johnson, Barb Johnson, Fabian Medina;
Anniversary: John & Kate Shafer
- 21 *Birthday:* Aurelia Leonhardt, Danielle Meridieth, Annie Thomas
- 22 *Birthday:* James Barnes, Ron Crabb, Carol Robinson, Marissa Villarrubia; *Anniversary:* John & Debbie Kogelman
- 23 *Birthday:* Chris Blackburn, Jill Blackburn, Eddy Crews, Kurt Perignon;
Anniversary: Dick & Arlene Branz, Jacob & Jenelle Lambert
- 24 *Birthday:* Lauren Baugh, Chuck Cortese, Stacy Larisey, Kailee Shlensky, Debbie Smith, Cliff Wendell,
- 25 *Birthday:* Kent Batterman, Rylan Clausen, Joyce Lindstrom, Madalyn Norder
- 26 *Birthday:* Adeline Freeman, Kathy Fregeau, Adam Joseph, Maxamillion Piekosz, Julie Ross, Autumn Welter
- 27 *Birthday:* Thomas Hede, Chloe Heintz, Cheryl Hoffman, Joseph Scaglione;
Anniversary: Jordan & Cynthia Baugh, Dwight & Eileen Diercks
- 28 *Birthday:* Ulysses Arriaga, Sydney Basham, Taylor Boyne, Gordon Crowther, Xavier Haskell, Tyler Henry, John Kowalski, Mike Montalto, Erica Swanson; *Anniversary:* Anna Rogers & Zach Souhrada-Rogers
- 29 *Birthday:* Ella Cortese, Sarah Fee, Tari Heintz, Edward Kirner, Nicholas Kuhn, Ronald Leonhardt, Shaylin Roark;
Anniversary: Steve & Gina Costello, Henry & Cornelia Farber
- 30 *Birthday:* Kristen Bishop, Reid Day, John Fleming, Nicole Hudecek, Nicole Koenig;
Anniversary: Quinton & Sarah Beyer, Michael & Jennifer Dybas
- 31 *Birthday:* Claire Caldwell, Romina Ferro-Viniegra;
Anniversary: Joe & Mandy Dwyer, John & Melissa Keifer, Katie & Mike Frigo

*Come, ye thankful people, come
Raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.*

- Henry Alford (1844)

October 2019 Council Meeting Highlights

By Pastor Jen

Pastoral Acts

Funerals: Joseph Hallam, September 20, 2019 (officiated)

Weddings (officiated): Sarah White and Ryan Bromer, October 5, 2019; Sarah Hotopp and Michael Bratta, October 11, 2019; Leslie Giaudrone and Tom Saner, October 13, 2019

Baptism: Remington Farkasch, September 28, 2019

Gratitudes: I'm grateful for being part of people's lives during their milestones; I was able to spend time this month with many pastoral acts, ministering to people in times of sorrow and joy. I'm grateful for our creative and dedicated staff, who worked hard to launch our fall ministries. Their love of God and this church is evident in their daily work. I'm grateful for our studies on the Bible, and the people who are investing time and energy in God's Word. It was thrilling to be part of these conversations in New Member Class and in our Confirmation Leaders meeting this past month. I'm grateful for the people in our congregation who gave so much time and energy to raise money for our neighbors who come to our Food Pantry, especially Janel Eaton, who orchestrated a wonderful Hunger Action Month appeal. I'm grateful for our pastoral team, always, and the way we work together to serve God and the mission of our congregation.

Giving: Giving at the end of September was healthy! Our budget is in line with our expenses! MUCH GRATITUDE for the work we do, and the people who give their financial resources for our mission and ministry at St. John!

Stewardship Appeal: We kicked off our fall appeal on October 5-6th! I've been working with Dawn MacGregor and Pam Kornaus to launch the appeal. Every week in October, we'll focus on one area of ministry, and how our financial stewardship fuels our mission: *Sharing the Love of Christ*. Commitment Weekend is October 26-27, 2019.

Website: RELAUNCHED! Dawn MacGregor spent many hours these last weeks putting the final touches on our website so we could go live before our Stewardship Appeal- and the results are amazing! We hope people will use the website as a way to stay connected and to share

information about our faith community.

New Member Classes: We are grateful for the 10 families who are attending our four-week New Member Class. Please greet them during our coffee hour on October 20th, the day they will be received at our 11am worship.

