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St. John's Lutheran
20275 Davidson Road
Brookfield, WI 53045

262-786-6887

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

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Pastor Ponders

by Pastor Brian Halverson

Christmas in July. This seems like a strange concept, having Christmas in the middle of summer. We associate Christmas and its season to wintery landscapes, dark and starlit nights, yule logs on the fire roasting chestnuts on the cold nights of December. Yet, everyone in the southern hemisphere celebrates Christmas in the middle of their summer. The only thing roasting is the people laying on the beach!

For us as a staff at St. John's, however, we begin to plan for the Advent and Christmas seasons in July. Like Mel Torme who wrote the Christmas song that included roasted chestnuts while he was lying next to the pool in southern California, we are thinking about what the worship, education, and youth programming are going to be in Advent.

During this Advent season I would like to go with the theme: **Prepare the Royal Highway**. I very much doubt that in Jesus time that meant paving the gravel roads with tar or cement but it did mean making the royal highway smooth and even where the low points would be raised and the high points would be leveled in order for the royal caravans to pass with as little hardship as possible. It took a great deal of manpower and money to prepare for a royal visit.

Think about your own home. When you invite people to your home, do you make preparations so that they will feel welcome? Do you invest your time, energy, and money to insure that your guests will have a meaningful time? Of course you do.

The church is no different. Our community of faith plans and prepares our church home so that all persons who come to us, whether member or visitor, will see and experience the care we provide for them. Our church home is a reflection of who we are and who we hope to be.

As you read further in this newsletter, you will find an article that talks about PAVE THE WAY, a year-long giving campaign for capital and ministry enhancements that have been prioritized by the Church Council.

Let us prepare the Royal Highway (starting with the circle drive!)

Pastor Brian

What's New?

Boundary Waters

July 8-15

Please pray for the group as they experience God in new ways.

Trivia Night

July 18 | 7:00 p.m.

Join in the fellowship and folly!

Newborn Kit Assembly

July 25 | 6:30 p.m.

A night of service that helps one baby at a time.

Vacation Bible School

July 31-August 4 | 9:00 a.m.

Plant "Seeds of Change"

Family Fun Night

August 3 | 6:30 p.m.

Don't miss the night of fun for all ages as we celebrate summer!

St. John's Staff Shower Sue with Books



The women of St. John's staff met recently for some staff bonding. (No boys were allowed, but we missed Lisa!) Delicious food, good stories, and many laughs were shared. The highlight of the gathering was a surprise "Grandma Shower" for Sue. She now has copies of our favorite books for babies/toddlers to share with her grandson - when he finally arrives!



Children, Youth & Families

St. John's Preschool

Have you seen the St. John's Preschool Tricycle Parking Lot? It's new, only since April, so you may need to check it out! It's in the Preschool entrance coat rack area. This Spring, Preschoolers were riding all around the front entrance and the Outdoor Learning Center sidewalk. Next winter, the trikes will be ridden indoors. Great exercise is year-round.

How were so fortunate to buy fifteen tricycles and six traffic signs?

In April, St. John's Preschool received a Wisconsin Department of Children and Families "Promoting Inclusive Spaces" grant. Within the criteria of the grant, providing the opportunity to learn to ride a tricycle, and a place to ride, is an important developmental skill for young children of all abilities.



The grant allowed us to make classroom upgrades, too. Each one of the Preschool classrooms now have "Cloud and Sky" fluorescent light diffusers to reduce harsh glare. In the upstairs classrooms, we increased the amount of natural light with opaque window film on the lower half of the windows. These lighting changes create a more comfortable learning environment.

We are proud to be a Preschool that recognizes and honors our children as they learn and grow as individuals.





Swing on in and
check us out



St. John's Preschool
WHERE WE PLAY, DISCOVER, LEARN AND GROW.

