

## On living with gratitude

Sometimes, we correlate gratitude with things going well in our lives. But some of the most grateful people I know endure a tremendous amount of suffering in their lives. And yet, they are grateful. They are not perfect people. They are not holier than you or me. They have moments where they are upset, tired, and worn. They have moments where they are unsure of what will happen next, and are wracked with worry about the future.

But as people of gratitude, they keep turning back to God. They live a different way. They turn to gratitude for God's promises, even when they cannot see the full picture.

A lot of times, we are thankful out of a sense of obligation or duty. But I believe people with a knack for gratitude do so for a different reason: gratitude holds them together through very difficult times. Gratitude centers them when everything is awful and unknown. Gratitude changes them, so they can live every moment with as much grace as they can bear, and so they can be held by grace in the moments they cannot bear.

As a person of faith, I want that for you. And me. And for this world that suffers.

Gratitude is a spiritual gift you can hone and grow and strengthen, like a muscle. You can do spiritual practices to grow and build a natural response of gratitude, similar to practicing other skills to improve your proficiency — like an instrument, a sport, or a hobby. Though some people have a natural knack for living a life of gratitude, a lot of us have to practice gratitude for it to come naturally.

I remember when I was in my thirties and having quite a hard time of it. I was experiencing some rather uncomfortable panic attacks, which would come on unannounced and made me feel as if I were going to die. Not pleasant. So I found someone to help me out. I was hoping she could give me something profound to change my life around. And here was her profound advice, which I paid 70 bucks for, you get it for free. Maureen said: I want you to practice breathing deeply when you are driving and come to a stop light. Not from your chest, but from your belly. She went on to say: Here's the second thing I want you to do. Take two minutes every night and write down three things, specifically, that happened to you that day for which you are grateful for. And I thought, yeah. That'll work. (Insert rolling eyes here...)

But here's what happened: somehow, in three weeks of this practice of breathing and being grateful, my perspective changed. My life didn't change, that was still a bit of a mess. But my outlook changed, and a curious thing happened. I felt happier. More whole. It was as if I was returning back home to God.

Practicing gratitude helps me to live differently. Gratitude helps me to not get sucked into things God does not want for me. Gratitude helps me to return to the God who loves me. Gratitude helps me return to God all that God gives me in abundance. I want more of that. Because gratitude is something I have to work at, I keep practicing.

So today, I'm grateful for the red-and-orange-leaved maple tree I can see out my window, which is putting on quite a show of it these days. I'm grateful for last evening, a rare moment where Chris and I could share a homemade meal and conversation with one another. I'm grateful for my dog, sitting at my feet on this quiet morning as the sun rises and the day is about begin. It's all enough for this day and whatever it may bring. And I'm grateful.

In Christ,

*Pastor-Jen*

# September 2019 Council Meeting Highlights

*By Pastor Jen*

## **Pastoral Acts**

**Funerals:** Celebration of life for Helen Krowlek on September 9, 2019 (officiated)

**Weddings:** Leah Swenson and Nathan Holmer on August 24, 2019 (officiated); Katelyn Chitkowski and Michael Cowell on September 13, 2019 (officiated)

**Confirmation Day:** 23 young people confirmed on August 19, 2019.

**Fall Programming:** It's been a full schedule for pastors and staff at St. John! Fall programming is up and running for our youth and families, small groups, and team ministries. Our great volunteer and staff leadership work countless hours in preparation to help others connect their faith to life. It's well worth the effort. I am teaching confirmation this semester with Pastor Evan, and will attend 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade retreat with him, Phil Spung, and 19 youth on September 20-21<sup>st</sup>. The retreat includes devotions, worship, fellowship and team-building exercises, and is one of the highlights of the year.

**Stewarding Memorial Funds:** I am part of the Memorial Committee, and we stewarded generous gifts at our meeting in August. I'm always grateful for the giving nature and stewardship of our congregation. We reviewed the financial gifts and designated appropriate funds to the ministries that were important to people when they were active in our congregation. In addition to these designations, we approved additional robes for our confirmands and approved new poinsettia/lily tree stands for our worship space. For all who give in memory of loved ones, your gifts are stewarded by people who care deeply about the mission of our congregation, and the ministry we do together.