Church Council- The Why and The How: One aspect of my work involves working with our Church Council to steward and lead our congregation's mission. What I've been working on this month:

Every month on our Council agenda, we talk about one or two items focusing on our stewardship of our congregation's mission: *Sharing the Love of Christ*. The Church Council works diligently on the *how* we steward the vision. This month: 2020 Budget, which begins with Staff and ministry leaders submitting their 2020 budget requests. Next, the Finance Committee will do some pre-work on the budget for the Council's consideration to forward to the congregation in January. The Council stewards our constitution on behalf of the congregation, always keeping in mind the best practices for our current faith community and the future faith community will we be in years to come. This includes defining the roles of council and staff, and what policies and procedures need to be in place so ministry is healthy and strong in our congregation for years to come.

Throughout the year, we also discuss the *why* of our mission. We've had discussions about St. John's values, and how God lives through this faith community to strengthen our faith. We look at cultural trends, and discuss our mission in a changing world. This month, we are taking a look at the past year so we can set goals for next year.

Church Growth: As I sat in our New Member Class, I heard again the stories of people who were feeling a tug to feed their spiritual life. I wonder: how many more unchurched people are yearning to feed their spiritual lives with steps to grow in faith? How do they know this faith community is gifted to respond? Who out there feels disenfranchised with church, or with the world, and is seeking a place where Christians are accepting and concerned with our troubled world, and working to make a difference as God calls us to do?

We are called to this mission. It involves us checking in with the “why” and the “how” of our daily ministry. What do we need? A few first steps: I’ll be taking time in the next month to map out some times/places where we can gather to talk about the “why” of our mission. Other steps in process: Joining the online world. For instance, did you know that very often, before people visit a church, they check out the faith community online? This is why we re-launched our website. Another goal: support our communications to help people more easily interact with our congregation. The work here involves having someone manage our communications. This will help our staff team communicate more effectively with our members and with people who are seeking a church home. My work with the 2020 budget includes mapping out possibilities towards funding a full-time staff member in communications. Another step: providing focus for our ministries which include topics and learnings to help people take steps to grow in faith. I’ll be taking time the next few months to map out some ideas to discuss with staff and key ministry leaders as we look to our ministries in 2020.

By Pastor Robin

Food Pantry

Hunger Action Month - \$4013.00 was raised in September. Hammy the pig (Jim Prorise) celebrated all month with us and our dedicated food pantry development team (Janel Eaton, Ron Crabb, Fred Holtzrichter + coffee hour bakers) who pulled off an exciting appeal, culminating in Pastors Jen and Evan, Phil Spung and Shane Basham smooching the swine on October 6. Prizes were shared and enthusiasm was high. Many thanks to so many who donated and volunteered, helping us to reach an astounding financial goal, and have fun along the way.

Giving Tuesday – Our next fundraiser will appeal to donors and volunteers *outside* of the St. John congregation. So far, Dawn MacGregor has re-designed the church website, the food pantry website, and has begun to promote Giving Tuesday through eye-catching emails that include appealing volunteer interviews and heartfelt client testimonies.

<https://www.stjohnfood.org/st-john-food-pantry-givingtuesday>

7 new volunteers – I continue to receive volunteer applications year-round and invite them to tour the pantry with me, introducing them to our staff and other volunteers and answering their questions. The 7 newest are all from outside St. John. This ministry is truly a wonderful outreach for people in need of food and for people in need of purpose.

Quilt Blessing

200 quilts were laid over the pews the weekend of September 21-22 to thank God for all the work put into making them, the people who will receive them around the world, and the mission of Lutheran World Relief. Thanks to Steve Volkening who joined an Episcopalian food pantry volunteer to haul the boxes to Faith Lutheran for shipping.

Children’s Ministries

Faith Milestones – The Apostle’s Creed Faith Milestone teaching has begun, taught during Sunday school by teachers Heather and Joe Aincham. Letters went out to parents of all 5th graders inviting kids to attend and learn about these words of our faith. Kids will receive a blessing in worship November 17.

Beautiful Beginnings – This ministry to parents and their babies/toddlers began a new 6-week session October 6, which meets during Sunday school. Gathering for games, songs, activities, and socialization, all parents of kids this age also receive a monthly age-appropriate email about the faith development of their child.

