



Scenes of Christmas



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Pastor Ponders

by Pastor Brian Halverson

It is hard to believe that January is here. We start a new year with new possibilities and opportunities! As always, we continue our ministries forward from the past year, working through the challenges that still confront us.

One of the goals for this year is to call an Associate Pastor who will help provide leadership, creativity, and support in the areas of Christian Education, Youth and Family ministries, and small group ministries as well as sharing liturgical leadership and pastoral care responsibilities. We are a congregation that is poised for growth and a strengthened mission. The Associate Pastor will be an essential part of that growth.

Another highlight to this year will be the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July. This is an event that draws thousands of ELCA high school youth from around the country for worship, service, learning, and fun that are all part of continued faith formation – not only for the youth but the adult leaders and chaperones as well! I went to a gathering in Kansas City in 1979 as an adult leader and the experience was deeply moving and transformational. We hope to have many of our high school youth attend this week-long event, and I am certain they will find it as memorable as my experience was.

Finally, our goal for upgrading our worship space with new technology has been set. New speakers, microphones, and other technology upgrades will enhance in-person worship as well as continuing to provide the best online services available. We have reached many more people because of this technology and we will continue to do so in this technological era in which we evangelize.

I hope to see you at our January congregational meeting in which we can share our thoughts, ideas, feedback, and vision for the upcoming year and into the future! It is going to be an exciting year!

Pastor Brian

What's New?

Annual Meeting

Yes! It is time for the January Annual Meeting. The main agenda item for this meeting is approval of the budget for 2022.

The meeting will be Sunday, January 30. Watch for communication regarding meeting time.

Listening Sessions

As in past years, there will be Listening Sessions for members to see the proposed budget and ask questions prior to the Annual Meeting. Watch for communication regarding meeting dates and times.

The Agape Ringers Concert

Join us in the St. John's sanctuary on February 20, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. for a concert by The Agape Ringers, Chicago's premier handbell ensemble. You can learn more about the ensemble at their website (www.AgapeRingers.org) and on Facebook and YouTube by searching for "The Agape Ringers." The program encompasses a wide variety of musical styles. Watch for ticket information.



February 20
4:00 p.m. CONCERT



Worship and Music



Choir Members Go Caroling to Spread Christmas Cheer



Questions about music at St. John's?



Contact Becky!

bwhelpley@stjohnsbrookfield.org

New Team for a New Year - Small Groups Rock!

By Pastor Frank

After a wonderful all congregation fall program called THE WALK, St. John's continues to renew and re-connect with a unifying Spirit as we head into 2022, multiplying small groups.

To keep the momentum going we have a talented, passionate new Small Group Ministry Planning Team:

Ralph Berglund (Team Lead), Steve Johnson (At Large Member), Kathy Davis (Facilitator Coordinator), Mary Tollander (Communication Coordinator), Carrie Allbaugh (Resource Coordinator), Pam Klink (Staff Liaison), Frank Janzow (Pastoral Coach).

The team will meet in January. We plan to support and resource existing groups, and assist with new groups starting up. Possibilities include winter and spring opportunities for group gatherings. The team will work as well in concert with adult education as they plan a spiritual growth study for Lent.

Our intention is also to provide another congregation wide small group and book study program for the fall of 2022. Meanwhile, look for ways to connect! We're always better together.

And a big and grateful thank you to those who served so effectively on this small group ministry team in 2021: Kathy Davis (Team Lead & Facilitator Coordinator), Patrice Krimpelbein (Administration Coordinator), Karen Aamot (Promotion Coordinator), Kathi Hanson (Resource Coordinator), Deborah Peterson (Hospitality Coordinator), and our staff: Joanna Salinas (Children's Ministry), Stephanie Broussard (Youth Ministry), Pam Klink (Communications Ministry), and Frank Janzow (Pastoral support).

Children, Youth & Families

St. John's Preschool Christmas Program

On December 16, decked out in their holiday finest, our Two, Three and Four year olds sang Christmas songs and told a Christmas Tree story, led by Barb Lange our Music Teacher, for family and friends.

Pastor Brian read aloud a favorite Christmas book, Look Who's Coming to our House, to remind us the animals made their stable just right because they knew Baby Jesus was coming to their house.

Then it was the grownup's time to sing lots of Christmas favorites in the Family Sing Along. There was a very fun Reindeer Pokey along with a lovely and gentle Silent Night to close the program.

While enjoying Gingerbread Cookies afterward, everyone voted for their favorite Gingerbread House among six houses decorated by the 9th grade confirmation students and their mentors. Congratulations to Charlotte and Jen!



Questions About Preschool?

