

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

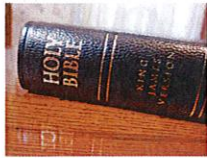
SPRING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:30pm
Sunday 7:45am & 10:30am

Sunday Christian Education

9:15 am

- ◆ Adult Bible Study
- ◆ Children's Sunday School
- ◆ Pre Confirmation Classes
- ◆ Confirmation Class
- ◆ Teen Bible Class
- ◆ Women's Bible Study



**3/10 9:00am Special
Congregational
Meeting /Breakfast**

3/13 5:30pm Kids Krew
Mid-Week Dinner
6:30pm Worship
7:00pm Bible Study

3/20 5:30pm Kids Krew
Mid-Week Dinner
6:30pm Worship
7:00pm Bible Study

3/23 & 3/24
Palm Sunday

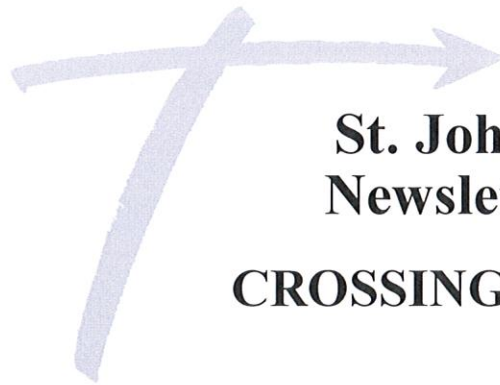
Holy Week

3/28 6:30pm Maundy
Thursday Worship

3/29 Good Friday
Worship

3/30 5:30pm Easter Vigil

3/31 6:30am Sunrise
Worship
9:30am Easter Worship



St. John's Newsletter

CROSSING PATHS

Perspectives on God's Path...



Every Morning is Easter Morning

<p><i>Refrain</i> Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on! Ev'ry day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone!</p>	<p><i>Stanza 2</i> Daily news is so bad it seems the Good News seldom gets heard. Get it straight from the Easter People: God's in charge! Spread the word! <i>Refrain</i></p>
<p><i>Stanza 1</i> Goodbye guilt, goodbye fear, good riddance! Hello Lord, Hello sun! I am one of the Easter People! My new life has begun! <i>Refrain</i></p>	<p><i>Stanza 3</i> Yesterday I was bored and lonely; but today look and see! I belong to the Easter People! Life's exciting to me! <i>Refrain</i></p>

So I sang every Easter Sunday when I was growing up. But what a great message not just for Easter Sunday but for every day. Easter is my favorite Holiday (or "holy-day"). And I can't wait for Easter at the end of March! I love this season. Sure, Thanksgiving has all the food and Christmas has the presents and the manger scenes and the lights and, and, and. But Easter has the Resurrection of Jesus, and that changes everything!

So as the song says we can say goodbye to guilt and fear, because Christ is Risen from the dead, our new life has begun. Easter is all about a four-letter word---L.I.F.E. So don't wait until heaven to start living life. Start today. Live a full and abundant life in God's grace and mercy. The past is over and gone! Today life gets to be exciting and joyful. Today life gets to be something to be anticipated and looked forward to. Today life is something that gets to be lived to the full. I understand that sometimes life gets hard for us, but today, live a new life in the grace and mercy of God! (Go back and read all the lyrics to that song again and let them soak into your heart). Every morning is Easter Morning!

*Blessings,
Pastor Caleb*



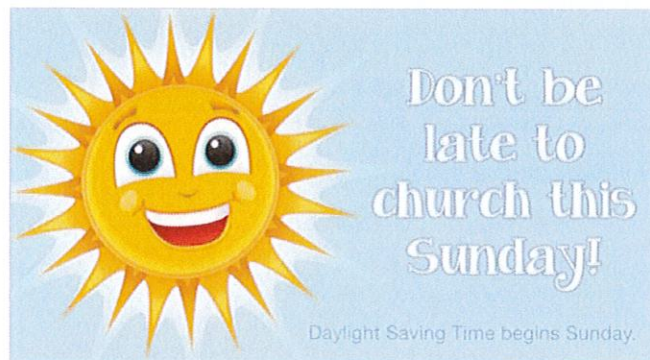
Ramblings by Randy.....

