

St.
JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
LAKEVILLE, MINNESOTA
ELCA

...God never intended for us to do faith alone or to even be alone...come to church to renew your hearts and souls. There is no reason to be alone.



We are here to share and celebrate the saving power of Jesus Christ
KNOWING – GROWING – LOVING – LIVING

November/December 2019

Worship: Sundays, 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.; Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m.

Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month.

St. John's Lutheran Church, 20165 Heath Avenue, PO Box 955, Lakeville, MN 55044 · 952-469-4916
www.sjlcl.org

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PRAYER CHAIN

To be placed on St. John's prayer chain email Diane Hammer at d_hammer@charter.net. All requests are confidential.

CONTACT INFORMATION

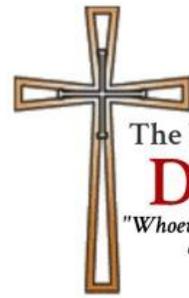
Call the church office at 952-469-4916 for contact information for St. John's members. Phone directories are also available in the narthex.

VISIT US ONLINE

www.sjlcl.org

SERVE

Sign up for readers, communion servers, and greeters can be done at sjlcl.org/signup or by calling the church office at 952-469-4916. No experience is needed, just a willingness to serve.



SJLCL 2019:
The Year of
DISCIPLESHIP

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." ~

Matthew 16:24 (NIV)

Staff Email Addresses

Pastor Andy: pastorandy@sjlcl.org

Pastor Heather: pastorheather@sjlcl.org

Amanda Boe: Amanda@sjlcl.org

Nicole Major: nicole@sjlcl.org

Tyra Wiemann: tyra@sjlcl.org

Elisa Brown: elisa@sjlcl.org

Jonathan Kopplin: jonathan@sjlcl.org

Amy Erlandson: amy@sjlcl.org

Jamye Casperson: jcasperson@frontier.com

Jill Fiereck: jill@sjlcl.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Sunday worship: 8:30, 10:45 a.m.
- Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month.
- Wednesday evening worship: 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Listen to Services Via a Phone

Call: 1-877-408-0392 and follow these instructions:

1. **Press** speaker button on your phone set.
2. When connected, you will be asked for a Conference Code: **Enter 132410#**.
3. You will hear music until the sound technician (at St. John's) connects you when the service has started. **PLEASE NOTE:** you are on a conference line **use your mute button** so others will not hear you.
4. When the service is over hang up the phone.



...With this song, my soul danced before God, and my heart was joined in the priesthood of all believers.

ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY

Baptisms

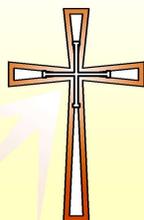
9/29/19 Levi James Blaschko
 10/13/19 Elaina Margaret Merry
 10/13/19 Maci Lynn Prussman

Funerals

9/25/19 Eileen Marion Alberts

Weddings

10/12/19 Hunter James Hiemstra
 and Margaret Grace Winter



W

hen I think about Advent and Christmas, my mind drifts automatically to when my son, Noah, was born. Scott, my husband, and I were home on furlough from Madagascar, where we served as ELCA missionaries. While we were home, Noah was born, but shortly after his birth, we were whisked away back to Madagascar.

Now don't get me wrong! We were excited to return to our lives and work in Madagascar, but the timing was hard. Our time was up with our families, and we had to leave with our newborn baby a few days before Christmas Eve. We went from snow and baby buntings to sun and bathing suits; from being surrounded with family and friends to not knowing anyone in our new town – we had moved upon our return to start work in Mahajanga. The hardest was we were in a cozy apartment with all the amenities to a house full of termites, hissing cockroaches and geckos! It was a hard transition.

But there we lived and there God had called us. Lucky for us upon our arrival, it was Christmas Eve, and like most church workers, we took our baby and went to church. There we were stood, kneeled, and prayed – my little family of three – as tears rolled down my face. Even though I was surrounded by people, even hugging the ones I loved most, I felt so alone.

Then something happened as the people began to sing a familiar carol, "Avia Ry Mino" or "O Come All Ye Faithful!" It goes like this:

Avia ry mino! (o come all ye faithful)
Hifaly sy hihoby, (joyful and triumphant)
Avia, avia hankany Betlehema; (o come ye, o come ye, to Bethlehem)
Teraka Jeso, (o come and behold him)
Tompon'ny anjely (born the king of angels)
Avia hitsaoka Azy 3x (o come let us adore him 3x)
Izay Tomponao! (Christ the Lord)

With this song, my soul danced before God, and my heart was joined in the priesthood of all believers. It's there in that moment that I realized what it meant to go to church. You see, God never intended for us to do faith alone or to even be alone – church is the place we belong. So during this season of Thanksgiving (November) and Advent (December), come to church to renew your hearts and souls. There is no reason to be alone.



On a recent cool Sunday, three children held the banner, blowing in the wind, as they led 70 walkers in the 7th Annual South of the River CROP Hunger Walk, held in Lakeville. More than \$12,500 has been raised to date, with additional donations still coming in. One-quarter of the funds will go to local hunger-fighting agencies, while the remainder will benefit Church World Service's grassroots programs working to end hunger around the globe. Photo by Dave Osterkamp

CROP WALKING HAS A PURPOSE

By Heather Roth Johnson

Jill Fiereck, St John's Administrative Secretary, has been involved in the "South of the River Crop Walk" for three years now with St. John's as the host church. A Crop Walk is about ending hunger one step at a time by increasing hunger awareness and supporting the food shelves through a food drive and monetary donations. As community organizer, Jill, along with other committee members, organized the event by mapping out the 1-mile and 4-mile routes, applied for a parade permit, secured police and crossing guards for the event, and held a commu-

nity education workshop a month before the walk at the Burnsville Library.

