



## In This Issue

Children, Youth and Family.....	4-6
Council Communications.....	9
Pave the Way .....	3
Serving and Learning .....	7
Year in Review .....	12



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

262-786-6887

## Follow Us

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

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

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# Pastor Ponders

by Pastor Brian Halverson

We finish our calendar year with two holidays – Christmas and New Year's. They are so close together that many people take the week between them as a time away from work. It is a nice ending to the year.

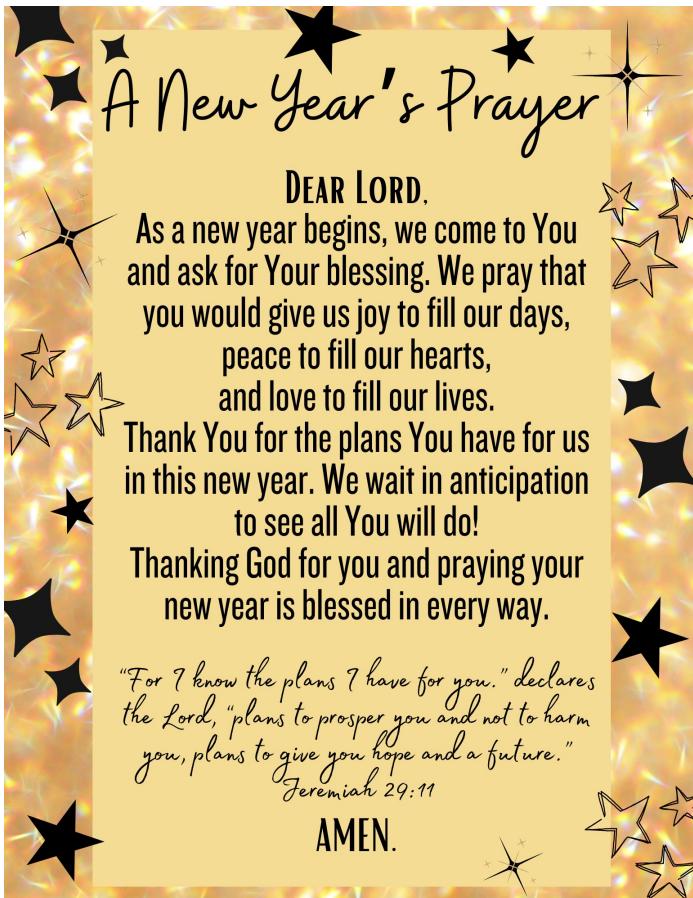
This past year of 2023 has been a wonderful year for St. John's. The proclamation of the gospel, both in word and in deed, has inspired and encouraged so many people, within the church and without. The church programming has been stellar, highlighted by our youth and music ministries that witness to the vibrancy of God's love, the educational opportunities and studies that have enriched and deepened our faith, the outreach ministries and visitation teams that support and provide essential services that bring hope and love to a broken world, and the in-reach ministries that serve the congregation through building projects, hospitality coffees and lunches, welcoming persons who greet and answer questions for visitors. All these activities have all been a blessing to God's church.

The year 2024, I am sure, will bring with it many blessings and challenges, as each year does. With God's grace and strength to further us along our faith journeys, we will accomplish many good things. This is the time in which we take the story of Jesus birth in Bethlehem into our hearts and move toward a time when our hearts will break at the foot of the cross.

