

November 2023 Newsletter
St. John American Lutheran Church



MID-WEEK ADVENT VESPERS
AT ST. JOHN

WEDNESDAYS + DECEMBER 6, 13 & 20
HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICE at 6:30 p.m.



Please join us for a Special Christmas Music Sunday on December 17th at 9:30 am. All Choirs and Sunday School children will be participating. And then on December 30th & 31st we will have "Lessons & Carols" during our regular worship times. This will be a great celebration of Christ's birth!



New Year's at St. John
Sunday, December 31, 2023
5:00 p.m. Potluck
6:00 p.m. Family Movie time-
Disney's "Santa Paws"

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

St. John Congregational Annual Meeting



January 28, 2024
10:45 AM (immediately following worship)

Come and be involved!

Please bring your copy of the Annual Report, which will be sent to you. And remember, all confirmed members (including the youth!) are voting members. Pray for a good, productive meeting. The meeting will also be available through Zoom. More information will be in your Annual Report. Thank you.

THE NEW FLOWER CHART for 2024 will be up soon on the



bulletin board in the west entryway for you to select a date. If you wish to donate altar flowers for a particular Sunday, please sign your name and include your phone number next to that date.

Please, only one per Sunday. If you wish to share a Sunday with someone who has already signed up, you must check with them first to see if they wish to share that Sunday. The Altar Guild will contact you prior to your Sunday for details. The cost of the bouquet is \$32.00 (includes tax). Thank you!

Christmas Poinsettias



Sign-up sheets are on the Welcome Center counter in the east entryway. This is a first come, first served basis. The cost is \$13 each. Please make checks payable to St. John Special Funds. Thank

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

A very blessed Advent and Christmas season to one and all. I'm so grateful for another full month of ministry here at St. John, both behind us and in front of us. You'll notice on the calendar for December that we have moved the New Member Recognition to the first Sunday, December 3rd. This was due to many traveling over Christ the King (Thanksgiving) weekend when we had originally scheduled it. I'm grateful to report that we will be receiving 9 new members into our congregation.

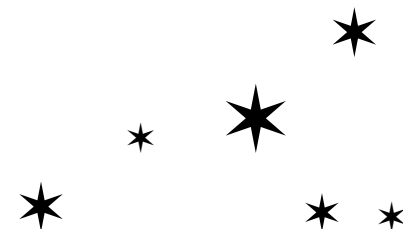
Then on December 6th, we begin our midweek Advent Vespers at 6:30pm, where we will sing and pray together over the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. That service will continue the following two weeks. Because of where Christmas Eve falls this year, we decided to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent in the morning of December 24th, but then only offer one Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 4:30pm. This will allow folks to still have time to make it home for a meal and Christmas traditions before it gets too late. Especially for families with young children.

I'll be taking a short holiday over the second weekend of Advent to attend my best friend's birthday. Unfortunately, this means I will miss the WELCA Christmas Brunch on Dec. 9th @ 10:00, but my wife and mother-in-law, Christie Meier, will be there! Christie is the Deacon at Trinity Lutheran in Tea and will be leading the devotion that day. I am grateful to her and all the women in ministry across our church.

While I'm looking forward with Advent hope to the coming of Christ and our celebrations at Christmas, there is a lot to celebrate in the meantime in this season. In particular, our Music Celebration worship on Dec. 17th will be a jubilant day with an Advent Fair to follow for the kiddos. We are even working on a praise band special music piece for that day. I hope to see you all there!

In Advent Hope,
Pastor Kyle

The Nominating Committee is working hard to find Nominees for 2024 Board and Committee chairs. Please prayerfully consider how you can help and be ready to say yes when someone calls. Thank you!



Christmas at St. John



Christmas Music Sunday

Sunday, December 17, 9:30 a.m.

Featuring the St. John Adult Choir, Sunday School
Children & Bell Choir

10:30 a.m. ~~Advent Fair~~ in the Fellowship Hall



Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24th

9:30 a.m. Advent 4 worship with Holy Communion

4:30 p.m. Christmas Candlelight Worship
with Holy Communion



Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th

9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion



Written reports for the Annual Report are due to the church office by December 16th.
Thank you!

