

Emmanuel

Advent is a breath
slight as wind through snow
strong as a choir before the note
fierce as a mother in labor
deep as God's sigh for the world.

So breathe.

Breathe hope and peace.
Breathe joy and love.
Breathe Christ,
who breathes in you.
Emmanuel, God with us.

With every breath,
God be with us.

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St. John's Lutheran
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Follow Us

Website: www.makedisciples.com

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

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Pastor Ponders

by Pastor Brian Halverson

We often hear people say, “I can’t believe it is already Christmas!” It is true. The Advent/Christmas season is upon us – seasons of anticipation and fulfillment. We look forward to lighting the candles during the Advent services, culminating in the Christmas eve services in which we light candles, turn off the lights, and sing Silent Night. The colors of deep blue in Advent change into white as we go from Advent to Christmas. And the music, which is always great, has a deeper resonance during these seasons. They are truly joyous seasons.

It is important always to remember that in this chronological time, we are transported into Kairos time, a time beyond our earthly time measurements. We are in God’s time, which I like to think as “time-fullness” as opposed to timelessness. The fullness of time, in God, has no boundaries, so what has come before, what is now, and what is to come, already exist in the time-fullness of God. So, as we

celebrate this Christmas, we remember that we celebrate with all the saints who have gone before us, as we worship with the saints here and now, and with the saints who come after us, the ones who will pick up where we have left off.

It is a time when all creation sings for joy at the coming of the Lord!

Pastor Brian

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

December 24
11 AM
2 PM
4 PM



December 25
9 AM

Pave the (Royal High)Way

by Pastor Brian Halverson

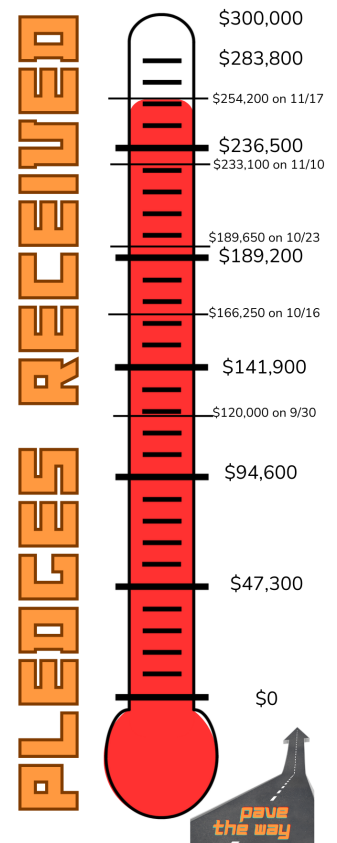
In Advent we sing a very familiar hymn “Prepare the Royal Highway”, a hymn that recalls the travel in Jesus’ time, when royalty would travel by caravan. Before they began their journey, however, people, usually slaves, would have to prepare the roads so that the royal caravan could traverse the landscape on an even plane.

Good maintenance of the roads was essential for trade, and Palestine was right along the trade routes between the empires in the north and east and Egypt in the south. The ports in Palestine along the Mediterranean Sea were also vital to the commerce and wealth of the region.

Although St. John’s is not on a major trade route, persons who walk or drive by see our church and can get an impression of us by what they see. Therefore, it is important for us as a church, with a beautiful building, to keep the exterior and interior, including parking lots, landscaping, signage, and furnishings up to date and attractive as possible. We want to continue to be an inviting facility that cares for the “travelers” along the way.

With our “Pave the Way” campaign and projects, we are doing just that. So far, we have received pledges totaling over \$250,000 on our way to the goal of \$300,000. Over 80 persons have made a commitment to move forward with our plans. Because of your generosity we will fulfill our commitment to upgrading and beautifying our church. Our plans will come to fruition by the grace of God and your dedication.

Well done! Let’s keep going along that royal highway!



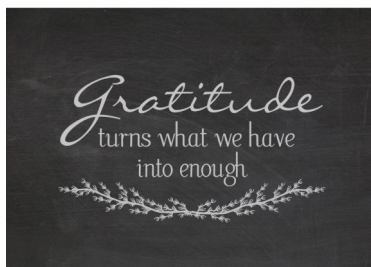
Children, Youth & Families

St. John's Preschool

Food Drive

Thank you, Preschool Families, for your generous support of our 10th annual Food Drive. With each donation the bin filled with healthy food to share with others.

What a wonderful experience for our youngest learners.



