

## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Beginning May 19th

Saturday 5:30pm  
Sunday 9:30am (outdoor)

5/4 9:00am Altar Guild Meeting

5/5 3:00pm JOY Group ~ Community Choir, Woodstock

5/11 5:30pm Hymn Sing  
**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**  
5/12 9:30am Hymn Sing/  
**ONE SERVICE**

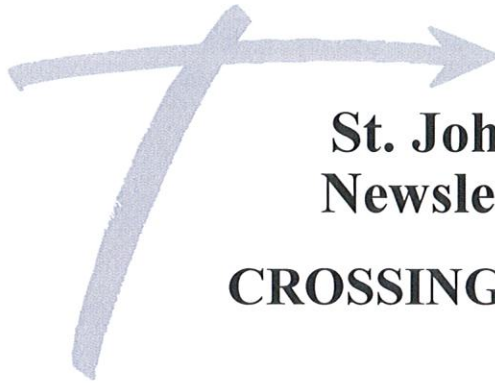
5/17 10:00am JOY Group ~ Laurent House Tour

5/27 Church Office Closed

6/8 8:00am Men's Faith Builder Breakfast @ 3 Brother's, Woodstock

**6/16 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**  
9:30am Outdoor Worship/ Car Show

6/24-6/27  
8:30am-11:30am VBS @ Zion



## St. John's Newsletter

### CROSSING PATHS

#### *Perspectives on God's Path...*

During the spring and summer time, many of our schedules change. We do different things than we do in the fall and winter. Instead of curling up by the fireplace to read a book, we might have some people over and throw some brats on the grill. Instead of shoveling our sidewalks and snow blowing our driveway, we mow our yard and work in our gardens. Instead of going sledding, we spend our time at baseball practice or at an outdoor concert. Instead of going out for coffee, we might choose to go out for ice cream. Instead of work, work, work like we do the rest of the year, maybe we take a little vacation. The kids are off school and it is a perfect time to get away and take a break from the hectic pace of life.



Our church life is no exception. Sunday School and Kids Krew takes a break for the summer. Many bible studies finish in April/May and then start back up again in September. Even our church services look different. We worship inside on Saturday evenings and then outside on Sunday mornings. It is good to have a change of pace and take a little break this time of year.

But in the change of pace and taking a break, my encouragement to you is not to take a break from church. Don't stay away from our congregational life together. It is here at church that you receive the gifts of God. It is here at church that you hear that Jesus loves you. It is here at church that you connect with your friends and church family.

God doesn't take a break from loving you, forgiving you, having mercy on you. God doesn't take a break from watching over you, guiding you, protecting you. I love this verse from the book of Hebrews... "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24-25).

During this season where schedules change, let me encourage you. It will be great for your family to go on vacation, but it will also be great to worship with you in God's house this summer. See you in Church.

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Caleb*



## Ramblings by Randy.....

I have a couple of topics to talk about that are both exciting and shows that St. John's continues to look to the future in positive ways to grow our Ministries.

First, we have a new Intern Director of Christian Education (DCE) arriving mid June. Her name is Chloe Dahn. You will also see her introductory article included in this newsletter. She joins St. John's with an outgoing and very energetic personality. The next year will give us an opportunity to support her personal growth in Ministry and Leadership as she takes on her new role.

We currently have four leaders in our congregation that have stepped up to help with our youth Ministries of all ages during the absence of a DCE on staff. Planning to integrate Chloe into these ministries is currently underway, so that upon her arrival, those programs can be enhanced even further.

This is a great opportunity for both Chloe and St. John's. Let's welcome her with open arms and open hearts!!

Secondly, in planning for our future regarding the building remodeling project, a Ministry Concept Team has been formed. This new committee has been assigned the mission to ensure that our building remodel floorplan will accommodate all of our needs for ministries, events, and activities. During our initial meeting in our current library, a thought came to mind. In planning for our current building, 25 years ago, the leaders took into consideration the need for a library for members to read Christian related books. This library served its purpose for a couple of decades. But over time, the social needs of our society and congregation have changed. This type of planning and conversation is where our current stage stands in planning for the next couple of decades with our new Fellowship Room and other areas of our building.

There will be more conversations and updates from this new group as they plan for the future and serving the needs of all age groups of our congregation as well as community outreach opportunities within our building footprint.

St. John's certainly continues to move forward in being positively proactive in planning for the future of our church families and the blessings that God presents to us!