How did March get here so fast? That tells us that our weather calendar turns to Spring and our religious calendar celebrates Easter. This is a time to look forward to all the blessings for the future as the Easter Celebration brings us together as a church family.

The leadership at St. John's continues planning for the future for not only 2024 but into the coming years. Our Strategic Plan gives us our St. John's roadmap on growing God's Ministries. Please join us on March 10th during fellowship for the Congregational Meeting. Your voice matters on planning for future staffing and the Building Project Planning. God continues to guide St. John's in a positive growth direction for decades to come.

On a personal note, I have become an even bigger advocate of using the communication tools that are available to stay in touch with St. John's. My health has limited my ability to be active regularly. However, thanks to Facebook church services, I have appreciated it as a necessity more than a simple convenience. If you find yourself limited for any reason, please remember how simple it is to stay in touch with your Church family.

Happy Spring---Happy EASTER!!! ---God's Blessings .
Randy Hauschildt
Communications



FORWARD IN *faith* ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Your Forward in Faith Committee, now overseeing the Capital Campaign, has met to discuss plans for 2024 and will meet again after the March 10th Congregational Meeting. Paramount to the success of our Capital Campaign will be prayers and personal reflection upon how richly God has blessed our lives and to consider either committing and/or making gifts to the Capital Campaign Fund. With commitments made totaling \$239,422 and funds already given of \$79,118 through the end of February, we are on our way. Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!!

Commitment cards are available in the Narthex. Gifts can be made via your regular weekly envelope by marking "Capital Campaign" on the notes section in front; by mailing or dropping them off in the church office or to Jenny Arevalo; or by using St. John's **DONATE** button on the church website.

In addition, the Committee is planning monthly fundraisers. Ongoing throughout 2024 will be the Coffee Cup Coin Collection fundraiser. These funds will go towards a new coffee maker for the fellowship hall and other furnishings. Pick up your coffee cup (if you haven't already) and collect your spare change or even bring in that jar you've been putting coins in already. For the month of February, collections were **\$502.22!!**

In February, Wayne & Mitzi Gehring and others hosted a Chili/Hot Dog night featuring Bags, Carbles game & a silent auction. Almost **\$550.00** was raised.

During the March 10th Congregational Meeting, our "World Famous" Pancake Breakfast, complete with the toppings, will be held as a fundraiser with a free will offering. Did I hear fresh fruit will be on the menu????

Other larger events are being planned during the rest of the campaign, including a Spaghetti Dinner and a Dinner Auction. Please join us at these events and enjoy a time of fellowship with our church family.

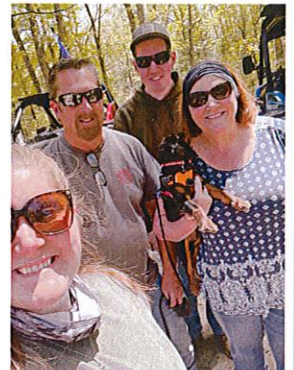
If you have any questions, suggestions as to fundraisers or want to volunteer to assist with a fundraiser, please contact Pam Palmer at 815-970-7259 or by email: remlap52@gmail.com.

GOVERNING BOARD

In the Spotlight



My name is Carla Weiss and my husband (Bill) and my two adult children (Jacob) & (Jessica) have been members 25 plus years. I have served St. John's in many capacities throughout those years. My first was Little Blessing Daycare Board, Finance Committee, Money Counter, youth events when my kids were in youth and currently, I am a Governing Board member for my 6th year as well as Endowment Committee member.



What brought my family to St Johns 25 years ago was we did not feel our current church met our needs of how we wanted to raise our kids and have them involved in Sunday school and youth so we came to St. John's one Sunday and Deaconess Lauren greeted us when we

walked through the front doors, explained where the bathrooms were because we had small children and explained how the service would work and of course they were having a pot luck in the church basement that same day which we were invited to stay. Deaconess sat with us and introduced us to many new people that day and we went home and knew this was where we wanted to be so we moved our membership.