"So two good things happen as a result of your gifts—those in need are helped, and they overflow with thanks to God. Those you help will be glad not only because of your generous gifts to themselves and to others, but they will praise God for this proof that your deeds are as good as your doctrine."

2 Corinthians 9

New Water Fountain Makes Big Splash

Woot! Woot! Have you seen our new water fountain with a filtered water bottle filling station??? Thank a kid!

During our Summer "Seeds of Change" VBS, students raised the seed money to purchase the new drinking fountain to replace our dependence on disposable water bottles.

A huge thank you to Dick Gennerman, Ken Bahr, Bill Stace and the rest of the property team for their support and hard work to get the fountain installed!



Children, Youth & Families

**No Child, Youth,
and Families
programming on
December 24 and 31.**

Merry Christmas!

Sunday School in Advent

Join us for Sunday School in Advent for Finding Christmas: Under the Sea! This is a fun look at the Christmas Story through the lens of our favorite underwater animals!

New to Sunday School?

Email Joanna for information. jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org.



Contact Joanna
with Toddler to 8th
Grade Questions

jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org.

Sunday School

Join us Sundays at 9:45am in the sanctuary for Sunday School!



Upcoming Middle School Events

Advent Party and Mini Golf

[Sign up here!](#)



Sunday Evening Ed

We are excited to offer programming for our Middle Schoolers on Sunday evenings from 4:30-6:00pm. Each week we start with dinner!

7th & 8th grade Calendar

- Dec. 10 Confirmation Class 4:30-6:00pm
- Dec. 17 Advent Party 4:30-6:00pm
- Dec. 24 No Class

5th & 6th grade Calendar

- Dec. 3 Connect Class 4:30-6:00pm
- Dec. 17 Advent Party 4:30-6:00pm
- Dec. 31 No Class

Children, Youth & Families

HS Youth Group Calendar

Date	Event	Time
12/3	Youth Group	4:30-6:00pm
12/10	Youth Group	4:30-6:00pm
12/13	All Peoples Food Shopping	6:30pm
12/15	9th Grade to Jewish Temple	5:30-9:30pm
12/17	Card Making with Sunday School	9:30-10:30am
12/17	Advent Party	4:30-6:00pm



Help Make Cards

December 17 | 9:30-10:30 am

The Youth Group will help the Sunday School kids make cards for the shut ins !

Sunday Evening Youth Group

Youth Group will not meet on December 24 or December 31. Merry Christmas!

Advent Party

December 17 | 4:30-6:00 pm

Hey Youth! Come join us for a fun night of food, games and lots of laughter!

All Peoples Food Shopping

Call all high schoolers to help shop at Woodman's on Wednesday, December 13 for fresh fruit and frozen meat for the Christmas Food Drive that will be delivered Saturday morning.

Please [sign up here](#) if you will be attending.



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

sbroussard@stjohnsbrookfield.org



Confirmation

In November, our 9th grade Confirmation students learned about Judaism as a part of their Comparative Religions class. We had Michael Taibleson come in and talk with us. He had a lot to teach us about Judaism, as well as what things are similar or different between our religions and daily life. In the middle of November, we will be heading to Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun in River Hills to participate in an evening service.

6 VERSES TO PRAY AS PRAISE FOR ADVENT

A

ALMIGHTY

Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty—he is the king of glory. Psalm 24:10

D

DELIVERER

The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer. Psalm 18:2

V

VICTORY

"It is I, proclaiming victory, mighty to save." Isaiah 63:1

E

ETERNAL ONE

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. Deuteronomy 33:27

N

NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name. Philippians 2:9

T

TRUTH

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. John 8:32

From Pray A to Z by Amelia Rhodes. © Published by Worthing Inspired, a division of Worthing Publishing Group. Used by permission. www.ameliarhodes.com

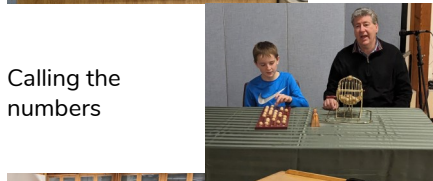
Thankful

Bingo and Brownies

Thanks to everyone who came for Bingo & Brownies and especially for your generosity! The Middle Schoolers raised over \$600 for Pave the Way!



