

July 2020

Stay Informed. Be Inspired.



Handbell Choir
Meet Up

*For where two or three
gather together as my
followers, I am there
among them.*

Matthew 18:20 NLT

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St. John's Lutheran
20275 Davidson Road
Brookfield, WI 53045
262-786-6887

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Pastor Ponders

We are in a summer without precedent. We are facing the COVID-19 pandemic that is strongly resurging in many parts of the country. We are facing an economic crisis that is affecting millions of persons worldwide with record unemployment, numbers not seen since the Great Depression. We are facing a civil rights crisis that is lifting up and revealing long-term issues of racism and equality in our country. All this brings levels of stress to our institutional systems and to us as individuals as we try to navigate between what was once considered normal and to a new normal that is yet to be defined.

Our mission as the Church is unwavering, even in these most stressful times. We are to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in the world. To be a light to the nations and to our communities.

And what is this gospel? That Jesus Christ suffered death because of our human sin, took that Sin upon him, forgiving us for we know not what we do; he rose again from death, so that we are reconciled to the One True God, and that we need not fear death any longer.

We have the message of Life. We have the message of Hope. We have the message of Love. We have the gift of God's grace, and in these taxing times, we need to share more of that grace to one another.

This is not the time to choose sides and judge one another. Now is the time for us to come together, for the sake of each other, to take care of one another, and to treat each other with compassion instead of thinking only of ourselves and what we want. It is a time to live and act gracefully and fully in the life that God has so generously given us.

Instead of making disciples, let us BE disciples first, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ through our thoughts, words, and actions in this time and every time!

May God's peace be with you.

Pastor Brian



What's New?

Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

New Council Members

New Church Council members as of June 8, 2020 are:

Brian Zach, president
Christine Hintze, secretary
Maddie Beug-Hoffman, at large
Tim Tollander, at large

See page 8 for details on the change in council members.

See page 7 for highlights from the last council meeting.

New Branding

We are updating the look of St. John's. You may notice a change in the look of this newsletter; new format, new colors, and new logo (and a new website soon.)

See back page for more about the new branding.

Outdoor Worship

On Wednesday, July 8 and Wednesday, July 22, 2020, St. John's will hold in-person outdoor worship services. This represents the first step toward returning to our regular worship schedule. While we are all excited to gather as one, there are still concerns about the spread of COVID-19 to consider.

Worship Notes

Summer Small Group Prayer Service

This summer, as we long to gather together for worship, St. John's is offering an opportunity for a worship experience with your neighbors. Neighborhood leaders are being trained to lead the five "Compassion Camp" gatherings. If your neighbors do not participate, watch for information about joining a group meeting outside at the church.



Neighbors gathered for the inaugural Compassion Camp prayer service.

Worship Thanks

By Becky Whelpley, Music Director

I want to thank the Worship Recording Team and the special musicians for all of the time and energy involved in recording meaningful worship services in this time of COVID-19. Also, a heartfelt thank you to the transition team and the worship team as we move to offering outdoor services in July. We hope to be able to give updates in August about some fall programming for the many musical activities that are a part of St. John's.

School Supplies for Students

Outreach Offering Focus: Backpacks and School Supplies

Our outreach focus for July is backpacks and school supplies for students at All Peoples Church. You are invited to participate in one of two ways.

1. Donate items from this list.

Whether you donate one box of tissues or ten of everything on the list; any quantity of these items is appreciated.

OR

2. Donate a filled backpack.

Detailed lists for Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle School, and High School backpacks are available on the St. John's porch (blue sheets) and on our website: www.makedisciples.com.

2020 All Peoples School Supply Collection

New Backpacks (check zippers, please)**

70 count Notebooks of ruled paper (8 ½ by 11) (wide and college rule)

12" Ruler with inches & centimeters

Binders (1-1 ½")

Blunt tip scissors and Older kid scissors

Box of 16 or 24 crayons

Box of 10-12 colored pencils

Glue bottles and Glue sticks

Box of tissues

Pack of index cards

Compasses, Protractors

Loose leaf paper (wide and college rule)

Graph Paper (tablets or loose)

Fat Markers (8-10 count) – WASHABLE

Thin Markers (8-12 count)

New ballpoint pens (blue or black)

Mechanical pencils

Pencil boxes/pouches

Pencil sharpener (with receptacle)

Pocket folders

Red pens, red pencils

Scientific or Graphing Calculators (new or used)

We do NOT need pencils, erasers or pencil top erasers.