Enrollment is Now OPEN for September!
20275 Davidson Road Brookfield, WI 53045
lrickinger@stjohnsbrookfield.org
262-786-4298

New Planters

Kudos to our hard working Property team, who worked for three days to replace the rotting planter boxes adjacent to the stairs at the East entrance. We now have a professional grade setup, waiting for some beautiful plants.

Special thanks to Ken Bahr for designing and leading the effort, and to the hardworking team including Jerry Hanson, Keith Paukner, Mark Latus, Dave Beyer and Cindy Wright Kau.



Children, Youth & Families



Join us for VBS

Seeds of Change VBS
July 31-August 4, 2023
9:00am-12:00pm
Ages 4 (by the start of VBS) –
completing 5th grade

Join us as we discover how making small earth minded decisions in our daily lives helps care for and preserve God's creation. We will spend one day exploring at Retzer Nature Center! Learn more at <https://makedisciples.com/ministries/child-youth/vacation-bible-school/>

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/HDkmZaVKLNwosrmy9>

Payment Link: [Home | St. John's Lutheran Church \(myvanco.com\)](https://home.stjohnslutheran.org/myvanco.com)

Calling All VBS Camp Counselors & Volunteers!

July 31-Aug 4

Our regular VBS format is back this year, and our kiddos LOVE their middle & high school leaders!!! Volunteer for one day or all week. Hangout outside at Rec, lead Storytime, or have your own group of kids for the week! On Thursday, we will take the kids on a field trip.

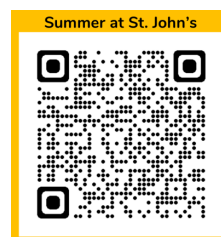
All training is provided and volunteering for the week (M-F) at VBS counts for 30 hours of service for school! We will schedule a volunteer training in July.

Sign Up Here:

[VBS Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Summer at St. John's

Click or scan the QR code for more information on summer happenings at St. John's including VBS, Newborn Kits, and the Summer Sampler.



Children, Youth & Families



Boundary Waters Trip

July 8-15

A group of eight people from St. John's are headed to the Boundary Waters:

1 young adult guide,
2 adult chaperones and
5 high schoolers.

Your prayers for safety and growth are appreciated.



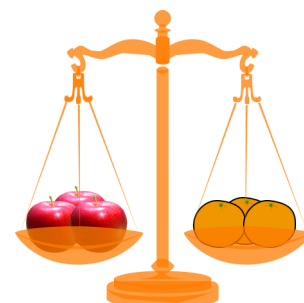
Car Wash Fundraiser Rescheduled

Who: High School Youth

Date: August 6

Time: During both services

What: HS Youth will be having a car wash fundraiser to help support their upcoming trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer.



Comparative Religion Mentors

Are you interested in learning more about different faith communities right here in our own backyard, and creating lasting memories with our high school youth? Then do I have the perfect monthly opportunity for you!

If you would like to learn more about this experience, contact Stephanie.



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

sbroussard@stjohnbrookfield.org



Summer Sampler Study Begins July 12

Did you find our study of Moses last fall or of Paul's missionary journeys this spring rewarding?

Would you like to continue some Bible study over the summer?

If you haven't been involved in Bible study, would you like to try it out?

Everyone is welcome! No sign up needed. Contact Ralph Berglund if you would like more information, or just come!

The topics are:

- July 12 - Romans – Session 1 – Paul sums it up - Chapters 1-8
- July 19 - Romans – Session 2 – How to live the good life – Chapters 12-16
- July 26 - Galatians – It is all about faith
- August 2 - Ephesians – Put on the armor of God
- August 9 - Philippians – Rejoice in the Lord always!

You Are Invited

- ♦ Everyone is welcome - Bible beginners to veterans
- ♦ Come to the sessions that fit your busy schedule
- ♦ Meet in the air conditioned library with Ralph Berglund
- ♦ Wednesdays, July 12 - August 9 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Summer
Sampler
Study

Music Notes

Music Camp



Thank you to all
who made
St. John's music
camp an amazing
four days of
learning and fun!