This year, there were 70 walkers, and 15 of them were from St John's. Other walkers came from nearby sponsoring congregations including Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church in Apple Valley, Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, Open Circle Church, Presbyterian Church of the Apostles, and St James Lutheran Church of Burnsville, New Spirit UCC of Savage, and Cross of Christ Church in Lakeville. To-

gether, they walked 4 miles and raised more than \$12,500 in funding so far.

When asked "What do you love about the Crop Walk?" Jill responded with "I love how many people came out on such a cold and windy day to do something good together. That's community service at its finest!"

If you are interested in joining the fun of the Crop Walk next year, be sure to check with Jill in the fall of 2020.

REAL PEOPLE AS REAL GIVERS

Brooks and Meagan Lillehei

At the beginning of August, I started running with the goal of tackling Surf the Murph, a 25K trail race held at Murphy Hanrehan Park Reserve on October 19, 2019. I wouldn't have started this endeavor without the support of my wife and sons. My wife, Megan, is a long-time runner with many marathons to her credit. My sons, Grant and Rowan, were on the middle school cross country team and Rowan, now a freshman at Lakeville South, is currently a member of the boys cross country team. Grant, our sophomore, and I headed out for my first strides on a two-mile road run by our home that we refer to as bus stop loop because it's the route taken by the school bus each morning. At this point, I've run three trail events with my wife - two ten milers and one half-marathon and continue to reflect on how instrumental those first strides were on this journey.

I share this portion of my life's journey because it is part of my faith journey, an opportunity to connect with nature and one that has included the enriching interactions with many people through their support. I was thinking of sharing a week of my training regimen to highlight how many people are providing me support and then a week in my faith journey to demonstrate that I am well supported by many of you. However, I'm going to skip the week of training with the hope that you will approach me later.

A week in my faith journey starts out with Sunday Service, donuts,



Megan and Brooks Lillehei

and ACE. This is followed by Monday bible study and recently a walk around Orchard Lake with Pastor Andy. Wednesday brings dinner at church, Service and Youth Group. (yes, I get to attend/assist with Youth Group, forever young). Friday, my wife and I and others have had the opportunity to "Hike with Heather" - the alliterative name we've given to the trail hiking we do in the nearby parks. It's been an opportunity for fellowship and enjoying the great outdoors.

You can capture from a week in my faith journey that it includes your support, the congregation of St. John's. It is your giving that continues to provide me, our congregation, and beyond, with the opportunity to grow in faith.

Thank you for your support!
Brooks Lillehei



Larry and Sheila Schneiderman

Why do Sheila and I give offerings to God through St. John's Lutheran?

Every summer, a friend of mine takes a group of people out on a lake on his 42 foot boat. It's a boat I wouldn't want to have even if I could afford it—Yes, it draws attention. As we headed towards a restaurant on the lake, Jeff slowed the boat down so that he wouldn't create any wakes. We were going very slow when I noticed a guy in his fifties fishing with an old fishing rod. I made

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Sheila and Larry Schneiderman

eye contact with him which made me feel a little uncomfortable. He was maybe 10' from me and I asked cheerfully, "How's your luck?" He hesitated and then answered flatly, "Senor, if I was lucky, I would be on your boat."

"Every Sunday, the last thing I see before I enter the church is the wonderful Bible Verse from John. I am the Resurrection and the life. Now, that's a journey I don't want to miss. We are lucky to say the least, to have a personal relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ. He welcomes us aboard and at the conclusion of this life, he will welcome us to eternity.

Sheila and I are so thankful for an almost embarrassingly long list of blessings, starting with our 3 wonderful children and our 3 grand-

children. We are so thankful for our parents who loved us. I never worked for anybody and loved the opportunities to do good things through my business and be rewarded nicely for it. We are thankful for our church and the love we feel in this special place—not just for ourselves, but for everyone.

We do have some health issues, but we thank God for our faiths and the strength to learn from "difficult times," and feel this has brought us closer to God.

As to our giving, we have pledged every year since we were married 49 years ago. And, with the exception one year, we increased the amount of our pledge at least a little every year.

"Don't give till it hurts. Give until it feels good!"

I like to contribute to a church where I can sense the work of the Holy Spirit. I'm convinced the Holy Spirit is here and checks on Pastor Andy and Pastor Heather to be sure we are growing in our faith. Again, we feel the love of Christ not just for us, but for everybody.

We see people planting seeds in many different ways. Whether you have the talent to be a good teacher; a musical talent to share in worship. The time and desire to call on our shut ins and let them know they are not forgotten by being a Befriender; or you're good with your hands and help with building repairs; an interest in administration to serve on the council or if you have the ability to contribute financially, everyone's gifts are needed and appreciated. These are all examples of gifts from God and we should take joy in sharing bountifully. When you feel the love of God and know that you're growing in faith, you will want to contribute. That's a good thing. The world needs it. Our church needs it. You need it.

We want to help people of all ages know Jesus. Sometimes, I can feel overwhelmed by this mission. I came across a prayer used by the Iringa Office in Mahanga, Tanzania. Please bow your heads in prayer with me.

Let us not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Instead, let me:

Do Justly now.
Love mercy now.
Walk humbly now.

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We are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are we free to abandon it. Amen.



John and Jeanne Hartwig

Once upon a time there were three men sitting in the father's lounge waiting for a nurse to come tell them whether their wife had given birth to a boy or girl. Later that morning, a nurse came in and asked, "Is Mr. Brown here?" "Yes, I'm Mr. Brown." "Congratulations, your wife just gave birth to twins." "What a coincidence, because I work for the Minnesota Twins."

A few minutes later, the same nurse came in again and asked, "Is Mr. Jones here?" "Yes, I'm Mr. Jones." "Congratulations, your wife just gave birth to triplets." "That's incredible. I work for the 3-M Company."