All items requested by 8/1/2020.



Above: Mary Mueller and Linda Muth delivering the 2019 school supplies

Right: Some of the 2019 donations



Akeri School

By Deborah Petersen

The school in Akeri recently reopened after closing for precautionary measures due to COVID-19. Below is a message from Pastor Nassari and photos of the teachers and students.

Hallo dear Friends.

We are doing well in Akeri and Nguruma Parishes. Today we had Akeri Hope Pre and Primary school opening service and prayer. We were very happy and excited to see school pupils, teachers and parents having prayers in the school. Every one among us was very pleased. The pictures show part of what was done in the school. Convey my regards to all in St John's Church.

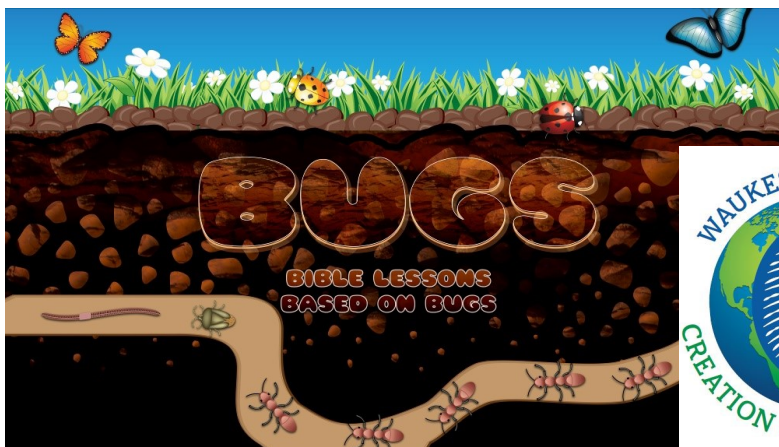


Children, Youth & Families

Summer Family Sunday School

Little things make a big difference.

Love them or hate them, bugs are a part of God's creation. As small as they are, these little things can give us some direction on how to live a life that glorifies God. Join us all summer long June 7 – August 23, 2020, as we explore BUGS! Presented in collaboration with the Waukesha County Creation Care Network.



30 x 30 Nature Challenge

Join Joanna and thousands of others throughout southeast Wisconsin in the 30x30 Nature Challenge!

Feeling anxious, blue, helpless or hopeless? Spending 30 minutes a day exploring God's Creation, over the course of 30 days, can reset your mind, body and soul. And to make it simple and fun, check out all of the fun and unique things to do in Waukesha County!



Visit waukeshacountygreenteam.org/30-x-30 for details.

Contact Joanna

Joanna is currently working from home and picking up mail a few times a month. She is available by email at josalinas2014@gmail.com or by call or text at 262-278-8021. M-F from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Joanna sends out weekly Children, Youth and Family emails with the Sunday School video links and other resources. If you are not receiving those emails and would like to, let Joanna know!

Preschool Plans for Classes in September

Good News! St. John's Preschool will begin classes in September.

We have openings in our Two, Three and Four Year Old morning Preschool classes.

Visit our classrooms with our new virtual tour.

[Click here to take the tour.](#)

St. John's Preschool is known for our Playing to Learn curriculum with small class sizes where children learn, discover, learn and grow. And we're busy working this summer to make a safe and healthy learning environment for everyone.



Questions About St. John's Preschool?

We always welcome the opportunity to have a conversation about St. John's Preschool!

Contact Laura: 262-786-4298 or stjohnspreschoolbrookfield@gmail.com

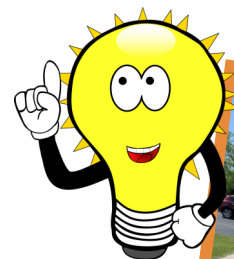


Property Team Saves \$3,900 a Year

As St. John's is still closed, our Property Team continues to move ahead. On Tuesday, June 16, multiple property members gathered to help sustain the grounds of the church. Spreading ten yards of mulch around various trees on the grounds, pulling up weeds, trimming flowers and fixing an exterior door. As the Property Team transitioned to virtual Zoom meetings, any time the group gets together in person is always a great time.