♪ ♪ "Music Notes" ♪ ♪

Greetings, St. John! I hope you've had a wonderful start to the holiday season. Our St. John Handbell and Adult Choirs are busy rehearsing their holiday music. There will be plenty of opportunities to attend our performances throughout the month of December. The Handbell Choir has been asked to perform again this year at Springdale Lutheran Church. We will be performing for their 9:30am service on Sunday, December 3rd. The Bell Choir will also perform at the annual Holiday Evening at the Pettigrew on Thursday, December 14th. If you've never been to this event, it is a great way to get into the holiday spirit. It is a chance to view the historic home and museum, and music will be provided by our Bell Choir from 6:30-7pm. There will also be cookies, hot cocoa, and horse-drawn wagon rides to view the beautiful homes decorated for the season throughout the historic Cathedral neighborhood. We're hoping for better weather for this wonderful event this year! Sunday, December 17th will be Music Celebration Sunday at our 9:30am service. The Handbell Choir, Adult Choir and Sunday School kids will perform. And finally, the Adult Choir will perform the beloved Christmas classic, "O Holy Night" for the Christmas Eve Candlelight service. We hope our performances add some joy to your holiday season! Have a blessed Advent season and a very merry Christmas!!!!

Sarah Jo Jorgensen
Director of Choirs

NOT ABLE TO WORSHIP ON SUNDAY?
SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP
5:30 P.M.



Please call the church office (336-3253) and give Joanne your winter address so that you can continue to receive your monthly Newsletter. Just let her know when you are leaving and when you will return home...she will do the rest!



*St. John will be collecting canned goods through the month of December for the Food Pantry. You can drop off your items in the plastic tote in front of the office door. No glass please.
Thank you!*



Men's Saturday Bible Study

All men of St. John are invited and welcome to attend a monthly Bible Study on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the 12th Street Fryn' Pan. **We meet at 8:30 a.m.** (note new start time) for coffee, Bible study and fellowship.

THERE WILL BE NO WELCA BIBLE STUDY
IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Dear friends and members,

Thank you for your financial support of St. John American Lutheran Church over the past year. Your giving has enabled our church to continue to keep the lights on and reach the community around us. Thanks to your generosity, over the past year, we've been able to feed the hungry of Sioux Falls through meals from the Nightwatch Van, Food To You Mobile Food Pantry, The Banquet, Church on the Street, Laundry with Love, Angel Foods and our Blessing Box on the corner of 13th & Jefferson. We were able to support our Call Committee in its work to find and welcome Pastor Kyle and his family. Your support was critical in helping us to continue growing our community and church. All donations are tax deductible for income tax reasons. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our missions. We look forward to heading into 2024 with you and continuing to share the Word of God with our community.

Your St. John Council

Give Online During the Holiday Season

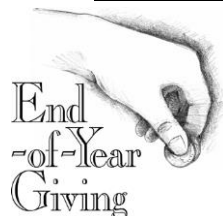
Contribute to St. John American Lutheran Church this season and “*Help Us Grow*” wherever you're worshipping from by visiting our online donation page at

www.stjohnlutheran.net

“AEFT”

AEFT, or Automated Electronic Funds Transfer, is also available at St. John. With this program, you can transfer money from your checking or savings account once a month to St. John Lutheran's General Fund. This tool can help keep you on track for your yearly financial commitments. If you are interested in using AEFT, please contact Joanne Pesicka, church secretary at 605-336-3253. She will help you get it set up. Thank you!

Finance Books Close on December 28th at 12 Noon.



In order to be included in your 2023 giving, your gifts must be received in the church office by noon on Thursday, December 28th. Thank you!

The **deadline** for the monthly Newsletter is 8:00 a.m. on the 20th of the preceding month. This month it will be Wednesday, December 20th.



LWR (Lutheran World Relief)

We are in need of flannel or regular sheets (all sizes) and materials for making quilts. They can be left in the box in front of the office door.

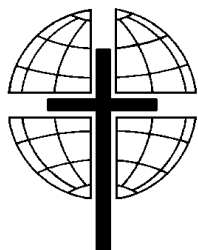
Thank you to all who have donated recently. Everything donated is much appreciated.

Mission Action Service Group

Calling for volunteers to join the Altar Guild!

There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center for the 2024 Altar Guild. Please sign up for a month or two. Men and women are welcome to join and prepare the Sanctuary for worship each week. Rondi Utne will be the chairperson for next year. Please let her know if you have any questions. Thank you for volunteering, Rondi!