Contact Laura:
262-786-4298 or
lrickinger@stjohnsbrookfield.org



Children, Youth & Families

Children, Youth, and Family Masking Statement

For Children, Youth and Family programming, including indoor Sunday School, Youth Group, Confirmation, and 10:30 Family Worship, **we value being able to connect in-person.** For now, we **strongly recommend and encourage** all to be masked during programming; young children masked as able.



Sunday Evening Education at St. John's

We are excited to offer IN PERSON programming for our Middle Schoolers.

7th & 8th grade Calendar

- Jan 16 Confirmation Class, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
- Jan 30 Confirmation Class, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

5th & 6th grade Calendar

- Jan 9 Connect Class, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
- Jan 23 Connect Class, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Family Worship

Join us Sunday Mornings at 10:30 for Family Worship. We've incorporated interactive components into worship with the band for a whole family worship experience. Designed for kids, teens, parents, and grandparents.

Contact Joanna with Toddler to 8th Grade Questions

Joanna is available by email at jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org or by call or text at 262-278-8021.



Joanna sends out weekly Children, Youth and Family emails. If you are not receiving those emails and would like to, let Joanna know!

Sunday School

Join us Sundays, beginning January 9, at **9:30 a.m.** for in person Sunday School or at **6:30 p.m.** for our virtual Pajama Party School School Zoom!

Questions? Contact Joanna at jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org.



Thank You for Pageant Help

A huge thank you to Steve & Mary Mueller and Confirmation students Lily and Jorja for their delightful presentation of this year's virtual Christmas pageant, *Baking with Scrooge*. If you haven't seen it, it is available on St. John's YouTube channel.



Children, Youth & Families

Youth Group Calendar

Date	Event	Time
1/9	Youth Group	4:30-6:00pm
1/16	Youth Group	4:30-6:00pm
1/20	9th Graders/ Mentors	6:00-7:30pm
1/23	Youth Group	4:30-6:00pm
1/30	Youth Group	4:30-6:00pm

“Youth Group” is the term used at St. John’s to refer to all program activities for high schoolers.

High School Youth Group begins each week with a small optional meal from 4:30-5:00 p.m. with programming from 5:00-6:00 p.m. If your family/youth are not comfortable joining us for the meal, they may come at 5:00 for programming.

Serving By Shopping



Some of the High School Youth Group went shopping for hams, turkeys, apples, and oranges for the Christmas Food Bags.





NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things.
Each new day filled with joy and
happiness it brings.
Amen.

Gingerbread House Decorating Contest

Congratulations to the team of Charlotte and Jen!

Ninth grade Confirmation students and their mentors decorated Gingerbread Houses for display at the Preschool Christmas Program on December 16. Preschoolers and their families then voted for their favorite house. All the houses were very creative. Charlotte and Jen’s received the most votes with many children complimenting their colors. Charlotte won a \$25 Target gift card and bragging rights. Until next year!



More photos on page 12.

Contact Stephanie with questions about high school and young adult ministry at St. John’s



sbroussard@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Outreach

The Gift of Sight

Great news!

We have resumed our used eyeglass collection. Your old eyeglasses will be donated to the Lions Club. The Lions Club will clean, repair, and classify the glasses by prescription. Then they are distributed to needy people in developing countries. Please place your old eyeglasses in the second drawer of the service cart in the fellowship hall.

You may also donate your old eyeglasses to any Wal-Mart Optical Center.



Refugee Resettlement

We are very close in our efforts to co-sponsor Afghan refugees in partnership with LSS. There are many ways to get involved; such as ESL tutoring, driving to appointments, coordinating housing and furnishings, assistance in shopping for food and clothing, coordinating social experiences, and more.

If you are interested in learning more - or becoming part of the team - contact Cindy, Sonja, or Jim.

Cindy at chalvers57@gmail.com
Sonja at sjc@beyerlein.com
Jim at jimholmberg@msn.com

Do You Wear Underwear?

January Outreach Offering: Undies and Socks for the Hope Center

Do you wear underwear?
Do you wear socks?

These are luxuries that some in our community do not have - but you can help! During January, our outreach offering focus will be socks and undies for Hope Center.

The greatest needs are for:

socks (all sizes) and
underwear:
kids (all sizes),
ladies (sizes 5-8), and
men (small and medium sizes.)

Contact Brian Cranfill at 262-786-2619 with questions.



Giving Tree Update

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who took tags and donated items from the St. John's Giving Tree! Due to your generosity, we collected and donated over \$400 in gift cards to the Women's Center, 15 items to Angel's Baby Closet for newborn babies, and got a great start on creating a welcoming home for a refugee family with blankets, sheets, pillows, and towels. We also donated an assortment of toys, school supplies, children's clothes, and warm winter gear. Thanks to all who helped spread holiday cheer!

Because of Your Generosity ...

