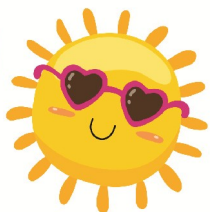


**FYI:**



**JESUS  
LOVES  
YOU!**



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



# CONNECTIONS

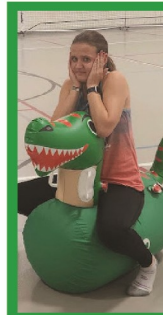
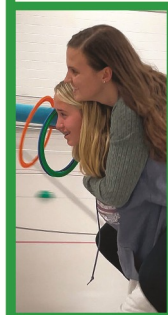
June 2025 St. John's Lutheran Newsletter

**HAVE  
YOU  
HEARD?**

**GOD CONTINUES  
TO BLESS  
ST. JOHN'S  
IMMEASURABLY!**

**JOIN US IN  
WELCOMING CHLOE TO  
OUR MINISTRY TEAM!**

*Join us for the installation of  
Chloe Dahn  
as Director of Christian Education  
Sunday, June 29 at 9:30am*



*And then  
there were  
three...!*

**#BLESSED**



**CELEBRATION  
LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW  
THE SERVICE.**

**PLEASE BRING A  
SIDE DISH TO PASS.**



## Ponderings From Pastor Caleb...



Pastor has very little to ponder these days except for how to venture out of his house to spend time in the place he loves with the people he loves. Expect to see more and more of him at church as he continues to recover from his knee surgery. Prayers for patience and quick healing are always welcome.



# The Scoop ON JOY Group!

The JOY Group enjoyed fellowship and a delicious potluck luncheon at Jan Sherwin’s house on May 16th and also found the time to organize and plan their summer schedule. It’s a summer filled with concerts, shows and other fun activities. Below you will find the full summer schedule. Please watch the bulletin for important sign-up notices and more details regarding the events.

## JOY GROUP SUMMER FUN

WOODSTOCK SQUARE FREE CONCERT SERIES:  
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 7:00

JUNE 4: "PLANES, TRAINS, AUTOMOBILES & BEYOND"

JUNE 11: "SUMMER READS"

JUNE 18: "KALEIDOSCOPE"

JUNE 25: "PLAYER'S CHOICE"

JULY 2: "AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

JULY 9: "THE BIG APPLE"

JULY 16: "FIESTA"

JULY 23: "STRANGE HUMORS"

TRISTAN CRIST MAGIC THEATER  
LAKE GENEVA, WI  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4  
@1:30 PM  
\$51

PHANTOM REGIMENT  
SINNISSIPPI MUSIC SHELL  
ROCKFORD  
SATURDAY, JUNE 28  
@7:00 PM

ROTARY BOTANICAL GARDENS  
JANESVILLE, WI  
FRIDAY, JUNE 13  
@9:00 AM  
\$7

CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES & LUNCH  
FIRESIDE DINNER THEATER  
FRIDAY, JULY 11  
@10:30 AM  
\$86

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK  
WOODSTOCK SQUARE  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 9  
@6:00 PM

LAKE AREA SWING BAND  
SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE, HUNTLEY  
SATURDAY, JULY 19  
@6:00 PM

THE BLOOZE BROTHERS  
WOODSTOCK SQUARE  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 15  
@7:00 PM

The Youth Group met only a couple of times in May before taking a short recess as they move into summer schedule. On the first Sunday of May, they participated in “May the Fourth Be with You” Road Rally/Scavenger Hunt. During this event, they traveled with an adult drive throughout Marengo and Union in search of various items (many of which were Star Wars related) to accumulate points, and thanks to cell phones, much of this was recorded for everyone’s enjoyment!

After spending time with their moms, they reconvened for a cookout the weekend after Mother’s Day to play yard games, shoot hoops and hang out on the playground to closeout this school year. Upcoming summer evenest will be sporadically and strategically placed throughout the summer in an attempt to accommodate the teens’ schedules. Keep an eye out in the bulletin for information regarding these events.



## YOUTH GROUP!

Of course, the teens are all looking forward to their trip to New Orleans in July for the National Youth Gathering! Fifteen youth, two young adult volunteers and five chaperones will be flying out of O’Hare on the morning of July 17th. Once they arrive in New Orleans, they will have a day to explore the area and then the gathering begins on July 19th and runs through July 23rd. The group will arrive back in Chicago on the night of the 23rd.

