

October 2020

Stay Informed. Be Inspired.

We were ready to begin in-person programming, but the latest COVID-19 trends have caused another shutdown. We are ...

REDIRECTING...



Due to unfortunate trends in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, our Council and Transition Team have decided to indefinitely suspend all in-person indoor and outdoor worship and small group meetings at St. John's.

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

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Pastor Ponders

by Pastor Brian Halverson

When October rolls around again, as it does this time of year, I often write about leaves turning color, the brisk autumn air, and a new season for football. This year these same things are occurring. The leaves are changing, the air is turning cool, and football is on the television when I get home from church. Add to that, the apples are plentiful at our local orchard stands. What could be better!

I am taking great comfort this fall in what is familiar, in the rhythms of life that are unchanged. With so much that has changed over the past year, I look to things that can make me feel nostalgic – like watching episodes of Colombo. The detective show was taped in a world of gas-guzzling cars, leisure suits with paisley shirts, big hairdos, and short skirts; people spoke on telephones that sat on desks, not in their hands. The top movies of those years were The Towering Inferno, Jaws, and the Poseidon Adventure starring Steve McQueen, Paul Newman, Shelley Winters and other great actors of that era. The good old days!

Of course the good old days weren't always that good. We remember the Vietnam War, Watergate, the gas crises and OPEC, the Three Mile Island power plant disaster, and a whole laundry list of other challenges and struggles we faced at that time. We got through them. Yes, some things change but other things do not.

Life is good and life is a challenge. We know this. There is another thing that we also know. Life changes...we either adapt or die. It is the law of nature. We can see it around us. Businesses adapt to the changing environment and market or they close. For instance Sears, a company that dominated the retail market in the late 1890s until the mid-1900s, due to their innovative mail order concept --delivering products to their customers. Now they have been overshadowed by Amazon, a new and now behemoth company that has taken that old mail order concept and adapted it to the new way of the internet and online sales.

In Scripture we know that God is constant. God is the source and mover of life. In God's son, Jesus Christ, he brings life out of death so that God's constant and ever-present love is experienced in the world through us, the Disciples of Christ in His church on earth. The gospel that the apostle Paul preached is the same gospel message we know and hear today, although the church has had to adapt and change throughout its long history in a world of transformation. Through the challenges and vicissitudes of our human existence, we take both comfort and inspiration in our faith--that it is in God we find our ultimate security and hope. All other things will fall away. It is in God that "all things are created anew".

Pastor Brian



What's New?

St. John's Spirit Wear

Q. What do the Bucks, Brewers, Packers, Badgers, and St. John's have in common?

A. They are all great teams.

People who love their team sport spirit wear with pride. You now have the option of getting spirit wear for our St. John's team!

The online "store" to purchase St. John's spirit wear will be open **October 4-18**. The link to order is available [here](#), on the website, and on social media.



5-3-7 Breathing

Mental Wellness Tip from NAMI

How to:

- Breath in for 5 seconds
- Hold your breath for 3 seconds
- Breath out for 7 seconds
- Repeat

Why does this help:

These gentle repetitions send a message to your brain that everything is okay (or it will be soon). Before long, your heart will slow its pace and you will begin to relax – sometimes without even realizing it.

Music Notes

Dear Friends in Christ,

As our in person ministries have been put on hold and as we navigate this pandemic and the unknown I reach out to you with a word of prayer.

Dear Lord,

You are the constant in our lives. When situations are beyond our control I pray for direction and guidance.

When the world is strange and foreign I look to your word for peace, hope and love. Amen.

We are blessed to continue to offer virtual worship at this time and we continue to make plans for different scenarios in the future.

Kids of the Kingdom will begin the year via Zoom on October 7 at 5:15 p.m. If you have a school age child and would like to get connected please reach out to Lisa Weiss-Corneilus.

If you would like to get connected with another music ministry virtually please reach out to Becky Whelpley. Becky.whelpley@gmail.com

Peace,
Becky Whelpley
Director of Music Ministries



Worship Notes

October Sermon Series on God's Radical Generosity

Pastor Frank Janzow and I will be preaching this October on the theme of **God's Radical Generosity**.

