



The *GOOD NEWS*

Newsletter - November 2023



Deer Hunter Service & Social

Wednesday, November 15

Social: 6pm

Service: 7pm

This service is for anyone that would like to attend, not just hunters.



join us for

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Wednesday, November 22
6:00 pm



Worship With Us!

St. John Lutheran Church
Pastor Carl Brewer
Pastor Craig VanPay

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
700 Heritage Road Luxemburg, WI
Ph: (920) 845-5250
Email: secretary@stjohnlux.com
www.stjohnlux.com

Pastor Carl Brewer

Cell: 920-536-1041

Email: Pastorbrewer@stjohnlux.com

Pastor Craig VanPay

Cell: 920-255-3267

Email: Pastorvanpay@stjohnlux.com

Worship Schedule

LIFE Hour

Sunday 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

Worship Services

Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Holy Communion is served each week

We will continue to stream the 8am service each week on the St John Lutheran Church Facebook page.



FROM PASTOR BREWER:

November is an interesting month each year. In terms of the church year November typically is full of readings and sermons about the end times, or the second Advent of Jesus. In terms of holidays and special events November is associated with the gun deer hunting season and Thanksgiving. But November is also the second to last month of the year, and because the new year is so close at hand I want to bring up to you a big change that is coming in January so that you are prepared for it.

In January we are discontinuing the use of a program that we have been using at church for the last 14 years and switching to a new one.



Church360 is a program that we have been using to keep the church's database of it's members, attendance and even the giving records. We will be switching to a new program called ChurchTrac. Now you might be thinking, "So what? What does this have to do with me?" But ChurchTrac has a lot to do with you, or at least I'm hoping that it will.

Many years ago a little company got started that at the time I didn't think would be a big deal. In fact I waited quite a few years before I started using it. Facebook. I use it all the time today and it has become, for better or worse, a part of my daily life and ministry. Without Facebook I don't know how we would have done church during Covid. Each day of the week I come to you on Facebook with a daily devotion and Facebook has been a useful tool for getting the word out about events at St. John.

For many years now communication has been an issue we have struggled with at St. John. We compile information in weekly bulletins and put it on amazing powerpoint slides that we run before and after church, only to have people tell us constantly that they didn't know about something even though it had been in the bulletin for weeks if not a month before the event happened. We print monthly newsletters filled with all kinds of information with things going on at church including a calendar (just a little experiment if you are reading this article, next time we see each other say "Squirrel" to me). We email out those bulletins only to have some of the people's emails come back to us because their email addresses are no longer valid. We post things to the church website weekly only to have people say that they couldn't find it there. Or we have people complain because they don't know someone else's phone number or email address because we only do church directories every 5 years or so.

We are going to try something new. Don't worry we're still going to keep doing the same things that I listed above, weekly paper bulletins, Powerpoints slides before church, newsletters and everything else, but we are going to add an additional tool, ChurchConnect. ChurchConnect is an app that you can access online through our website or download as an app on your phone that will give you access to:

- an online church directory of our congregation
- access to your personal information that we have in our database so that you can update it as things change and upload your own family or individual pictures
- access to the new online banking program that we are switching to January 1, 2024 and an up to date confidential record of your offerings given to church
- access to the public calendar of our church

ChurchConnect will also have tiles on the main screen that can be used by the various boards and groups at church for all kinds of things like prayer requests, signing kids up for activities, daily videos,

etc. ChurchConnect is meant to be another communication tool that we can all use to help in the ministry that God has given us here at St. John.

A tool is only helpful if people use it. To that end we need you to create an account with ChurchConnect. You can go to <https://stjohnlux.churchtrac.com/sign-in> and click on the **Create An Account** button to create your account. Your information is already in the ChurchTrac database system and will be associated with the login you create. You can update your information as needed from there.

Starting on January 1, 2024 we will also be switching our online giving from Vanco to Swype that works through the ChurchConnect app, but I'll remind you about that next month.