Sunday School Christmas Program – Starting costumes and getting kids signed up for speaking parts this month for this annual celebration and story-telling of Jesus’ birth, which will be December 8th.

Homebound Communion – The Homebound Communion Team met to share the highs and lows of our ministry, plan for their blessing and recognition in worship November 10, and discuss other ways our ministry could serve our homebound members. I visited homebound members Bob and Jean Fitzer and a few other members who were hospitalized or at rehabilitation.

Continuing Ed – September 27-29 I received training and education on Advanced Directives, end of life decisions, funeral planning, burial

options, grief, and death with the intent of helping facilitate one's final wishes, as well as to provide comfort, lowering anxiety and fear when death is imminent.

Synod Council Visits – I visited the council meeting of New Life Lutheran Church, Bolingbrook, as a neighbor and representative of the synod to tell them about all the good work we do in our ELCA congregations, synods, and worldwide, and what a difference in the world our Mission Support dollars make. Did you know ELCA members donated \$1.8 billion in undesignated funds in 2017 to support the work we do at all these levels?? Did you know that the Northern IL Synod is the only remaining synod to send 55% of offerings to ELCA Churchwide ministry that are received from our synod congregations?? Amazing ☺

By Pastor Evan

Youth

This month marked the first time that I have attended our 7th/8th Grade Retreat, and we had a blast! There was a lot of energy as we worshipped, played, and grew together. As a fun side note, it marked the first time in many years that I led team building activities in a camp setting, and I have to say it was a wonderful trip down memory lane! Also, for the first time this month, we added an extra hour to our monthly Feast of FIRE gathering. This extra time was budgeted to include a meditative session, a teaching time on "life as a process", and discussion between our youth. We're excited to see how this new addition to our high school ministry will help deepen the conversations we have together. Finally, I have been enjoying writing confirmation curriculum for our Bible year in partnership with Pastor Jen. A particular focus of our teaching is learning how to wrestle with the Bible even when it's confusing and discerning how these stories are relevant and helpful for navigating our daily lives.

Young Adult

As the second half of my job description is ramping up, I am learning how to balance my attention between youth and young adult ministries, which can be difficult! But I am happy to report it is going well so far.

1. By the time this report is printed, I will have gathered together our local college-age youth for our new, monthly check-in ministry. At these gatherings, we will meet at a local

restaurant, talk about life after high school, take turns bringing an article to share, and pray for each other.

2. As previously mentioned, we will be sending out college-age care packages for the first time this year. I have been collecting addresses over the past couple of weeks, and soon a donation list of items will be prepared for the congregation. We hope to send these packages out by early November.
3. The planning for young adult ministry will continue on Oct 24th as we reconvene to talk about our "one-to-one conversations" that we were trained to do in August. At this meeting, we will start to discuss what our purpose and mission should be.
4. I will be spending a good portion of this month on administration and organization so that I can be better prepared for our winter/spring season.
5. The new, collaboratively planned college-age mission trip is still on course to take place in the second week of June 2020. The planning group will be convening again in November, at which time concrete dates and prices will be decided. Stay tuned for more!

This past month, our Green Team met to discuss how we might improve recycling at St. John, reconnected with our Faith in Place contact, and prepared for our upcoming Solar Panel Forum on Oct 27th. There will be many more updates from this committee now that we have a new chair and a clear direction to follow. Outside of our church, I recently attended the second meeting of the newly formed Racial Justice Sub-Committee for the Northern Illinois Synod. We are beginning to discuss the purpose and goals of our committee, and I am hoping that serving on this committee will prove helpful as we discern having conversations in our local context.

Other Ministry Reports Submitted:

Martha Circle and Monday Night Small Group

Discussion Items:

- Continuation of Council discussion on Council structure.
- Appointment to Fill Council Vacancy.
- 2019 Goal Review and 2020 Topics and Goals for Council.

Detailed Ministry Reports and Council Minutes are available on the bulletin board outside the church office. Monthly Council agendas are available at the Opportunity Wall typically the Sunday before the Council meeting.