While at the Gathering, they will be attending daily Bible studies and break-out sessions during the day and mass events at the Superdome every evening. At one of the mass events a yet to be named popular contemporary Christian band will be performing a concert. Days typically begin around 8:00 am and end at midnight. This trip will prove to be both inspirational and memorable for all of the teens attending!



# JUNE 2025 CALENDAR



### WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS:

#### SUNDAYS:

- 8:30 am Tailgate Fellowship, Parking Lot
- 9:30 am Outdoor Worship, Pavilion
- 1:00 pm Pickleball, Gym
- 4:15 pm Adult Volleyball League, Gym

#### MONDAYS:

- 8:00 am Pickleball, Gym

#### TUESDAYS:

- 8:00 am Pickleball, Gym
- 10:00 am Staff Huddle, Pastor Caleb Office
- 6:00 pm UPWARDS Soccer, fields (thru 6/10)
- 6:30 pm Pickleball, Gym
- 7:00 pm AA Meeting, Room 110

#### WEDNESDAYS:

- 8:00 am Pickleball, Gym

#### THURSDAYS:

- 8:00 am Pickleball, Gym
- 9:15 am Women’s Bible Study, Room 110
- 6:00 pm UPWARDS Soccer, fields (thru 6/12)

#### FRIDAYS:

- 8:00 am Pickleball, Gym

#### SATURDAYS:

- 5:30 pm Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

### OTHER EVENTS & MEETINGS:

#### JUNE 4 (WEDNESDAY)

- 1:30 pm JOY to Crist Magic Show, Lake Geneva

#### JUNE 13 (FRIDAY)

- 9:00 am JOY to Rotary Gardens, Janesville
- 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study, Room 110

#### JUNE 14 (SATURDAY)

- 6:00 am Belize Mission Trip begins
- 8:00 am Men’s Bible Study, 3 Bros, Woodstock
- 9:00 am Garden Club Meeting

#### JUNE 15 (SUNDAY)

- 11:30 am Car Show & Pig Roast, Fields

#### JUNE 17 (TUESDAY)

- 10:00 am Food Prep for Homeless, Kitchen

#### JUNE 18 (WEDNESDAY)

- 6:00 am Homeless Mission, Elgin

#### JUNE 19 (THURSDAY)

- 6:30 pm Interior Design Meeting, Room 110

#### JUNE 21 (SATURDAY)

- 9:30 pm Belize Mission Trip ends

#### JUNE 23-26 (MONDAY-THURSDAY)

- 8:30 am Vacation Bible School, Zion

#### JUNE 27 (FRIDAY)

- 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study, Room 110

#### JUNE 28 (SATURDAY)

- 5:30 pm JOY event, Sinnissippi Park, Rockford

#### JUNE 29 (SUNDAY)

- 9:30 am Chloe Dahn Installation & Lunch





## NEW EVENT! FOR ADULTS OVER 18



**ADULT  
VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE  
SUNDAY NIGHTS 4:15-7:30  
CHECK IT OUT!**

St. John's Third Annual



On Sunday, June 15th, St. John's will host its Third Annual Wheel Show and pig roast. On that Sunday, registration will begin at 8:00 and then participants can join us for tailgate fellowship prior to church. Our outdoor service at 9:30 will be conducted as usual and following the service, people in attendance have an opportunity to view some of the vehicles on display before the pig roast lunch begins at 11:30. Prizes for the show will be awarded at 1:00.

Last year, plaques were awarded, based on attendees votes, in the following categories: "best truck," "best car," "best tractor," "best motorcycle," "neck snapper," "ladies choice," "longest drive" and "longest ownership." In previous years, a variety of vehicles have been on display including classic cars, antique autos, trucks, semis, bus/campers and motorcycles. Its always fun to see the wide variety of vehicles that show up for the event.

This event is always free to the community due to private generous donations and also sponsors that support it. It's a great way to spend some time with your dad on Father's day!

## BELIZE MISSION TRIP

It's hard to believe that our mission team leaves for Belize in just two weeks! As they continue to prepare for their departure, the team wants to offer a huge thank you to everyone who supported the "backpacks for Belize" program. Due to your generous donations, our church was able to contribute forty-four backpacks to the program! You truly are a blessing to the children of Seine Bight!

At a recent in-person meeting, our team, consisting of pastor Mark, DCE Chloe, Arie Sauder, Hannah Schauer and Laurie Mathiesen, was finally able to meet the rest of the team with whom they are serving. Over a Belizean style lunch, the team discussed housing, food, travel, customs and the various service opportunities planned for when they arrive in Belize.