Sunday, October 4: God's Radical Generosity in Creation

Sunday, October 11: God's Radical Generosity in Justice

Sunday, October 18: God's Radical Generosity in Grace

Sunday, October 25 –Reformation Sunday: God's Radical Generosity in the formation and re-formation of the Church.

We hope that our preaching series will expand our understanding of Stewardship, incorporating all aspects of God's divine radical mercy and grace can be experienced and thought of in new ways!

What is the meaning of "radical"?

The meaning of radical has changed over the ages. Historically, radical means root. First as fundamental, extreme, and really cool.

October Worship

Due to unfortunate trends in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, our Council and Transition Team have decided to indefinitely suspend all in-person indoor and outdoor worship at St. John's.

Virtual worship will continue to be recorded and offered weekly.

Education Programming Notes

Saturday Adult Ed

This virtual class, led by Pastor Brian Halverson, will be on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. This book study will focus on racism.

[Click to read letter with details.](#)

Tuesday Adult Ed

This virtual class, led by Pastor Karen Natterstad, will be on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Theme is "Bible Basics and Examples of Justice". See page 7 for details. Register to receive the Zoom link.

[Register for Adult Ed](#)

Sunday School

This virtual pajama party option is for families with children ages 2 and up. See page 4 for details.

Confirmation

Pre-Confirmation (5th and 6th) and Confirmation (7th and 8th) classes will meet virtually on alternating Sunday evenings. See page 4 for details.

Youth Group

This high school group (9th-12th) will meet virtually on Sunday mornings. See page 5 for details.

Children, Youth & Families

5th & 6th Grade Pre-Confirmation Class

Beginning October 11

Meet via Zoom
Every Other Sunday Evening
4:00-5:30pm

Join us for Fellowship, team building, and to continue our journey through the Bible!

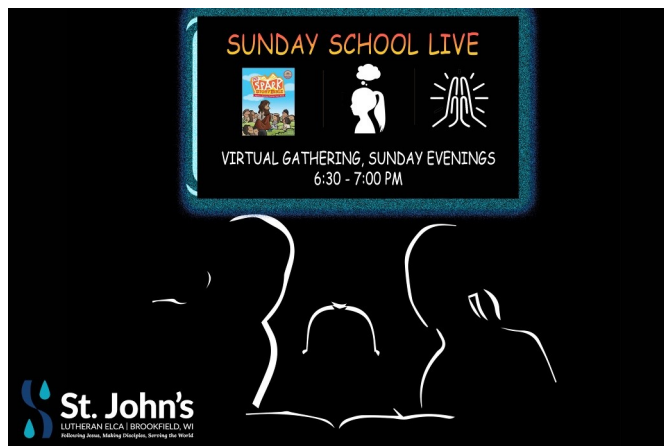


7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Class

Beginning October 4

Meet via Zoom
Every Other Sunday Evening
4:00-5:30pm

Join Pastor Brian and Joanna for Confirmation Class! Our new curriculum, Confirm not Conform (CnC) is focused on helping young people ask tough questions and search out answers through innovative and highly interactive sessions. CnC lets youth take real responsibility for understanding their faith and its power.



Sunday School Live!

For Families
ages 2 & Up

Beginning October 4

Sunday Evenings
Online via Zoom
6:30-7:00pm
Giggles required

We will meet together via Zoom for a weekly family Pajama Party!
We will tell the weekly Spark story using fun, interactive storytelling techniques, have show and tell, and play games.
You can join together as a family or individually!

Dear Families,

Welcome back!!! We are super excited to welcome you all back to St. John's Educational Programs beginning the weekend of October 4!

We have been working hard to create programming this fall that is flexible, follows the best science to keep us healthy and safe, and most importantly, brings us back together! Overwhelmingly, what we are hearing from families is that the thing they miss most about church is **being in community**. Simply put, we miss being with each other. Hopefully, we will be able to gather in person soon.

We are excited to present plans that will **connect** us this Fall. We hope you are excited to join us again as we are to see you! As we head into winter, we will be re-evaluating these options and will adapt as necessary.

Blessings,
Joanna Salinas

Contact Joanna with Toddler to 8th Grade Questions

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 - 1:00.

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!



Children, Youth & Families

Fall registration is open!

Only one form per family is needed.