Making brownies



Calling the numbers



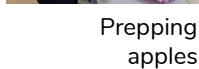
Tracking the numbers

Winter Market

What a wonderful morning! Thank you to all of our amazing vendors and volunteers who helped make the day a smashing success! All money raised from this event goes to the Food, Faith, and Farming Network and specifically, Harvest for Hope Fund, which provides emergency funds for Wisconsin farmers in crisis.



Making egg bakes



Prepping apples



Scooping up yogurt

Adult Ministries

St. John's Academy

Two more sessions of the St. John's Academy are scheduled! Both will be insightful and meaningful, presented by dynamic speakers.

January 21, 2024 | 5:00 p.m.

Pastor Mary Martha Kannass from Hepatha Lutheran Church

March 3, 2024 | 5:00 p.m.

Former Wisconsin Gov. Martin J. Schreiber

The Academy ✠
at St. John's

Advent Devotion

Family history

by Pastor Matt Ewart

Being a Jew in the first century included with it a certain amount of pride in your ancestors. Jewish families would tell stories about the patriarchs of old times: Abraham and his daring faith, Isaac and his miracle birth, Jacob and his wrestling with God. And you can't forget the heroism and leadership of King David.

It was expected, then, that when Matthew wrote an account of Jesus' life, he would begin with a list of Jesus' ancestors. And he did. But what was unexpected were the ancestors that Matthew highlighted. Here are just a few names from Matthew chapter 1: **"Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. ... Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. ... David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife"** (verses 3,5,6).

What's the point? Matthew didn't shy away from the darker side of Jewish history. By referencing Tamar, Rahab, and Uriah's wife (feel free to research their stories later today), Matthew made one thing abundantly clear: The kind of people Jesus came from were far from perfect. In fact, Jesus' family history contained some embarrassing stories and questionable characters.

So why would God want Matthew to highlight these people from Jesus' family tree? If you keep reading about Jesus' life, the point makes itself clear: The kind of people Jesus came from are the kind of people Jesus came for.

It doesn't matter how embarrassing or questionable your past is. Jesus came for people like you. And people like me.

"Devotion used by permission of Time of Grace®.
For more information, visit timeofgrace.org."

Music Notes

Waiting in Advent

ADVENT IS A TIME OF WAITING
WITH EXCITEMENT AND HOPE BUT
ALSO A TIME TO BE ALERT AND BE
PREPARED. MAY THE MUSIC OF
ADVENT BRING YOU A SENSE OF
ALL OF THESE THINGS AS WE NOT
ONLY AWAIT JESUS' BIRTH BUT HIS
SECOND COMING.

Kids of the Kingdom

Look at our growing Kids of the Kingdom experience!



KIDS
of the
KINGDOM

Mark Your Calendars

December 2, 2023
Jubilate Choral Concert

The Jubilate Choral will present "Song in the Night: Christmas with Jubilate and Friends" on Saturday, December 2 at 7:30 pm at St. John's. Under the direction of Vicki Taylor and accompanist Becky Whelpley.

Tickets available at the concert.



December 10, 2023
Christmas Music Weekend

The Choirs and instrumentalists will present a Christmas Music Weekend on December 10 at both services. Invite your friends and family to worship with us as we hear scripture, sing songs of the season, and hear the ensembles of St. John's.

February 4, 2024
Members' Recital

It's not too early to mark your calendars for St. John's Members and Friends Recital on Sunday, February 4 at 3 pm. The recital will feature a number of St. John's talented high school students as well as the choir and handbell choir.

**Questions about
music at
St. John's?**

Contact Becky!

bwhelpley@stjohnsbrookfield.org



Envelopes

Have you switched to online giving but still have giving envelopes? If so, please let the office know that you do not need giving envelopes in 2024.

This allows us to be better stewards of our resources.

Thank you!



Creation Corner

Use Recyclable Wrapping Paper!

Americans throw away 25% more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year's holiday period than any other time of year. The extra waste amounts to 25 million tons of garbage, or about 1 million extra tons per week!

Reduce your impact by considering how you wrap your gifts. A general rule of thumb is that regular wrapping paper (including the glossy stuff) is often recyclable as long as it doesn't have non-paper additives. Metallic embellishments, glitter, and plastic-coated items will land your paper in the landfill. Bows, string, tissue paper and ribbon should also not be recycled. Consider using reusable bags and saving bows, ribbon, boxes, and other wrapping items for reuse.