That left one man in the hospital waiting room. Again, the same nurse came back, and as soon as she did, the man jumped up and bolted out of the hospital. He ran down the road, and he kept on running. Somebody asked, "What was that all about?" Another person said, "I don't know, but he just ran out of the hospital mumbling something about working for 7-Up."

That is the attitude of some when the subject of stewardship is shared. They want to run. Today we are going to answer the question "Why do we give offerings to God through St. John's Church?"

In the bulletin see a diagram. You

may do this exercise alone or as a couple, if you have children with you, I'd encourage you to include them in this process as well. On the top line let's write "God" Outside circle arrow down to 3 o'clock and write "has blessed" Outside the circle arrow down to 6 o'clock and write "us/me"

In this gift bag list two things that God has blessed you with. Note



John and Jeanne Hartwig

the open bag as God's blessings flow freely and without hesitation.

Now, let's arrow up to 9 o'clock and write, "so we/I may be a blessing to others." In this box, list two ways you are a blessing to others here at church.

Note that the box has a lid on it. Why are we hesitant to be a blessing to others? What is holding us back? What are we afraid of?

Now draw one final arrow up to 12 o'clock where the cycle will repeat itself.

As children, worship and a faith community were weaved into the fabric of who John and I are today. During our single, college and dating days we each sought out a church that would help us to continue to grow in our faith.

Today, forty-seven years later, St. John's is fulfilling our spiritual needs and we are excited to be a part of this vibrant congregation.

Of course we cannot forget the blessings of our children and grandchildren, careers, good health (most days) and now retirement.

In return as an extension of God's hand, John and I have chosen to serve in various capacities, including in home communion and working the Scandinavian dinner (which all should experience at least once).

At the same time we've been faithful stewards in our financial commitment supporting St. John's

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STEWARDSHIP

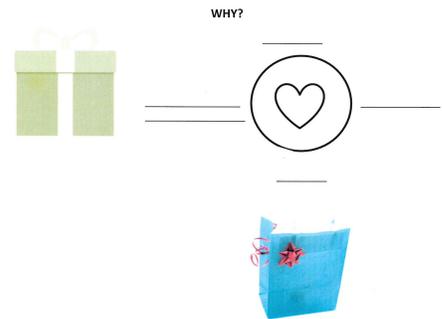
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many ministries.

Lastly – back to the diagram. In the center of the circle there is a heart, we need to draw 2 eyes and a smile!

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)
Tells us, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will

also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Yes, we can run when we hear the word stewardship, meaning run with a smile and a happy heart and to be a blessing to others!



STEWARDSHIP 2019

“*M*ake love your aim” — I Corinthians 14:1

“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” — II Corinthians 9:6-7.

Let us pray:

Lord, you who have given us so much, grant us one more thing...a grateful heart. Amen.

Instructions for electronic giving



<https://tithe.ly/give?c=269696>

- Scan the QR code
- Click “**sign up**” in the upper right-hand corner
- Click “**create account**”
- Fill in the information and click “**submit**”

Carrying Out God's Will at St. John's Church: Giving Joyfully, Making Love Our Aim

- Growing Sunday school for children pre-K through 4th grade
- Coordinated Children, Youth, and Family ministry for birth to graduation
- New Wednesday worship service for proclaiming Christ's gospel to more people
- Land Use 2020 Team studying new ministry possibilities for our property
- Year of Creation ahead, blessing us to be faithful caretakers of God's Earth
- Grant being applied for for purpose of congregational recycling and composting
- Multiple new member Sundays per year blessing us with growing community of faith
- Vibrant Sunday morning and Wednesday evening times of fellowship and community
- Growing social ministry outreach via CROP Walk, Loaves and Fishes, Open Door, etc.
- Strong, consistent women's and men's ministry, Bible study, and fellowship groups
- New Sunday morning Worship Coordinators program
- More children and youth involved in worship and worship leadership
- Growing communication via updated newsletter, weekly e-blasts, renewed website, St. John's app, and weekly electronic Bible studies via the app

*T*hank you to all at St. John's who have submitted a pledge/estimate of giving card in the past two weeks. To-date, 93 families/giving units have submitted their pledge/estimate for offerings in 2020. There are close to 400 active families/giving units at St. John's. As we all share in supporting our church's ministry together, we thank all of you, in advance, who will still submit your pledges/estimates of giving. In this vibrant time at St. John's, we count on all of us together to help pass down the faith to new generations and to strengthen our own ministry for Jesus Christ here at St. John's and in the world. If you need a pledge/estimate of giving card, you can find one online at www.sjcl.org, look for “Stewardship 2019-2022” in the footer section. Thank you! May God bless you richly.

IT'S A DINNER YOU WILL NEVER FORGET!

By Amanda Boe

Thirty six years ago St. John's congregation members noticed that many other congregations were having buffet style dinners featuring many Scandinavian specialties like lefsa, lutefisk and meatballs. They felt they could put their own spin on it that would be special and unique to St. John's. Randa Vogen started to plan the first dinner. She recruited a great group of helpers, many who are still with the planning team today. Linda Moe, helped at that first dinner and every dinner since, she is now

one of the coordinators of the dinner.

In the first couple of years Linda helped with tickets and then graduated to help with potatoes. She enjoyed the fellowship and the fun they had while preparing and serving the meal. One of the best parts of the meal, is that the money raised has made it possible to support many causes. Some of the organizations and projects the dinner has been able to support are; Caring and Sharing Hands, Youth Mission trips, Christmas Trees and decorations, CAP agency, Lutheran Social Services, kitchen supplies and stained glass windows.

The Scandinavian Dinner is an event that all St. John's members should attend and help prepare at

least once. It is a wonderful way to connect with people here and help so many people in our community. This year the Scandinavian Dinner is schedule for Saturday, November 9 with several seating times. Check with Linda Moe to reserve your spot!



