

January 2024 Newsletter St. John American Lutheran Church



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"

New Year and New Health Opportunity



As we begin the New Year of 2024, we will be offering free Blood Pressure Screenings on the 2nd Sunday of each month which we will call
"Check'n on the 2nd"

The first event will be held on January 14th after worship. This is being done to offer up-to-date blood pressures to notice any changes in health.

Anna Svennungsen, CNP and Marjell Wendland, RN, FCN, will be checking the blood pressures and answering any questions or concerns you may have. We look forward to seeing you on the 14th!

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.

LENTEN SUPPERS???

The Worship and Music Committee met on 12/19. We discussed Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. We would like to get back to soup suppers during Lent.

The suppers would begin at 5:30pm with worship to follow at 6:30pm.

We are looking for a coordinator to help with the scheduling of serving groups. We are also looking for groups that would be willing to serve a Wednesday meal. It doesn't have to be anything fancy. You can do soups, or sloppy joes, or maybe even walking tacos. Church Boards, Committees, Choirs, Youth, or just a group of friends, please consider getting together and serving in this ministry to our church and our community. Please call the church office if you are willing to help. Thank you!

Polly Hooks, Worship and Music Committee Chair

THE NEW FLOWER CHART for 2024 is 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!



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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Happy New Year to all our family and friends of St. John American Lutheran Church. As we begin this new year, I invite you to join me in constant discernment about how we can more boldly embody Christ and God's mission in our neighborhood and city. This month, we will gather for our **Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28th @ 10:45am** after worship. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this important meeting. We will review the many ministries of this congregation from the past year, but also look ahead to all we will do in God's name in 2024.

That includes reviewing and voting on our annual budget that has been thoughtfully and faithfully prepared by the many boards of this congregation and your church council. We'll also elect new members to the church council. Voting members of this congregation are defined in our constitution as who are baptized and confirmed in the Christian faith. The baptism and confirmation didn't have to happen at St. John, just in any confessionally Christian church. But even if you can't vote, you still have a voice. So please come to the meeting and be a part of planning for the ministry of St. John in the new year.

The New Year also means the ELCA Youth Gathering is almost here. Our 6 registered participants (4 youth and 2 adults) will be busy with a variety of fundraising efforts and preparations in the next many months. We invite you to be open to how you might support and walk alongside them through this experience. Both prayers and pennies help, so be at the ready. 😊 Thank you for your continued generosity of both time and talents to support the ministry needs to St. John!

In Christ, Pr. Kyle



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



Greetings, St. John! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to the new year! Our choirs earned a well-deserved break after all their December performances and will now be hard at work learning our new music for the coming year. The Adult Choir will be rehearsing the song "O Lord, Most Holy", or as some of you may know it, "Panis Angelicus." If you are thinking of joining either choir, now is a great time as we will be learning new music. We're looking forward to a wonderful 2024 making beautiful music together! **Note to Bell and Adult Choir members: rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, January 10th.**

Sarah Jo Jorgensen
Director of Choirs

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



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.

Thank you for your 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 made easy!

Contribute to St. John American Lutheran Church and "Help Us Grow" wherever you're worshipping from by visiting our online donation page at www.stjohnlutheran.net or simply Scan the QR code below!



Year End Contribution Statements

Help us save on postage expense. If you would like to have your 2023 Contribution Statement e-mailed to you, please call the church office 336-3253. Thank you!



The St. John WELCA Executive Board would like to send out A BIG THANK YOU to the many that helped with our Christmas brunch on Saturday, December 9, 2023. We were lucky to have so many helpers on Friday, December 8th and on December 9th. We, as a board, would not have been able to do this without your help. A special thank you to Joanne Pesicka for her help with programs and organizational details, to Bruce Luschen for helping us move tables and other items, and to Sarah Jorgensen for playing the keyboard.



The executive board, which includes Theresa Emigh, Judy McCormick, Gladys Beck, Karen Dirkson and Mary Remmark are to be thanked for their efforts too. We are so pleased that so many of you were able to help our WELCA board carry out this Christmas brunch.