Click this link—or find the link on our website—to register your children for programming at St. John's for the 2020-2021 year. This registration covers all programming for children and youth offered at St. John's.

Link to: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScak4mKqtUZk6_r5-IDHkza4ITLbhwhKYcDG6OifC_r10x-6Q/viewform



High School Youth Group

High school youth group will meet virtually on Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:15. All 9th -12th grade welcome. Although we would prefer to meet in person, we are thankful for technology that allows to stay connected. Contact [Carrie](#) for the Zoom link to join the group.

The Faith of Our Youth

Recently, six ninth graders from St. John's affirmed their baptism by publicly professing their faith. Each month, one of these statements will be shared in the Inspire newsletter.

The first faith statement is from Samuel Salinas. It is found on page 12.

Zoom with the Kids of The Kingdom

Kids of the Kingdom (KOTK) is the children's choir at St. John's for kids in kindergarten to 5th grade. All kids in that age range are encouraged to join. This year, like everything else, will be different.

Using a curriculum designed for virtual gatherings, they will meet each Wednesday at 5:15 p.m. beginning October 7.

To get the Zoom link for KOTK, please contact Lisa, the choir director, at lisajwc@sbcglobal.net.

KIDS of the KINGDOM

Preschool Teaches More Than ABCs

Preschoolers and their teachers have always known how important it is to wash your hands. Who knew it could be fun, too?



New to the Four Year Old Preschool classroom is their own portable hot water sink. It's so convenient to have in the room to wash hands before and after snack time, playing outdoors, anytime to wash away germs and it's great for clean up after a fun hands-on messy art project.



Two and Three Year old Preschoolers have their own sink in their adjoining bathroom. It's just the right size for them as they learn to wash the germs off all by themselves or with help.

Troop 16

We normally do our Annual Elroy-Sparta Bike Hike in June but pushed it off until September because of COVID-19. Part of the trail is under construction due to the wash out from two years ago. This year ten scouts biked between Wilton and Bangor, including two tunnels and back tracked to make a ride of 62 miles. The up hills to the tunnels were tough riding, but the glide downhill after the tunnels was sweet. For COVID-19 protection, normal protocols of temperature checks, masks, distancing, and sanitizing were in order. We camped in the Norwalk city park across from the Ice Cream stand. The traditional campfire was special as a space station flew for eight minutes overhead.

We have begun our weekly scout meetings mainly using Marx Park and once used the church fellowship hall when the weather



was lousy. One meeting was a Bike Rodeo with bike races and other activities held in the church parking lot and organized by Nick Huebner. Bikes were inspected by Bill Selle in preparation for the weekend bike hike. At another meeting Alex Kempen lead an Outdoor Game Night of Kickball and other activities.

At one other meeting, Youth Leader Elections were held with the following scouts elected:
Will McCoy - Senior Patrol Leader
Joe Balzer - Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
Jacob Balzer & Zac Watson - Patrol Leaders

by Scout Master, Terry Hoeppner

For his Eagle Service Project, Nick Huebner organized and led the troop in building four special designed benches for the Waukesha Fox River Sanctuary. The boys came early and stayed late and enjoyed pizza for lunch.

Yearly Participation Honors

- 1 Joe Balzer, Josh Balzer
- 2 Dan Warchol
- 3 Nick Huebner
- 4 Jacob Nienhaus
- 5 Matt Watson

Summer Participation Honors

- 1 Dan Warchol
- 2 Zac Watson
- 3 Matt Watson
- 4 Jacob Balzer
- 5 Jacob Nienhaus
- 6 Nick Huebner
- 7 Jon McMahon
- 8 Joe Balzer
- 9 Josh Balzer
- 10 Will McCoy

October Birthdays

- 1 Sarah Franzen
- 1 Brian Zach
- 2 Christopher Nettekoven
- 3 Jerry Waller
- 4 Jack Scanlon
- 5 Noah Rebisch
- 5 Angie Rose-Mueller
- 5 Joshua Schilling
- 6 Charlie Franchino
- 8 Sean Berthold
- 8 Tom Woodworth
- 9 Elizabeth Grimord
- 9 Janell Schmidt
- 9 Brent Voldahl
- 9 Karen Wicklund
- 10 Jennifer Cranfill
- 11 Ray Jarock
- 12 Jen Aune
- 12 Jeremy Beyerlein
- 12 Connor Koscielniak