I pray the Lord blesses you with a big buck if you go hunting and some time of rest with family for Thanksgiving and we'll talk more soon.

✝ In Christ, Pastor Brewer

NEWS & EVENTS



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT / Thursday, December 7th: Come & join us for an evening of inspirational music & fellowship as we prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of our Savior this amazing Advent Season! \$15 / ticket - Includes, meal, drinks, and an incredible evening of Christmas entertainment. Proceeds from the evening will be to benefit families in need this Christmas.

This woman's event is by RESERVATION ONLY. Individual or group reservations can be made at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4AA4AB2FA5F94-reserved1> or contact Sandra Hanmann by email hearthealthy71@gmail.com or phone 920-304-0044 to purchase a ticket. All payments must be given to Sandra prior to event. Limited seats available. Event starts with shopping at 4pm, dinner at 6:30 and the Advent program at 7:30 pm.

College Care Packages: LAST CALL to submit your college student's name/address to receive a care package prior to winter finals. Let them know that they are thought of and prayed over! Please submit your information to Heather Derenne (derenneh@gmail.com) by **Monday, Nov 6th**. Any students commuting from home are also welcome to participate. *Note: All names and addresses must be resubmitted each year as they are not kept on file. *Light in a messenger's eyes brings joy to the heart and good news gives health to the bones. Proverbs 15:30*

Deer Hunters Service and Social: Join us on Wednesday, November 15th in the Fellowship Hall. Social at 6pm, Service at 7pm with more social time to follow. This is a casual, outdoors themed event that is open to anyone who would like to attend, not just hunters. Whether a gun hunter, bow hunter, or not a hunter at all, join us as we ask God to keep the hunters safe, and thank Him for His beautiful creation and His provision, both through hunting, and more importantly, through Christ Jesus. Keep watching the bulletin for more details.



Poinsettia Plants will be ordered for the beautification of our Sanctuary for the Christmas Season. If interested in any donation, please fill out the form located on the back table at the entrance to church. Place donation in envelope in lock box by the church office. Make check payable to St.

John Lutheran Church and please mark the envelope Poinsettia Fund. Questions? Feel free to call anyone listed on the Poinsettia form with questions. Thank you for sharing the beauty of flowers with us during this Christmas season.

New Members Class: If you are considering becoming a member of St. John and interested in learning more about the beliefs and teachings of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, join us for a New Members Class on Sunday, December 10, 1:00 pm- 3:30 pm. Current members looking to refresh their knowledge on the teachings of the church are also welcome. Please contact Pastor Brewer to register.

Gentle + Exercise for Senior Citizens will run from Oct 9 - Dec 18. Classes will meet twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays (except the first Thursday of each month) from 9 a.m. -10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Exercises can be done sitting or standing. Contact Diane 920-609-2765.

Snow Removal: The Trustees are seeking additional help with winter snow removal. If you would be willing to help, please add your name and contact information to the signup sheet on the table in the Narthex. Contact a Trustee Member with questions.

Youth Mission Trip Cookie Walk will take place on Sunday, December 3rd from 8:00 am – noon. We are looking for cookie donations. Please drop off donations to the fellowship on December 2nd. More information will be coming.



Coming soon! St John Giving Tree: Help bring joy to Kewaunee County Families this Christmas. Keep watching the bulletin for more details.

Register Today!

Ruby's Pantry

November 11, 2023

St. John Lutheran Church
700 Heritage Rd. Luxemburg WI



Ruby's
PANTRY



*Parking lot opens & In person registration begins at 7:30 a.m.
Food Distribution from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (or earlier if shares are out)*

DRIVE THROUGH DISTRIBUTION | \$25 SHARE DONATION

*Pre-Registration is available until 3pm the day prior to the distribution.
Reserve your shares ahead of time at www.rubyspantry.org
Pre-Registration guarantees your share & you can use a debit or credit card online!*



Wednesday Youth Night: (*Open to post Confirmation (7th & 8th) & High School Youth*). Join in on the fun on Wednesday's @ 6:30pm. We will meet in the fellowship room in the garage where we will start with a bible study and end with games. Upcoming events are scheduled for: November 8th, November 22nd, December 6th, and December 20th.