Reflecting on the past, roughly two years ago the Church Council approved a \$7,000 request from the Property Team to convert the church to more energy saving LED lights. Since then, the project leader Ken Bahr reported savings of \$325 a month (or \$3,900 a year)! We would like to thank Ken and the Property Team for creating sustainable lighting, saving money and, of course, providing light to our beautiful church.



Troop 16

by Patrol Leader, Daniel Warchol

Camp Long Lake Summer Camp

Ten scouts and five adults attended a week long summer camp at Camp Long Lake near Dundee, WI. This was the only camp out of two Wisconsin Scout camps that has opened despite the pandemic. Camp was a lot different this year due to the protocols and procedures set by the Fond Du Lac County Health



Department. There was more hand washing and sanitizing, plus masks were required to be worn in highly populated areas. All of our meals were

picked up in carryout containers and eaten at our site. The troop earned a combined 26 merit badges and 12 special activity awards. All participants earned the



Duty To God award for attending a daily devotional called "Noonwatch". Also, every patrol earned the Baden Powell Honor Patrol award. This is earned by patrol leaders organizing patrol activities, participating in camp wide activities, and doing a service project in camp. A great time was still had by all!

In-Person Meetings Resume

After three months of virtual email meetings, the troop held its first in-person meeting at Marx Park.

Everyone's temperature was taken, and other precautions such as masks and social distancing were taken. We enjoyed some kickball, advancement, and Mr. Hoeppner's ice cream sundae birthday treat! Our second planned meeting was washed out by the hurricane weather.

Leadership Showcase

The Troop Guide position is held by Donald McCarty. He introduces and welcomes new scouts to help them feel comfortable in the many scouting activities.

Monthly Advancement

Scout : Nolan Nelson

First Class : Jacob Nienhaus

Star : Matt Watson

Life : Zac Watson

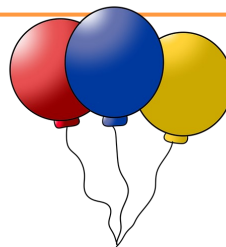
Passed Eagle Board of Review:
John Chapman

July Birthdays

- 1 Gail Mathes
- 2 Adalyn Elfers
- 2 Michael Wright
- 3 Michelle Werner
- 4 Karmen Dippmann
- 5 Todd Athorp
- 5 Doris Kallin
- 5 Cindy Schaefer
- 6 Nathan Kraus
- 6 James Mathes
- 6 AJ Warp
- 7 Mickey Fank
- 7 Cali Walker
- 8 Vicki Latus
- 8 Barbara Reed
- 9 Nicco Caravella
- 10 Jack Nettekoven
- 10 Mary Spencer
- 11 Ricky Wicklund



- 12 Kathi Campbell
- 12 Barb Falk
- 14 Mary Jo Menzel
- 15 Gail Rennie
- 15 Isabella Salinas
- 16 Janet Nolan
- 17 Sharon Mahoney
- 17 Alice Yourell
- 18 Mary Mueller
- 19 Michele Bertrand
- 19 Emma Campeau
- 19 Kari Stahl
- 19 Charlotte Werner
- 20 Todd Luebstorff
- 21 John Augustine
- 22 Maggie Scanlon
- 22 Jolene Turner
- 24 Kyle Cornelius
- 25 Austin Fuller



- 25 Bill Hughes
- 26 Debbie Bruck
- 26 Sherry Olson
- 26 Deborah Petersen
- 26 Tom Potratz
- 26 Shirley Tutaj
- 27 Russ Brown
- 28 Linda Klemm
- 28 Janice Nelson
- 28 Jacob Roth
- 29 Jean Borkenhagen
- 29 James Pirlot
- 30 Jan Delzer
- 30 Tyler Rateike
- 30 Ryan Walker
- 31 Missi Anderson
- 31 Paul Moran



Council Communications

Greetings to St. John's Members,

The Council held a Zoom meeting on June 8 and highlights from the meeting include:

Pastor's report

- The Council approved a motion to participate in the second year of the Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS) two-year program
- Pr. Brian recommended that Barb Lange serve as a liaison to the Preschool Board and that Maddie Beug-Hoffman serve as the council liaison to Children, Youth, and Family
- Staff evaluation meetings will be held during the week of June 22
- The design phase of the new website is completed and the team is reviewing 50 pages of content. Pam Klink and Diane Wilke-Zemanovic will be trained in WordPress (the software used for making changes within the website). Pam's equipment will be updated to support her role in managing the website
- We are reviewing the video equipment with the assistance of Elmbrook Church AV staff and should soon have recommendations
- Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS) task force reviewed ministry projects and has recommended Akeri Parish, the Synod Emergency Relief fund, and Groth Design (master planning) receive funding

