

# ***St. John Lutheran Church (Bingen)***

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# I. Introduction

St. John Lutheran Church (Bingen) is a charter-member congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. St. John was founded by the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, through the missionary efforts of Rev. F.C.D. Wyneken. On December 26, 1845, the Bingen congregation adopted its constitution under the pastoral leadership of Rev. F.W. Husmann, thus marking the formal organization of St. John Lutheran Church.

For 170 years, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has faithfully preserved His church at St. John, Bingen through His ministry of Word and Sacraments, creating and growing this congregation through the waters of Holy Baptism and sustaining and strengthening His holy little flock through the true proclamation of His Divine Word and the proper administration of His holy body and blood.

For those members of St. John who make use of this booklet, we pray that it will be for you an invitation to be involved in the life of Christ's body, the church. "For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:14, 26-27). Whatever the gifts the Lord has given you, you are a valuable member of Christ's body in this place, and we give thanks for our life together. Likewise, we rejoice in the richness of our congregational members' varied gifts and abilities, and we pray that the Lord would continue to build up the body of Christ at Bingen through our collective reception of His gifts in Word and Sacrament and our response of faith active in works of love for one another.

For those who do not already have a church home, we invite and encourage you to worship with us and consider joining our family of faith here at St. John. If you would like to schedule a pastoral visit or desire more information about becoming a member of St. John Lutheran Church, please contact the Church Office. Our pastor looks forward to serving you with the gifts of Christ, and we look forward to welcoming you among us.

## *-The St. John Board of Christian Stewardship*

The St. John Board of Christian Stewardship, in conjunction with the Word of God and the pastor, is tasked with keeping the congregation mindful of its responsibilities to God's Kingdom in the proper use of its time, talent, and earthly treasures--that we recognize these as God's gifts to us, and that we express our love to God by the proper use of these gifts in his Kingdom. The Board of Stewardship is therefore responsible for the examination and dissemination of all information and literature pertaining to stewardship. (Constitution and By-Laws of St. John Lutheran Church, 27-28). To that end, we offer this booklet to the glory of God and the furtherance of His Kingdom in this place.

## **II. Opportunities for All**

### **Worship and Bible Class**

*Receiving God's Divine Service to Us*

#### **Sundays between Labor Day and Memorial Day**

First, third, and fifth Sunday of every month

**8am** Prayer Office (Matins, Morning Prayer, etc.)

**9:15am** Sunday School and Bible Class\*

**10:30am** Divine Service with Holy Communion

Second and fourth Sunday of every month

**8am** Divine Service with Holy Communion

**9:15am** Sunday School and Bible Class\*

**10:30am** Prayer Office (Matins, Morning Prayer, etc.)

*\*All ages gather together in the Parish Hall at 9:15am for the Sunday School Opening before separating into individual classes.*

#### **Sundays between Memorial Day and Labor Day**

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Second and fourth Sunday of every month

**8am** Divine Service with Holy Communion

**9:30am** Prayer Office (Matins, Morning Prayer, etc.)

#### **Wednesdays** (Year-round)

**6:30pm** Divine Service with Holy Communion

**7:30pm** Bible Class

#### **Early-Bird Bible Class**

Tuesdays during Wyneken School Year at 6am in Parish Hall

## **Voters' Meetings**

St. John Voters' Meetings are held five times per year in January, April, July, October, and December. The meeting dates and times are published in the St. John Newsletter and Sunday Bulletin Newspaper. All are welcome to attend. Confirmed members are voting members upon reaching the age of eighteen (18), and shall sign the Constitution and By-Laws at the first meeting they attend to denote acceptance of the same.

## **Choir**

The St. John Adult Choir is a group for those that enjoy singing. This group sings for worship services approximately twice per month from September through May. The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings, usually from 7:30-8:30pm in the Sanctuary. We sing a varied repertoire of music that fits with the church season and Lectionary Readings. Everyone is welcome to join the choir, even if you are not able to make every rehearsal. For questions or additional information, contact Jessica Gavrun at (547-0002) or [jgavrun@wyneken.org](mailto:jgavrun@wyneken.org).

## **Handbells**

The Handbell Choir provides a unique way to glorify God and support our worship. The repertoire for this ensemble primarily includes a wide variety of sacred music, which is played at worship services. The Handbell Choir practices approximately one hour per week on Monday evenings in the church sanctuary, and we strive to play in worship at least once a month during the regular school-year calendar. The ensemble is comprised of individuals of diverse age and with varying degrees of musical experience. Those interested in joining the Handbell Choir should contact Andy Gavrun at (547-0002) or [agavrun@wyneken.org](mailto:agavrun@wyneken.org).