**Narrative Lectionary:** A new year of the Narrative Lectionary began in September! The rest of the year will focus on Old Testament readings, and beginning in January, the gospel of Mark will take center stage. As a preacher, I find the challenge of preaching from the Narrative Lectionary refreshing and renewing. Our synod's Professional Leadership Conference featured a speaker who gave new ideas for the whole congregation to participate more deeply in the work of studying the bible stories we preach on weekly. Pastor Robin wrote about it in our newsletter.

**Nursery Attendant:** After five years of dedicated service to the children of our nursery, Savannah Marshall resigned her position as nursery attendant. We will miss her! Savannah is nurturing, playful, reliable, and worked hard to create a nurturing and safe environment for our children in the nursery. We are so very grateful for her service to our church!

Jenn Radtke was asked if she would consider serving as our nursery attendant, and we are thrilled she agreed to take on the position. Jenn is a long-time member of our congregation with much experience in childcare. She will be an excellent addition to our staff.

**PDO (Parents Day Out):** We received special visitors at our staff meeting a few weeks ago when six little 2-year-old people walked into our meeting to say "hi!" They were part of our PDO program, and Miss Robin and Miss Jamie were giving them the grand tour of the church. I'm not sure the 2-year-olds were impressed with the office, but we loved the way Robin Trueblood and Jamie Kazmarek show the children how welcome they are in God's house.

**A Week of Travel:** Somehow, I managed to be in four different states traveling for church events in a six-day period. It was a good challenge: presiding at a wedding in St. Louis; attending a Synod Council meeting in Rockford; and attending the Professional Leader's Conference just over the border in Wisconsin. Throw in a quick trip to Peoria when my mom was briefly admitted into the hospital (She's okay! Gratitude and relief.) and call it a week. I'm also grateful to be home ☺.

## **Sanctuary Denomination Conversations:**

I wrote about the recent ELCA action on declaring the ELCA to be a Sanctuary Denomination, and the different venues local congregations may take in response to this action in the September Newsletter. I've received honest and faith-filled feedback and a desire to have more conversations from several members. I'm grateful for the interest. Now, to decide how and when to have the conversations. It's important to me, and so I will make time in my schedule to listen to ideas from people who are interested.

**Stewardship Appeal:** I love stewardship time, because it's a celebration of the generosity and gifts supporting St. John ministry. I work alongside of Dawn MacGregor, Pam Kornaus with the support of other staff to manage the appeal. Our Stewardship Team gives thoughtful feedback and ideas to stoke the fire.

**Church Council Structure:** Churches that thrive and grow intentionally survey their bylaws and structures to accommodate their vision. Our Church Council is tasked with caring for our vision, and part of that task is to structure our Church Council in the best way to serve our vision. We continue to discuss what kind of Church Council structure is needed, so we can prepare for the congregation to give input and feedback before drafting bylaws to be voted on by the congregation.

**Church Growth:** I've given careful thought to church growth these days when giving input and direction for our 2020 staffing goals and General Budget. Our Church Council placed church growth and strategic planning ("goals and plan of action") on our agenda to discuss quite a few times, and from these conversations, I've met with Tim Caldwell to talk about a process the volunteer and staff leadership can participate in to identify which ways our congregation can grow to Share the Love of Christ. We want to continue the good things happening at St. John, and set our congregation towards a path of growing deeper in our ministries. We are working on next steps in the process, to be planned after our Stewardship Appeal.

New Member Classes begin the end of September! I look forward to leading the class.

*By Pastor Robin*

**Food Pantry –**

Hunger Action Month is underway with great enthusiasm.

- At this point, we have collected \$1800 for the food pantry (Only \$200 away from seeing Pastor Jen smooch the swine with Pastor Evan. Can we raise \$1000 more to see your favorite parishioner join them?).
- We kicked off the month with the Mobile Food Pantry, where we served 250 households and hosted 160 volunteers. Thanks to Faith Lutheran, J.U.L.I.E. and St. Edward and Christ Episcopal, who were financial sponsors of the successful event.
- Sunday school classes packed 700 bags of ingredients and healthy recipes for our food pantry clients.