My family and I have a fond memory of the last day in the old church walking down the street behind the men carrying the cross and everyone took something in their hands even as small as a pew bible and we walked as a family down the road into our new home. I have seen many changes in our church over the years and they have all been to the Glory of God. They have helped us all to grow in our faith and to know that God will always provide.

This brings me to the excitement of our Forward in Faith Committee and all their hard work of surveying the members and prioritizing projects and the Capital Campaign raising the money to bring it all to fruition. All these changes throughout all these years represent to me (Let God be the Glory). I love my church family and look forward to what the future provides us and our ministries.

365 Day Reading Guide—March through April

4-Mar	Jsh 8:1-10:43	25-Mar	1Sm 16:1-17:58	15-Apr	1Ki 19:1-20:43
5-Mar	Jsh 11:1-15:63	26-Mar	1 Sm 18:1-21:15	16-Apr	1Ki 21:1-2Ki 2:25
6-Mar	Jsh 16:1-19:51	27-Mar	1Sm 22:1-23:29	17-Apr	2Ki 3:1-5:27
7-Mar	Jsh 20:1-22:34	28-Mar	1Sm 24:1-25:44	18-Apr	2Ki 6:1-8:29
8-Mar	Jsh 23:1-24:33	29-Mar	1Sm 26:1-29:11	19-Apr	2Ki 9:1-12:21
9-Mar	Jgs 1:1-2:23	30-Mar	1Sm 30:1-31:13	20-Apr	2Ki 13:1-16:20
11-Mar	Jgs 3:1-5:31	1-Apr	2Sm 1:1-4:12	22-Apr	2Ki 17:1-19:37
12-Mar	Jgs 6:1-10:18	2-Apr	2Sm 5:1-6:23	23-Apr	2Ki 20:1-21:26
13-Mar	Jgs 11:1-16:31	3-Apr	2Sm 7:1-10:19	24-Apr	2Ki 22:1-25:30
14-Mar	Jgs 17:1-20:48	4-Apr	2Sm 11:1-14:24	25-Apr	1Ch 1:1-8:40
15-Mar	Jgs 21:1-Ru 2:23	5-Apr	2Sm 14:25-18:33	26-Apr	1Ch 9:1-14:17
16-Mar	Ru 3:1-1Sm 1:28	6-Apr	2Sm 19:1-22:51	27-Apr	1 Ch 15:1-17:27
18-Mar	1Sm 2:1-3:21	8-Apr	2Sm 23:1-24:25	29-Apr	1Ch 18:1-21:30
19-Mar	1Sm 4:1-7:2	9-Apr	1Ki 1:1-4:34	30-Apr	1Ch 22:1-27:34
20-Mar	1Sm 7:3-8:22	10-Apr	1Ki 5:1-8:66	1-May	1Ch 28:1-29:30
21-Mar	1Sm 9:1-11:15	11-Apr	1Ki 9:1-11:43	2-May	2Ch 1:1-5:14
22-Mar	1Sm 12:1-13:23	12-Apr	1Ki 12:1-14:31	3-May	2Ch 6:1-9:31
23-Mar	1Sm 14:1-15:35	13-Apr	1Ki 15:1-18:46	4-May	2Ch 10:1-12:16

In His Forge youth group has enjoyed a variety of activities in January and February kicking off with a New Year's party in January, followed by sledding at Emricson Park and an open gym night which included pool noodle floor hockey among other games. In February, we challenged each other at Mega Game Night engaging in a rousing game of Hungry Hungry Hippos and a Rock, Paper, Scissors Race. This was followed by three hours of pretzel dipping on a Saturday morning to prepare for a VERY successful candy sale in order to kick off fundraising for our trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in the summer of 2025. We celebrated President's Day weekend by attempting to stay up all night at our annual lock-in (three people succeeded) amidst making our own pizza, doing crafts and playing games in the gym. We finished up February by serving Lenten dinner at Zion and a family roller skating event at Xtreme Wheels in Crystal Lake! At the beginning of March, we will be participating in two servant events: serving Lenten dinner at St. John's and attending a Feed My Starving Children packing event.