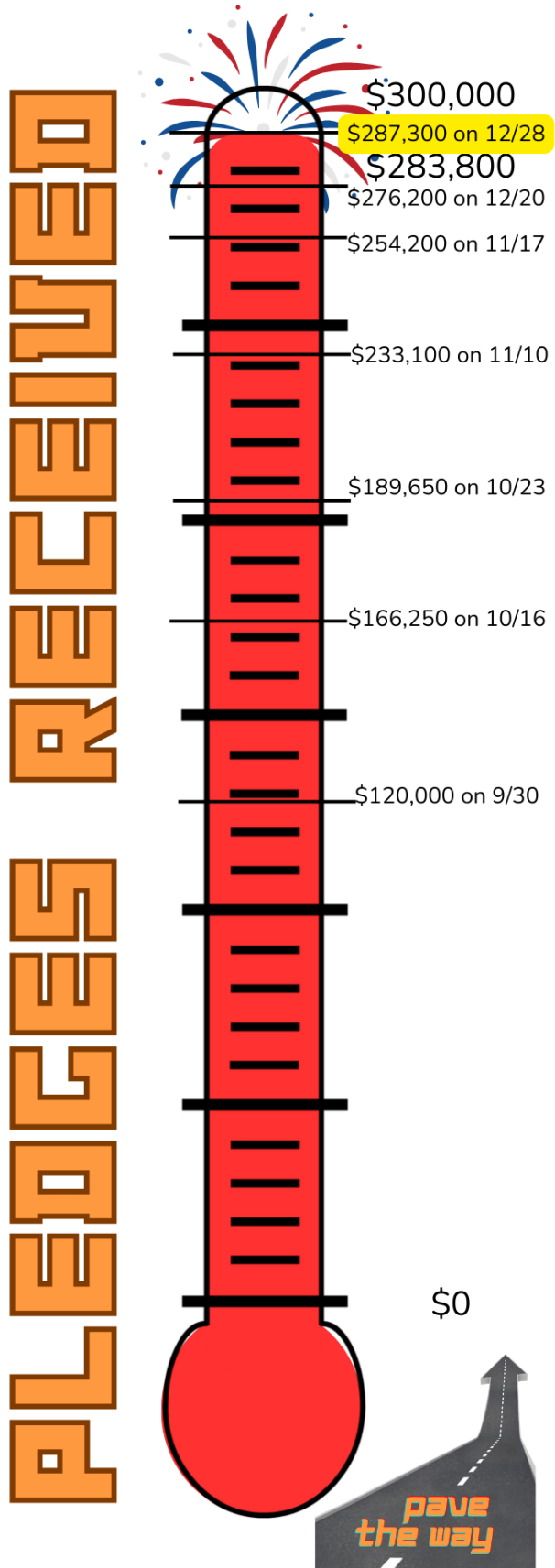
We live in a new year with this amazing story, the story of Jesus Christ, who fills and fulfills our deepest hopes and redeems us in the glory of God.

Now that is something to celebrate all year long!

*Pastor Brian*



# Pave the Way - Great News to Share



We have great news to share as we begin the new year and look forward to planning and paving the way for ministry in 2024 and beyond. With the Christmas weekend pledges, commitments to our Pave the Way campaign have reached **\$287,386.55!** We are just short of our \$300,000 goal by approximately \$13,000. More than half of the pledged funds have been received. This wonderfully generous response has positioned St. John's to move forward with reconstruction of the circle drive in 2024. As a reminder, the painting of the church building and striping of the parking lot are completed and paid off, and an initial tithe to the Hope Center was sent in December.

Heartfelt thanks to all who have included the Pave the Way campaign in your 2023 charitable giving and overall charitable planning into 2024. As we reflect on the beauty and joy of the Advent and Christmas Season at St. John's, we acknowledge God's presence among us and God's abundant blessings poured out on our congregation and its ministry. The Lord has indeed given us a Christmas to remember as we celebrate the greatest gift of all.

Peace and blessings,  
Pave the Way Campaign Committee





# Children, Youth & Families

## St. John's Preschool Christmas Program



On December 14, decked out in their holiday finest, our Two, Three and Four year olds sang Christmas songs. We listened to our friends Alice and Katelyn sing our Christmas story, The Friendly Animals, as we all watched the story, too.



Then it was the grownup's time to sing lots of Christmas favorites in the Family Sing Along. The program ended with a lovely and gentle Silent Night.

Many thanks to Barb Lange, our Music Teacher, for a wonderful program.

We ended our evening with cupcakes in the Fellowship Hall.





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

# We're Now Enrolling for 2024-2025

<b>Two Year Old Class</b> My introduction to Preschool	<b>Three Year Old Class</b> I'm learning and exploring in Preschool	<b>Four Year Old Class</b> I'm getting ready for 4K and 5K
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Email Us at: [lickinger@stjohnsbrookfield.org](mailto:lickinger@stjohnsbrookfield.org) – Call Us at: 262-786-4298  
20275 Davidson Road Brookfield, WI 53045



# Children, Youth & Families



## Baptism

Interested in Baptism for yourself, your child or grandchild? Please reach out to Pastor Brian at [pastorbrian@stjohnsbrookfield.org](mailto:pastorbrian@stjohnsbrookfield.org).



**Contact Joanna  
with Toddler to 8th  
Grade Questions**

[jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org](mailto:jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org).



## Sunday School Stewardship Update

Moo! Ba-a-a! Cluck, Cluck, Cluck! This month our Sunday School offering is supporting ELCA World Hunger Efforts through ELCA Good Gifts. We already raised enough to buy two goats!

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed in November and December! We were able to sponsor three separate families through the Waukesha County Christmas Clearing Council and help their families have a great Christmas!



## Sunday School

Join us Sundays at 9:45am for Sunday School! In January we are diving back into the Bible's Greatest Hits and exploring stories about John the Baptist, the calling of the disciples, and Hannah and Samuel.

Sunday School programming is for ages 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join the Youth Leadership Team which meets on Sundays in the Paul Room.

Questions? Contact Joanna at [jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org](mailto:jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org).