Staffing: Weekly food pantry operations are running smoothly with the leadership of our interim team (Thank you: Chuck Cortese, Barb Furmankiewicz, Janel Eaton and Jackie Mansholt).

**Small Groups** – A new year has kicked off for many of the adult small groups. There are 100 members of our adult small group/Bible studies - can you believe that? The Thursday morning group that started last spring is going strong, and the others continue to sustain old members and invite new ones. It's contagious.

**Pastoral Care** – I spent time visiting some of our homebound members, Christa Arnold, Barb Buse, Norma Reed, Phyllis Snure, Ardie Holtz – such dear people who miss St. John. They appreciate cards and greetings from the congregation. I presided at the committal of Ivar Gill and assisted at the funeral of Helen Krowlek. They were celebrations of lives on this earth and a thanksgiving for the promise of resurrection God gives us.

**Continuing Education** – At the synod annual Professional Leaders Conference I was excited to learn some fun and interactive ways to involve the congregation in sermon preparation. Not only will it help pastors in writing the sermon for us in our context, it will help people engage more deeply with scripture and the story of God in our lives and world.

**Synod** – We had an enthusiastic meeting for the redevelopment of the synod Racial Justice Subcommittee. We look forward to begin planning events and learning opportunities for congregations at our October 4 meeting.

*By Pastor Evan*

**Young Adults**

In the midst of normal preparation for the beginning of the programming year, there were many highlights this past month. Perhaps most exciting was the first gathering of young adults on August 27<sup>th</sup> to plan what young adult ministry will look like at St. John. Nine members of St. John between the ages of 25 and 35 are involved in this effort, and at our first meeting they were trained to do 1-to-1 conversations by a pastoral colleague of mine. The hope is that by using this skill, we will learn how to make deep connections at a time when people are perhaps more socially isolated than they have ever been.

As young adult ministry is launching in earnest, I'm starting to figure out how to best balance my workday between my different areas of ministry. Thankfully it's an exciting challenge to tackle.

**Ministry Highlights**

1. October 13<sup>th</sup> will mark the second time that our Tween GO ministry will assist with the Pet Blessing at St. John. I look forward to partnering with Pastor Robin to make that service special.
2. As our young adults and college age ministries begin, I will be doing a fair amount of planning and administration to make sure they get off to a smooth start. I will also be attempting to get a head start on our spring programming materials as well. Thankfully, the number of youth retreats decrease in the fall which will make it easier to do this.
3. As the confirmation year moves on, I am continuing to craft our new curriculum with Pastor Jen. Each week is a new adventure as we discover how we might best teach our curriculum. This year we are focusing on an overview of the entire Bible (in 15 sessions).

**Coordinating with other ministries inside and outside our doors**

As Pastor Robin steps away, I am now the official Pastoral Liaison to the Green Team. I look forward to partnering with the new chair John Schafer to help this team achieve its new goals. Outside of our church, I recently attended the first meeting of the newly formed Racial Justice Subcommittee for the Northern Illinois Synod. There was a lot of positive energy around the table, and I can't wait to see what comes out of our time together.

### College-Age Youth

Starting within the next two months, we will be reaching out to our youth who have recently entered college by sending care packages and letters. I will also be meeting with college-age youth in the area once a month for a check in time. More information will be coming soon.

I also recently met with a group of Pastors to plan a college age mission trip with other ELCA churches in the area to take place in the summer of 2020. There was a lot of excitement around the table, and I am looking forward to sharing more as the project develops.

This past month was full of firsts, and I am energized by all the new ministries that are happening at St. John! It feels great to finally be following through on the second half of my job description.

### *Additional Highlights*

#### **Ministry Reports were submitted by:**

**Connections Team** – 3 years of rejuvenating the Adult Fellowship Program, we have formed a subcommittee to continue this program with hopes that it can stand on its own. Twenty-six people participated in Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie on Sept. 7.

### **Connection Team Subcommittee (Fellowship Team) –**

Expectations of the members were discussed as well as how future events will be managed. October 2019 will be the Dollinger Farm. November 2019 event is being determined.