December 2019 Worship Assistants

DATE	TIME	DEACON	COMM. ASST.	GREETERS	USHER	ACOLYTE	COUNTERS
Nov. 30	5:30	Len Erdahl	NA		Rob & Crystal Andel	Abigail Malatia	
Dec. 1	8:30	Michelle Covert	Debbie Kogelman	Caroline Fox	Ron & Eloise Crabb Bruce Hawkins, Karen Leypold	Abbey Clarke Bridget Kemp	Jan Drish Sharon Sullivan
Dec. 1	11:00	Kevin Egly	Don Clark	Barb Riegler Carol Wortel	Rick Franzen, Steve Volkening Need 2 more	Christopher Egly Logan Loch	
Dec. 7	5:30	Steve Volkening	NA		Guy Geli, Steve Norder	Reagan Furmankiewicz	
Dec. 8	8:30	Jim Eklund	Ken Swanson	Bryan & Rachel Yergler	Joe Aincham, Mark Collins, Duane Johnson, Bob Makowka, Rich Santoro	D'Angelo McKay Ricky Robinson	Pat Block Cathy Hawkins
Dec. 8	11:00	Heather Favale	Karen Becker	Michelle Sparacio	Shawn Grundon, Shawn Roark Greg Linko, Jack Linko	Allison Bishop Pam Leon	
Dec. 14	5:30	Pat Bambule	NA		Rob & Crystal Andel	Faith McDonald	
Dec. 15	8:30	Steve Volkening	Linda Koerner	Bill & June Kruse	Jon Blomquist, Mike Chitkowski, Mike Murphy, Bryan Yergler	Bebe Kruspe Grant Kearney	Janel Eaton Norm Roland
Dec. 15	11:00	Kristen Vorrier	Steve Costello	Laura Koran	Alan Anderson, David Bishop, Tim Caldwell, Roger Wyss	Mia Johnson Nick VaBales	
Dec. 21	5:30	Georgene Lange	NA		John Fleming, Norm Roland	Evan McDonald	
Dec. 22	8:30	Jill Doyle	Pam Murray	Alissa & Nicole Koenig	Velma Calloway, Judy Dachman Stan Fudacz, Karen Sharpe, Frank Summer	Owen Cortese Nicholas Kuhn	Nancy Kautz Marge Skolos
Dec. 22	11:00	Jennifer Prosis	Cheryl Lovell	Mike & Sandy Smith	Gary Kunz, Renee Lacivita, Shawn Roark, Mike Smith	Harley Piekosz Alexa Worthley	
Dec. 24	3:00	Eddy Crews	Karen Becker Steve Costello Jill Doyle Cheryl Lovell Joyce Vyhnanek	TBD	Mark Collins, Eloise & Ron Crabb, Karen Leypold, Bryan Yergler, Need 1 more	TBD	
Dec. 24	5:00	Jim Bartz	Pam Murray	TBD	Bob Makowka, Need 5 more	TBD	Nancy Kautz Marge Skolos
Dec. 24	11:00	Glenn Smith	Lynne Smith	TBD	Need 4	TBD	
Dec. 28	5:30	Yvonne Welsh	NA	TBD	John Fleming, Steve Norder	Erin Ross	
Dec. 29	8:30	Eddy Crews	Connie Fredericks	TBD	Judy Dachman, Phil Spung, Joyce Vyhnanek, Need 1 more	Annie Thomas Connor Neville	Pat Bambule Sharon Sullivan
Dec. 29	11:00	Jennifer Prosis	Don Clark	TBD	Diane & Jon Balke, Rob Haak, Rick Franzen	Katie McAdam Joshua Prosis	

ALTAR GUILD: **Nov. 30, Dec. 1** – Carol Robinson, Joyce Lindstrom, Debbie Murphy; **Dec. 7, 8** – Marge West, Cheryl Lovell;
Dec. 14, 15 – Debbie Murphy, Joan Nunemaker, Carol Robinson; **Dec. 21, 22** – Thelma Rhind, Sue & Jim Talarico, Karen Becker;
Dec. 24 – Shirley Masters, Debbie Murphy, Pat Bambule, Jan Drish, Joyce Lindstrom, Marge West; **Dec. 28, 29** – Cheryl Lovell, Karen Becker, Carol Robinson

WELCOME CENTER HOSTS:

Dec. 1 – Joyce Lindstrom (8:05), Dick & Sheila Seaberg (9:30), Lynne Smith (10:30); **Dec. 8** – Janel Eaton (8:05), Cindy Robinson (9:30), Sandy Smith (10:30);
Dec. 15 – Carole Kimer (8:05), Carolyn Wyss (9:30), Heather Basham (10:30); **Dec. 22** – Tim & Cheryl Nelson (8:05), Wendy Eklund (9:30), Michelle Sparacio (10:30);
Dec. 29 – Michelle & Ron Covert

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Sundays Open. Please sign up!