- Families in Waukesha and Milwaukee had food for Christmas dinner.
- Youth from our congregation will be able to attend the National Youth Gathering this summer.
- A refugee family will have items needed to set up a home as they resettle in the area.
- We have the technology to provide virtual Sunday School.
- We have the technology to live stream worship services for those unable to worship with us in person.
- Children in El Salvador have scholarships to attend school.
- Children in Tanzania have a school to attend.
- Hungry people in Waukesha are fed.
- And so much more!

Following Jesus, Making Disciples, Serving the World

Troop 16

The troop went out to it's annual pool party at the Ingleside Hotel Spring Water Park. There are lots of swimming activities for the scouts to do. They have three slides, a lazy river, a hot tub and a large activity pool. Snacks were good too.



John Chapman earned his Eagle Award in the spring of 2020 and has been waiting for a ceremony since then because of COVID. John recently had his Eagle Ceremony and was presented the Eagle Pin by Troop Chairman, Larry Long.



The troop's previously honored Eagle, Josh Balzer, was the Master of Ceremonies and Rev. Lonnie Richardson was the guest speaker. A cake and punch reception was held immediately following the ceremony.

by Scoutmaster, Terry Hoepfner

John is the 74th Eagle recipient from Troop 16. He earned 26 Merit Badges. For his Eagle Service Project, John organized and directed the troop in building twelve bat houses for the Phantom Lake YMCA Camp in Mukwonago.

At meetings during the month, the troop hosted a bring a friend game night. Other scout skills worked on were lashings, First Aid carries and a scout law game

The Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader positions are held by Matt & Zac Watson. They lead troop meetings & camping trips and lead the meeting games.

November Participation Honors

1. David McMahon
2. Jon McMahon
3. Jacob Balzer
4. Joe Balzer

January Birthdays

4 Bill Sattler	15 Lawson Rennie	23 Dan Wimmer	30 Jim Morgan
6 Jeff DuChateau	16 Tom Sodemann	25 Teresa DuChateau	30 Evan Paget
7 Gary Grunau	16 Dawn Vogelsang	25 Eli Zach	30 Jim Truax
7 Matt Waffle	17 Ruth Kirchhoff	26 Dorothy Eisenberg	31 Justin Belli
8 Jason Rateike	17 Dennis Kramer	26 Tony Madrigal	31 Spencer Dominguez
8 Henry Sidebottom	17 Joseph Sidebottom	27 Dave Beyer	
9 Felicity Slater	18 Sia Rae Grabowski	27 Malachi Beyerlein	
12 Anja Logan	18 Mark Latus	27 Marc Delzer	
12 Andrew Zick	18 David Seamonson	27 Jeremy Hale	
13 Patti Baeten	19 Ellen Bertrand	27 Jacki Hale	
13 Natalie Mathes	20 Ellie Fuchs	27 Jim Johnson	
14 Jeff Gubbins	20 John Gatzke	27 Valy Keierleber	
14 Kathy Hoepfner	21 Angela Sidebottom	27 Drake Waffle	
15 Jan Bigsby	22 Karen Wolfmeyer	28 Floyd Keierleber	
15 Austin Klemm	23 Kyle Weyer	28 Sharon Krukar	



Council Communications

Fellow Disciples,

I pray this news finds you healthy and well. Following are highlights from the December 13, 2021 Council meeting.

President Report

- The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 30. This will be an in-person meeting with the option to attend via ZOOM for those prefer that method.
- 2022 budget work continues. There will be two budget listening sessions prior to the Annual Meeting. Stay tuned for more details.
- Council heard a brief update on the work with GROTH Design. The goal to share an update of all the progress over the past year at the upcoming Annual Meeting in January.

Financial Report

- St. John's continues to be blessed by your faithful giving. It is your generosity which allows St. John's to invest in and carry out the ministry goals sets for 2021. Thank you!

Transition team

- The Transition Team continues to monitor the ongoing changes with COVID, CDC guidelines, and the recent variants developments.

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

St. John's Council

President

Brian Zach 608-279-3577

Vice-president

Keith Paukner 414-916-2618

Secretary

Christine Hintze 262-993-4637

Treasurer

open

At Large

Jim Morgan 262-893-7385

Tim Tollander 414-429-3609

Maddie Beug-Hoffman 262-439-9732

Linnea Logan 262-358-0501

Kris Wasserman 262-424-3383

Groth Design Update

The building planning team has been working with Groth Design over the past month. The final plans are almost complete, with some changes and amendments still be worked through. We are planning to show the congregation the final designs in May and have lively discussions on what the plans are and what the intentions are behind them, always keeping in mind the mission and ministries of the church.

We are very excited about this process and the results that have come from it as we continue to work toward the final plans!

Pastor Brian

Creation Corner

Make an Eco-Resolution!