- 13 Kathi Hanson
- 14 Ruth Nugent
- 14 Bree Walker
- 15 Chris Burns
- 16 Luke Nettekoven
- 18 Roy Pingel
- 19 Michelle Harms
- 19 Jordan Moskopf
- 19 Cole Reinfeldt
- 19 Beverly Wargowski
- 20 Julia Mauck
- 20 Jacob Menzel
- 20 Lyla Turner
- 22 Jackson Gatzke
- 22 Phyllis Nufer
- 22 Al Schmidt
- 22 Eli Wagner
- 23 Lucy Berthold
- 23 Megan Bingenheimer
- 23 Donna Franchino

- 23 Evan Linsemeyer
- 23 Kathleen Wicklund
- 24 Samantha Ayer
- 24 Maddie Fritz
- 25 Carter Aune
- 25 John James
- 26 Jeni Berthold
- 26 Alex Cranfill
- 26 Dade McCormick
- 27 Caroline Remmers
- 27 Joanna Salinas
- 28 Rog Lewis
- 29 Jerry Hanson
- 30 Jenny Walker
- 31 Chris Anderson
- 31 Robbyn Gaska
- 31 Alexis Grimord-Caravella
- 31 Mary Hughes
- 31 Brian Keierleber



How to Pick a Bible

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. Since most people can't read these languages today, Bible scholars have provided versions of the Bible in English. There are basically two versions of the Bible today: Translations and Paraphrases.

Translations look at the original text and translate it into English. There are many Bible translations available today that fall somewhere on a continuum with Word-For-Word translations on one side and Thought-For-Thought on the other.

Paraphrases, on the other hand, make the Bible easier to understand. The translator rewrites the original text in his own words and style. A paraphrase is a great second Bible, but not good for study.

Here are some popular translations and one paraphrase, along with a brief explanation of them:

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

This is the "official" ELCA version used in our worship. It is intended as a translation to serve devotional, liturgical and scholarly needs of the broadest possible range. The NRSV stands out among the many translations because it is "as literal as possible" in adhering to the ancient texts and only "as free as necessary" to make the meaning clear in graceful, understandable English.

The Lutheran Study Bible

This is the NRSV Bible with accompanying background material, Lutheran insights, and faith reflection starters.

New American Standard Bible (NASB, Word-For-Word)

This is one of the most accurate translations for detailed study. Colleges and seminaries frequently recommend this translation for their students. It's fairly challenging in some places because it holds so tightly to original texts. While it can be used for devotional reading, it is used more often for study. It is the most accurate, word-for-word to the original languages.

English Standard Version (ESV, Word-For-Word)

Another very accurate word-for-word translation of the Bible, the ESV, is good for study and devotional reading. The translators intent was to follow an "essentially literal" translation philosophy while taking into account differences of grammar, and syntax between current literary English and the original languages.

New International Version (NIV, Thought-For-Thought)

The NIV is the best-selling Bible translation today. It has a good balance between precision (like a word-for-word translation) and being easy to read (like a thought-for-thought translation). The NIV is used widely for both devotional reading and Bible study.

New Living Translation (NLT, Thought-For-Thought)

The NLT allows for more creativity in translating from the original text than most other translations. Its very modern language and style helps to clarify the meaning of passages in a new way that's designed to catch the reader's attention.

The Message (MSG, Paraphrase)

The Message paraphrase, written by biblical scholar Eugene Peterson, is current, creative and understandable. As a second Bible, it is great for seeing familiar passages in a new light, or learning how to share God's word in your own words. It can be difficult to use in a small group or Bible study.

Bible Basics

Bible Basics & Examples on Justice

Tuesday nights, 7:00-8:15pm
Every 2 weeks: Oct 6, 20, Nov 3, 17, Dec 1, 15

In this 6-session course, Pastor Karen Natterstad will introduce you to how to read the Bible. It's actually many books and contains various literature styles. You'll also get an overview of one story that runs through it - a God of justice, who is going to set things right. With each literary style, we'll also review a Bible passage about justice to learn what it might say to our current day concerns.