Updated 11/20/19

December 2019				Updated 11-20-19		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Baptism: 29th Special Offerings: Giving Tree, Salvation Army	TR = Trinity Room KJH =Karin Johnson Hall YR = Youth Room FS = Fireside Room NX = Narthex CR = Choir Room SA = Sanctuary WW = West Wing					
1 WORSHIP 8:30 & 11:00 First Sunday of Advent 9:45 Sunday School 12:15 Church Decorating Event	2 9:00 Jewel/Fresh Pick Up 6:00 Ensemble – SA 6:30 Small Group – FS 7:00 Handbells – SA 7:00 AI-Anon – TR B 7:00 Cub Scout Comm. – WW4	3 Giving Tuesday 9:15 Staff Meeting 12:30-2:30 Food Pantry Dist. 5:00 Connections Team – TR B 6:30-9:30 Diakonia – CR 6:30-9:30 Beyond Diakonia – FS 7:00 Boy Scout – KJH 7:00 Green Team – YR	4 Food Bank Delivery 8:00-10:00 Quilting Ministry–ww5 9:00 Jewel Pick Up 5:30-7:00 Youth Choirs 7:00-8:15 Confirmation 7th-9th <i>(Prayer stations need sanctuary all the time)</i> 7:00 St. John Chorale – SA 8:15-9:15 HS FIRE 2 – YR	5 DAYBREAK <i>(Meals for Homeless Shelter)</i> 9:00-11:00 Food Pantry Dist. 9:00 Coffee with Friends (Women) –Book & Bean Cafe 10:00 Dorcas Circle – FS 5:00 Young Adults Team – YR 7:00 Advent Evening Prayer 7:00 A.A. – TR B 7:00 Cub Scouts – KJH 7:30 Praise Team – SA	6 9:00 Jewel/Fresh Pick Up 9:30 MOPS Steering - WW5 & Nursery 6:00 Quilting Ministry – ww5 6:00 MOPS Christmas Party – Narthex	7 9:00-11:00 Women's Bible Study – YR 9:00-11:00 Food Pantry Dist. 12:00-1:00 Technical Setup – SA 1:00-2:30 SS Christmas Program Rehearsal – SA 5:30 Worship Service
8 WORSHIP 8:30 & 11:00 Second Sunday of Advent 9:45 Fair Trade Coffee – NX 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Mwangaza Forum – TR Daudi Mseemmaa, senior advisor for Mwangaza Education for Partnership in Tanzania, East Africa 12:30-3:30 Setup SS Program 3:00 Children arrive 4:00 SS Christmas Program	9 9:00 Jewel/Fresh Pick Up 9:30 Food Pantry Team – FS 11:00 FP Development – FS 6:00 Ensemble –SA 6:30 Small Group – FS 7:00 Handbells – SA 7:00 AI-Anon – TR B	10 9:15 Staff Meeting 12:30-2:30 Food Pantry Dist. 6:30-9:30 Diakonia – CR 6:30 Finance – Office 7:00 Sunday School Team 7:00 Boy Scouts – KJH 8:00 Executive Committee –Office	11 Food Bank Delivery 9:00 Jewel Pick Up 5:30-7:00 Youth Choirs 7:00-8:15 Confirmation 7th-9th <i>(Small Care Group Rooms Only, because of Christmas Cantata)</i> 7:00 St. John Chorale – CR 8:15-9:15 HS FIRE 2 – YR	12 Newsletter Deadline 9:00-11:00 Food Pantry Dist. 9:00 Coffee with Friends (Women) –Book & Bean Cafe 12:00-2:00 MOPS Setup – NX, FS, WW1 & 3 7:00 Advent Evening Prayer 7:00 Fellowship Team – YR 7:00 A.A. – TR B 7:00 Cub Scouts – KJH 7:30 Praise Team – SA	13 9:00 Jewel/Fresh Pick Up 9:30-11:30 MOPS – NX, Nursery, FS, WW1 & 3 Salvation Army Gifts Due by Noon	14 9:00-11:00 Women's Bible Study – YR 9:00-11:00 Food Pantry Dist. 9:00 Property Committee – NX 5:30 Worship Service Hardie Baptism
15 WORSHIP 8:30 & 11:00 Third Sunday of Advent 9:45 Sunday School 12:15-2:30 Tween GO! – KJH 12:30-4:00 Vargo Recital – SA	16 9:00 Jewel/Fresh Pick Up 6:30 Small Group – FS 7:00 Handbell Choir – SA 7:00 AI-Anon – TR B	17 9:15 Staff Meeting 12:30-2:30 Food Pantry Dist. 6:30-9:30 Diakonia – CR 7:00 Council Meeting – TR 7:00 Boy Scouts – KJH	18 Winter Break PDO thru Jan. 5 Food Bank Delivery 8:00-10:30 Quilting Ministry-ww5 9:00 Jewel Pick Up 5:30-7:00 Youth Choirs – KJH 7:00 St. John Chorale – SA NO Confirmation or HS FIRE	19 Newsletter Mailed Dental Van – Parking Lot 9:00-11:00 Food Pantry Dist. 9:00 Coffee with Friends (Women) –Book & Bean Cafe 6:30 Martha Circle – TR B 7:00 Advent Evening Prayer 7:00 A.A. – YR 7:00 Cub Scouts – Cancelled 7:30 Praise Team – SA	20 9:00 Jewel/Fresh Pick Up <i>Poinsettias Delivered by Noon</i>	21 9:00-11:00 Food Pantry Dist. 9:00-11:00 Women's Bible Study – YR 12:00 Altar Guild Prepare for Christmas Eve & Setup Poinsettias 5:30 Worship Service
22 WORSHIP 8:30 & 11:00 Fourth Sunday of Advent Cantata (both services) Recess for Sunday School 6:00-9:00 Feast of FIRE Christmas Party – offsite 7:00 Longest Night Service	23 Winter Break – Parents Day Out thru Jan. 6 Christmas Dinners Distributed 10:00 Altar Guild Setup	24 Food Pantry Closed 1:30 Praise Team - SA 2:15 Youth Choirs - CR 3:00 Christmas Eve Service 4:00-4:45 Rehearsal – SA, CR 5:00 Christmas Eve Service 10:30 Rehearsal – CR 11:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26 Church Office & Food Pantry Closed 9:00 Coffee with Friends (Women) –Book & Bean Cafe 7:00 A.A. – TR B	27 9:00 Jewel/Fresh Pick Up 5:30 Gossen Rehearsal	28 9:00-11:00 Food Pantry Dist. 9:00-11:00 Women's Bible Study @ FP 2:00 Gossen Wedding 5:30 Worship Service Bacon Baptism
29 WORSHIP 8:30 & 11:00 Recess for Sunday School	30 7:00 AI-Anon – TR B NO Small Group	31 New Year's Eve Office Closes at Noon 12:30-2:30 Food Pantry Dist.				