In His Forge is open to all youth from grades 5th -12th and typically meets on Sunday nights from 6-8. We usually serve a light dinner, have a short devotion and participate in various activities. Once a month we worship with the youth Praise Band. Leaders for youth group include Laurie Mathiesen, Ariana Sauder and Lisa Vito. To stay up to date on youth activities, send a text to 81010 with the message @ZSTJYOUTH. Thank you for all your support! Be on the lookout for our Family Feud fundraising event, nerf wars, an Ice Hogs game and a Cinco de Mayo party! If you haven't checked out the youth group, you need to give it a try – you don't know what you're missing!



The Scoop On JOY GROUP

SPRING SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 10
 What: Jazz Concert
 Where: McHenry County College
 Time: 3:00
 Cost: Free
 *dinner after concert

Saturday, March 23
 What: Dinner & Show
 Where: Medieval Times, Schaumburg
 Time: 1:00
 Cost: \$60

Wednesday, April 10
 What: Ellwood Mansion Tour
 Where: DeKalb
 Time: 1:00
 Cost: \$8
 *lunch prior to tour TBD

Friday, April 19
 What: Wayne Messmer
 Where: Shepherd of the Prairie, Huntley
 Time: 7:00
 Cost: Free
 *dinner prior to concert

Sunday, May 5
 What: Woodstock Community Choir
 Where: Woodstock Opera House
 Time: 3:00
 Cost: Free
 *lunch prior to concert

Friday, May 17
 What: Laurent House Tour
 Where: Rockford
 Time: 10:00
 Cost: \$18
 *lunch following tour TBD

Saturday, July 13
 What: Nonsense & lunch
 Where: Fireside Dinner Theater
 Time: 10:00
 Cost: \$85

QUESTIONS?

Jan
 815-236-3588
 or
 Laurie
 815-341-2848



So far in 2024, the JOY Group has attended one choir concert and enjoyed lunch and fellowship together at Rookies in Huntley. On March 23rd, we will be channeling our inner Lords and Ladies as we attend dinner and a show at Medieval Times in Schaumburg (sign up for this event in the narthex). April will have us traveling to DeKalb to tour the Ellwood Mansion and enjoying some local cuisine, and then later in the month, to a quartet concert lead by Wayne Messmer at Shepherd of the Prairie in Huntley. We would love for you to join the “older youth” of our congregation for some fellowship and adventure – as the saying goes, “the more the merrier” –

all we’re missing is you!

Exciting News!! New Young Adult Group at St. John's!!

“We are a group, ages 17 to mid/late 20s, meeting at St. John’s on select Fridays at 6 pm each month. Permanent schedule to follow. We discuss topics that are important, based on all seasons of life. We strive to have fruitful conversations, abundant fellowship, support through prayer, and good food. This is a safe place to flourish in mind, body, and spirit. Everyone needs a place to go and be heard, loved, and respected. We encourage you to further your faith and get connected to St. John’s by joining us in this ministry group, furthering God’s kingdom together.”

Got questions? Contact the church office.

◆ 6 pm Friday, Mar 15, 2024 @ St. John’s - Topic TBD

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“I want you to scan these and put them in the next newsletter.”

Notes By Tamara & Linda

Please join us in worship as our Music Department presents some new song selections in the coming weeks!

First Things First by Consumed by Fire; **To Live is Christ** by Sidewalk Prophets; and **Bless God** by Cody Carnes, Brooke Ligertwood and Brandon Lake, to name a few. Pull them up on You Tube or Spotify and take a listen ahead of time so that you are ready to worship along with the band !

If you are interested in joining our Ladies Easter Choir on March 31st, please reach out to Tamara in Room 102A or call the church office extension 37. We want LOTS of voices joining in this beautiful celebration of our RISEN Christ ! We will have one practice on 3/16 at 2:30 pm.

Blessings to you and yours this Lenten season !



If you'd like to support St. John's financially, you may donate by cash, checks and online gifts through our website www.stjohnsluth.org (use the QR code at the right) and or through the **Vanco Mobile** app with the information below.



CHOOSE our church:

Use Invite Code: VJELE5

Or search by name:

St. Johns Lutheran Church (notice no apostrophe)

6821 Main Street Union IL

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