Transition team update

- Brian Zach reported that while the building remains closed the church (people) is always open
- The team identified metrics for gradually opening the building based on the Waukesha County COVID dashboard.
- Exploring the possibility of outdoor worship in collaboration with the Worship committee
- Considering purchase of a forehead thermometer
- Working on development of long-range plans for opening the building

Financial report

- General giving declined slightly in May; financials remain strong
- Recommended transferring \$11,939 to the Capital Improvement Fund and \$5689 to the SAS initiatives, both recommendations approved by Council

Project Next Steps

- Pr. Brian will work with Tim Tollander and Linnea Logan to develop plans for managing the Groth Design (master plan) project
- Brian Zach is leading the Transition team (when and how the church building reopens)
- Long-term strategic planning coordinated by Gary Schettler is tied closely to the Groth Design project and to the work of the Transition team

Council member resignations

- Formal letters of resignation were received from Kathy Davis, Dawn Driscoll, Jennifer Cranfill, and Emily Otten
- The Council appointed the following members to the open positions – the appointments end when the Congregation meets to elect new council members
 - Brian Zach, President
 - Christine Hintze, Secretary
 - Tim Tollander, member at large
 - Maddie Beug-Hoffman, member at large

Talking Points

- Thanks to the congregation for strong financial support that has allowed us to keep SAS moving forward
- Resignations of Council officers and members at large accepted with strong gratitude for their leadership
- Welcome to the newly appointed Council officers and members
- The Transition team is meeting and taking a prudent and conservative/phased approach to reopening the church building – the church is never closed.

A personal thank you to congregation members for your prayers and support during the last four years. It has been an honor to serve as president of St. John's.

Please don't hesitate to contact Brian Zach or Council members with any questions you may have. We look forward to the time when we can be together again.

Yours in Christ,
Kathy Davis

Letter Regarding Council Changes

Fellow Disciples,

Kathy Davis and I are writing to explain why the June Congregation meeting was not held and how the transition in Council officers and members-at-large was accomplished.

As you know, the church building is closed as a result of COVID 19, so we were unable to hold our regular Congregation meeting in June.

A virtual meeting would be an option if we had approved the 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations amendments. The amendments include a provision for *holding meetings by remote communication as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication*. The 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations amendments is scheduled for presentation and approval at our next Congregation meeting.

Election of Council officers and members routinely occurs in June. In consultation with Synod staff, Council discussed two options:

1. Current officers and members remain in office until the next congregation meeting
2. If a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting (C12.03).

The Council chose option 2. Letters of resignation were submitted on June 8, 2020 to the Council for the offices of President, Secretary, and two members-at-large at which time these positions were declared vacant. The Council then elected the following nominees chosen by the Nominating Committee:

Brian Zach, President;
Christine Hintze, Secretary;
Tim Tollander, member-at-large;
Madelyn Beug-Hoffman, member-at-large.

These four individuals will serve on the Council in an interim basis, until the next annual meeting can be held (C12.03).

I would like to thank the outgoing Council members, Kathy Davis, Jennifer Cranfill, Dawn Driscoll, and Emily Otten for sharing their talent, time, and leadership to St. John's. We are forever blessed for their service over the years. I wish them God's richest blessings. Thank you to the 2020-2021 Congregation Council on your commitment to serving St. John's and doing God's work in the upcoming year.

Praying for peace and good health to all.

Brian Zach – Interim President

St. John's Interim Council

President

Brian Zach
608-279-3577

Vice-president

Gary Schettler
262-542-2309

Secretary

Christine Hintze
262-993-4637

Treasurer

Dawn Williams
262-309-9333

At Large #1

Jerry Hanson
262-785-8098

At Large #2

Tim Tollander
414-429-3609

At Large #3

Maddie Beug-Hoffman
262-439-9732

At Large #4

Linnea Logan
262-358-0501

At Large #5

Barb Lange
262-542-4010



Outdoor Worship Begins in July

To the Congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church,

On Wednesday, July 8 and Wednesday, July 22, 2020, St. John's will hold in-person outdoor worship services. This represents the first step toward returning to our regular worship schedule. While we are all excited to gather as one, there are still concerns about the spread of COVID-19 to consider. So, we are conducting these services as trials. We fully expect that things will change based on our experience in July and we ask for understanding. Two service times will be offered on each Wednesday. A 9:30 a.m. service is designated for high risk and seniors (65-ish and over) and a 6:30 p.m. for anyone and everyone. Please, if anyone in your household has a fever, cough, runny nose, etc. we ask that you stay home.