Linda moe

ANNUAL BAKE SALE

Time to put on your aprons and heat those ovens to prepare for the Annual Bake Sale in combination with our Scandinavian Dinner. This is almost as popular as the dinner! Our guests do enjoy all of the delicious items that you contribute and they come early to shop before dinner. We welcome all of your generous donations, so please check out those recipes and join us with your contributions. Items may include any baked item, jams, jellies, pickles and produce. All will be greatly appreciated. **Bring to church by noon on Saturday, November 9.**

LUTEFISK AND MEATBALLS...

- St. John's Scandinavian dinner will be held **Saturday, November 9.**
- Call Linda Moe, 952-469-3718, to reserve your tickets. Prices: \$19 for adults; \$8 for 10 and under.
- **Serving times:** 3:30, 5:00, and 6:30 pm

Committee members: Linda Moe, Heidi Loffler, Mike and Ann Stuber, Roger and Judy Tews

BAKING WORKSHOPS

A great way to get involved behind the scenes of this wonderful event is to help bake the goodies that are served. There are still two you can join.

- Sunday, November 3, 11:00 am: Spritz
- Wednesday, November 6, 9:00 am: Rosettes



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday School, Pre-k -4th grade families- Christmas Program "The Big, Big Story"

Our Christmas program "The Big, Big Story" will be December 15, 10:45 am. Our practices will begin November 10 and we will have a special practice on December 14. During this time our Sunday School will have a lesson time each day, help prepare props, bake cookies for the program and also practice with Amy Erlandson, our Children's Music Director. We have made a creative schedule that hopes to keep the kids engaged, singing, learning and loving Sunday School! Thanks parents for all your help and support!

Please mark your calendars, Christmas Break will be December 22 and December 29. Sunday School will resume January 5.

3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade families! God's Power Gang is for fun and service.

Nicole Major, our Director of Preteen and Family Ministry, connects with this group once a month. It is a great way to grow solid friendships in a safe environment. The children get to know each other through games, a quick snack, and life lesson. The life lesson topic examples are internet safety, bullying, when to keep a secret, and how to be a good friend. We always invite friends to join us and parents are invited to stay and play too. It's an awesome way to show kids church is a fun loving place to be. In October they made 100 snack bags for children at Kenwood Middle School who don't have enough food at home. Please join them 6:30-8:30 pm November 8 and December 13. Please contact nicole@sjlcl.org with any questions. Nicole Major,

Director of Preteen and Family Ministry.

High School Students

High School Youth Group

The youth group's focus for September was talking about the challenge we are faced with each day to keep God at the center of our lives. We brainstormed some "life hacks" that will help balance our faith, school and sports life. We have set alarms to pray during the day, we have watched videos and discussed how they line up with our faith traditions and beliefs. We have also had a lot of fun and laughed a lot! Join us on Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm, 9th grade joins us after Affirm from 8:00-8:30 pm. Questions? Please contact Amanda at amanda@sjlcl.org



At the October Meet and Eat gathering 1000 diaper packs were assemble and donated to Simpson House, a shelter for women and children in Eagan.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY

High School Faith Explorers are going to the Basilica of St. Mary

Our 10th-12th grade will go to the Basilica of St. Mary on November 10, 4:00-8:00 pm. We will attend Mass, share a meal with their High School Service group and do a service project with them. Possibly develop a deeper appreciation for our Lutheran roots and traditions as well as a richer understanding of our Catholic neighbors. Interested? contact Amanda at amanda@sjlcl.org

Sunday Meet and Eats for Youth

Meet and Eat: In October, we visited Simpson House a Shelter for women and children in Eagan. We brought 1000 diapers our Sunday School kids packed and donated. The High School youth were able to get a tour and enjoyed learning about the great work they do at Simpson House.

- December 15: Pizza, games and service project.

Service

Global Missions: The Sunday School students are challenged with bringing \$5.00 to contribute to the tuition of one of our Munganga Students. We hope to raise a total of \$400.00.

November: The Sunday School students will be collecting paper or plastic shopping bags to prepare for one of their busiest giving seasons. This helps immensely with sorting all of the food donations to make sure that it is divided and sorted correctly and all families are able to safely take it home.

December: The advent Calendar will encourage students to donate one food item a day during Advent. A list of most needed items for the Open Door Food Shelf will be available.

Moonlight Madness for all 7th-9th Graders

Moonlight Madness (What's that!?): Moonlight Madness is a lock-out event. Along with me and several brave chaperones, we hit the town, joining around 500 students from Metro churches, going from place to place. Here are the details:

When: Friday, November 8 at 9:00 pm to Saturday, November 9 at 7:00 am.

What we do: We head to Augsburg College for music, pizza, and open Football Dome (9:30-11:45 pm), Grand Slam (12:15 - 2:15 am), Movie Theater (2:45-5:00 am), Bowling (5:30-6:30 am).

Cost: \$40 (Students will also need their own spending money for snacks, popcorn, and game tokens.)

Space is limited and friends are invited. Register online: <https://www.sjlcl.org/moonlight-madness>
Any Questions? Contact Pastor Heather
at pastorheather@sjlcl.org



High school youth delivered diapers and toured the Simpson House Shelter.

A GREAT BEGINNING TO THE PROGRAM YEAR AND MORE...

The beginning of the new program year started off with a great deal of activity at St. John's in September. Rally Day was held on September 8 as members and families settled into our regular Sunday worship routine and the beginning of Sunday School. Wednesday, September 11, saw the beginning of a new Wednesday routine that centered around the launch of a weekly 30-minute worship service featuring contemporary Praise and Worship music. The mid-week service has been well received as another opportunity for worship for the busy families in our community and attendance has been above original expectations. We look forward to expanding the current songbook to feature even more familiar worship songs. Finally, on September 29 we hosted the Nashville, TN based classical crossover male vocal quintet, Veritas. Veritas lead us in a wonderful worship service at 10 am, followed by a concert at 6:00 pm. A special thanks to Bob Rustvolt for underwriting the costs of the Veritas

Sunday.