**Sunday School Team** – Sunday School theme is “Love Kindness”. The children have enthusiastically participated in learning this year’s theme song written by Ellen Goodwin and choreographed by Pastor Robin. 151 children registered through on-line registration. Distributed piggy banks for fall special collection to purchase piglets through ELCA Good Gifts Program. Sunday School classes are participating in HAM activity and putting together meals for distribution at our Food Pantry.

#### **Discussion Items:**

- 2020 Draft Budget Considerations
- Fall Appeal Update

*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.*



### **November 17th**

**Bishop Clements invites you to one of three gatherings around the synod this fall to join in a continuing conversation together about these important values.**

Your input is vital as we discern how we will best walk together and live out this mission and these values at the synod level and in your congregations. The closest one to us is on Sunday, **November 17**, 2019 at New Life Lutheran Church, 249 N. Bolingbrook Drive Bolingbrook from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

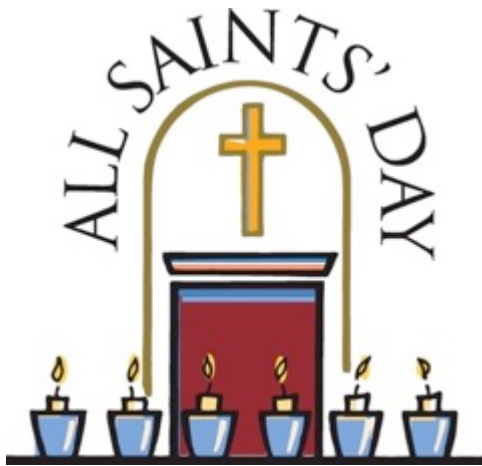
### **Northern IL Synod Mission Statement**

*Walking together... loving Christ, loving all, for the sake of the world*

### **Vision Statement**

*As church together, the Northern Illinois Synod will faithfully make Christ relevant to a diverse and changing world.*





## Saturday, November 2nd Sunday, November 3rd

On Saturday, November 2nd at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, November 3rd at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., our congregation remembers the faithful who have died during the past year.

All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. During worship there will be an opportunity for candle lighting. These candles signify the saints who have lived and died in faith.

There are crosses in your bulletin that you may place the name of a deceased loved one on, and decorate it to be placed on the chancel wall for All Saints Day.



### Faith Series Minis

Throughout the month of October during the Fall Appeal, we sent out digital weekly newsletters with links to worship related videos like skits and worship videos. Also in the newsletter were bonus mini features called Faith Series Minis. These two minute vignettes gave members an opportunity to share experiences related to weekly fall appeal themes.

The next time you visit our YouTube channel, click on the subscribe button. You'll be notified each time a video is uploaded to the page.

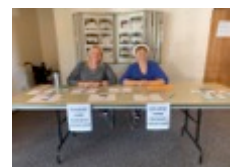
Visit our YouTube channel at St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet to view them all.



### Stjohnjoliet.org

Redesigned. Relunched. If you have not visited our church website in a while, take a gander at [stjohnjoliet.org](http://stjohnjoliet.org).

You'll find links to sermons, ministries and sign ups, like the H.S. Winter Retreat.



### FaceBook

Join our online conversation when you visit our page, St. John by the mall. Respond to the pastors' weekly questions about sermon scripture, watch worship videos like choirs and view photos. A HUGE shout out and thank you to MIKE EVANS for sharing his gift of photography with our faith community. He helps to keep everyone connected near and far with weekly photos and videos!!





### **November 9th – 10th Homebound Community Ministry**

At St. John, we extend The Lord's Table beyond our sanctuary to the kitchen and coffee tables of our members who are sick, homebound, or unable to drive to church. Around tables, we share the bread and wine, as fellow members of the body of Christ. It is a mystical union and a privilege to bring the Eucharist to God's people who are unable to be with us at church anymore. We will be blessing the people of this ministry in worship the weekend of November 9/10.

Many thanks to the St. John homebound communion ministry team: Warren Arnold, Pamela Atkinson, Diane Barnes, Arlene Branz, Dwight and Eileen Diercks, Len and Arlene Erdahl, Marsha Getz, and Sue Hoff.