SESSION 1 How to Read the Bible
Exodus 3:7-10 "I have come down to deliver them."

SESSION 2 Laws in the Bible
Deuteronomy 19:18 "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

SESSION 3 Prophets & Poetry in the Bible
Micah 6:8 "What does the Lord require of you?"

SESSION 4 Narrative in the Bible
Matthew 1:18-25 Joseph, the righteous

SESSION 5 Jesus' parables in the Bible
Luke 18:1-8 The Persistent Widow

SESSION 6 Letters in the Bible
Romans 12:9-21 Marks of A Christian

This class is via Zoom. Use the [SignUpGenius](#) button on the website sign up for the class and to receive the Zoom link.

Council Communications

Fellow Disciples,

I pray this news finds you healthy and well in these times. Following are highlights from the September 14 Council meeting.

President Report

- Our partnership with GROTH Design Group continues to move along. Interactive Visioning workshops were held on September 13 and 15 (in-person and via Zoom) to help develop a short and long-term plan for our physical space.
- The second congregational meeting of the year, which was rescheduled from June, is planned for September 20.

Financial Report

- General giving was down in August and continues to be down throughout this time of COVID. With that said, expenses are also down, and the overall financials still remain in good shape. Thank you for your financial support.

St. John's Interim Council

President

Brian Zach 608-279-3577

Vice-president

Gary Shettler 262-542-2309

Secretary

Christine Hintze 262-993-4637

Treasurer

Dawn Williams 262-309-9333

At Large

Jerry Hanson 262-785-8098

Tim Tollander 414-429-3609

Maddie Beug-Hoffman

262-439-9732

Linnea Logan 262-358-0501

Barb Lange 262-542-4010

Transition team

- The team continues to monitor and review local health data and CDC guidelines
- Preschool returned to class on September 2. Please keep the children and staff in your prayers
- Indoor in-person worship will continue every Thursday at 6:30 pm
- Starting in October we hope to offer indoor in-person Sunday morning services. Stay tuned for additional announcements

Please reach out to me or the council members with any questions you may have.

Praying for peace and good health to all,

Brian Zach, President

Good Samaritan Fund

During this time of COVID-19, St. John's has newly established a COVID-relief fund to assist congregation members who have been adversely affect financially by the pandemic. The Stewardship for All Seasons group has designated \$2000 to be disbursed to members of St. John's who show a need for the assistance. Pastor Brian and Kathy Davis will make the determination, based on the application for the funds, on a case by case basis. These grants are one-time gifts. If you or anyone has a need, please contact the office for a form to be filled out. We will promptly give it due consideration and action.

The Pumpkin Story

What's it like to be a Christian?

It's like being a pumpkin. God picks you up from the patch, brings you in and washes all the dirt off of you.



For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who haws shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6



He removes the seeds of doubt, hate and greed.

Then He gives you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for the entire world to see.



In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

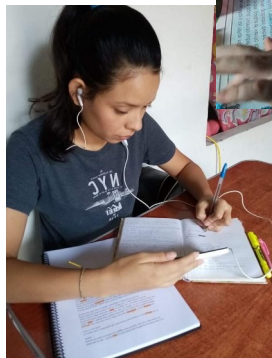
Matthew 5:16

Education For Life

El Salvador is just starting to reopen. Just like in the US, there are differences of opinions on just how to do that safely. Churches were allowed to open in September with precautions. Everyone must wear a mask, chairs are placed 6 feet apart from one another, children and elders are advised to stay home, and sanitizing is key! Since Salvadoran churches are very open to the outside air, they are generally considered to be a safe place to gather. However safe, Covid-19 continues to impact our community of Los Héroes and the country of El Salvador.



School will continue to remain at home for the rest of the school year. While online resources and other materials are provided, students rely heavily on their parents and other siblings to ensure assignments are completed.



Most students receive live classes and assignments on their phones.



Our university students are also feeling the impact of Covid-19. We are receiving requests from our university students to extend their scholarship period. University scholarships are \$1,240 annually for 6 years. Due to Covid-19, university students have also had to learn remotely with the use of the internet. Due to the remote areas our students live in this has been a challenge for some. Unreliable internet has resulted in uncompleted work and the need to retake courses.