Things To Do

Trivia Isn't Trivial

Time: July 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Place: Café Hollander at The
Corners

Put your skills to the test at Trivia presented by Quizmaster. This is the initial outing of the St. John's Trivia Team. (Official name yet to be determined!) All levels of trivia knowledge are welcome to join in the fellowship and folly! Contact Mary Tollander with questions.



Opportunities to Serve Others

July Outreach Offering: School Supplies for All Peoples

Do you remember the thrill of a new box of crayons and new pencils? You can make that happen for a student in Milwaukee. July brings the opportunity to help students start the school year prepared, confident, and ready to learn. Donations should be placed in the shopping cart by July 31.



There are FIVE different donation lists. One list (shown below) is a list of general supplies that are given loose. You may donate one thing, several things, or many things. The other four lists are to fill a backpack for a student of a specific age. All of the lists are available on the website (on the [Summer at St. John's](#) page) and in the narthex.

2023 All Peoples Loose School Supply Collection

New Backpacks (check zippers, please)

70 count Notebooks of ruled paper (8 1/2 by 11) (wide and college rule)
12" Ruler with inches & centimeters
3-Ring Binders (1 1/2 - 2")
Blunt tip scissors and older kid scissors
Box of 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 pouches
Pencil sharpener (with receptacle)
Pocket folders
Red pens, red pencils
Scientific or Graphing Calculators (new or used)
Personal hand sanitizer
Child-size face masks (KN95)
All items requested by 7/31/2023



Give the Gift of Sight

Help the visually impaired around the world by donating your old prescription eyeglasses. Glasses are cleaned, repaired, and classified by prescription. Then they are distributed to needy people in developing countries.

Used eyeglasses and sunglasses may be placed in the second drawer of the service cart in the fellowship hall.



Newborn Kit Assembly

July 25 | 6:30 p.m.

This fun night of fellowship is an opportunity to serve newborn babies around the world. We have been collecting items for the kit throughout the year and will gather this night to assemble the kits. All ages and abilities are able to participate.

Current needs for kits:

- Onesies
- Ivory soap (3.17 or 4 oz. bars)
- Cash (for diapers and shipping)

Contents of a Newborn Kit:



Donation Thank You

Mid-June a bin full of donated items was delivered to the Women's Center. THANK YOU! While the emphasis month for TWC is February, there is an ongoing need each month. Your generosity sends God's love to women/children in need - INDEED! The bin in the fellowship hall is ready to accept future donations.

Thank You, Mary A.



Pave the Way Campaign

Plan for crucial property improvements and ministry enhancements introduced at June Annual Meeting

An important item on the June Annual Meeting agenda was the introduction to the Pave the Way Campaign, a year-long giving campaign to raise \$283,800 necessary to complete four primary projects identified by the property and finance committees and the church council as having the highest priority. Additionally, the campaign includes a tithe to the Hope Center for renovations of their new building.

Council president, Brian Zach, reported on the early work of the property committee and a campaign committee called together by the church council. A one-page project and campaign concept summary was distributed and is available on the SJLC website and the information kiosk in the narthex.

The Pave the Way campaign will fund the following projects:

Critical repair and painting of the exterior of our church building - completed April 2023 **\$28,000**

The decision to move forward before fundraising was initiated was based on the advanced degree of damage. Leadership determined that it was prudent to tend to this work before the damage progressed.

Reconstruction and Landscaping of the Circle Drive **\$150,000**

The largest project of the campaign is the re-construction of the Circle Drive. Under consideration for over a decade, this project is long overdue. Plans include removal of the existing pavement, the building up of the drive foundation, and new asphalt. The Circle Drive project also includes a number of beautification and ministry enhancement elements.