Many thanks to our fellow members who welcome us into their homes: Christa Arnold, Kent Batterman, Kelly Batterman, Barb Buse, Henry and Cornelia Farber, Bob and Jean Fitzer, Ardeth Holtz, Leonard Jones, Ardys Koch, Victor and Norene Mazylewski, Wilkie and Carol Parrish, Norma Reed, Phyllis Snure, Al and Carolyn Stadelmeier.

### **November 10th Fair Trade in Narthex**

Calling all coffee, tea and chocolate lovers... Fair Trade will be on November 10th. Hope to see you!!

### **November 16th Adult/Child/Infant CPR/AED Training Class**

St. John will host a CPR/AED class on Saturday, November 16th from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 11:00 a.m. Anyone 16 and over can sign up in the church office with your \$25 fee before Wednesday, November 13th. See Pam Murray if you are interested and/or have any questions.

### **November 17th Fellowship Event – Bowling**

You don't need to bowl a 300 to have fun with your friends! Come out and join us for an afternoon of bowling, fellowship and fun at Plainfield Lanes and strike up a connection with members of St. John!

When: Sunday, November 17th  
Place: Plainfield Lanes  
15610 S. Joliet Road, Plainfield  
Time: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$20.00 per person

\$20 covers two hours of unlimited bowling, shoe rental, two slices of pizza and unlimited pop.

### **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.

### **Looking Ahead December 1st Church Decorating Event**

All adults are welcome to help prepare our building for the Christmas season. We'll decorate after 11:00 a.m. worship! Look for the sign up in your Sunday bulletin.

# **Commitment Weekend October 26-27, 2019**

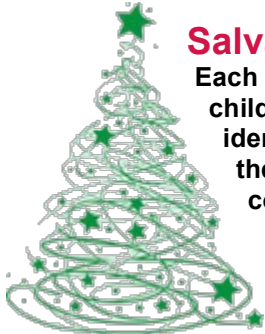


### **Commitment Cards Available!**

- Download at [stjohnjoliet.org](http://stjohnjoliet.org)
- Commit online at [stjohnjoliet.org](http://stjohnjoliet.org)
- At the Welcome Center
- In the Pews

## 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 on 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, or buy needed clothing or other necessary items.



## 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

Stay for pie and hot beverages. Sign-up in your bulletin to donate homemade pies in disposable pans.

### Church Building Closed, November 28th – 29th

### First Sunday of Advent, December 1st

Advent officially begins with the lighting of the first candle.

### Church Decorating, Dec. 1st, after 11:00 a.m. worship

Adults join us as we decorate the sanctuary and church in anticipation of Advent and Christmas. Come ye joyful people come. Sign-up sheets in November's bulletins.

### 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.

### Sunday School Christmas Program, 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, 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 Year's Eve, Church Office closes at Noon

Food pantry distribution normal schedule, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

### New Year's Day, Church Office Closed

May 2020 bless you in every way.



# St. John Youth & Family Ministries

*Faith Formation for Youth and Families*



Day	Time	Activity	Participants
Saturday, November 2nd	7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Mobile Food Pantry Event	Open to all, but you need to register at <a href="http://stjohnfood.org">stjohnfood.org</a>
Wednesday, November 6th	7:00 – 8:15 p.m.	Leaders Meeting	Leaders Only, NO STUDENTS
Wednesday, November 13th	7:00 – 8:15 p.m.	Learning Event	Students & Leaders
Wednesday, November 20th	7:00 – 8:15 p.m.	Learning Event	Students & Leaders
Wednesday, November 27th	7:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Fellowship	Students; Sign up by emailing Pastor Evan at <a href="mailto:pastorevanmayhew@gmail.com">pastorevanmayhew@gmail.com</a>

## November 2nd

### Mobile Food Pantry Event Service Project Fulfillment Opportunity

Confirmation students and their families are invited to serve at the final 2019 Mobile Food Pantry event. Make it a family event and serve together! Sign up at [stjohnfood.org](http://stjohnfood.org).

## November 3rd

### 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 where we learn about the Fruits of the Spirit and participate in highs/lowes.

Next date: November 3rd 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 November 3rd 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.