Caring is Sharing at Christmas

Christmas Food Drive

Christmas Food Drive

Return all food to St. John's by 9:00 a.m., December 16

Donation Delivery Information

- Bring all food donations for All Peoples and/or the Waukesha Food Pantry to St. John's by 9:00 a.m. on December 16.
- Double bag the donations in paper bags or use cloth bags. (A limited number of cloth bags are available for All Peoples donations as most clients will carry food home on foot and paper bags tear easily.)
- Staple the list to the bag.



Transport drivers needed.

- Drivers are need for food transport to All Peoples and Waukesha Food Pantry.
- Email Brian Cranfill (briancranfill1@gmail.com) if you can be a driver, specify which destination, or sign up in the lobby/narthex.

WHITE Food List for Waukesha Food Pantry

- Canned fruits in juice (pineapple is popular)
- Whole grain cereal
- Shelf stable soy/almond milk
- Ready to eat soups with meat
- Canned pasta with meat
- Shelf stable proteins: tuna, chicken, ham, tofu
- Baby formula (especially Similac)
- 100% fruit juice

TURKEY (8-12 lbs.) or
HAMS (3-8 lbs.) for families
to build a Christmas meal around.



GREEN Food List for All Peoples

- 2 15.25 oz. cans whole kernel corn
- 1 29 oz. or 2 14.5 oz. cans peaches
- 3 pound bag of red or white potatoes
- 12-16 oz. of turkey gravy
- 1 box hot chocolate (6-8 packets)
- 1 16 oz. bottle canola oil
- 1 10-12 oz. Uncle Ben's or Rice-a-Roni
- 24-30 oz. sweet potatoes
- Christmas cookies

(This list complements the RED list.)
Deliver to St. John's by 9:00 a.m., December 16.
Place in cloth bag or double paper bag.

RED Food List for All Peoples

- 1 12 oz. or 2 6oz. bag stuffing
- 3 boxes Jiffy Cornbread mix
- 2 14.5 oz. cans green beans
- 1 10.5 oz. can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 3-6 oz. can/packet fried onion rings
- 1 lb. elbow macaroni noodles
- 1 lb. Velveeta cheese
- 1 12 oz. can whole cranberry sauce
- 1 5-7 oz. hot sauce

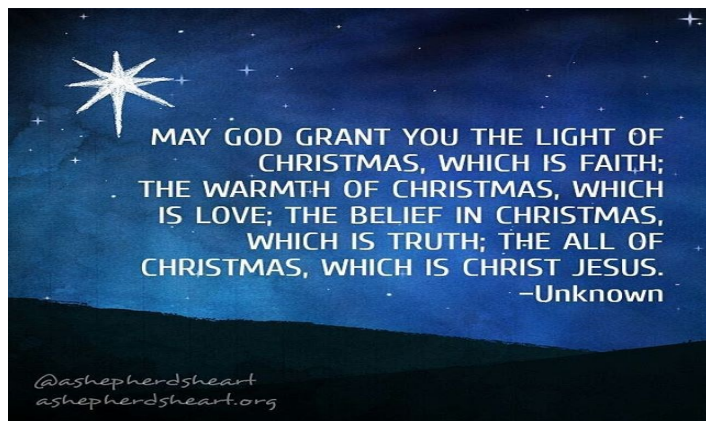
(This list complements the GREEN list.)
Deliver to St. John's by 9:00 a.m., December 16.
Place in cloth bag or double paper bag.

Card Ministry

St. John's people have been collecting cards for 24 years. To date, this year we have collected 340 new cards. A big "Thank you" to all who have supported this ministry.

We have decided to continue this project, but will only accept **NEW CARDS WITH THEIR ENVELOPES** for residents of nursing homes and Hope Center to send out. The cards may be placed in the lower right hand cupboard of the Women's Ministry cart in the Fellowship Hall.

Any questions, please contact Kathy Hoepfner at 262 786-0412 or tkhoepfner2@gmail.com.



Giving Tree

Giving Tree 2023

A St. John's tradition - the annual Giving Tree. Which ornaments will you select off the tree to bless others this Christmas?



ACAP Angel's Baby Closet
WILC Women's Center

Women's Center

Holiday gift giving is very important for adults and children who have experienced domestic or sexual abuse or human trafficking. The Women's Center helps throughout the crises and to start over after leaving abuse. Over 90% of the clients live below federal poverty level. St. John's members individually and collectively can help.

Primary: Gift cards to Walmart, Aldi, Meijer, or gas cards. Place gift cards into one of the St. John's drop boxes.

Or visit: www.twcwaukesha.org/getinvolved/donation-wish-list.