The list of helpers includes Marilyn Osborn, Carol Andersen, Judy Gohl, Sara Sommers, Lori Meyer, Nancy Vollan, Nancy Plenis, Kelly Nelson, LaVerle Sorken, Tondi Sorenson and Shirley Emmons. I hope that I did not miss any names. All of you are greatly appreciated.

The delicious egg bakes were made by Tony's Catering. The cookies were made by Kahler's Cakes of Sioux Falls. Beautiful music was provided by the Sound Cascade Chorus of Sweet Adelines International. All of this blended together to produce an amazing day of fellowship, worship, and fond memories.

Remember, it "takes a village" to hold a successful brunch. We look forward to planning future WELCA events. We certainly will look for continued help from members and non-members of St. John to effectively plan and carry out these events. Thanks again for your support.

LWR (Lutheran World Relief)

We can always use 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.

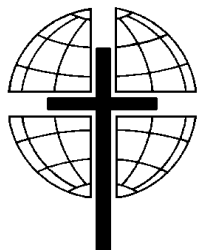
Mission Action Service Group

THERE WILL BE NO WELCA BIBLE STUDY
IN JANUARY



Calling St. John Men and Women 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!



January Mission Globe

Our January Mission Globe gifts will go **Lutheran World Relief**. Lutheran World Relief is an international non-governmental organization that focuses on sustainable development projects and disaster relief and recovery. The organization

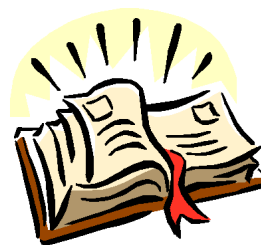
was founded in 1945. There will be a representative from LWR here on February 18th to accept our gifts and give a temple talk during worship. He will visit with all of you during coffee hour that day. You are welcome to make a contribution, *above and beyond your regular giving*, in the globe at the 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 every **Tuesday**. 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!

DECEMBER STATS:

Families	339
Baptized Membership	619
Confirmed Membership	496

(Statistics as of 12/20/23)



-In memory of Kristi Story: \$25-Lutheran World Hunger

-In memory of Maxine Thoreson: \$25-Lutheran World Hunger

-In memory of Barb Buchanan: \$25-Lutheran World Hunger; \$85-St. John Quilters, \$3400-General Fund

Other Gifts: \$25-Food To You; \$50-St. Dysmas; \$905-Mission Globe for Rosebud;

Funerals: Nancy Semmler 12/23/23

God's Work, Our Hands!

The St. John Youth Group, along with help from the Washington High School student council, have been busy working on tie blankets that were given to the Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety in time for Christmas. Thank you kids and youth leaders!



The St. John Quilting group lost a dear friend and member in December. In Barb's memory, Ken Buchanan, presented a memorial gift to the group to use as they continue this very important ministry. Pictured above are: Ken Buchanan, JoAnn Garner, Linda Hasvold, Judy Cass, Kay Stephenson, Anna Carlson, backrow: LaVonne Schimke, Barb Peterson and Keith Rippe. There are also some of the beautiful quilts on display on our pews.

This group of St. John volunteers served 75 families a meal at The Banquet West on November 17th. God Bless the families and the volunteers that prepared the food and served the meal. Thank you!



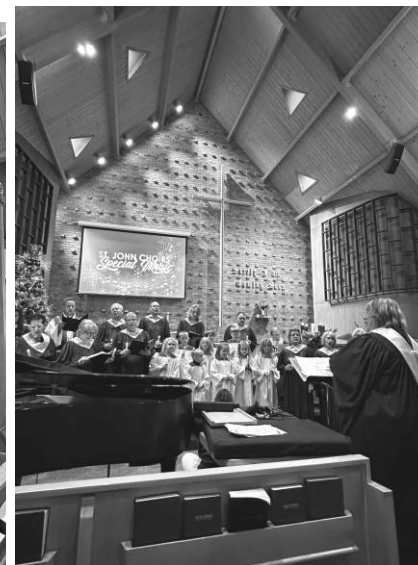
St. John volunteers loaded up vehicles with your donations of clothing, blankets, quilts, food, cookies and toys and headed to Mission, SD on December 2nd. The Episcopal Mission had a party to give all of these donated items out to the families of Rosebud last weekend. Thank you to Brenda Jones, John McIntyre and the Social Concerns board and to all who donated gifts and food, to the drivers, the riders and to all those who helped packed up and load the vehicles. What a wonderful ministry! God's Work, Our Hands.