## November 17th

### H.S. Feast of FIRE

Usually meets 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.

## November 6th, 13th, 20th

### 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, prayer at the end. Plenty of time to hang out and take a mid-week break.

## 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](http://stjohnjoliet.org)

Dates: January 17 – 19, 2020  
Who: 9th – 12th graders  
Location: Dickson Valley Retreat Center  
Newark, IL  
Cost: \$125  
\$50 deposit due January 5th  
\$75 balance due January 12th  
Sign Up: Online only – [stjohnjoliet.org](http://stjohnjoliet.org)

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 Kornaas in the church office. Scholarships available. See Pastor Evan.



## Beautiful Beginnings

Our Beautiful Beginnings class is going well. We meet during the Sunday School hour in the West Wing, Room 5. Any family with children under 3 are welcome to attend. Please contact Chris Markwell for information. Our last day for the fall session is November 10th.

## Recap: Blessing of the Animals

On October 13th, St. John's three pastors and the youth from Tween GO! celebrated The Feast of St. Francis with the Blessing of the Animals! Dozens of pets and their owners enjoyed the pet service. Great job Tween GO! You all did an excellent job blessing animals and spreading joy!



## Looking Ahead: Sunday School Christmas Program

Our Sunday School Christmas Program is on Sunday, December 8th.

We are in the process of compiling a list of children who would like speaking parts. We will send notices home to the parents letting them know their child(ren) would like a part and to make sure they will be available for rehearsal on Saturday, December 7th and for the program on December 8th.

Also, we are asking volunteers to bake cookies (peanut free) as well as help with costumes the day of the program. If you are available to either bake or help with costumes please let Pastor Robin know.



## Welcome to Our New Members!

Received into membership at St. John on October 20, 2019:  
Dave and Rhonda Berby, Amy Brynda and Emma, Donnie and Kaitlynd French and Myles, Jody Godsey, Martin and Lindsey Kief and Joann, Jessica Kruspe, Alyx and Megan Llorens and Ivy, Maricay Miller, Dee Seeman



## I believe in God the father almighty, maker of heaven and earth ...

Throughout our lives, there are many faith milestones we mark with the church. When a person is a child for their first faith milestone - baptism - parents promise to teach their child the Apostles' Creed. This fall our 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school children have been learning about God and faith through the words of this statement of belief with Sunday school teachers, Heather & Joe Aincham.

Apostles' Creed lessons gave an overview and explanation of the statement; explaining and exploring the three "articles" which describe God as the Father/Creator, the Son/Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit/Sanctifier.

In worship on November 17, we will offer prayer for these children and their families for fulfilling their baptismal promises at the completion of this faith milestone. Praise be to God.

# Announcements

## **We welcome through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:**

*Remington Wayne Farkasch*, son of David and Wendy Farkasch

*Rowan Asher Koenig*, son of Alissa and Nicole Koenig

*John Edward Kasper*, son of John and Emily Kasper

*Leona Michaela Russell*, daughter of Matthew and Elena Russell

## **Congratulations to:**

Jennifer and Don Smith on the birth of their son, Oliver Monroe Smith and to his grandmother, Donna Nelson

## **Wedding Congratulations to:**

*Ryan Bromer and Sarah White*

*Tom Saner and Leslie Giaudrone*

## **Illness/Recovering:**

Jim Alberico, Christa Arnold, Pat Bambule, Bob Barnet, Gail Bartz, Joyce Beyer, Kelly Bishop, Renee Bogacz, Paul Brandl, Arlene Branz, Cody Carter, Roy Conterez, Tiffany Crowther, Stefanie Czoschke, Greg Domaleczny, Jeff Engelman, Trenton Ferro, Susan Fick, Gail Hartley, Kim Hasbrouck, Kari Hernandez, Andrea Hilliard, Diane Kaiser, Carmen Kehrer, Dawn Kemp, Debbie Kogelman, John Kogelman, Rick Korczak, Barb Koskiewicz, Renee Lacivita, Caroline MacGregor, Chris Markwell, Lynn Martinek, Don Meints, Joe Miller, Kathy Moore, Madison Mumm, Kent Munroe, Jeff Niewinski, Dana Oades, Arnie Oppenheim, Wilkie Parrish, Kim Pennington, Lee Perignon, Cheryl Pierce, Mathew Rathbun, Jia Renzi, Evan Sauerwein, Joe Scaglione, Mindy Scaglione, Dick Seaberg, Jim Simmons, Phyllis Snure, Al Stadelmaier, Sharon Sullivan, Michelle Turvey, Scot Turvey, Brenn Wilcox, Al Wilke, Wendy Zach

