

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

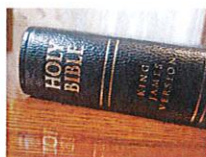
### Sunday Christian Education

9:15 am

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

### Mid Week Studies

Wednesday 5:30pm Kids Krew  
6:00pm Bible Study with Pastor



### Special Dates of Interest

11/27 - 6:30 pm  
Thanksgiving Eve Worship  
At the Hanson Barn  
(5107 Thorne Road, Marengo)

12/1 9:30am ONE Service

12/4, 12/11 & 12/18  
Advent Dinner & Worship

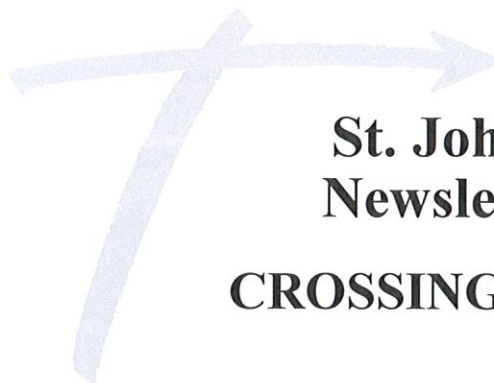
12/7 & 12/8  
Holiday House Walk Fundraiser  
For the Capital Campaign

12/21 - 5:30 pm  
Worship

12/22 - 9:30 am  
ONE Sunday Worship

12/24 - 3 Services  
Christmas Eve  
Children's Worship 2:00 pm  
Contemporary Eve 4:00 pm  
Traditional Candlelight 10:00 pm

12/25 - 10:00 am  
Christmas Day Worship  
At the Hanson Barn  
Light Fellowship Following



## St. John's Newsletter

### CROSSING PATHS

*Perspectives on God's Path...*

### Looking Back, Looking Forward

By Pastor Caleb

The hymn writer pens, "O God, our help in ages past; Our hope for years to come!" (LSB#733). How amazing to look back on what God has done but also to look forward to what He is going to do at St. John's.

At our Annual Congregational Assembly on November 7th, I recounted the major things that have happened at St. John's in 2024. Here are a few of the highlights:

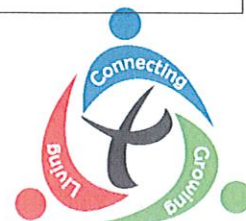
### Events

Capital Campaign/ Building renovations continue  
Mothers' Day Hymn Sing  
Fathers' Day Car Show/Pig Roast  
Church picnic  
Induction of DCE Intern—Chloe Dahn (June)  
Installation of Assoc. Pastor—Mark Novacek (Sept)  
Restructuring of Music Department  
The Re-formation of our LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team)

### Ministry Stats

Baptisms (17)  
Youth Confirmands (8)  
Adult Confirmands (14)  
Membership Transfers to St. John's (5)  
Membership Transfers from St. John's (0)  
Funerals (14 total—7 member, 7 non-member)  
Weddings (4)  
Tuition Assistance (10 Families, 24 students)  
Avg Weekly Attendance (179 overall, 201—in Sept, Oct, Nov)

(Continued on page 2)



## Looking Back, Looking Forward

### Maintenance/Improvements

New sidewalks/culvert headwalls  
Serenity Garden dedication  
10 Trees donated and planted  
North side drain tile replaced/re-landscaped  
Fire Panel updated  
Office area painted/Associate Pastor office updated

LOOK BACK AND  
*Thank God*  
LOOK FORWARD AND  
*Trust God*

These first three boxes displayed in my letter represents a huge list of amazing things that God has done here at St. John's. But He is not just a God of the past, He is also a God of the future. So we also look forward to what God might have in store for St. John's for the end of 2024 and into 2025. Here are a few of the possibilities.

### 2024/25 Possibilities

#### Events

Addition of Kid Friendly Christmas Eve Service at 2pm  
Building Renovations in full swing  
Call DCE Chloe Dahn  
Hire Part-time Communications Director  
Picture Directory

#### Maintenance

South side drain tile replacement  
Pavilion cleaned and sealed to prevent wood deterioration

What a mighty God we serve! What a great God we have! A God who accomplishes his purposes! He **has** accomplished His will for you in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior. He **is** accomplishing His will for you as he draws you deeper into a faith relationship with Jesus. He **will** accomplish His will for you as He brings you to be with Him on the Last Day! Because of Jesus, we have great things to look forward to. O God our help in ages past; our hope for years to come!

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Caleb*

## Forward in Faith—Capital Campaign Update

At a Q&A session about the Capital Campaign on October 20th and the November 7th Congregational Meeting, important updates were given on the Campaign and the Building Renovation. The Forward in Faith and Building Committees presented some more firmed up renovation plans and how funding will work on the three phases: 1) Moving of the South Entry Doors (est. cost of \$41,000), Building/Renovation of the Fellowship Hall, Restrooms and Kitchen (est. cost of \$255,000) and Furnishings/Equipment for the Fellowship Hall (est. cost of \$100,000) - for a total estimate of \$396,000. This estimate is less than the \$500,000 goal that was set at the beginning of our Capital Campaign.