As you might expect, these services will be different than our indoor services, but will resemble the outdoor services we've held in the past. Please read the guidelines below before making plans to attend.

1. There is a maximum of 50 people at each service.
2. Reservations will be taken for each service using Sign-Up-Genius. [Click here](#) to tell us that you plan to attend. If you do not have access to a computer, please call: 262-786-6887 to reserve.
3. Please check your email before leaving home to make sure the service is still scheduled. Services will be held exclusively outside. If it rains, there is no service. If weather is, or could be, a problem, the service will be canceled by 8:00 a.m. (for the 9:30 a.m. service) or 4:00 p.m. (for the 6:30 p.m. service). An email notification will be sent.
4. The services will be held in the circle drive and will last about 45 minutes. There will be orange cones prohibiting cars from parking in the seating area. Please arrive at least 10-15 minutes in advance to get situated.
5. *Social Distancing* needs to take place. The seating area will be marked to indicate where individuals, couples and families can sit. These areas will have at least 6 feet of space all around them. We ask that you select a space for yourself and/or family and stay there throughout the service. Please remain with your immediate family at all times. We know it is hard, but we should all be used to talking from a distance by now.
6. All services are BYOC (Bring Your Own Chair). Chairs from inside the church will not be set up.
7. Entry to the church building should only be made if absolutely necessary. Please use the restroom before coming to a service as we still need to limit the use of the building as much as possible.
8. The services will include music, readings, a sermon, communion and prayers.
9. Bring your own communion elements (crackers and juice | bread and water | your choice), as we will not be serving in the normal way, but rather staying in our seats. We hope to obtain individual sets of elements to have on hand as well.
10. There will be no bulletins or hymnals, and therefore, no ushers.
11. Out of an abundance of caution, there will also be no group singing, offering or passing of the peace. Please continue to make your offerings as you have been these past several months.
12. The St. John's Transition Team has discussed face masks at length and asks that everyone wear a mask while walking to and from your car and the seating area. If you are properly distanced from others once you sit, you can choose to remove your masks. We encourage you to consider keeping your masks on the entire time in support and caring for each other's well-being. If masks are not something you will wear, then we kindly ask that you not attend one of these services at this time.

We all long to be together and to worship like we did earlier this year, and we know that there will be a wide range of reaction to how our return to in-person worship is structured. Please know that a lot of thought, discussion and prayer went into these decisions and

(Continued on page 10)

About Us

Welcome Statement

At St. John's we align with Paul's words in Romans 15:7 "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." We welcome one another all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race, age or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to physical or mental health, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in our commitment to the ways, grace and love of Christ.

Core Values of St. John's:

- Serving our world, locally and globally;
- Inspiring worship and music that honor God;
- Nurturing relationships with one another as Jesus walks with us;
- Growing in God's grace through education and discipleship;
- Engaging children and youth in the life of the church.

Outdoor Worship Begins in July

(Continued from page 9)

plans. If you are someone who is not comfortable with in-person worship yet, please stay home and enjoy the online services. If you feel that all of this is blown out of proportion, then we kindly ask that you still follow the guidelines above, out of respect for those who may be compromised, more susceptible and at greater risk. Please make a personal decision, based on your comfort level with the risk, as you decide to attend or stay home. The online service will continue to be available every week.

Finally, even as we start worship again, it is possible we will stop, based on circumstances. And, we are merely "dipping our toe into the water" in July. What we learn from these services will inform us as we move into August when we could consider more frequent services and different days. We

are hopeful that the COVID-19 cases in Wisconsin continue to trend downward, but at any time, if there are indications of changes (good or bad), please know that we will adjust our worship accordingly.

Our wonderful staff has worked really hard since the lock-down in March, to produce two recorded worship services a week. In July, the weeks when the Wednesday Outdoor Services take place, there will be just one recorded service available. And, our plan is to continue recorded services indefinitely.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our church and greater mission.