December Mission Globe

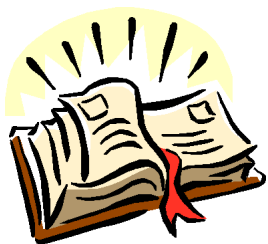
Our December Mission Globe gifts will go toward our twice a year sponsorship of Food To You Mobile Food Pantry. You are welcome to make a contribution, *above and beyond your regular giving*, in the globe at the back of the sanctuary. Please make checks payable to St. John Special Funds.



Meals-On-Wheels

St. John is responsible for **Meals-on-Wheels** drivers and helpers for **Tuesdays**. If you are interested in helping out with this important community activity, please contact the church office, or sign up on our website. The meals are picked up at Active Generations (west side location) and delivered on the west side of Sioux Falls. Thank you!

Remember – you can sign up for just one Tuesday if you wish. Any and all help is needed and appreciated!



NOON BIBLE STUDY: A weekly Bible Study meets at 12:00 p.m. on Thursdays in the Church Library. We will be reviewing the Lectionary for the upcoming Sunday each week. The scripture lessons for the next week are noted in the Sunday bulletin announcements. All are welcome and you may bring your sack lunch if you wish. See you on Thursdays!

(No Bible Study on December 28)

God's Work, Our Hands

Our Blessing Box on the corner of 13th & Jefferson needs filling! Only non-perishable items please, such as:

Peanut butter, Rice, Rolled oats, Beans, Popcorn kernels (not microwaved), Macaroni and cheese, Tea bags, Coffee (ground only), Pasta, granola bars, nuts, Ramen Noodles, jerky, etc.

Our list is short with winter freezing issues. We will add to this list this spring with more food options! **This winter, feel free to also fill our Blessing Box with gloves, hats, sanitizer, etc. Personal hygiene items are welcome too! Soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc.**

Please place the items directly in the Blessing Box. If it is full, please put your items in the blue tote located by the coat rack in the WEST entrance of the church.

OCTOBER STATS:	Families	337
	Baptized Membership	614
	Confirmed Membership	495

(Statistics as of 10/24/23)



-In memory of Cindy Roth: \$25-Lutheran World Hunger
-In memory of Marsha Matthiesen: \$25-Lutheran World Hunger

Other Gifts: \$50-St. Dysmas; \$491-Mission Globe for Garfield Elementary Initiative; \$25-Food To You

Funerals: Barbara Buchanan 11/28/23

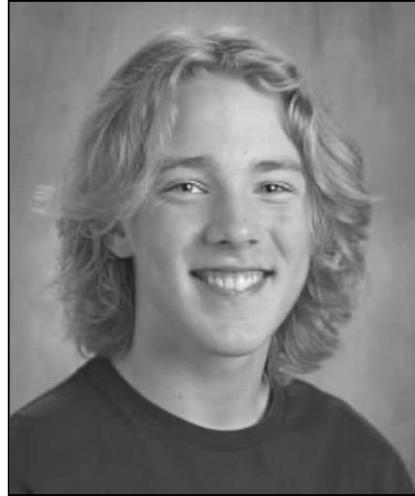
Support Our Youth!

GIFT CARDS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

Gift Cards for our local grocery stores and restaurants are available to purchase weekdays in the church office or after worship near the Welcome Center. Gift Cards may be purchased in varying denominations allowing you to purchase merchandise at the respective businesses up to the face value of each card. In most instances, Gift Cards purchased at St. John result in a 5% profit from participating businesses to our St. John Youth to help with summer camps and servant events.

THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING GIFT CARDS AT ST. JOHN!

GOOD NEWS SECTION!



Annika Kvale and Riley Clark were selected by their music teachers and sang at the All State Chorus and Orchestra Concert in Rapid City on October 28th. Annika from Lincoln High School and Riley from Tea Area High School. Congratulations!!!



Five students were confirmed on Sunday, October 29th, and one on November 11th. Congratulations and God's blessings to all of you! Pictured L to R: Back row-Timothy Schroeder, Pastor Kyle Svennungsens, Riley Clark, Middle row-Tavia Bowman, Alaka DeVries, Front row-Hailey Gambs. Not pictured, Carter Utne.