Randy Hauschildt  
Communications

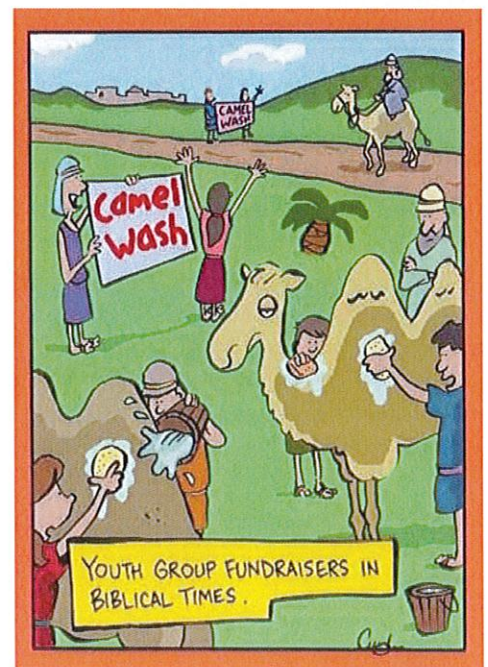
FORWARD IN  
*faith*  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Your Forward in Faith Committee continues to meet and work behind the scenes to oversee the Capital Campaign for St. John's. We have been discussing ways to keep communication of the Campaign in front of the congregation and to grow our commitments and Capital Gifts, as well as continued planning on larger and smaller fundraisers to complement the giving.

If you have any questions or 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](mailto:remlap52@gmail.com).

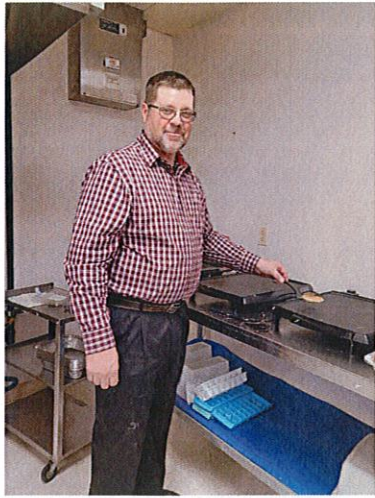
Currently, we continue with the Coffee Cup Coin Bank collection which has been amazing. A total of \$1,077.51 has been raised and we still have the rest of the year to go!! The Wall of Possibilities with Giving Envelopes of different denominations of giving from \$1 to \$100 is going for the months of April & May and has brought in \$1,566!! When all envelopes are taken and returned, we will have raised over \$10,000!! Both of these are being designated towards furnishings and equipment once the Fellowship Hall is almost completed.

Watch for the announcements that will be made of more significant fundraisers that will combine fellowship along with an opportunity to grow our Capital Fund. We hope that you all will be able to participate!!!



# GOVERNING BOARD

# In the Spotlight



My name is Dave Timmermann. I farm in Genoa. Formerly, my entire family were members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Genoa. There, I served as a Sunday School teacher, call committee member, elder, and on the official board of administration. My wife (Denise) and I have two adult children. Our daughter, Dana, will be married to Mitch this June. Doug and his wife Amy are expecting their first child in September.

St. John's Lutheran Church became our church home about 5 years ago. After attending Saturday night service, I immediately felt spiritually fed, welcomed, cared for, and went home feeling peaceful. I learn something new each time I attend, feel challenged to dig deeper into the Word, and am blessed by the friendships I have made. As I work with other members, I experience their commitment, compassion, and am enriched by St. John's caring, loving atmosphere. I became a member of the governing board last November and recently chairman of the call committee. Attending worship services, Bible study, and my new responsibilities allow me to interact with other members, gain knowledge, benefit from their experiences, and grow in faith.

I appreciate being part of the process of finding an associate pastor to work with Pastor Schauer and moving Forward in Faith. I am grateful for opportunities to serve Almighty God at St. John's and into our community.

**Editor's note:** The picture above is from the Congregational meeting when Dave and other members of the Forward in Faith and Governing Board put on a Pancake Breakfast. Many thanks to the Committee and the Board for putting on a wonderful breakfast!!