There are a number of important worship dates coming up in November.

- All Saints Sunday is November 3 as we spend time celebrating the lives of those who have passed on and celebrate those newly baptized over the past calendar year.
- Christ the King Sunday is November 24 as we mark the end of our church year and prepare for the start of Advent the following Sunday. The Worship Arts Ministry team will begin decorating the sanctuary the afternoon of November 24 to prepare the sanctuary for Advent.
- The Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service will be held Wednesday, November 27 at 7:00 pm at Crossroads UMC at 17671 Glacier Way, Lakeville, MN.

As we have settled into the routine of the new program year our focus begins to shift to the beginning of a new church year as we prepare for Advent and Christ-

mas. Director of Children's Music, Amy Erlandson has begun preparations for the annual **Sunday School Christmas Pageant to be held on December 15 at the 10:45 am service.** This year's pageant is entitled, "Big, Big Story," and is always one of the highlights of the Advent season.

Rehearsals have begun for the annual **Christmas Cantata featuring our Cantata Choir and string quartet on Sunday, December 22 at 4:00 pm.** This year's Cantata concert will be based upon a Festival of Lessons and Carols utilizing great arrangements of some of our best loved Advent and Christmas carols, that also feature opportunities for participation from the assembly. For those families who travel out of town for the Christmas holiday, this is a great opportunity to worship with us before you travel safely to other locations. Those still interested in singing in the Cantata Choir will be accepted into the ensemble up until Wednesday, November 6. Please contact Jonathan Kopplin, Director of Music at jonathan@sjlcl.org.

Finally, we are making a slight shift to our worship times on **Christmas Eve, December 24. Worship services will be held at 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm** geared towards our families with small children. This will allow more time for transition between the two services, and will occur before the dinner hour. The Candlelight service will be at 10:00 pm, as normally scheduled. The Christmas Day on December 25 service will be held at 10:00 am.



Christmas 2018; join us for a wonderful 2019 Christmas!

Choir performance calendar for November and December:

- November 3: 8:30 - Praise Singers, 10:45 - Firelight Singers
- November 10: 8:30 - Grace Singers, 10:45 - Chancel Choir
- November 17: 8:30 - tbd , 10:45 - Praise Singers
- November 24: 8:30 - Chancel Choir, 10:45 - tbd
- December 1: 8:30 - soloist tbd, 10:45 - soloist tbd
- December 8: 8:30 - tbd, 9:45- Christmas Pageant preview at Highview Hills 10:45 - Chancel Choir
- December 15: 8:30 - Chancel Choir, 10:45 - Christmas Pageant
- December 22: 8:30- Praise Singers, 10:45 - soloist tbd, 4:00 PM - Christmas Cantata
- December 24: 2:00 pm - soloist tbd, 4:00 pm - youth choirs, 10:00 pm - Chancel Choir and soloists
- December 25: 10:00 am - Brianna Carroll

Worship Series

November Sermon Series

Join us at St John's for a November Sermon Series on "Three Glimpses of God - A Series on How God Changes Yet Stays the Same"

- November 10 - Hosea 11:1-9 – "How Can I Let You Go?"
- November 17 - Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13 - "God is Our Foundation!"
- November 24 - 2 Kings 22:1-10; 23:1-3 – "God's Law and the Way of Peace."
- Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, November 27 at 7 pm at Crossroads Church, Lakeville.

Advent and Christmas Sermon Series

People love to hear the words, "You've Got Mail!" At this time of year, we rush to the mailbox or inbox to find love-filled letters from family and friends. This Advent and Christmas season, we open the prophet's mail to hear about the gifts God will bring to the people - letters that announce God's justice, promise,

comfort, joy, and most of all, the Christ-child to be born.

Join us for worship:

- December 1: "Letters of Justice" from Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5
- Infant & Toddler Christmas Extravaganza at 10:00 am
- December 8: "Letters of Promise" from Jeremiah 33:14-18
- December 15: "Letters of Comfort" from Isaiah 40:1-11
- Children's Christmas Program at the 10:45 am worship service
- December 22: "Letters of Joy" from Luke 1:5-13 [14-25] 57-80
- Christmas Cantata – A Service of Special Music and readings at 4 pm
- December 24: "Letters of Salvation" from Luke 2
- Christmas Eve Services at 2 pm and 4 pm (family services) and 10:00 pm (Service of Holy Communion and candle lighting)
- December 25 - Christmas Day at 10:00 am

ADVENT LIGHTING CEREMONY

St. John's is inviting members to participate in the **Advent candle lighting ceremony** during Sunday morning worship. This will include lighting the Advent candle as well as reading the Advent liturgy. The candle is lit while the liturgy is read. A minimum of two participants are needed. Families are encouraged to sign up. The liturgy and instructions will be mailed to you. If interested **please check the appropriate spaces on the form found on page 21** and leave in the offering plate or church office.



ALL IN TRAINING

At each new member session, the Oasis team asks, "Why St John's?" and almost everyone answers with "Because people are so welcoming!" That's what we love to hear, right? Mark your calendars now with Saturday, February 8 from 9:00-1:00 pm as Lyle Griner from Peer Ministries joins us for a morning to take us deeper into the question, "Why St John's?" This is a congregational event and hope that you plan to attend!

ACE ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION on Sunday mornings

Grab a cup of coffee, a donut and meet in the sanctuary at 9:40 each Sunday for exciting presentations.

Sunday November 3 All Saints Sunday

On this All Saints Sunday, join Pastor Andy for an in-depth look at the history of this important and celebrative day in the life of the Christian church. Come also for your own thanksgiving for the saints in your life who handed down faith and gave you the gift of being part of the community of faith. This will be an inspiring session in celebrating All Saints Sunday.