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Staff:
 Pastor Jennifer Beamsley
 Pastor Robin Caldwell
 Pastor Evan Mayhew

Lisa Marshall, Church Administrator
 Pam Kornaus, Program Administrator
 Ellen Goodwin, Praise Team and Youth Choir Director
 Tori Hicks, St. John Chorale Director
 Dawn MacGregor, Food Pantry Director
 Sarah Wernli, Handbell Choir Director
 Pamela Blaesing, Office Assistant

Worship with Us:
 Saturday evening 5:30 p.m.
 Sunday traditional service 8:30 a.m.
 Sunday contemporary service 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Requested In-Home Date 11/22/19

Return Service Requested



Christmas Eve Worship, December 24th
 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m.



St. John by the Mall – Joliet IL



Poinsettias

The Altar Guild continues our poinsettia tradition of decorating the altar during our Christmas Eve worship services. You may order as many as you would like.

You may choose to take your plant home after the 11pm Christmas Eve worship service or you may donate it to shut-ins or hospital patients. Please contact the office at 815-439-2320 with questions.

Step 1

My Name _____

Choose One of the Following Dedications and Write in Name of Person(s)

In Honor of _____

In Thanksgiving of _____

In Loving Memory of _____

Step 2

After the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, I would like to:

Choose One

____ Take plant home

____ Donate plant

Step 3

Get an Altar Guild flower envelope from the Opportunity Wall & insert form & a check for \$16 made payable to the Altar Guild. Drop envelope in offering plate or bring to church office by Sunday, December 15th.