### 365 Day Reading Guide—May through June

29-Apr	1Ch 18:1-21:30	20-May	Ne 11:1-Est 2:23	10-Jun	Ps 83:1-95:11
30-Apr	1Ch 22:1-27:34	21-May	Est 3:1-7:10	11-Jun	Ps 96:1-106:48
1-May	1Ch 28:1-29:30	22-May	Es 8:1-Jb 1:22	12-Jun	Ps 107:1-118:29
2-May	2Ch 1:1-5:14	23-May	Jb 2:1-5:27	13-Jun	Ps 119:1-125:5
3-May	2Ch 6:1-9:31	24-May	Jb 6:1-10:22	14-Jun	Ps 126:1-137:9
4-May	2Ch 10:1-12:16	25-May	Jb 11:1-14:22	15-Jun	Ps 138:1-150:6
6-May	2Ch 13:1-16:14	27-May	Jb 15:1-19:29	17-Jun	Pr 1:1-4:27
7-May	2Ch 17:1-20:37	28-May	Jb 20:1-24:25	18-Jun	Pr 5:1-7:27
8-May	2Ch 21:1-24:27	29-May	Jb 25:1-31:40	19-Jun	Pr 8:1-9:18
9-May	2Ch 25:1-28:27	30-May	Jb 32:1-37:24	20-Jun	Pr 10:1-13:25
10-May	2Ch 29:1-31:21	31-May	Jb 38:1-42:17	21-Jun	Pr 14:1-17:28
11-May	2Ch 32:1-33:25	1-Jun	Ps 1:1-11:7	22-Jun	Pr 18:1-21:31
13-May	2Ch 34:1-36:23	3-Jun	Ps 12:1-22:31	24-Jun	Pr 22:1-25:28
14-May	Ezr 1:1-4:24	4-Jun	Ps 23:1-34:22	25-Jun	Pr 26:1-29:27
15-May	Ezr 5:1-8:36	5-Jun	Ps 35:1-47:9	26-Jun	Pr 30:1-Ec 2:26
16-May	Ezr 9:1-Ne 1:11	6-Jun	Ps 48:1-60:12	27-Jun	Ec 3:1-6:12
17-May	Ne 2:1-6:19	7-Jun	Ps 61:1-72:20	28-Jun	Ec 7:1-10:20
18-May	Ne 7:1-10:39	8-Jun	Ps 73:1-82:8	29-Jun	Ec 11:1-SngS 3:11

## Meet our new Director of Christian Education Intern—Chloe Dahn!!



Hi everyone! My name is Chloe Dahn and I am so excited to be able to serve at St. John's Lutheran Church in Union, IL! I grew up in Decatur, Illinois (3 hours south of here!). A few fun facts about me are: I have a fear of frogs but my favorite color is green..., I am always up for an adventure, and I am a die hard fan of the Chicago Cubs! I grew up going to church and being pretty involved just like my parents were. Ministry has always been a huge part of my life. I was able to help lead worship, devotions, children's messages, etc. and these opportunities are what got me excited about serving in a church someday. I have a passion for leading youth as



they grow and learn what it means to take their faith into their own hands. I am very excited to be your DCE intern starting in June! I am excited to see what God has in store in this next season of ministry at St. Johns!



### IN HIS FORGE

During the months of March and April, *In His Forge* youth group spent their Sunday time together both on and off campus. March started out with a photo scavenger hunt with the youth taking in the sights of our church building while capturing a variety of priceless, hilarious photos of their adventures. After serving the mid-week Lenten dinner, the group then traveled to Feed My Starving Children over the weekend to prepare meal packs for children in Africa and swung by Chick-fil-A for dinner on the way home. This was followed by the Family Feud fundraiser, which was a well-received by the people who attended, prompting them to demand a repeat event in the future. A brief hiatus occurred for spring break and Easter and then it was back to mayhem for the "dartpocalypse" (the youth sincerely apologize for all the nerf bullets still being found around the building). The Ice Hogs game, which was a family event, was next on the agenda, and much to the hockey fans' delight, the Hogs responded with a big win! Portillo's was the dinner stop of choice that evening. After worshipping with the youth Praise Band, the youth explored their aversion to the appearance of certain foods for a Sunday of "Fear Factor" and are happy to report that no one vomited. They also tried their hand at guessing the flavors of baby food.

Future youth events include a Cinco de Mayo party and a test run of an escape room. Youth events will be somewhat limited in the summer months due to work schedules and youth working out of state for the summer, but we will keep you posted! To stay up to date on youth activities, send a text to 81010 with the message @ZSTJYOUTH and you will know what's next on the agenda. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

## JOY Group



The JOY group will be attending the Woodstock Community Choir Concert on May 5th at 3:00 pm - 5 pm featuring "I See Colors." Step into a world where music becomes a kaleidoscope of vibrant colors and sensations.

On Friday, May 17th, the JOY group will tour the Laurent House in Rockford. Tour begins at 10:00 am and the cost is \$18. Lunch will follow the tour.

We would love for you to join "Jesus' Older Youth" of our congregation for some fellowship and adventure – as the saying goes, "the more the merrier!!"