Sunday November 10 Mark of Discipleship #6: Practicing Hospitality

We have made it to our final Mark of Discipleship: Practicing Hospitality. This is a delightful mark of discipleship, as it involves our celebrations as well as the gracious receiving of people into the life of the faith community. It is both personal and communal. As we enter a season filled with holiday celebrations, let's use these as our jumping-off point for realizing the depth of meaning in practicing hospitality as disciples of Christ. See you at A.C.E. this day!

Sunday November 17 Intro to Amanda Boe!

Come join Amanda, our Children, Youth & Family Director, for a short personal introduction and to learn a little more about the journey that has led her to St. John's. She will share with us some things she's learned about coaching kids through life to do two things: Love God and Love Neighbors! Sounds easy enough, however it is a challenge! Amanda has had some wonderful mentors and many uniquely valuable experiences that have equipped her to take on these challenges each day. She is the first to admit that she is still forever learning, but also hopes to share with you a few of her strategies for guiding kids to a faith-centered life with a spirit of giving.

Sunday November 24 —No A.C.E. is scheduled.

Sundays December 1 (Sunday after Thanksgiving/First Sun- day in Advent) and December 8.

Discipleship in the Gospel of John: "The Mother of Jesus" and "Mary Who Anoints Jesus" with Dr. Karoline Lewis, the Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. There are many ways to imagine hospitality as a mark of discipleship. In the Gospel of John, key women characters embody aspects of hospitality that give us a sense of what this might look like in our own lives. In these

sessions we will focus on Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, the latter whom anoints Jesus for his burial. Dr. Lewis will help us see what true hospitality looks like in exploring the unique relationship that each of these women has with Jesus.

Sunday December 15 Children's Christmas Pageant— No A.C.E. is scheduled.

Sunday December 22 No A.C.E. is scheduled.

Sunday December 29 No A.C.E. is scheduled.



V

OLUNTEERING AT OPEN ARMS in Minneapolis on October 8 was a fun and rewarding experience for our group from St. John's!! Open Arms is a nonprofit that cooks and delivers free, nutritious meals to people living with life-threatening illnesses in the Twin Cities. We hope to return to Open Arms

LOAVES AND FISHES

St. John's has been involved with preparing and serving food at Loaves and Fishes at Easter Lutheran by the Lake (Cliff and Pilot Knob) for the past year and a half. We serve 25-40 people on the third Thursday of each month. Food is prepared from 4:00-5:00 pm and served from 5:30-6:30 pm. If you are interested in assisting with this service opportunity, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board above the coat rack. A new sign-up sheet is posted each month. If you have questions, please contact Kathy at kmcomer72@gmail.com.

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

For November/December

Hunger is a community issue. Hunger happens to anyone—family members, neighbors, co-workers or friends. That's why The Open Door, Dakota County's largest food shelf, partners with people like you—volunteers, faith communities, schools, organizations and businesses to serve those in need and to eliminate hunger in Dakota County. **To make a contribution toward this worth while cause this holiday season** please use a pink envelope (found at the entrance to the sanctuary) marked Open Door and place in the offering plate.

Heart Song



CHRISTMAS GATHERING

The annual Christmas Gathering of WELCA will be held on Thursday, December 5 at 6:15 pm. We will start with punch and a delicious meal prepared by Mary Circle. The cost of the meals is \$5.00 along with a free-will offering. We would like to invite anyone in the congregation to join us for the meal and/or the entertainment. We would request that if you plan to attend the meal that you sign up in the narthex. We will be entertained by Heart Song Band from Fairmont. Doug and Judy met in college and formed the band in 1976. The group consists of three generations of family members. They

have recorded 16 albums and perform at least 30 times a year. They will present Christmas selections for us. It is a wonderful way to start off the Christmas season.

NEWBORN KITS AND BLIZZARD BAGS

We would like to thank everyone who brought items for the Newborn kits and the Blizzard bags. 124 blizzard bags were assembled, October 19 along with a \$350 free-will offering. Many people will be touched by your generosity here and in other parts of the world.

LAKEVILLE YELLOW RIBBON

Lakeville Yellow Ribbon is a community and interfaith church support organization of volunteers with a mission to honor, serve and support our Military of all ages and all branches of service, and their families. For information, contact www.lakevilleyellowribbon.com or Judy Stinar at 952-461-2331.



The Ministry Finance Team presents this **Financial Performance Report (“FPR”) for September 2019** to the Saint John’s Lutheran Church Congregation and St. John’s Lutheran Church Council.

General Fund Report

For September 2019:

- Offering revenue was \$40,523; which is 23.3% below budget for the month
- General Fund revenues were \$45,021; which is 22.5% below budget for the month
- General Fund expenses were \$51,176; which is 2.6% above budget for the month
- General Fund net performance was negative \$6,155 for September

Year to date (“YTD”) 2019:

- General Fund revenue is \$420,228; which is 4.5% below budget for the year
- General Fund expenses are \$411,230; which is 11.2% below budget for the year
- General Fund net performance compared to Budget is a positive \$31,978 from January through September

Comments & Observations:

For the year to date, General Fund performance has been very strong, with early year contributions offsetting recent General Fund weakness. For the year to date, General and Benevolence Fund cash is \$16,700 higher than December 31, 2018.

For the year to date, offerings to the General and Benevolence fund are approximately 6% higher than offerings in 2018.

For the month of September, revenue was below the budgeted amount. Expenses were slightly higher than budget. This is consistent with a full complement of programs and staff at St. John’s.

The amount budgeted for Capital Improvements has not been used yet but will be used in 2019.

Benevolence Fund Report

The Benevolence Fund is allocated a portion (6%) of total revenues. Benevolence Fund expenditures are limited to the amount allocated to the Benevolence Fund.

During the year, there often is a positive balance in the Benevolence Fund. Expenditures are commonly made later in the year or when funds are allocated to the Benevolence Fund for distribution. The Benevolence Fund has no direct effect on monthly financial performance.