Several of the males on the team will be constructing a 10x10 addition to a small hut and fixing a shower in the existing unit. The ladies will either be assisting a medical professional with home visits, running a mini VBS, and/or tutoring school children in reading skills. In addition, both groups will be leading Bible studies.

The team flies into Belize City on June 14th and then travels to Seine Bight via vans on June 15th. In Seine Bight, the team will be staying in condos where they will prepare some of their own food and be provided with food by the people of the community.

On their return to Belize City on June 20th, they will be stopping briefly at an elderly care facility to deliver some items and visiting some Maya ruins as well. They will arrive back in Chicago late in the evening of the 21st.

The team is continuing to ask for prayers for safe travel, as well as for safety while staying and traveling in Belize, that the tasks at hand will be accomplished without difficulty or complications, and that God's love will be shown to all they encounter.



**"Joining Jesus to transform lives  
through mercy, compassion  
and life together."**

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



As was noted in last month's newsletter, due to our summer building renovation, VBS will once again be held at Zion in Marengo, and with SCUBA being at the end of the month, the planning continues. Crafts are in place, snacks have been selected, participants are being registered and decorations are being prepared! If you are interested in helping out, volunteers are still needed for the week, especially in the pre-K area, but in other areas as well. See Chloe if you are available to help even for only a day. In addition, donations for the snacks are also being sought. Sign-ups for these can be found in the narthex.

VBS is open to all children pre-K through those who have just completed the fourth grade. Children who have finished fifth grade and beyond can volunteer to help out in snacks, crafts or games, or just be around to help corral small children. The registration website is up and running, so you can register your child at: [www.myvbs.org/STJOHNZIONVBS](http://www.myvbs.org/STJOHNZIONVBS). You can also sign up to volunteer here. Tell your friends!

## MINISTRIES



## UPWARD

Despite the weather not being the most cooperative, Upward Soccer has been going strong since the end of April and will continue until June 12th. Six teams comprised of fifty players from pre-K to 4th grade descend on our soccer fields every Tuesday and Thursday to learn about Jesus, play soccer and have fun.



Of course, none of this would be possible without the weekly dedication of the Borhart family for keeping the fields lined and ready to go, DCE Chloe for her organization, and of course, our twelve volunteer coaches. So, we offer a huge thank you to our coaches: Linda Roessner, Rose Boyd, Wyatt Bodek, Sean Chambers, Coy Szaflarski, Jacquelynn Bezik, Liz Swanson, Maureen Tomasi, Jennifer Trickett, Amanda Jones and Kiley Brady, as well as, Laura, Adam, Abel, Mason, Hutch and Della Borhart.



# IN THE KNOW: BUILDING RENOVATION



If you've wandered into the church building lately, you may have noticed a few things have gone missing... like walls and ceilings and doors, and some things have moved to different locations...like the front doors and the doors going into the gym. Some things have been added, too, like a new entrance on the parking lot side and even an extra window. The construction crew, consisting mostly of members of our congregation, has been working just about every day, either knocking things down, moving things, replacing things, taking things apart or building new things, and the transformation thus far is pretty incredible!