## Joanna Is Heading to El Salvador

Joanna will be traveling in El Salvador from January 6-14. If there is a critical need, please contact the church office. Ariella will be filling in for Joanna on Sunday mornings. Thanks Ariella!!

## Thank you for pageant help!

A huge thank you to Michelle Sternkopf and Jane Olinger for their help with our Instant Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve!



## Sunday Evening Ed

Middle Schoolers! Can you believe we are halfway through the year?!? If you haven't connected with us yet this year, jump on in! We are excited to offer programming for our Middle Schoolers on Sunday evenings from 4:30-6:00pm.

### 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Calendar

Jan. 14	Confirmation Class	4:30-6:00pm
Jan. 28	Confirmation Class	4:30-6:00pm

### 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Calendar

Jan. 7	Connect Class	4:30-6:00pm
Jan. 21	Connect Class	4:30-6:00pm

Contact Joanna with questions!

# Children, Youth & Families

## HS Youth Group Calendar

Date	Event	Time
1/5	9th Grade to Jewish Temple	5:30-9:30pm
1/7	Youth Group	4:30-6:00pm
1/14	Youth Group	4:30-6:00pm
1/18	9th Grade Confirmation	6:30-8:00pm
1/21	Youth Group	4:30-6:00pm
1/28	9th Grade to Sikh Worship	11:30am-2:00pm
1/28	Youth Group	4:30-6:00pm



## ELCA Youth Gathering Participants Escape the Escape Room



## Food Shopping

40 bags oranges  
10 bags apples  
2 turkeys  
29 hams  
Loads of fun!



Refueling after shopping is a must!





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

[sbroussard@stjohnsbrookfield.org](mailto:sbroussard@stjohnsbrookfield.org)

## Advent Recap

So much fun was had by all during Advent! A huge thank you to our Middle School students who put on a 3-week series for our Sunday School kids called "Finding Christmas: Under the Sea" and to our High School students for inviting us to Christmas Card Making extravaganza.



## Confirmation

In January, we will have the opportunity to visit two different worship experiences with other religions. We will go to the Jewish Temple as well as the Gurdwara in Brookfield to learn about the Sikh religion and share a meal with them.





# Serving and Learning

## Loaves and Fishes

February 18

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." This passage from Matthew 25:34 is exactly what Loaves and Fishes is all about. St. John's has, for many years, played an active role in providing its members the opportunity to serve those in need of a hot meal in Waukesha County. Along with several other Congregations in the Waukesha area, St. John's provides the food for the meal with members helping prepare it, greet the guests, and serve the meal. It is a wonderful occasion for families to work together to serve others!

St. John's will be serving the Loaves and Fishes meal at Hope Center on Sunday, February 18. We need a few people to help prepare food, greet our guests, and serve the meal. [Sign up online](#) to help prepare the meal (12:45-2:15 pm) or to serve and clean up (2:00 -3:30). If you are not familiar with this program and would like more information, please contact Dawn Williams @ 262-309-9333 or [nytwnd88@gmail.com](mailto:nytwnd88@gmail.com)



## 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

## 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.



## Share Your Smile on Sunday Mornings

We hope you have enjoyed being greeted as you arrive for the 8:30 worship on Sundays! Would you like to join in on the fun?!

Our Greeter/Welcoming ministry is always looking for volunteers to welcome members and visitors before and after the 8:30 service, to share smiles, and to provide helpful information when needed.

We have heard lots of positive comments, and we thank all of those who have been part of our team! We are always looking for new members to join our welcoming ministry. Can we please count on you?

If you are interested, please contact:

Barb Lange C 262-547-0051, or

Carole Lewis C 262-617-0605



## Music Notes

### Choirs Resume

Rehearsals for the various choirs at St. John's resume the first week in January. New members always are welcome to join the choirs. Contact the director for more information!

Handbells Tuesdays, 6:30  
Heidi hbischmann@gmail.com

Kid's Choir Wednesdays, 5:15  
Lisa lisajwc@sbcglobal.net

Senior Choir Wednesdays, 6:30  
Becky bwhepley@stjohnsbrookfield.org

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

Contact Becky!  
[bwhepley@stjohnsbrookfield.org](mailto:bwhepley@stjohnsbrookfield.org)



### Mark Your Calendars

**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.

### Thank You, Musicians

A huge thank you to all of the musicians who gave of their talents to enhance worship during Advent and Christmas.

*Thank you*

## Giving Envelopes

Giving envelopes for 2024 are available in the narthex. If you switched to automated giving, please check the envelopes anyway. If you find envelopes with your name on them, but no longer need them, please return them to the office - with a note - so they may be used by someone else.



## Creation Corner

### Ask Away!

The greatest power we hold to affect change is consumer power! This month, use that power and engage in dialogue wherever you spend your time and money.