God's Work, Our Hands!

MUSIC CELEBRATION SUNDAY & ADVENT FAIR PHOTOS


Thank you to our choirs director, Sarah Jorgensen & pianist, Amber Holtberg, all choir members, the Sunday School teachers, and to Cari Spier, Educ. Board Chair and Sophie Jo for leading the fun advent fair!





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!**



WHAT DO SNOWMEN LIKE TO DO ON NEW YEAR'S EVE?

CHILL OUT!



We want to express our appreciation for all the love and consolation we have received in the loss of our beloved Marsha Matthiesen on November 3rd. The memorials have been distributed in this way: American Cancer Society, Sioux Falls Humane Society and the remaining to help in clearing final expenses. Thank you. Brenda and I are honored to do our very best in this last opportunity to recognize her kind service to the both of us.

Arlene Matthiesen & Brenda Fish

Dear St. John American Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to Garfield Elementary School to be used to purchase winter wear and lunches for our students. You may never know the impact your gifts provide, however the smile on our students' faces and the reaction of our families when we share these gifts with them is simply amazing! It is nice to share that our community cares about them! You are a blessing!!

Mrs. Skogstad, Garfield Principal
and students and Staff



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. Thank you!

Support Our Youth! GIFT CARDS

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!

ST. JOHN GENERAL FUND – NOVEMBER 2023

Doug Daniels, Treasurer

BALANCE	11/1/2023	\$	6,199.48
	Total Receipts for Month	\$	23,277.27
	Total Cash on Hand	\$	29,476.75
	Less Expenditures for Month	\$	(26,630.04)
	Transfer to Cap. Fund Payables	\$	-
BALANCE	11/30/2023	\$	2,846.71
	Doug Daniels, Treasurer		

EXPENSES	THIS MONTH PAID	YEAR TO DATE PAID	ANNUAL BUDGET
Our World Mission	\$ 1,805.00	\$ 20,352.00	\$ 21,700.00
Pastoral Ministry & Staff	21,785.22	184,203.67	\$260,499.00
Worship & Service	2,325.66	23,133.36	32,900.00
Our Church Home	714.16	52,210.63	48,803.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 26,630.04	\$279,899.66	\$363,902.00

OUR GIFTS FOR THE LORD AND HIS WORK – GENERAL FUND

	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
YTD Total (11/30)	\$277,179.54	\$(279,899.66)	(\$2,720.12)

"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!

Capital Fund Karen Scarborough, Treasurer

SAVINGS BAL.	November 1, 2023		\$32,012.21
RECEIPTS			
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$0.00	
EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS			
transferred to checking		\$8,000.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES & WITHDRAWALS		\$8,000.00	
SAVINGS BALANCE November 30, 2023			<u>\$24,012.21</u>
CHECKING BAL.	November 1, 2023		\$2,667.39
RECEIPTS			
transfer from capital savings		\$8,000.00	
Interest		<u>\$0.39</u>	
TOTAL RECEIPTS			\$8,000.39
EXPENSES AND WITHDRAWALS			
Electric Supply - heat tape-down pymt		\$8,000.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES & WITHDRAWALS		\$8,000.00	
CHECKING BALANCE November 30, 2023			<u>\$2,667.78</u>
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		<u>\$58,992.89</u>	
TOTAL CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT			<u>\$302,549.70</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS NOVEMBER 30, 2023			<u>\$329,229.69</u>
PAYABLES			
Beginning Balance 1/1/23		\$23,000.00	
Transfer from General Fund		\$10,000.00	
Transfers to General Fund 2023		<u>-\$10,000.00</u>	
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		<u>\$7,590.51</u>	
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS			\$33,767.85
TOTAL AVAILABLE CAPITAL FUNDS NOVEMBER 30, 2023			<u>\$272,461.84</u>
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.