The scholarships have been a life saver for our students however, the reality is that families are struggling in our community in Los Héroes. Public transportation has just resumed on a limited basis. Families have been confined to their homes with no means of work. World organizations have provided some relief, but the need is still great.

A new challenge is how to get school supplies in the hands of our students



in January 2021, for their new school year. Historically, we have provided them. I would purchase supplies here very reasonably in August and September when school supplies are on sale. Supplies would be packed in

suitcases and taken to El Salvador with travelers. Last year the youth brought them on their mission trip. Because of Covid-19 no travel will be happening. The cost to ship the items is too expensive and would cost more than the supplies. Pastor Santiago said if funds were available, he would work with a team to purchase and distribute supplies to all the students. An allocation of \$50 per student for supplies would be ideal. If they are able to get the supplies for less than that the extra funds would be used for food money for the family. There are currently 69 students in the program. Money the family has to use for school supplies is less money they have for everyday expenses.



Want to help? Sponsor a student, make a donation to the scholarship fund, or make a donation to purchases school supplies! Donations can be made to St. John's with El Salvador Scholarships in the memo.

It is more important than ever to support our brothers and sisters in Los Héroes during this challenging time. Continuing to support education is still the best long-term solution to the many issues they face. Our challenge is to figure out how to do that in our ever-changing situation at our church.

Thank you for your continued prayers, love and support for our brothers and sisters in El Salvador. Please feel free to contact me at marybethgubbins@wi.rr.com with any questions.

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.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Support The Women's Center in Waukesha during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

- **Learn** During the COVID-19 outbreak, domestic violence has been reported at peak levels—33.8% more calls of domestic violence incidents— and a significant increase in lethal cases.
- **Light the way** Purchase a purple lightbulb from TNT Ace Hardware on Sunday Dr. in Waukesha and Light the Way to End Domestic Violence by displaying it in your home during October. A portion of the proceeds from each sale will be donated to The Women's Center.
- **A Noteworthy Evening** This year, A Noteworthy Evening will be held virtually on Purple Thursday, October 22 to culminate the National Week of Action. One \$40 registration, good for the household, includes several exclusive items and giveaways. All proceeds from the event support services of The Women's Center. Learn more on their website: twcwaukesha.org.

Lutherdale

A Special Day of Giving

On October 18, Lutherdale will hold a special one-day campaign for emergency COVID-19 response. Gifts are needed to ensure they are able to continue providing life changing adventure for people of all ages, for generations to come.

How to participate:

- Pray—add Lutherdale to your prayer list
- Make a Gift—
 - donate online at Lutherdale.org
 - donate by check (payable to Lutherdale Bible Camp, sent to N7891 US Hwy 12, Elkhorn, WI 53121)
 - donate on October 18 by phone (262-742-2283 or 262-742-2284)

Lutherdale is at a crossroads. Cancellations have resulted in over \$700,000 in lost revenue. Financial support is needed now in order to continue operations in 2021.

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)

Winter Farmers' Market Update

The Food, Faith, and Farming Network has made the hard decision to suspend in-person markets and meals for the upcoming winter season. The priority of the network is to support our local farmers and to educate the congregations on the importance of buying locally sourced and sustainably grown products. There will be several opportunities for congregations to continue to support that effort, including offering direct online ordering from the vendors who participated in our market. Stay tuned for more info later in the year! The Harvest of Hope fund is continuing to accept donations to support farmers during this time. Visit foodfaithandfarmingnetwork.org to donate or for more information!