Youth Bowling Event (*Open to post Confirmation (7th & 8th) & High School Youth*) is scheduled for Sunday, November 12 at The Rendezvous – E896 County Rd. N, Luxemburg, from 6 to 8:30pm (pizza at 6pm, with bowling starting at 6:30pm). Cost: \$10 per person. Please sign up on the sheet in the church Narthex.

Middle School Game Night (*Open to all children in grades 6th, 7th and 8th*). Join in the fun and fellowship on Friday, December 1st from 6pm – 10pm. Questions? Call or text Kevin Piesler at 920-366-2208.

“Learn to Play Dart Ball”: All are welcome. If you already know how to play and want to join us, that would be great! We will likely spend time learning the game and how to throw, and then divide up and play. This will be in the back garage. Dates: Tuesday, December 5th, and Tuesday, December 12th from 7:00 pm – 8:30/9:00 pm. There will be some snacks, but feel free to bring snacks to share and your own beverages. If there is interest, we will potentially roll this into the creation of some leagues that could involve Dart ball, bean bag (cornhole) toss, and other games for fellowship. In the past we've referred to possibly calling this the “Midwest Olympics League”. ☺ Please sign up on the sheet in the church Narthex.

High School Game Night (*Open to high school students in 9-12th grade*): The next event will be Friday, December 15th from 7pm to 12am. This one will be a little different as we will be having Commando Paintball coming in to set up Laser Tag in the fellowship hall. Laser Tag will run from 7:30 to 11:30, and we will have the other activities set up throughout the other areas of the church. We will also have cookie decorating to make a cookie/cookies for yourself, or to take to give to others. If you'd like a chance to win a prize, please wear an ugly or unique Christmas sweater/outfit. Everyone who does will have their names put into a hat for prize drawings.

Sunday morning LIFE Hour classes will be consistent with all other LIFE Hour classes.



2023 Church Council Members

President
Ed Trembl

Council Secretary
Brenda Reckelberg

Treasurer
Robert Funk

Financial Secretary
Jenny DeGrave

Elders
Zac Lensmire
Rich Wienke
David Buntman
Marv Perleberg
Kevin Piesler
Gus Schmoll
Matt Kinnard

Trustees
Kevin VandenBush
Greg Savage
Dennis Dalebroux

Stewardship
Deb Helling
Janice Haen
Dana Engelking
Gail Trembl

Board of Education
Marissa Byrne
Jennifer DeBauche
Madison Hanmann
Autumn Lensmire
Janice Krueger
Stacy Fett

Evangelism Committee:
Abby Hanmann
Heather Derenne
Miriam Hemp

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Meeting Minutes – October 2, 2023

Members Present: Kevin VandenBush, Greg Savage, Dennis Dalebroux, Kristen Buntman, Quincy Giese

- Discussed strategic planning items
- Discussed sprinkler system inspection
 - Will work on getting on itemized estimate
- Discussed Journeys Club
 - Work on reviewing and renewing the contract with them
- Working on replacing the windows

Submitted by Kevin VandenBush

Stewardship Meeting Minutes - October 9, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6 P.M, all members present.

First order of business was discussion on our Ministry fair coming up on Sunday, along with the new member get together. We checked our board for the fair and decided some things needed to be brought up to date, Dana will take care of changes. Candy will send out a memo reminding all board members of the event, and to get their boards ready by Saturday or early Sunday. No food will be served at individual tables, there will be a table in center of room with finger foods available to all. We had a discussion on food to be served and who will be ordering some.

We have two members leaving the board in January and some names were brought up to run for these spots. Some possibilities were asked or will be asked in the near future. We will meet at church on Saturday to get set up for the Ministry fair.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7 P.M

Respectfully submitted by Gail Trembl

Evangelism Meeting Minutes - October 9, 2023

Attendees: Abby Hanmann, Heather Derenne, Jenny Shaw, Jodi Pamperin, & Miriam Hemp

Heather opened meeting with a prayer.