A new electronic outdoor sign **\$60,000**

SJLC sits in a prime location in a thriving residential and commercial area, but the location of our current sign offers limited visibility, especially for traffic coming from the south. To increase awareness, visibility, and witness to the community, the plan includes installing a new electronic two-way sign on Barker Rd.

Narthex Update **\$20,000**

The interiors committee is working on a plan to create a more open welcome area where members and visitors can gather and share fellowship. It is anticipated that the refreshed space will include comfortable conversation spots, a coffee bar and improved internal building signage.

Tithe to Hope Center **\$28,000**

In keeping with our tradition, the Campaign includes a tithe of our total project costs to the Hope Center for the renovation of their new building.



The campaign committee is planning for a campaign kick-off all church picnic on October 1 but we hope to share much more information on the campaign and the individual project components in the weeks and months to come. Stay tuned!

The campaign committee (listed below) welcomes your questions and comments.

Cindy Halverson
cynthia.halverson@elca.org
Gary Schettler
gary@schettler.us
Brittany Larson
bllarson898@gmail.com
Jerry Hanson
jerryhansonrhp@gmail.com
Carrie Peters
spalca10@gmail.com
Pam Klink
pklink@stjohnsbrookfield.org
Pastor Brian
pastorbrian@stjohnsbrookfield.org



Council Communications

1. New council member Liz Roth was welcomed.
2. Paving the Way is being planned out for the Summer and Fall after great feedback from the annual meeting. Sunday School contributed \$1,000 with their "penny war". \$5,000 was given to the Synod Capital campaign. The campaign will kick off in earnest this Fall.
3. Fall study highlight will be "short stories by Jesus" by Amy-Jill Levine.
4. Returning to pre-COVID service time for second service to accommodate worship, education, and fellowship.
5. Music Camp was a well attended event and a great example of being a valuable part of the community.

St. John's Council

President	
Brian Zach	608-279-3577
Vice-president	
Keith Paukner	414-916-2618
Secretary	
Josh Werner	262-271-0639
Treasurer	
Carrie Peters	262-853-5888
At Large	
Jim Morgan	262-893-7385
Mark Latus	262-784-1183
Charlotte Yourell	
Brittany Larson	262-527-2404
Liz Roth	847-533-4806

Welcome
Liz

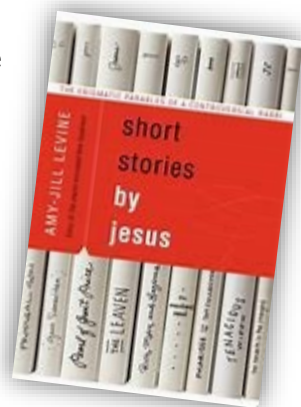
Parables of Jesus

What might it be like hearing the Parables at the knee of Jesus?

What was he telling us? What should we be taking away from his short stories in the 21st Century?

This coming October you'll have an opportunity to answer those questions and more when St. John's reads Amy Jill Levine's book: The Short Stories of Jesus. Amy Jill, who is a Professor of Jewish Studies and the New Testament at Vanderbilt University's School of Theology, provides a new perspective on Jesus' use of parables in his teachings.

Watch here for more information later this summer about this new St. John's Reads Program.



July Birthdays

1 Gail Mathes	8 Barbara Reed	19 Kari Stahl	28 Janice Nelson
1 Diane Mueller	9 Nicco Caravella	19 Charlotte Werner	28 Jacob Roth
2 Karen Davis	10 Jack Nettekoven	21 John Augustine	29 Jean Borkenhagen
2 Adalyn Elfers	10 Mary Spencer	21 Dennis Whitehead	29 James Pirlot
2 Michael Wright	11 Ricky Wicklund	22 Maggie Scanlon	30 Jan Delzer
3 Michelle Werner	12 Kathi Campbell	24 Kyle Cornelius	30 Tyler Rateike
4 Karmen Dippmann	12 Barb Falk	25 Austin Fuller	30 Ryan Walker
5 Todd Athorp	15 Gail Rennie	25 Bill Hughes	31 Missi Anderson
5 Cindy Schaefer	15 Isabella Salinas	26 Debbie Bruck	31 Paul Moran
6 James Mathes	17 Sharon Mahoney	26 Sherry Olson	
6 AJ Warp	17 Alice Yourell	26 Deborah Petersen	
7 Mickey Fank	18 Mary Mueller	26 Tom Potratz	
7 Cali Walker	19 Michele Bertrand	26 Shirley Tutaj	
8 Vicki Latus	19 Emma Campeau	28 Linda Klemm	