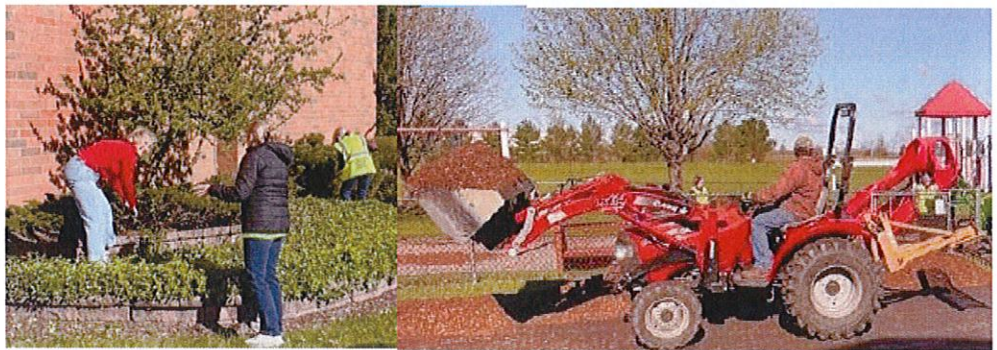
Pastor Caleb & our new DCE Intern Chloe Dahn in front of a beautiful cross.

## Groups to Join at St. John's



The Quilters meet every Monday from 9am—12 pm and would love to have you stop by and see what they do! For years, they have made, dedicated and given quilts away to those in need and have sold some quilts to raise funds for worthy causes. Thank you, Quilters, for all that you do.

## Our Newest Group - the LERT -



The LCMS LERT Team recently formed at St. John's and received training offered by Lutheran Church Charities to be volunteers who can respond to a disaster according to Federal guidelines. This training is part of a Synod-wide disaster response program. In the pictures above, the LERT team came together on April 20th to do a clean-up and beautification day at the church. We thank them and look forward to having this group available in case of an emergency or disaster. Contact Dave Voelker if interested in finding out more.



# Forward in Faith—Capital Campaign Review/Update

Our journey started back in January 2022 when the Governing Board formed a new Forward in Faith committee to create a Strategic Plan with ministry goals for our congregation. This was accomplished with congregation input and resulted with the issuance and approval of six main goals, including: 1) Pastoral Assistance, 2) Continued Focus on Our Youth, 3) Capital Projects (the transformation of the current library space into Fellowship space—as identified by the survey), 4) Technology Needs, 5) Communication, and 6) Marketing—the last three of which involve internal and external needs for growing St. John's Ministry.

The Capital Campaign kicked off with a November 5, 2023 banquet at Niko's with inspirational thoughts on where St. John's dreams and possibilities could be headed for future ministries. A Commitment weekend was held on November 18th & 19th to start a drive for \$500,000 in pledges, followed by our First Gifts weekend on December 2nd & 3rd. As the Campaign continued and future plans started to develop, a Congregational meeting was held on March 10, 2024 with important votes in three areas: 1) A more defined idea of the building renovation including the Fellowship Area, the beginnings of the process to form a Call Committee and seek an Associate Pastor, and some small changes to the governance of our Endowment Fund.

Here we are now with May 5, 2024 marking 6 months since the Kick-off of our Capital Campaign. Our Commitments to the building renovation plan stands at \$239,422 of the \$500,000 goal, with Capital Campaign Gifts given thus far (including fundraisers to date) at \$111,923!! Thank you to all who have made a gift or participated in the fundraisers held to date! God's Blessings have been bestowed upon us! However, we have a ways to go before we can act on beginning building renovations as 75%, or \$375,000 must be in the bank. Your commitment so that we can plan and/or your prayerful Capital Campaign gifts are what will bring this project into reality.

So where do we head from here moving "*Forward in Faith*"? If you have not yet made a **commitment/pledge**, there are forms that can be filled out and brought to the church office or placed in the collection plate. Envelopes are provided for confidentiality between you, God, and our Church Business Manager, Jenny Arevalo. **Capital Campaign Gifts** can be made in a variety of ways, including cash/check - either given as a lump sum or weekly/monthly/annual plate offerings or online giving through the DONATE link on the church website. In addition, there are a number of other ways to make a gift as follows:

- Gifts of property, stock, mutual funds, life insurance policies, CD's, grain, or other capital assets.
- Gifts from an IRA – making a tax-free charitable contribution to the church that is applied to your Required Minimum Distribution.
- Set up a recurring or one-time transaction from your bank account or credit card at [stjohnsluth.org](http://stjohnsluth.org).
- Celebrating a birthday, special anniversary, retirement, or other notable occasion and wish to let family, friends, coworkers or others know that a gift to the St. John's Capital Campaign would be a wonderful reflection of a gift?? We are currently putting together a packet to help you in doing this.