## **Hospitalization/Surgery/Testing:**

Bill Bromer, Tyler Wernli, Lori Zach

## **Prayer Concern:**

Robb Bobb, Phil Calahan & Family, Quiaoit Family, Rich Santoro & Julie Arinaga Family, Trueblood Family

## **Prayers for our Homebound/Care Facility Members:**

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

## **Serving in the Military:**

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

## **Our Sympathies To:**

Joyce Vyhnanek and the Kardadi Family on the passing of Joyce's mother, *Dorothy Ervin* and sister, *Margaret Wallace*  
Glenn and Lynne Smith, Janet Hughes and the Hallam Family on the passing of *Joseph Hallam*  
Bryan and Sarah Wernli on the passing of Bryan's aunt, *Karen Piecuch*

## **Memorial To:**

The Food Pantry in memory of Joyce Vyhnanek's mother, Dorothy Ervin by Tom & Lisa Schiller



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 *Birthday:* Jennifer Binns, Jessica Gossen, Easton Holcombe, Reese Holcombe
- 2 *Birthday:* Adam Lang, Madeline Milashoski, Michael Obodzinski, Henry Pragit, Brandon Tobolic, Leslie Saner, Bredia Santoro
- 3 *Birthday:* Emma Anderson, Daniel Hahn-Boisvert, Brian Cummings, Owen Stenberg, Carie Stewart;  
*Anniversary:* James & Gail Bartz, Brian & Kristen Bishop, Carlos & Nicole Morales, Dave & Suzanne Oxley
- 4 *Birthday:* Carol Parrish; *Anniversary:* Richard & Michelle Korczak
- 5 *Birthday:* David Farkasch, Judy Ferro, Brianna Fremouw, Randy Manegold, Gavin Stewart
- 6 *Birthday:* William Baron, Richard Branz, Megan Brock, Candy Dutton, Melissa Keifer, Peyton Linares, Bobbie Meridieth, Dana Oades, Bobbie Today, Todd Worthley; *Anniversary:* James and Bobbie Meridieth
- 7 *Birthday:* Mia Arnett, Wendy Eklund, Melissa Gierich, Alexa Grundon, Collin Holt, Christina Kipper, Thomas Maulsby, Tom Saner; *Anniversary:* Jonathan & Nicole Adams
- 8 *Birthday:* John Bryson, Chrissy Darwish, Richard Korczak, Natalie Russow, Kenneth Schmidt;  
*Anniversary:* Howie & Jennifer Edwards, Jim & Sharon Sullivan
- 9 *Birthday:* Thomas Czoschke, Heather Specht, Kylie Strickland, Clementine Thorp  
*Anniversary:* Len & Arlene Erdahl
- 10 *Birthday:* Aleesha Amodei, Shane Basham, Stone Kaczmarek, John Manifold;
- 11 *Birthday:* Marcus Bahr, Henry Farber, Jody Godsey, Anthony Kempf, Robert Kornaus, Jacob Stevens;  
*Anniversary:* Rob Haak & Kim Bartz Haak
- 12 *Birthday:* Madelyn Atrill, Rick Bailey, Rachel Bowen, Jackie Hopper, Mark Schultz;
- 13 *Birthday:* Angelica Arriaga, Cole Atrill, Katelyn Chitkowski, Emily Ellis, Kimberly Jensen, Mia Nelson
- 14 *Birthday:* Carter Day, Kaitlynn Ferguson, Mike Smith
- 15 *Birthday:* Ben Anderson, Christa Arnold, Audrey Conquest, Charlotte Jones;  
*Anniversary:* Larry & Jennifer Spencer
- 16 *Birthday:* Arden Bay, Steve Costello, Jack Dachman, Gia Keifer, Jillian Liedtke, Bill Leon, Christine Summer;  
*Anniversary:* Jeff & Jackie Hopper, Brian & Jennifer Seeley, Bryan & Sarah Wernli
- 17 *Birthday:* Blanche Conterez, Doug Koerner, Adam Repavich, Sheri Shlensky, Cory Thayer
- 18 *Birthday:* Alaina Delboccio, Lisa Hardie, Paul McDonald, Brooke Rousonelos, Frank Sharp
- 19 *Birthday:* Kyle Eklund, Norene Mazylewski, Jennifer Spero
- 20 *Birthday:* Giovanni Incaudo, Dan Radtke, Gabriel Stiegler, Jason Wielgus;  
*Anniversary:* Doug & Dana Allen
- 21 *Birthday:* Debbie Anhalt, Jared Maulsby, Jackson Ogrizovich, Rochelle Rada
- 22 *Birthday:* Frank Campagna, Jason Covault, Duane Johnson
- 23 *Birthday:* Alec Brandl, Stacey Fowler; *Anniversary:* Keith & Linda Erchinger, Brian & Meghan Joyner, Luke & Patty Taylor
- 24 *Birthday:* Ardys Koch, Pamela Leon, Denise Rimmke, Elyse Smith, Tyler Wernli;  
*Anniversary:* Ed & Linda Martin
- 25 *Birthday:* Jamie Kaczmarek; *Anniversary:* Paul & Keli Robinson, Kenneth & Wanda Schmidt, Ed & Clementine Thorp
- 26 *Birthday:* Arlene Branz, Cindy Dolle, Jessica Kruspe, Alan Sowa, Joseph Sparacio, Larry Spencer
- 27 *Birthday:* Pam Blaesing, Patrick Stingel; *Anniversary:* Shawn & Andrea Grundon
- 28 *Birthday:* Karen Becker, Melvin Keuch, Kylie Novotny, Fred Propper, Katrina Saieg;  
*Anniversary:* Bruce & Cathy Hawkins, Mike & Anna Rogers
- 29 *Birthday:* Victoria Engel, Debra Leonhardt, Marta Simmons, Phyllis Snure, Kay Tidwell
- 30 *Birthday:* Jeffrey Breen