Through October 31st, the amount of new funds given now totals \$176,331! In just three months, we have grown our campaign gifts by over \$47,000 from pledged giving, contributions and memorial funds!! Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow!! As there are sufficient funds and cooperating weather to do Phase 1 - Moving the South Entry Doors, this work has begun and will be completed in 2024. It is hoped that enough funds will be available (75% of funds need to be in the bank before starting construction) in April—May 2025 to start the main renovations of the fellowship hall, restrooms & kitchen. We estimated that funds will be very close to what is needed at that point, with continuation of the wonderful gifts from pledges & memorials and participation in fundraisers needed to finish all phases. Mini-fundraisers serve a purpose is raising funds when we get to the furnishing of the Fellowship Hall and offer an opportunity to help out. So far, our game night, coffee cup coin banks, Spaghetti Dinner, Envelope Wall and Dunk Tank have raised almost \$7,900. Upcoming events include participation in the Marengo-Union Holiday Housewalk (we will have crafts for sale in the gym and food served) on December 6th-7th, a Dinner/Food Event with Live & Silent Auctions in the spring of 2025, and continuation of the Coffee Coin Banks. Currently, we could use assistance in the kitchen at the Housewalk, so if you are an organizer or like to serve food, we could certainly use your help!!

A huge thank you to Dale Bartholomew for taking over the reigns on leading the Forward in Faith Committee. Watch for more announcements updating the Capital Campaign, as well as other ideas to get us to our ultimate goal - Moving Forward in Faith for His Ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church!!

## Forward in Faith Capital Campaign Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

On September 21st, a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser was held as part of the Capital Campaign. Approximately 125 people enjoyed a scrumptious pasta dinner, musical entertainment by Suzy Schwartz, and participation in a fantastic silent auction of over 50 baskets & items. Many, many thanks to all who helped, donated, attended and supported this event which raised just over \$2,500. A very special round of thank you's goes to Cheryl Lawrence, who was our Chef for the dinner, her daughter and son-in-law Jennifer and James Johnson who volunteered to start up the event and worked so hard planning & working at the dinner, and all the other volunteers who helped in any way to make this a success!!



**Pastor Mark** will be leading a Belize informational meeting on Sunday, December 15th at 12:00 pm.

**The Belize Mission Society** started their presence in Belize in 2003 with a Vacation Bible School with one hundred eighty kids and seven volunteers who simply had a desire to "let light shine out of darkness." Fast forward to recent missions, over 400 children are being serviced by over 40 volunteers and it has grown from one congregation participating in short-term mission work to over 25 congregations!! Come learn how you can be a part of this mission!!

## St John's Pictorial Church Directory News!!!!



**It's been a while since St. John's had a pictorial directory done of our members. We have grown so much as a family, so it is time to put one together so that we can get to know each other better.**

**We need your help to add your personal family photo.**

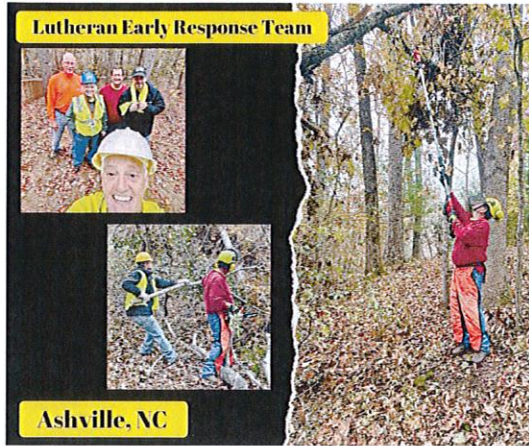
**A photographer is tentatively scheduled for January 19th to February 8th, so mark your calendars now and make sure that you can participate!**

**More details will come to schedule photo shoots and to have a finished album by Easter.**

**We want to see your smiling faces in the new directory!!**

# The L.E.R.T. Group In the Spotlight

A definite group to spotlight from St. John's is the LERT volunteers of which 3 members just returned from a trip to Asheville, North Carolina to assist with recovery and cleanup efforts from the hurricane ravaged area. Rick Miller, Laurie Mathiesen and Nick Miletta dedicated their time and labor to help out with cleanup and took down supplies, such as donated propane heaters. LERT stands for Lutheran Early Response Teams and is a Disaster Response ministry for the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. The members of our LERT group has gone through special training in order to provide this disaster relief services. Here are some pictures of them in action:



## 365 Day Reading Guide - November to December 2024

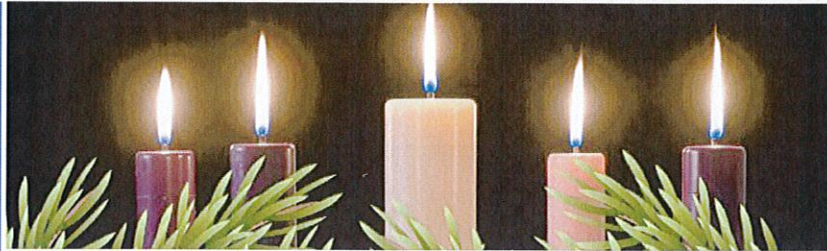
1-Nov	1Co 5:1-7:16	25-Nov	1Tm 3:1-4:16	16-Dec	1Jn 1:1-2:27
2-Nov	1Co 8:1-10:33	26-Nov	1Tm 5:1-6:21	17-Dec	1Jn 2:28-4:21
4-Nov	1Co 11:1-14:40	27-Nov	2Tm 1:1-2:26	18-Dec	1Jn 5:1-2Jn 13
5-Nov	1Co 15:1-16:24	28-Nov	2Tm 3:1-Ti 1:16	19-Dec	3Jn 1-Jude 25
6-Nov	2Co 1:1-4:18	29-Nov	Ti 2:1-3:15	20-Dec	Rv 1:1-2:29
7-Nov	2Co 5:1-7:16	30-Nov	Phm 1-Heb 1:14	21-Dec	Rv 3:1-5:14
8-Nov	2Co 8:1-11:33	2-Dec	Heb 2:1-3:19	23-Dec	Rv 6:1-9:21
9-Nov	2 Co 12:1-Gal 2:21	3-Dec	Heb 4:1-5:14	24-Dec	Rv 10:1-11:19
11-Nov	Gal 3:1-4:31	4-Dec	Heb 6:1-7:28	25-Dec	Rv 12:1-13:18
12-Nov	Gal 5:1-Eph 1:23	5-Dec	Heb 8:1-9:28	26-Dec	Rv 14:1-15:8
13-Nov	Eph 2:1-3:21	6-Dec	Heb 10:1-10:39	27-Dec	Rv 16:1-18:8
14-Nov	Eph 4:1-6:24	7-Dec	Heb 11:1-12:29	28-Dec	Rv 18:9-19:21
15-Nov	Php 1:1-2:30	9-Dec	Heb 13:1-Jas 1:27	30-Dec	Rev 21:1-21:27
16-Nov	Php 3:1-4:23	10-Dec	Jas 2:1-3:18	31-Dec	Rev 22:1-22:21
18-Nov	Col 1:1-2:23	11-Dec	Jas 4:1-5:20		
19-Nov	Col 3:1-1Th 1:10	12-Dec	1Pt 1:1-2:25		
20-Nov	1Th 2:1-3:13	13-Dec	1Pt 3:1-5:14		
21-Nov	1Th 4:1-5:28	14-Dec	2Pt 1:1-3:18		
22-Nov	2Th 1:1-3:18				
23-Nov	2Th 1:1-2:15				

Reading Through  
**The Bible in a  
Year**

# Welcome!

To worship with St. John's Lutheran Church - Union, IL!

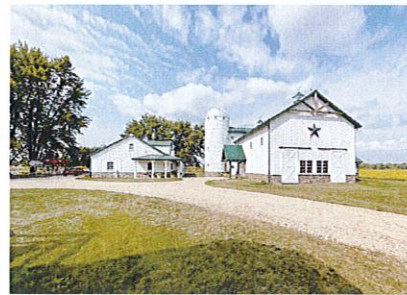
Advent Dinner @  
5:30 pm  
& Worship  
@ 6:30 pm



Starting on Dec  
4th and then Dec  
11th & 18th

Thanksgiving Eve Worship in the Hanson Barn located  
at 5107 Thorne Road, Marengo

Wednesday, November 27th - 6:30 pm  
Light Fellowship following Worship



A time of Christmas  
Tree Trimming...  
and Carols...



Saturday Worship - November 30th - 5:30 pm

Sunday, One Service - December 1st - 9:30 am  
Come and Trim our Tree!!

Saturday, December 21st - 5:30 pm

Sunday, December 22nd - 9:30 pm  
ONE Service

Tuesday, December 24th:

Christmas Eve Children's Worship - 2 pm

Contemporary Worship - 4 pm

Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Worship - 10 pm



Christmas Day Worship in the Hanson Barn located  
at 5107 Thorne Road, Marengo

Wednesday, December 25th - 10:00 am  
Light Fellowship following Worship

## ***St. John's Family,***

Youth ministry has been in full swing around here! Kids Krew on Wednesday nights has really taken off! We average about 35-40 kids each week. They eat a meal together, have gym time, learn about Jesus, and end with music. Sunday school averages about 20 a week (pre-k-4th). We open with songs, read a story, make a craft, play a bible game in the gym and end with prayer.

Our 7th and 8th grade confirmation students attended a retreat at Walcamp to learn about the Means of Grace. They were able to create some awesome friendships with kids from different churches. We spent a lot of time outside, exploring God's creation and learning how to apply what we learn in Confirmation class to our lives!

Our Sr. High students are continuing to meet on Sunday nights for youth group. We play games, eat food, worship together, do a Bible Study and so much more. These students are also beginning to raise funds for the National Youth Gathering. Our Trivia Night raised about \$600.00!

I have had so much fun getting to work with all of these children and youth in our congregation. Please continue to pray for these ministries! If you are interested in getting involved in any way please let me know!

Chloe Dahn

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