- Giving Tree Project
 - We will be supporting 50 individuals and 35 families for the giving tree

- Last year was 28 families, 44 individuals which is why we were upcoming the count this year.
- Heather will take care of getting more envelopes and stickers
- Draft Flyer - Being created by Abby. Will have Jenny Shaw finalize any additional details

Pastor Craig Notes:

- College care packages
 - Confirmed with Craig on the letter, he will adjust formatting
 - Week after Thanksgiving to have them sent out to the college kids, before the first week in December
 - Touched base for the College care packages in November. Smaller boxes 9x6x6 are being donated from a friend of Miriam.
 - Miriam has Bible verses printed for care packages
 - Bible verse jars will be included along with snacks
 - Heather making label for care packages
 - Ordering jars
- MidWest Olympics
 - There has been no additional information added to it yet Pastor Craig confirmed
 - Additional information TBD (Dart Ball)
- Toys for Tots
 - Will get the box ready for Sheriff Joski
 - Send out a remind closer to the date
- Youth Nights
 - Oct 28th, Dec 15th are the next upcoming events

Upcoming Event (potential)

- World-wide summit - Jenny Shaw
 - Generally a 2-day event
 - Geared towards grandparents who can raise up their kids/grandkids
 - Upcoming event for next year
 - Summit licensed grant you have to purchase
 - \$50 for each participant

Timeline of due dates:

Toys for Tots

- Miriam will contact Joski on pick up for Toys for Tots

Bulletin TBD pick-up

*Will be put in the November bulletin***

Giving Tree

Start date - Nov. 10th, Sunday (Have the tree up)

- Meet to put the tags together for the tree
- Jenny, Jodi, and Heather will be putting tags together

End Date will be Dec. 10th, Sunday

Have hand out for Giving Tree, bulletin insert, and the PowerPoint - Abby Hanmann
(Send to Jenny 8x10)

Closed with Lord's prayer.

Upcoming meeting for November will be held on: **Nov. 6th, (4:30pm)**

Submitted by Abby Hanmann

Board of Education - October Minutes 10.05.2023 5:30-7:30 pm Members Present: Madison, Jennifer, Autumn, Janice, Pastor Brewer, Pastor Craig				
Report:	Agenda Item	Strat/Obj	Discussion Notes:	Action steps needed
Coordinator of BOEd: Janice	Goals and budget for 2024 Reflect on Harvest Event Entertainment Ministry Fair		Made recommending budget of \$3,500 to bring to council Try to keep kid games inside where the action is, less games are needed (not many kids participated, maybe 15) We will use last years board, we just need to add LEAF group, janice will man the table	
Confirmation Coordinator: Jennifer	no updates		Work to get updated roster of current class	Jennifer will touch base to see
LIFE Hour Coordinator: Autumn	Update on LIFE Hour Oct Newsletter		Collecting offering at the beginning of class, working on keep fellowship snacks out of LIFE hour classroom to not distract the students, teachers are really enjoying have TVs in the classroom, Sent out 1st week of Oct to families, teachers and BOEd	

	Background Checks		About half done, working on getting the rest	
Christmas Program/VBS Coordinator: Micole	Jennifer reached out to Kevin to ask if he will need any funds for Christmas Program.		Kevin is working on it right now	Jennifer will reach out to him for updates, ask LIFE Hour helpers to support during it
Additional Education Programs Coordinator: Marissa	Fellowship time: -sign up? -donations? LEAF Event Alternative Childrens Sermon		We are working on putting out a sign-up sheet, Marissa out of town next two weekends, who is bringing doughnuts and making the coffee? Purchased 16 tickets Can we find someone to do an alternative children's sermon for the 10:30 service or can we add a children's sermon back to the 10:30 service	Madison will put something in the bulletin Jennifer will talk to the pastors
Comm. Coordinator: Madison				
Misc:	Next Council Date: Voters: Next Meeting Date:		Oct 19 Oct 22 Nov 2 (Thursday)	