What's your New Year's Resolution? Commit to healthier living this year. To start, pick one Eco-Resolution to focus on all year, then gradually add more as you are ready! Some ideas to pick from:

- Buy Fair Trade coffee, chocolate and sugar.
- Eat more locally grown food.
- Reduce the amount of plastic bags in your life.
- Increase the energy efficiency of your home.



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.

Praying for Our Church Family

We pray for those who are battling illness or are healing:

Barb K	Dorothy E	Floyd K	Steve Q
John G	Steve W	Tim M	Kathy K
Hope H	Connie P	Sharlene W	Kim S
Dennis W	John S	Jim T	Cindy H
Charlotte Y	Alice Y	Grayson Y	Vivian Y
Gregg and Joy M's Grandson Cole		Sharon Mahoney's Friend Betty	
Bonnie S's sister Jeanne and BIL			

To help us to stay connected, we will be sharing the list with you monthly. Prayers may be for thanksgiving, hope and/or healing. The requests may be immediate, short or long term.

Prayer requests may be submitted at the bottom of the website www.makedisciples.com.



*Without ceasing
I remember you
always in my
prayers.*

Romans 1:9

Contact Us

Office Hours

The St. John's phone is answered 9:00-Noon, Monday to Thursday.

Church

phone/fax: 262-786-6887
email: to email a staff member, please click on the link by their photo on the website under Staff.

Preschool

phone: 262-786-4298
Irickinger@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Financial Emails

Treasurer:

SJT20275@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Bookkeeper:

SJA20275@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Online Giving

Offerings.	Tithes.
Donations.	Gifts.

Whatever you call giving in response to God's blessings to support our ministries, we thank you. God calls us to work together to spread the Good News. No matter where you live or how frequently you attend services, your generous gifts make that happen.

This past year we've seen church families band together to help each other and support our congregation with time, talent, and financial contributions. You are making a difference!

We offer convenient eGiving options that help you make donations on a one-time or recurring basis. Through our website or the Vanco Mobile app you are able to give from the sanctuary or from your couch!

Calendar of events for January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
*worship service/event is live streamed						1 New Year's Day HAPPY 2022	
2 8:30a worship* 10:30a worship	3 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:00p AI-Anon	4 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 6:00p quilters 7:00p Boy Scouts	5 8:00a Retired Men's bfast 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 5:30p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	6 4:00p Finance Team mtg 6:00p Faith Alive 6:30p AI-Anon	7 6:15a virtual men's group	8 8:30a men's group	
9 8:30a worship* 9:30a education hour 10:30a worship 4:30p Connect Class (5/6) 4:30p youth group (HS) 6:30p Zoom Sunday School	10 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:00p AI-Anon 6:30p council mtg 6:30p Small Group Team	11 8:30a property team 9:00a woman's Bible study 10:00a staff mtg 4:00p stewardship mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal 7:00p Boy Scouts	12 9:30a Morning Circle 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 5:30p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	13 6:00p Faith Alive 6:30p AI-Anon	14 6:15a virtual men's group 10:00a prayer shawl group	15 8:30a men's group	
16 8:30a worship* 9:30a education hour 10:30a worship 4:30p youth group (HS) 4:30p confirmation (7/8) 6:30p Zoom Sunday School	17 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 1:00p women's Bible study 6:00p AI-Anon	18 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 1:00p Tuesday Book Club 6:30p handbell rehearsal 7:00p Boy Scouts	19 12:00p Retired Men's lunch 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 5:30p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	20 6:00p Faith Alive 6:00p confirmand/mentor 6:30p AI-Anon	21 6:15a virtual men's group 9:00a Friday Book Club 7:00p Women of Faith book club	22 8:30a men's group	
23 8:30a worship* 9:30a education hour 10:30a worship 4:30p youth group (HS) 4:30p Connect Class (5/6) 6:30p Zoom Sunday School	24 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:00p AI-Anon	25 8:30a property team 9:00a woman's Bible study 10:00a staff mtg 7:00p Boy Scouts	26 5:30p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	27 6:00p Faith Alive 6:30p AI-Anon	28 6:15a virtual men's group	29 8:30a men's group	
30 8:30a worship* 9:30a education hour 10:30a worship TBD Annual Meeting 4:30p youth group (HS) 4:30p confirmation (7/8) 6:30p Zoom Sunday School	31 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:00p AI-Anon	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Watch for announcements of times for Annual Meeting and for Budget Listening Sessions.</p> </div>					



Ninth grade confirmands and their mentors in a friendly competition!



GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST



CHRISTMAS LIGHT SCAVENGER HUNT

A fun time was had by all at our Advent party and Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt! Cookie decorating, games, lights, and RedBrick Pizza!