## **Bereavement Committee**

The Bereavement Committee provides a luncheon for the family and friends of the faithful departed, as desired, following the funeral. Members of the congregation are contacted to donate food or to provide help with the luncheon on the day of the funeral. There are no scheduled meetings, only planning the funeral luncheon. To volunteer, contact Jeanette Peters (639-6637), Marge Price (433-7663) or Jan Zelt (639-3136).

## **Church Cleaning Days**

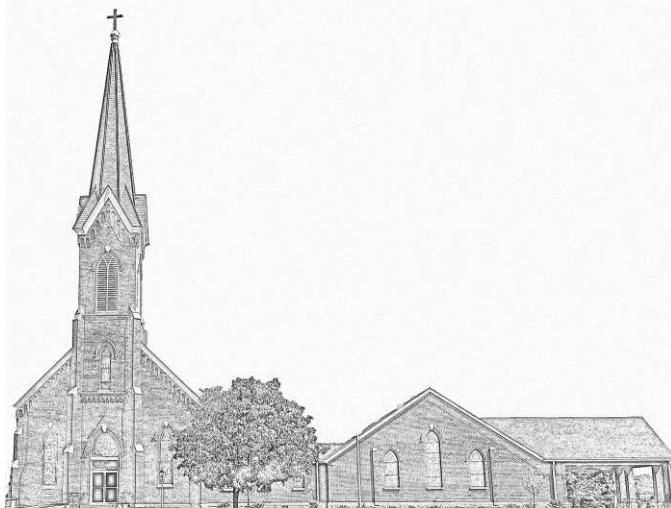
To keep the Lord's house and grounds beautiful and in proper order, several indoor and outdoor clean-up days are scheduled throughout the year. The more volunteers who participate, the more work and fellowship we accomplish and enjoy. Watch the newsletter and calendar for upcoming opportunities to help.

## **Newsletter Assembly**

Almost every month, volunteers are needed to assist the church office in assembling, folding, sealing, and labeling our newsletter. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship with fellow volunteers and get your newsletter a day early! Please contact the church office to be notified of future newsletter assembly dates.

## **Social Committee**

The purpose of this informal group is to promote Christian fellowship within our congregation and community. We try to plan one event per month and ideas are always welcomed from the congregation. We seek to appeal to all age groups, and the committee consists of both men and women. Contact Mick Scheumann (639-6172) or Brian Horning (810-341-4418) for information about this group and to join the fun. All are welcome!



# III. Opportunities for Youth

## **Acolytes**

All confirmed, high school young men are invited and encouraged to serve the church as acolytes during our Sunday morning worship services. An acolyte is an assistant to the minister in the public services of the church, one of whose duties it is to light and to extinguish the candles on and around the altar. Lighted candles are a symbol of Christ as the Light of the world. They also express the glory and joy of our holy religion. In the chief service Christ the Light comes to us in both Word and Sacrament. As such, the service of an acolyte is a significant part of the worshipping community at St. John. Acolytes serve for one month at-a-time in one of our two Sunday morning services. For more information or to volunteer, contact Brian Horning, Director of Youth & Family Life (810-341-4418).

## **Oasis Lutheran Youth Fellowship**

All high school students (grades 9-12) and middle school students (grades 6-8) of St. John are invited to participate in our vibrant youth group, which also includes youth from St. Paul, Preble, and Zion, Friedheim. All of our activities give youth the opportunity to connect with Christ and one another in fun, new ways. The **high school youth** gather regularly on Sunday evenings for Bible study and games. They also participate in community service projects, quarterly retreats, and an annual week-long summer mission trip. The **middle school youth** gather monthly with events altering between community service projects and outings such as ice skating or laser tag. All middle school and high school youth are encouraged to serve in the church by participating in the Handbell Choir, Vocal Choir, Lenten meals, and social events. For more information, contact Brian Horning, Director of Youth & Family Life (810-341-4418).

## **Oasis Lutheran Youth Fellowship Planning Team**

Students and adults who are actively involved in our youth group and display Christian leadership skills are invited to serve on the Oasis LYF Leadership Team. The primary duties of this team include: attendance at all monthly team meetings, event planning, accounting the Oasis LYF finances, promoting and personally inviting students to youth activities, and acting as representatives of Oasis LYF to the Church Councils and Voters' Meetings. Team members serve on a year-to-year basis. For more information, contact Brian Horning, Director of Youth & Family Life (810-341-4418).

## **IV. Opportunities for Women**

### **Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild assists the pastor in making sure the proper vestments, paraments, linens, candles, and brasses are being used for the church season and that all of these items are cleaned, stored, and kept in proper order. Checking and refilling the oil candles is a weekly requirement. Twice each year, the Altar Guild meets to clean and polish the brasses, sacred vessels, etc. At these semi-annual events, Pastor offers brief presentations to the Altar Guild on topics regarding worship and altar furnishings, and he offers guidance on this faithful service in the church. Currently we work in teams, and each team serves one month per year. Altar Guild service does not include difficult or complicated duties, and any confirmed woman can learn to do this faithful and significant service. For details, contact Jean Uffelman (639-3075).