Pastor Brewer October Monthly Report

9/1-10/1 2023

8 Shut In Visits (Bev Jonet 2, Karnopp 2, Sue Falish 1, Blemke 1, Judy Dorn 1, Fay Prodel/Michelle Philipps 1)

3 Weddings

1 Funeral

10 Counseling Sessions

Pastor Craig's Report for the October 19th, 2023, Council Meeting

The goal for the balance of this year, and running through the school year of 2023/2024, including the summer of 2024 through August are this...

A. Youth related...

1. Weekly High School LIFE Hour on Sunday mornings to coincide with the LIFE Hour schedule.
2. Every other Wednesday bi-weekly Post Confirmation Youth Group gatherings throughout the school year. (We may continue this through the summer on a different night if the youth are interested and are showing up).
3. 4 High School Game Nights and 2 Middle School Game Nights throughout the school year.
(High School Game Nights are currently scheduled for Oct. 28th, December 15th, February 2nd, and April 5th. Middle School game nights are yet to be scheduled.)
4. Off-site fun/fellowship youth group events are to be held every other month to promote relationship building between the youth. There are currently 2 planned for consecutive months... October 15th paint ball, which will have taken place by the meeting, and bowling and pizza on November 12th.
5. We plan to offer 2 to 4 servant events throughout the year to include the Middle School and High School youth. These would be events like working at Paul's Pantry, helping with the Operation Christmas Child box collecting and packing, a church workday, such as painting the inside of the garage, a day or weekend doing yard cleanup locally, or a worker-bee weekend at Camp Luther.
6. The youth mission trip is an opportunity for our local youth to serve in other communities which we continue to do once a year for a week. The 28 spaces for the 2024 trip are filled.

B. Family related...

1. We are planning to do another summer Outdoor Family Movie/Game Night. If there is interest, we may look at doing 2 events. One may be a spring indoor event.

2. The LEAF Group (Living through Early Adult Fellowship) has been started to offer fellowship opportunities for the post high school/young adult age group (18 to 35/40-ish). It is lead by members of the group with the plan to work within the group to plan quarterly activities throughout the year.

C. Budget related...

1. Regarding the 2024 Youth Groups budgets, it is desired that the church could support the Youth Groups at the same amounts as last year, to allow for a few bigger expenses, such as laser tag at one of the game nights, and 1 or 2 other activities which carry a little larger expense. (The youth events not involving a larger cost activity are often self-funded through individual donations.) (I believe that the budgets were at \$2,000 and \$5,000 for 2023.)
2. As for the **Youth Mission Trip**, the account looks good at this time, but it is desired that the church would support the youth mission trip at **\$2,000** for the year, to keep them in the habit of supporting the trip, and to allow for financial support the trip cost of the adult leaders who take off from their jobs to go, and to help support those youth who might not otherwise be able to attend.
3. At this time, the **LEAF Group** and I haven't connected on their anticipated budget (youth and family ministry) for 2024. This **can be discussed at the October 19th budget meeting**.
4. The **Praise Band** is hoping to purchase a digital piano, which I believe we have approximately \$3,500 donated toward it. Also, a drum set is desired. The estimate to purchase both is about **\$5,000** after the current funds that are set aside for the digital piano. May we have discussion on how the council would propose the money would be raised for this...fundraising, budget support, or a combination of both?

D. Other areas to report that are to continue through 2024 (unless advised otherwise)...

1. Other areas that I will continue to help with are, alternating with pastor Brewer on doing a few of the shut-in visit, preaching approximately once a month, along with alternating yearly on the holidays for preaching, and participating in the Lenten Round Robin for preaching.
2. Planning and organizing for the Mission Trip, Mission Trip fundraisers, and scheduling volunteers for the youth events.
3. Working on plans to gradually add fellowship opportunities for our church family. The current ones being worked on are a "learn to play dart ball" evening or two, in hopes to get some leagues/fellowship nights going (which may include bean bags or other activities as well), and a possible Tuesday evening adult Bible Study/fellowship.