Building Fund Report

For September 2019:

- Building Fund revenues were \$11,136
- Building Fund expenses were \$10,094
- Building Fund Net was a positive \$1,042

Year to date (“YTD”) 2019:

- Building Fund Revenue is \$98,074
- Building Fund expense is \$110,900
- Building Fund net is a negative \$12,826
- The negative YTD includes an additional Principal payment of \$20,000 in March
 - Adjusting for the additional principal payment the Building Fund has a net positive result of \$7,174

Comments and Observations:

Building Fund performance was favorable for September with contributions and interest income exceeding the mortgage payment and expenses \$1,042. This represents a return to positive performance from July and August results, when mortgage fund receipts lagged principal and interest payments for both months.

For the first nine months of 2019, the Building Fund performance has resulted in over ½ of the additional \$20,000 principal payment being recovered from member contributions. The current fund balance in the Mortgage Account continues to provide a nearly 5-month reserve for mortgage payments.

Ministry Finance Team Members and How to Get Finance Questions Answered:

The members of the Ministry Finance Team are always available and willing to answer any financial related questions or provide information about the financial operations of St. John’s. Contact the Church office to be put in touch with a Ministry Finance Team member or if you see **Barry Fick, Mark Gelle, Mike Sobota, Lisa Drogemuller, Andy Schultz, or Brad Paulson** in Church, don’t hesitate to talk with them for additional information. We thank you for your ongoing financial support and encourage you to remain faithful in your giving as the year unfolds.

LETTERS OF THANKS FROM OUR SPONSORED STUDENTS IN TANZANIA

Letters of gratitude will be shared each month in the Journal.

LUTANGILO SECONDARY School
P.O. BOX 523
IRINGA

6/2/2017

DEAR ST. JOHN

I hope you are in good health and your continue well to your work all this & thank to God. I greet you in the name of Jesus. I'm from three student

The aim of writing this letter is to thank you for paying for my school fees. When I grow up I want to be a driver of cars and I know God never leave me alone also I pray to God to protect you for the rest of your life and to give you a chance to live many days because there is a few people like you

I wish you great success in your life and what you doing to achieve your goal. God bless you

Your faith full

J. Matagi

JUMA MATAGI

MUHANGA VISIT UPDATE FOR ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN LAKEVILLE

Pastor Msigwa-Bega Kwa Bega Coordinator/DIRA, Amos Mkuye-diocese project coordinator, Bo and Juli Skillman-filling in the Bega Kwa Bega office while April is on leave) were greeted with lively song and dance by several members of the church when we arrived in Muhanga on October 2, 2019! Our first line of business was to visit the Sifuni Preaching Point. They have 64 members not including children. The foundation for this church which was started in 2016 has been created by the members by carrying stones up the mountain approximately 1 km and 500 feet

in elevation! Their vision is to build a good sustainable church that will last 200 years. The pictures included are of the current church and the new foundation.

Our next destination was the new dispensary which St. John's is helping them build. It is being built with government specs as the government has stated they will provide the staff. Because of the large area it will provide service to, the government will provide a doctor. There are hopes of it becoming a hospital. The stones for this project were brought in by truck and the fundi's hired to cement the stone-see the pictures. The overseer of the

construction, chair of the partnership committee and finance committee, the district secretary, 5 evangelists (one from each preaching point and the main station) along with fundis and additional church members were present. The pastor gave a report of how the money from St. John's has been spent.

Our next stop was at the main station church. Here they are in the process of building a larger church next to the existing church building-see picture. The plan is to continue to utilize the old building when the new church is completed. They were appreciative of having the diocese project coordi-

(Continued on page 20)



Pastor Msigala's family

GLOBAL MISSIONS



Foundation for Sifuni preaching point



Existing church

(Continued from page 19)

nator here to provide advice on the roof. They have held construction here and focused on the dispensary construction but will continue after the dispensary foundation is completed.

We concluded our visit at the pastor's home being served an authentic village meal. They shared a church report which stated they appreciated St. John's partnership and our visit. Psalm 124:1 was included. The letter from St.

John's which was read and they were happy to receive it. Communication is a challenge as they have limited English abilities and hope to have an email address soon. Please send letters to BKB and copy Pastor Msigwa and he will be able to convey your message to the church. It was a blessing to have the project coordinator come and give insight to their building projects.

Elisha Kimbavala was happy to receive the letter from Larry and

appreciative of the prayers. He came to the church to say thank you-see picture of him with the letter. We got the impression that he understands limited English.

There was a report from Ikindu Preaching Point. It included funds spent from St. John's which contributed to the tiles, windows, cement, and transport for their new church. The old church has fallen down. Thank you for thinking of us! They wrote "Our

(Continued on page 21)



Dispensary foundation



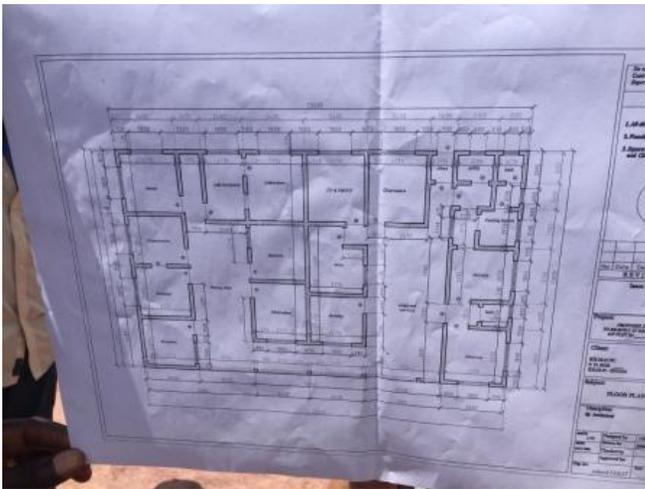
Juli Skillman and women of Muhanga

(Continued from page 20) Muhanga visit

dreams have come true by your contribution and the hard work of our hands!”. They concluded with Psalm 121:2. Unfortunately, we didn’t have enough time to visit and take pictures.