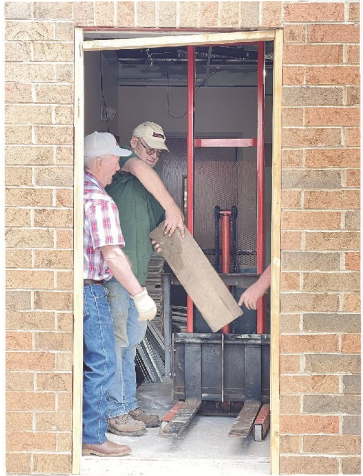
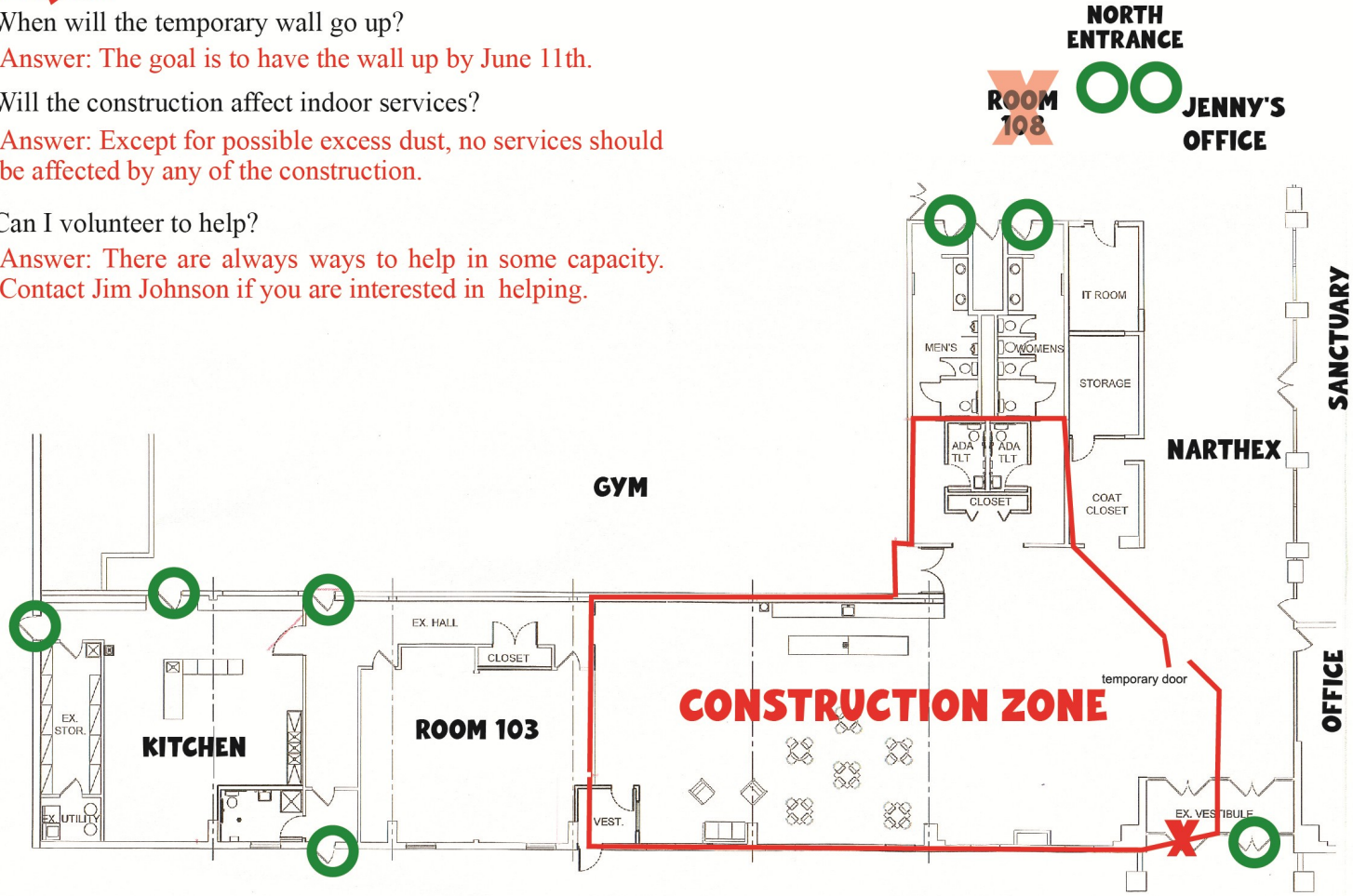
Next on the docket is erecting a temporary wall in the narthex to keep dust levels to a minimum in the rest of the church and to keep our members safe as the construction continues. Following the completion of that, a section of the block wall by the bathrooms will come down and then the plumbing renovations will begin.

- These areas will be off limits/unaccessible:**
- Room 108 (being used for storage)
  - Entire area from room 103 to the narthex
  - Restroom and gym entrances closest to the main office
  - Shower area in restrooms

- These areas will be open and accessible:**
- Room 103, the entire kitchen and the gym
  - All doors on the west end of the building (marked with green circles)
  - Restroom entrances closest to Jenny's office
  - The main entrance doors

## FAQS:

- When will the temporary wall go up?  
**Answer:** The goal is to have the wall up by June 11th.
- Will the construction affect indoor services?  
**Answer:** Except for possible excess dust, no services should be affected by any of the construction.
- Can I volunteer to help?  
**Answer:** There are always ways to help in some capacity. Contact Jim Johnson if you are interested in helping.



AS EACH HAS RECEIVED A GIFT,  
USE IT TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER,  
AS GOOD STEWARDS OF  
GOD'S VARIED GRACE.  
1 PETER 4:10