### **Cancer Pad Sewing**

Cancer Bed Pads are sewn at St John to provide comfort to cancer patients. When completed, the pads are delivered to the Northeast Cancer Services of Allen County for distribution to cancer patients at home and various area hospitals. The group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, from 8–11am in the Parish Hall, but we are flexible if this time does not work for you. All are welcome to help, and it is easy to learn how to stitch. Contact Marilyn Kiess (724-3348) for details.

### **Ladies Aid**

This group meets each Wednesday in the Parish Hall from 9am–3pm for quilting. Proceeds from the sale of quilts are distributed each year to various Lutheran organizations. Among these, we assist global mission work, provide financial assistance to a seminarian each month, and support various other causes within our own congregation. We welcome you to stop in on a Wednesday for more information.

### **Ladies Guild**

The Ladies Guild is a branch of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), whose motto is "Serve the Lord with gladness." The Guild is a support group that allows members to work, pray, laugh and sometimes play together. At the end of the year, proceeds are distributed to various charities or needs of the congregation. We have meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Contact Marge Tingen (433-7663) for details.

# **V. Opportunities for Men**

## **Ushers**

Men of the congregation are invited to serve as ushers who assist the deacons with facilitating the public services of the church. Duties include handing out bulletins prior to the service, helping with the collection of the offering during the service, distributing any handouts at the end of the service, gathering attendance sheets, and making sure the pews, hymnals, etc. are in good order for the next service. Ushers serve for one month at a time in one of the Sunday services. If you would like to serve as an usher, contact one of the deacons.

## **Men's Activity Committee**

The Men's Activity Committee is comprised of 3 members appointed by the chairman of the congregation. The main function of this group is the annual fish fry. While there are no scheduled meetings, these 3 members set up the committees and get the supplies needed for the fish fry. The various committees contact the men of the congregation to help with the fish fry. We appreciate your willingness to help when called to help with the fish fry.

## **Snow Removal**

Every winter, volunteers are responsible for removing the snow from the church parking lot, walks, and stairs. While this is a seasonal task, it is also very important for the safety of our members and the primary purpose of the church - worship. We are blessed with members who donate both their time and equipment to clear the parking lot, and any other experienced operators are welcome to assist. We are also grateful to all who grab a shovel and clear a walkway or staircase. Everyone is welcome to show up after a snowfall to help.

# VI. Opportunities at Wyneken

## **Author/Storyteller**

During different times of the school year, our students and teachers look for volunteers who would be willing to read a book to a class or tell a story. For more information or to volunteer, contact the Wyneken School office at 639-6177 or [office@wyneken.org](mailto:office@wyneken.org).

## **Athletic Booster**

We have many athletic events at Wyneken and we can always use more help in concessions, keeping the scorebook and scoreboard, line judges for VB, etc. Please contact Mr. Greg Louis, our athletic director at [Wyneken.ad@gmail.com](mailto:Wyneken.ad@gmail.com).

## **Boxtops for Education & Campbell's Soup Labels**

Boxtops and Soup Labels are great programs for Wyneken to receive free material and supplies. The Boxtop Coordinator helps to publicize this important effort. Once boxtops have been given to the school, they need to be counted and sent to the national program headquarters to be redeemed. To get involved, contact the Wyneken School Office.

## **Learning Garden**

Wyneken has a Learning Garden with many plots and a nice greenhouse. We are always in need of a coordinator and volunteers with experience in gardening and a desire to keep our Learning Garden beautiful. To help out, contact the Wyneken School Office.

## **Library Helper**

Our classes go to the library on a weekly basis. The teachers need volunteers who are able to help students find books and check them out. We also use volunteers to help with the management of books needing to be checked in and placing them on the appropriate shelves. To volunteer, contact Mrs. Gemila Rabel at [wynlibrarian@yahoo.com](mailto:wynlibrarian@yahoo.com).

## **PTL**

Our Parent-Teacher League holds various events throughout the year for which we are in need of volunteer helpers. A few of these events include a Fish and Tenderloin Dinner in October, meals for the teachers during Parent-Teacher Conference Times, a square dance in the spring, ice cream served following the Fine Arts evening in May, etc. To get involved in the PTL, contact the Wyneken School Office.

## Room Parents

Teachers are always in need of enthusiastic and festive Room Parents to help with classroom food, snacks, and various party activities for holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, etc. To get involved, contact the Wyneken School Office.

## Scrip

Our Scrip program relies on volunteers who serve at several levels. The person responsible for the overall program is the coordinator. Volunteers are also needed at each of the churches to sell scrip. To support this important fundraiser, please purchase scrip as often as possible and contact the Wyneken School Office.