Of course, we will continue to hold some larger and smaller fundraising events, many of which will be combining fellowship time with our church family while raising funds to grow our Ministry. Currently, we have our Coffee Cups Coin Banks and the Wall of Envelopes both located in the Narthex to help raise funds for the furnishings and equipment in the new Fellowship Hall. Watch for new events as they are announced!!

If you are interested in helping plan or participate in any of these events, your assistance is very much needed and appreciated. Call Pam Palmer at 815-970-7259 if you would like to chat on ways that you can help. Your Forward in Faith Committee is working hard on the Capital Campaign phase so that St. John's can grow in faith, members, and community outreach.

## Financial and Attendance Update

The General Fund Giving is below budget by \$18,500 YTD, however, St. John's was blessed with an Estate Gift of \$50,000 which offsets this shortfall. It is difficult to pinpoint the reason for the lower-than-budget General Fund giving. Speculation could be that membership is contributing to the Capital Campaign and reducing regular giving to do so. If this is your personal situation, please make the regular giving a first priority and the Campaign secondary.

The Operating Expenses are currently below budget, primarily due to the loss of our DCE on staff. The annual budget is planned for a full time DCE and in June we will have an Intern DCE at a lower expense for the balance of the year.

Attendance Update: Our weekly Service attendance is flat comparing 2023 to 2024. Positively, the Easter Sunday Worship attendance was up 11% this year. This offset the small decrease on other Sundays.

Another measurement of our Congregational Connection is our Face Book page. Over the last 90 days, the Engagement measurement is up 10% and new followers is up 6%. Technology is an important part of our Connecting with our Church families. If you are unable to attend church in person, please remember this alternative method to stay in touch.

## ***Don't Miss the Special Music on Mother's Day Weekend and the Outdoors Father's Day Car Show***

Come enjoy Mother's Day weekend with a beautiful musical presentation and the singing of hymns. Our music director Tamara Hanson and organist Linda Zumpf have a very special time planned in honor of our Mothers.

You won't want to miss a special Father's Day tribute on the weekend of June 15 & 16. On Sunday, we will first hold our church service under the pavilion, then enjoy viewing all of the cars that come for the Father's Day Car Show. Here are just a very few pictures from last year!



### ***A Very Special Message from Someone Near and Dear to our Hearts***

Dear Friends,

We have a long history together: I received your Call to serve in the autumn of 1974 and was installed as your pastor in early 1975. I served until retirement in January 2009 when Pastor Caleb, who had served together with me for several years, stepped up as sole pastor.

A pastor should serve with a humble attitude, but I must say that I was, indeed, proud to serve at St. John's and to be a part of so many important events in the life of our congregation and within your own families. It was a blessing to serve and I loved being part of your lives. It still warms my heart to be reminded of ways we inter-connected as brothers and sisters in our church family.

We still live on Garden Valley Road and are members here, so you may see us occasionally and have noticed something a little uncharacteristic about me. Since it makes me feel self-conscious, I decided to explain that I have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's; the memory issues have been coming on for some years, I think. I used to know everybody's name and could tell you who all their relatives were and how they were related (quite possibly) to my own family! Now, I remember some, but not all, the names and faces that I would like to. I may hesitate or make a mistake. I may ask a question more than once, or say something I have just said a moment ago. I'll depend on you to repeat, to clarify. It doesn't offend me. Some things are just harder for me to do now. That said, I still love seeing you and chatting with you—and, of course, there are handshakes and hugs! Still good!

Anyway, please don't avoid me, but don't hesitate to remind me immediately of who you are when you bump into me somewhere. Please don't stop talking to me! I still am a good listener, I think! Being with people and talking to them makes me happy!

Blessings, and thank you for listening.

***Pastor Norman Meyer***

*Closing Remark from Randy in Communications:* Our years with Pastor Meyer are special and as he ages, I encourage a special hello or hug to remind him how he has touched our hearts. By the way, inside scoop says he still plays a mean pinochle game!!

## Notes By Tamara & Linda

Greetings from the Music Department!

We were certainly blessed by beautiful music during Holy Week and Easter, including combined contemporary bands, a special ladies choir singing "Risen," a cellist, a violinist, and handbells.

On Mother's Day weekend, there will be a Saturday 5:30 pm service, followed on Sunday by one 9:30 am service, both of which will be filled with special music.

Beginning on May 19th, we will move outdoors through Labor Day, continuing with one 9:30 am service every Sunday morning. The summer will be filled with lots of familiar, easy hymns to sing along with. God's Blessings!



### Easter at St. John's



St. John's Lutheran Church  
6821 Main Street  
Union, IL 60180