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Contact Us

Office Hours

The St. John's phone is answered and doors are monitored for entry 9:00-Noon, Monday to Friday.

Church

phone: 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

rickinger@stjohnsbrookfield.org

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 ...

We pray for those who are **battling illness, are healing, or are needing extra prayers:**

Barb K	Dorothy E
Floyd K	Cindy H
John G	Steve W
Dylan H	Jerry M
Carol S	Cheryl H
Neal S	Nancy K

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

Creation Corner

The average American family takes home almost 1,500 plastic shopping bags a year, and only 1% are recycled!

Keep your reusable bags in your car so they are always with you. Using cloth bags is not just for supermarkets! Remember to use them at hardware stores, drug stores, clothing stores and the farmer's market too.



Staff Phone Extensions

St. John's Phone Number: 262-786-6887

Extensions:


- 100 Sue Smith, Admin Assistant
- 101 Brian Halverson, Senior Pastor
- 102 Pam Klink, Communications Coordinator
- 103 Bill Stace, Building Supervisor
- 104 Joanna Salinas, Children's Ministry
- 105 Stephanie Broussard, Youth Ministry
- 106 Rebecca Mitchell, Bookkeeper
- 107 Becky Whelpley, Music Director
- 200 Laura Rickinger, Preschool



Attention Facebook Users

Evangelize with our posts, be sure to: **LIKE COMMENT SHARE**

Calendar of events for July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*worship service/event is live streamed						1
2 9:00a outdoor worship*	3 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon	4 	5 Food Pantry Pick Up 8:30a Retired Men's bfast 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	6 6:30p AI-Anon 6:00p quilters	7 6:15a virtual men's group	8 <div>Boundary Waters Trip begins</div>
9 8:30a worship* 10:00a worship	10 10:00a <div>Office closed</div> 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon	11 10:00a staff mtg	12 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p Summer Sampler	13 4:00p Finance Team mtg 6:30p AI-Anon	14 6:15a virtual men's group 10:00a prayer shawl group	15
Boundary Waters Trip						
16 8:30a worship* 10:00a worship	17 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon 6:30p council mtg	18 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 6:30p HR mtg (virtual) 7:00p trivia at Café Hollander	19 12:00p Retired Men's lunch 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p Summer Sampler	20 6:30p AI-Anon	21 6:15a virtual men's group	22
23 8:30a worship* 10:00a worship	24 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon 6:30p Newborn Kit set up	25 8:30a property team) 10:00a staff mtg 6:30p Newborn Kit assembly	26 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p Summer Sampler	27 6:30p AI-Anon	28 6:15a virtual men's group	29
30 8:30a worship* 10:00a worship 11:00a VBS set up	31 9:00a VBS 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon	To request space for your small group or ministry to meet in the building, please complete the Facility Use Form on the St. John's website. It is under the Resources tab - Documents and Forms . Contact Sue Smith , Administrative Assistant with questions.				



Summer
at St. John's 2023

FAMILY FUN NIGHT



We had a ball at our first Family Fun Night on June 14! About 45 St. John's members and friends joined for gaga ball, floor hockey, bouncing, and ice cream.

See you August 3 for live music, campfire and smores, drumming and more!



Click or scan the QR code for more information on summer happenings at St. John's.

Summer at St. John's



Inspire

July 2023