Thank you,
Mary Almasi

THE
Women's
CENTER
Safety. Shelter. Support.

Council Communications

Fellow Disciples,

I pray this news finds you healthy and well as we wrap up the beautiful colors of Fall and we now have been blessed with a little blanket of snow. The following are highlights from the November 20 Council meeting.

President Report

- Pave the Way update: Part of the circle drive reconstruction project with Poblocki Paving included crack filing and repainting the parking lot. In November, the cracks were filled to help prolong the life of the parking lot. Poblocki wrapped up this first phase, by painting/stripping and creating two additional handicap spaces.
- Pave the Way financial tithe update: Council voted to move forward with our tithe commitment to the Hope Center. With the exterior painting project complete, St. John's will tithe \$2,786.35 to the Hope Center. Future tithe will be issued after we complete further projects authorized as part of the Pave the Way Campaign.

- Congratulations to Sue Smith on her retirement. We were so blessed for Sue's support and expertise over the past year and half. We wish Sue all the best in the next chapter of her life.
- With Sue's retirement, St. John's is looking to hire an Administrative Assistant. Interested individuals should contact the office for additional details.
- Council approved the recommendation brought forth by the Endowment Committee to distribute \$7,150. Thank you Endowment Committee, for your work on this amazing ministry.
- Budgeting for 2024 is underway.

Financial Report

- As we near the end of the year, I want to thank you for your faithful and gracious giving.
- Based on October's year to date financial reports, our year to date giving may not reach projected estimates, though with our fiscal responsible spending we may be

able to meet expenses based on the current giving trends.

- The balance of the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) as of November 12 was \$114,231.59.

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

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 262-527-2404

Brittany Larson 847-533-4806

Liz Roth

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: DECEMBER 18 AT 6:30 P.M.



December Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 Mari Osmon	9 Jason Turner	16 Mark Paget	25 Mark Reinfeldt
1 Lori Paget	10 Janet Otten	17 Ryan Gillette	25 Sandy Scherer
3 Isaac Roth	11 Michael Haas	17 Dale Landgren	26 Fred Fuller
4 Maelyn Olson	12 Barb Bessette	17 Steve Pirlot	26 Emily Otten
4 Owen Visuri	12 Robert Wagner	18 Jen Beug-Hoffman	27 Lily Fuller
5 Gary Bruck	12 Ava Zahn	18 Anna Douglas	27 Duane Walsh
6 Jenny Augustine	13 Ronald Bertrand	19 Carole Lewis	28 Jessica Gugel
7 Michael Petfalski	13 Gary Fritz	20 Brooklyn Barz	29 Mayzie Allbaugh
7 Reini Wasemiller	13 Sharlene Waller	20 Sandy Koscielniak	30 Jacob Hoem
8 Mariah Fuller	13 Andrea Warp	20 Donald Spencer	30 Peggy Keough
8 Ian Kraus	14 Jerry Mahoney	21 Holly Zahn	30 Ryan Rateike
8 Gail Krebs	15 Payton Fuerstenberg	23 Mark Surma	31 Hailey Adams
8 Kelly Petfalski	15 Will Whitaker	25 Jane Babcock	31 Hope Burns
8 Jo Riley	15 Jack Whitaker	25 Carol May	31 John Seamonson

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

Irlickinger@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

Endowment Grants

On behalf of the Council, it is with great pleasure to announce the Endowment Committee's recommendation to disperse \$7,150 to the following ministries. What a blessing it is to help support those ministries in need.

- St. John's Food Box Drive
- Waukesha Food Pantry
- Just One More Ministry
- El Salvador Days for Girls Kits
- St. John's Newborn kits
- Habitat for Humanity
- St. John's Pave the Way capital campaign
- All Peoples Church food pantry
- St. John's Preschool scholarship program