St. John Lutheran Church  
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[stjohn2650@gmail.com](mailto:stjohn2650@gmail.com)

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, Senior Choir 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.



St. John by the Mail – Joliet IL

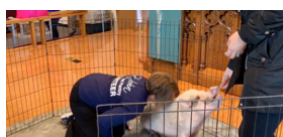
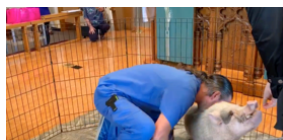
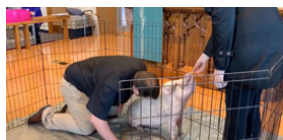
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Requested In-Home Date 10/25/19

Return Service Requested



## Commitment Weekend October 26-27, 2019



## We Made Our Goal!!!

Thank you for 800+ votes! Thank you for your \$4,000+ in donations!  
Thank you for your time & cheers

Our Smooch the Swine winners:  
Pastor Evan, Pastor Jen  
Shane Basham – 2nd Most Votes  
Phil Sung – Most Votes



## Attention Winter Break Students

If you and/or your child(ren) are home during the upcoming holidays, please consider spending a few hours at the pantry helping to serve our hungry neighbors.

Food Pickup opportunities are available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We pick up from the Jewel at Caton Farm and Route 59 as well as the Fresh Thyme across the street.

Distribution volunteer hours are available on Tuesdays from Noon – 3:00 p.m., Thursdays 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., and Saturdays 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

NIFB truck unloading, stocking, and sorting is available every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. If you are interested, please see Pastor Robin or Dawn MacGregor, or email us at [stjohnfood@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnfood@gmail.com).



Thank you to Steve Engel & all of our friends at Baird & Warner in Plainfield for

## SIX CONSECUTIVE YEARS

of Mobile Food Pantry sponsorship.

Your partnership has fed thousands and thousands of people since 2014!