In His Service,
The Transition Worship Team
Sara Everts, Gregg Everts, Becky Whelpley, Pastor Brian, Pam Klink

Contact Us

Office Hours

The St. John's office is closed until further guidance from the Transition Team.

Church

phone/fax: 262-786-6887

email: to email a staff member, please click on their website photo

Preschool

phone: 262-786-4298

stjohnspreschoolbrookfield@gmail.com

Follow Us

Website: www.makedisciples.com

Facebook: [@MakeDisciplesSJL](https://www.facebook.com/MakeDisciplesSJL)

Instagram: [stjohnsbrookfield](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsbrookfield)

Share a Smile

Mary Tollander is our Luther Manor Ministry Coordinator. Luther Manor is a senior living complex that offers different levels of care from apartment living to long term nursing care.

Mary is asking for "works of art" from our kiddos to share with the residents of Luther Manor and brighten their spaces and lives. These can be drawings, paintings, cards, inspirational verses, and on and on! With so many of our seniors isolated, these items are treasured by the residents!

Artwork and cards can be dropped off at St. Johns in the Little Lending Library by the Main Entrance.

And when you are there, feel free to take a puzzle from the puzzle bins!

Calendar of events for July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>The Transition Team is keeping a watchful eye on the pandemic and making thoughtful plans to gradually reopen our building. Please watch the calendar on the website for current event information. Plans are very fluid and subject to change.</p>			1	2 8:30a retired men's b-fast 3:00p virtual Finance Team mtg	3 6:15a virtual men's group	4
5 Worship online 6:30p virtual Bible study	6 8:30a virtual Preschool Board meeting 11:30a Hope Center meal	7 8:30a virtual property team 10:00a virtual staff mtg 6:30p virtual HR team mtg	8 9:30a outdoor worship* 6:30p outdoor worship*	9	10 6:15a virtual men's group	11
12 Worship online	13 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p virtual council	14 8:30a virtual property team 10:00a virtual staff mtg	15	16 12:00p retired men's lunch	17 6:15a virtual men's group	18
19 Worship online	20 11:30a Hope Center meal	21 8:30a virtual property team 10:00a virtual staff mtg	22 9:30a outdoor worship* 6:30p outdoor worship*	23	24 6:15a virtual men's group	25
26 Worship online	27 11:30a Hope Center meal	28 8:30a virtual property team 10:00a virtual staff mtg	29	30	31	* Please use the SignUp Genius link on the website to serve your spot.

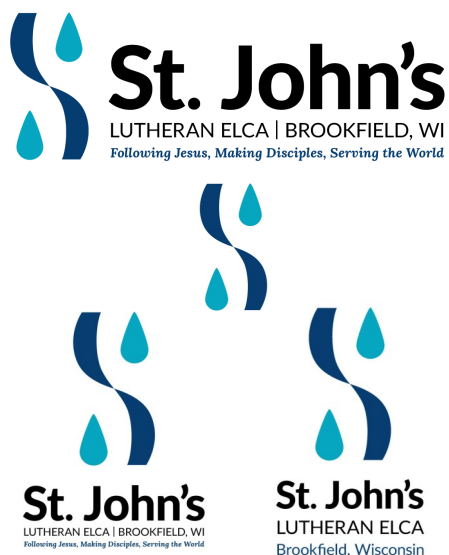
St. John's Updates Branding

As we work on transitioning to opening our building and gathering together, we are transforming our overall look.

In the coming weeks (maybe months) you will notice our new branding. Everything from colors and fonts to a new logo, from letterhead to emails, from social media to our website, and eventually, to bulletins and nametags is being refreshed.

Our website is getting a much overdue upgrade. We contracted with Matt Graber Designs to develop the new website that should launch in early August. There is a team in place to test the new site before it goes live. So far, all feedback has been positive!

Part of the branding update is a new logo. This is the "picture" that identifies as us St. John's Lutheran in Brookfield. A few of the logo variations are shown here.



Significance of the logo

- The darker blue ribbon represents the blue ribbon of water running through our stained glass panels in the sanctuary.
- The ribbon and droplets represent the waters of baptism.
- The water is moving as we are to move out into the world.
- When put together the ribbon and droplets form an "S" for St. John's.

What else could be represented by the "S"? Service? Savior?

Be on the look out for the "S"!

Feedback on new branding

Please share feedback on the new branding to [Diane](#).