They were unable to provide information on students who have benefitted from scholarships but said they are doing well, and they will work at providing the information for you.

Prayer requests: for our partnership; that the church be a good church; and for the construction projects. They gave the visiting group many gifts of appreciation for coming. It was a blessing to have the project coordinator come and give insight to their building projects.



Blueprints of dispensary

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MUHANGA

As our children return to school for another year, the Global Team begins to think about scholarships for the children in Muhanga. For children in Tanzania the government only pays for their education through what would be the equivalent of the sixth grade in the United States. Most families cannot afford to pay for their children to go onto secondary school which means they rely on scholarships from churches to assist them or that is the end to their education. We would like to thank members of St. John’s who have given full or partial scholarships in the past. If you are interested in giving a full scholarship (\$400) or a partial scholarship that is wonderful, but any amount is helpful. Many of the families in Muhanga only earn about \$300 a year. If you are interested in more information, contact one of the members of the Global Team.

Some interesting facts:

- Some students only attend a portion of the secondary school choosing to leave and go onto a trade school.
- Post Secondary students receive scholarships if the review board feels they have the drive to pursue further studies. Of the students that receive scholarships they are interested in fields of education, nursing, counselors, engineering, business and community development. It should be noted that these scholarships are separate from what we give to Muhanga. These individuals through their different vocations promise to bring new life of healing and hope to the communities and country they call home.

Names (include all family participants):

Advent Lighting

8:30

10:45

December 1

December 8

December 15

December 22

THANK YOU TO ST. JOHN'S

St. John's family,

Thank you so much for all of the love and support you have shown to our family over the years, and especially now as I am entering into my second year of seminary at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. Being present with you in worship and sharing in communion on September 15 felt like being home.

You are the people that surrounded us as Bariki and I started our marriage. You are the people that supported us as we became parents. You are the people that embodied God's love for us in such a concrete way. You are also the people who trusted me to steward the youth ministry of St. John's and allowed me to walk with you through the joys and pains in your lives. Thank you for forming me into the person I am today.

As I am at seminary, I think of you and pray for you often. I am who I am today because of all of you at St. John's. May you continue to share and celebrate the saving power of Jesus Christ with those whom you meet. Through Jesus, we are promised God is with us in our messy humanity, the joys and the pains. Continue to embody that presence for one another, not through your own strength, but empowered through the Spirit while trusting God to hold everything, even when it seems too much.

**Much love,
Ruthie Mhanga**

To the St. John's Community,

Your continued generosity toward The Open Door in the form of regular donations to Mobile Food Center is truly a blessing to shoes we serve! There are many in our

community who struggle with food insecurity. By helping to stock our pantry and vehicles with food essentials, you enable us to be not only a source of food relief but also a source of hope for those in need! Thank you for the 350 pounds of food in September and October. Again, many thanks.

Jane B for The Open Door

Pastor Andy Smith,

We wish to thank you for your wonderful services at Kingsley Shores. We look forward to seeing and hearing your sermons each month. Thank you and God bless you, your family, and your church.

Howard and Dorothy Shouts



Musa, Imani, Bariki, and Ruthie Mhanga



INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN OUR ST. JOHN'S FAMILY!

New member Sunday is Sunday, November 10. If you know someone looking for a church home invite them to join St. John's!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

A blood drive will be held at St John's Lutheran Church Monday, November 11, noon to 5:00 pm. To make an appointment, visit Red-crossblood.org and enter sponsor code: SJLC or contact Debbie Fenhouse at 612-240-0718.



POINSETTIA ORDERS

Act quickly! Order your poinsettias today to decorate the sanctuary this Christmas season!

These beautiful six-bloom plants from Gertens are \$15.00 and will arrive in a 6 ½ foil wrapped pot. All plant orders must be paid for at the time of order. **Deadline is Sunday, November 24! Proceeds benefit Youth Ministry programming.**

Place your order, along with check, in the offering plate or drop off in the church office or mail to St. John's, PO Box 955, Lakeville MN 55044.



Poinsettias, \$15.00. Deadline SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Name:

In honor of:

In memory of:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council President

Dan Brown

Vice President

Pam Haukoos

Treasurer

Carla Haugen

Campus Properties

Christian Education

Perry Fuerniss

Compassion

Dave & Kathy Comer

Gratitude & Generosity

Dan Brown

Human Resources & Administration

Jim Buckley

Ministry Finance

Barry Fick

OAsis

Women's Ministry

Val Altendorfer

Diane Henning

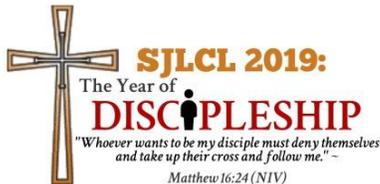
Worship Arts Ministry

Pam Haukoos

Youth & Family Ministry

Tony Gleason

Megan Lillehei



YOUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Andy Smith

Pastor: Heather Roth Johnson

Children, Youth, & Family Director:

Amanda Boe

Financial Analyst: Tyra Wiemann

Administrative Secretary:

Jill Fioreck

Pre-teen 5/6 Ministry Director:

Nicole Major

Vacation Bible School Coordinator:

Elisa Brown

Nursery Care: Brianna Carroll,

Whitney Schultz

Facility Care: Butch Oswald

MUSIC STAFF

Director of Music, Chancel Choir

(10th-adult): Jonathan Kopplin

Grace Singers (2nd-6th) &

Praise Singers (7-12th) &

Firelight Singers (Pre-K-4th) Director:

Amy Erlandson

Chancel Choir accompanist: Jamye

Casperson

November/December 2019 Newsletter

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