AngelFoods



The freezer is stocked, and **AngelFoods** are ready to be delivered to anyone you know who needs a visit, a lift, some comfort food and our prayers. Just stop by the church kitchen anytime to pick up a meal. **AngelFoods** are for friends, family, neighbors ... anyone who needs our Christian love and support. Please sign the sheet on the top of the freezer when you take a meal for delivery. Thank you.



Third class mail cannot be forwarded. If you change your address, let us know so you receive your next Newsletter. **You will also save the church the 63¢ cost of address corrections.**



Project CAR Drivers Needed for Sundays

Project CAR (Call A Ride) offers transportation to Sunday church services for the elderly members of six different churches. This transportation is a crucial element in their ability to remain connected to their church and community. Project CAR provides vehicles, gas, etc. **Please** call the Project CAR office (332-2777) for more information. **Men, women, retired, working, young, young at heart ... We Need You!**



Do you enjoy visiting and having a cup of coffee after worship on Sundays? Please consider being the coffee host on a Sunday or two each year. You can sign-up on the white board at the Welcome Center. Lori Meyer, our Fellowship Board Chair, will give you easy instructions on what needs to be done. Please call the church office if you would like her phone number. Thank you!

ST. JOHN GENERAL FUND – October 2023

Doug Daniels, Treasurer

BALANCE	10/1/2023	\$	16,515.84
	Total Receipts for Month	\$	24,412.06
	Total Cash on Hand	\$	40,927.90
	Less Expenditures for Month	\$	(34,728.42)
	Transfer to Cap. Fund Payables	\$	-
BALANCE	10/31/2023	\$	6,199.48
	Doug Daniels, Treasurer		

EXPENSES	THIS MONTH PAID	YEAR TO DATE PAID	ANNUAL BUDGET
Our World Mission	\$ 1805.00	\$ 18,547.00	\$ 21,700.00
Pastoral Ministry & Staff	25,037.14	162,418.45	\$260,499.00
Worship & Service	2,660.35	20,807.70	32,900.00
Our Church Home	5,225.93	51,496.47	48,803.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 34,728.42	\$253,269.62	\$363,902.00

OUR GIFTS FOR THE LORD AND HIS WORK – GENERAL FUND

	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
YTD Total (10/30)	\$253,902.27	\$(253,269.62)	\$632.65

JOKES TO MAKE YOU SMILE

What was the cat's favorite subject in school?

Hissssstory!

What's a dog's favorite activity to do in school?

Lab reports!

Capital Fund *Karen Scarborough, Treasurer*

SAVINGS BAL.	October 1, 2023				\$32,012.21
RECEIPTS					
TOTAL RECEIPTS				\$0.00	
EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS					
TOTAL EXPENSES & WITHDRAWALS				\$0.00	
SAVINGS BALANCE October 31, 2023					\$32,012.21
CHECKING BAL.	October 1, 2023				\$2,667.11
RECEIPTS					
Interest			\$0.28		
TOTAL RECEIPTS				\$0.28	
EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS					
TOTAL EXPENSES & WITHDRAWALS				\$0.00	
CHECKING BALANCE October 31, 2023					\$2,667.39
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT					
Mission Investment Fund; 2.23%; maturity 1/25/24			\$113,006.92		
Mission Investment Fund : 1.936% maturity 4/20/27			\$130,549.89		
Mission Investment Fund; 1.49%; maturity 10/20/25			\$58,992.89		
TOTAL CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT					\$302,549.70
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS OCTOBER 31, 2023					\$337,229.30
PAYABLES					
Beginning Balance 1/1/23			\$23,000.00		
Transfer from General Fund			\$10,000.00		
Transfers to General Fund 2023			-\$10,000.00		
TOTAL PAYABLES				\$23,000.00	
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Stewardship use in memory of Delpha Dumke			\$1,000.00		
Elevator Funds for maintenance			\$6,853.08		
Haase Nelson Memorial: Parish Nurse/COVID			\$18,324.26		
Semmler Bequest: future Internship Programs			\$7,590.51		
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS				\$33,767.85	
TOTAL AVAILABLE CAPITAL FUNDS October 31, 2023					\$280,461.45
5% of 2023 budget			\$18,195.10		

St. John Policy #5: The St. John Capital Fund shall maintain a minimum balance amounting to 5% of the annual congregational budget.