4. Working with the praise band to select music and play every other month for the contemporary services.

Progress Report: Strategy 3

Market St John as the Church of Choice

REPORTING PERIOD: OCTOBER 2023

Program/Project/Task	Board	Contact	Targeted Completion Date	Notes
Refresh logo	Strategy 3 Team	Kristen Buntman	12/31/2023	Logo approved
Update website	Strategy 3 Team	Kristen Buntman	12/31/2023	Meeting with team every other Wednesday; Exploring ChurchTrac
Social media presence	Strategy 3 Team	Kristen Buntman	12/31/2023	Not currently working on

Overall Status: *(Provide commentary on the status of the overall strategy. Is it on track? overall goals, etc. Provide mitigation plans if necessary)*

Refresh logo: Church council voted on logo. Still need to implement it in marketing materials and other church communications.

Update website: Marketing team focusing on ChurchTrac (Church Connect) and how it fits in with website and communications.

Social media presence: on hold; need to find someone or a group who have expertise in social media; current marketing team more focused on finding solutions for streamlining communications and options for website.

St John Church Council Meeting - October 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Ed Trembl.

Pastor Brewer opened the meeting with prayer.

The Minutes from the September 21, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Janice Haen moved to approve the minutes seconded by Rich Wienke. Motion carried.

Rob Funk reviewed the Treasurer's Report January 1 to September 30, 2023

- Total Undesignated Contributions – 313,547
- Total Church Revenue - \$340,621
- Total Expenses - \$268,929
- Total Assets - \$312,599
- Net Cash Flow - \$44,638

Rob next gave an update on the Harvest Event

- Expenses: \$6,879.68
- Gross Income: \$23,759.50
- Net Income: \$16,879.82

Committee Reports were reviewed. The Elder's gave an update on Membership. Transfer in Doug & Allison Gibbons and family (3 kids).

Old Business:

- St John 150th Anniversary – no update
- Harvest Event was given by Rob Funk above.

New Business:

- 2024 Budget – The Budget was reviewed and updated for 2024. After discussion Rich Wienke moved to "Bring the 2024 draft Budget to the Voter's on Sunday October 22nd" Seconded by Janice Haen. Motion approved.
- Ed Trembl brought up a list of items needed by the church and proposed using money from the Memorial Fund to purchase the items. Items looking at 10 Tables – estimated cost \$1,000. An Electronic Keyboard \$4,000 and 2 TVs for \$2,500. These TVs would be placed where the Mission Statement is now and would have the Mission Statement and announcement on them.
- Sprinkler Inspection: The Sprinklers need to be inspected every 5 years and are due this year. The cost will be \$3,850 to complete the inspection. This item was included in the 2024 inspection but needs to be completed this year. The 2024 draft budget was amended to remove the amount of \$3,000 from the 2024 budget repair and maintenance line item. Rich Wienke moved to Bring the amended draft 2024 budget to the Voter's. Seconded by Janice Haen. Motion carried. Janice Haen moved to Amend the 2023 budget to include the \$3,850 amount for the Sprinkler Inspection. Seconded by Kevin Piesler. Motion carried.
- David Buntman moved to Bring to the Voter's to use Memorial Funds to cover the items above. Seconded by Marv Perleberg. Motion carried.

Quincy Giese discussed the Financial part of the Strategic Plan. He made a Purchase Request Form to be used when looking at purchasing larger items. He also put together a list of items that will need to be looked at in the next few years.

- Parking lot needs to be sealed – 1 to 2 years
- Gas line increase size – 1 to 2 years

- Carpet replacement – 2 years
- Projectors – 5 years
- Air/Furnace – 5 years
- Sprinkler Inspection – 5 years
- Roof – 10 years

Next meeting November 16, 2023

Rob Funk moved to Adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m. Seconded by Rich Wienke.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Reckelberg
Church Council Secretary