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 December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*worship service/event is live streamed	<div> <p>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 Pam with questions.</p> </div>				1 6:15a virtual men's group 7:30p Chinese Bible Study	2 8:30a Saturday Men's Grp 9:00a rehearsal 7:30p Jubilate Chorale Concert
3 <i>Advent 1</i> 8:30a worship* 9:45a education & fellowship 10:45a worship 4:30p youth group 4:30p 5th/6th graders 5:00p Advent Meditation	4 <i>Food Pantry Pick Up</i> 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon	5 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 4:00p Finance Budget mtg 6:00p quilters 6:00p Indian Culture Dance 6:30p handbell rehearsal	6 8:30a Retired Men's bfast 5:15p KOTK 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	7 6:30p Al-Anon 6:30p Indian Culture Dance	8 6:15a virtual men's group 9:00a book club (offsite) 10:00a prayer shawl group 7:30p Chinese Bible Study	9 8:30a Saturday Men's Grp
10 <i>Music Sunday</i> 8:30a worship* 9:30a Musician Breakfast 9:45a education & fellowship 10:45a worship 2:00p piano recital 4:30p youth group 4:30p 7th/8th graders 5:00p Advent Meditation	11 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon	12 8:30a property team 8:30a ladies Bible study (offsite) 10:00a staff mtg 6:00p Indian Culture Dance	13 9:30a women's Bible study 5:15p KOTK 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal 6:30p youth group shopping	14 4:00p Finance Team mtg 6:00p Preschool Program 6:30p Al-Anon 6:30p Indian Culture Dance	15 6:15a virtual men's group 5:30p 9th grade to Jewish Temple 7:30p Chinese Bible Study	16 8:30a Saturday Men's Grp
17 <i>Advent 3</i> 8:30a worship* 9:45a education & fellowship 10:45a worship 4:30p Advent Party 5:00p Advent Meditation	18 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 1:00p women's afternoon study group 6:30p Al-Anon 6:30p council mtg	19 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 1:00p book club 6:00p Indian Culture Dance	20 12:00p Retired Men's lunch 5:15p KOTK 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	21 6:30p Al-Anon 6:30p Indian Culture Dance	22 6:15a virtual men's group	23
24 <i>Advent 4/Christmas Eve</i> 8:30a Advent worship* 11:00a worship 2:00p worship* 4:00p worship*	25 <i>Christmas</i> 9:00a worship 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon 	26 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 6:00p Indian Culture Dance	27 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	28 6:30p Al-Anon 6:30p Indian Culture Dance	29 <i>office closed</i> 6:15a virtual men's group	30
31 9:00a worship*						

Important Advent and Christmas Information

December 24

The season of Advent, the beginning of the church calendar year, is the four Sundays before Christmas Day. This year, the fourth Sunday before Christmas is December 24. To honor both Advent 4 and Christmas Eve, the schedule for December 24 is:

- 8:30a Advent 4 Worship
- 11:00a Christmas Eve worship with candlelight, music includes flute and handbells
- 2:00p Christmas Eve worship with candlelight and "No Rehearsal Pageant", music includes children's choir
- 4:00p Christmas Eve worship with candlelight, music includes choir and brass

Advent Devotions

Advent begins next Sunday, December 3. We will be sending a daily email with a recorded devotion, every day during Advent, to everyone who receives our Happenings emails. If you would like to receive the devotions, but do not currently receive the Happenings, contact [Pam](#).

Advent Meditation Hours

Sundays | December 3, 10, 17 | 5:00-6:00 pm

When chaos and emotions of December are too much - and you find yourself needing to refocus - come to St. John's for sanctuary. The sanctuary will be open. Lights will be low. Candles will be lit. Soft music will be playing. Come for the whole hour or just a few minutes, whatever works best for you. You may sit and quietly meditate on supplied material, or you may just sit.

Poinsettias

Filling our sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas sets the stage for celebrating the birth of our Savior. You can contribute a poinsettia as a tribute to a loved one! How?

- Go to www.makedisciples.com
- Click on Sign Up Genius.
- Click on the Poinsettia tab.
- Select the size of poinsettia(s) you wish to contribute.
- Pay for the poinsettia(s) [online](#) or by putting cash or check in the offering with a memo indicating poinsettias.



In Our Community

Live Nativity

Everyone is invited to Mt. Zion Lutheran's Live Nativity on Saturday, December 16. We will have a soup dinner, indoor entertainment, carols, bonfires and more! The Festivities kick off at 5:00 pm.

Christmas Meal for Homebound and Needy

On Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, 2023, volunteers at St. William Parish will again be preparing and delivering free meals to anyone in the Waukesha county area who may be homebound, alone, or just having a hard time making ends meet. The meals prepared by volunteers at St. William's are available to anyone to ensure that no one spends Christmas alone or goes without a warm dinner.

The meals are available to be delivered or picked-up between 11:00 am and 1:15 pm. If you or someone you know would appreciate a warm Christmas meal and a friendly visit, contact Marcia at 262-798-1520. Requests for meals will be accepted through Friday, December 15.