Calendar of events for October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:30a retired men's b-fast	2 6:15a virtual men's group 6:00p neighborhood gathering	3 9:30a virtual Adult Ed
4 Worship online 6:30p virtual Bible study 6:30p virtual Sunday School Pajama Party	5 11:30a Hope Center meal	6 8:30a virtual property team 10:00a virtual staff mtg 7:00p virtual Adult Ed	7 5:15p virtual Kids of the Kingdom	8 3:00p Virtual Finance Team mtg	9 6:15a virtual men's group 6:30p neighborhood gathering	10 8:30a virtual men's group 9:30a virtual Adult Ed
11 Worship online 6:30p virtual Sunday School Pajama Party	12 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p virtual council	13 8:30a virtual property 10:00a virtual staff mtg 7:00p virtual Adult Ed	14 5:15p virtual Kids of the Kingdom 5:30p neighborhood gathering	15 12:00p retired men's lunch	16 6:15a virtual men's group 6:00p neighborhood gathering	17 8:30a virtual men's group 9:30a virtual Adult Ed
18 Worship online 6:30p virtual Sunday School Pajama Party	19 11:30a Hope Center meal	20 8:30a virtual property team 10:00a virtual staff mtg 6:30p virtual HR meeting 7:00p virtual Adult Ed	21 5:15p virtual Kids of the Kingdom	22	23 6:15a virtual men's group 6:30p neighborhood gathering	24 8:30a virtual men's group 9:30a virtual Adult Ed
25 Worship online 6:30p virtual Sunday School Pajama Party	26 11:30a Hope Center meal	27 8:30a virtual property team 10:00a virtual staff mtg 7:00p virtual Adult Ed	28 5:15p virtual Kids of the Kingdom 5:30p neighborhood gathering	29	30 6:15a virtual men's group 6:00p neighborhood gathering	31 8:30a virtual men's group 9:30a virtual Adult Ed

My Faith Statement

by Sam Salinas

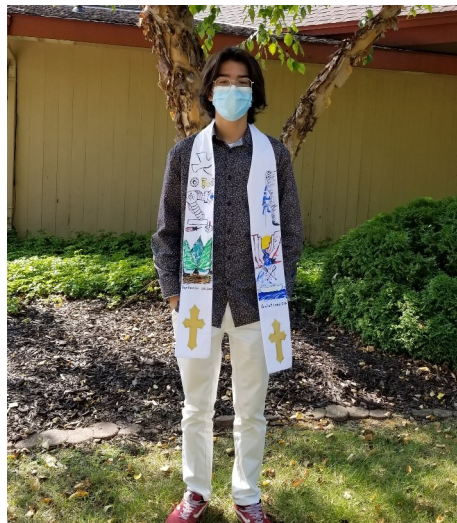
I got the questions to assist with the writing of this, "faith statement", and to be honest, I was more than a little confused. A lot of these questions were pretty massive questions to me. For example, "how will I carry out the mission of Christ throughout my life". That's a crazy big thing to think about which made it all the more difficult to write my faith statement, but I still thought about it. Now to me, the most important part of this question is the mission of Jesus Christ, and what exactly that is and what it means. It took me a little while to come back to an often referred to bible verse, but still, in my opinion, a verse that we don't look back at often enough.

Galatians 5:22 - 23 (NIV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things, there is no law.

These nine "fruits" of the spirit are what I strive for in my daily life. With each interaction with God's

creation, I try to keep these principles in my mind, and in that way, I honor Jesus Christ.



I think the reason that I struggled with writing this faith statement so much, is that too frequently I feel that I have only experienced the religious side of the church; the services, ceremonies, tradition, and unspoken rules. While this can be an excellent experience and path to God for some, I believe that it certainly isn't the only one, and not the one for me. While religion can bond some groups of people, I think it is faith that bonds all. Faith

in each other, faith in life, and faith in love. Religion has the capability to heal, but it also has just as much capability to divide, but faith is what truly connects humanity. And this is the mission of Jesus. He gave us all the ingredients to carry it out: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

I have always believed that it was Jesus' mission to connect us with one another. To tear down the societal barriers and the physical barriers that separate us. The verse I share with you today is kind of a strange one, but it perfectly illustrates what I believe.

Galatians 5:6

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

You see, we can get caught up in traditions, or ceremonies, and while all that can be great, the thing that Jesus taught me, what really counts, is that we love one another.

Technology Concerns and Needs

Last year we lost several of our older students due to technology issues (devices/internet connection/software) and have created a program, through the generosity of the Stewardship for All Seasons funds, to help families connect! We strongly recommend connecting to Zoom via a tablet, iPad, computer or Chromebook. Connecting with a phone is discouraged.

If any of the following apply, please reach out to Joanna or Pastor Brian and we can confidentially connect you with the application.

1. You don't have a device (other than a phone) that can connect to Zoom.
2. If you do not have internet in your home or your device cannot connect to it.
3. If your internet is chronically unstable and cannot support a zoom meeting, let us know that too!