Ask...where can I recycle my ice cream cup? Where was this tomato grown? Do you accept your products back at the end of their life cycle? What is your plan to deal with your outdoor litter?

Make your consumer voice heard!!!



## Altar Flowers

Flowers are indeed an enhancement to our worship space. Their significance is evident when we celebrate blessed occasions such as marriages and anniversaries and births. A flower's beauty and scent comforts us as we mourn and remember loved ones who have died. For centuries, flowers have held a significant role in the house of God.

Weekly floral arrangements enhance our worship setting at St. John's. These arrangements are provided by *Flowers by Cammy* in Waukesha.

You have the opportunity to sponsor a weekly arrangement as a tribute. It could be in honor someone, in memory of someone, or in celebration of an event. The current cost is \$38 per week.



If you wish to sponsor a weekly arrangement, [click here](#). (You may access the sign up through the website at any time.) Dates in 2024 are available for selection on a rolling 120 day schedule. If you want to select a date in October - check the sign up in June!

CLICK HERE TO  
SPONSOR FLOWERS



# Council Communications

Fellow Disciples,

I pray this news finds you healthy and well in this joyous season of advent. The following are highlights from the December 18 Council meeting.

## President Report

- December's Council meeting focused largely on reviewing 2023 finances and discussing the preliminary 2024 budget prepared by St. John's staff and the Finance Team.
- With budget work underway, please save the date for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 4.
- In conjunction to the Annual Meeting, Council and the Finance Team will conduct a listening session on Sunday, January 28 to review the 2024 budget. Please stay tuned for additional details.

- As of December 18, we have received \$276,200 in Pave the Way pledge commitments. What a joyous feeling to see the generosity as we near our goal.

## Financial Report

- With 2023 winding down, THANK YOU for your faithful and gracious giving throughout the year. Your financial gifts allow St. John's to carry out all the amazing ministries goals throughout the year.
- The balance of the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) as of December 11 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

Brittany Larson 262-527-2404

Liz Roth 847-533-4806

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: JANUARY 15 AT 6:30 P.M.



## January Birthdays



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

## 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

lrickinger@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:

Dorothy E	Neal S
Floyd K	Cindy H
John G	Steve W
Dylan H	Jerry M
Carol S	Cheryl H
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](http://www.makedisciples.com).



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

Romans 1:9

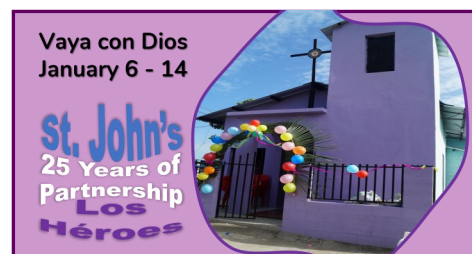
## El Salvador Trip

### 25 Years

St. John's, Los Héroes, and other churches have been partners in ministry for 25 years! In celebration, St. John's is part of the delegation going to El Salvador from January 6-14. Members of the delegation are Jim Mathes, Joanna Salinas, and Pam Klink. They will be joined by Amber Davis, Tim Muth and Linda Muth from All Peoples, Jenny Buckley (former member and staff), and Jenny's daughter Savannah.



Pastor Frank blessed the mission during worship on December 31, but please keep them, their mission of relationship building, and our partner churches in your prayers.



## 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 January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <i>office closed</i> 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon	<b>2</b> 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal	<b>3</b> 8:30a Retired Men's bfast 5:15p KOTK 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	<b>4</b> 6:30p Al-Anon 6:30p CYF Board Mtg 6:30p Indian Culture Dance	<b>5</b> 6:15a virtual men's group 5:30p 9th grade to Jewish Temple	<b>6</b> <i>Epiphany</i> 8:30a Saturday Men's Grp  <div>El Salvador trip</div>
<b>7</b> <b>8:30a worship*</b> 9:45a education & fellowship <b>10:45a worship</b> 4:30p youth group 4:30p 5th/6th graders	<b>8</b> <i>Food Pantry Pick Up</i> 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 4:00p Finance Team mtg 6:30p Al-Anon	<b>9</b> 8:30a property team 8:30a ladies Bible study (offsite) 10:00a staff mtg 6:00p quilters 6:30p handbell rehearsal	<b>10</b> 9:30a women's Bible study 5:15p KOTK 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	<b>11</b> 6:30p Al-Anon 6:30p Indian Culture Dance	<b>12</b> 6:15a virtual men's group 9:00a book club (offsite) 10:00a prayer shawl group 7:30p Chinese Bible Study	<b>13</b> 8:30a Saturday Men's Grp
El Salvador trip						
<b>14</b> <b>8:30a worship*</b> 9:45a education & fellowship <b>10:45a worship</b> 4:30p youth group 4:30p 7th/8th graders  <div>El Salvador trip</div>	<b>15</b> 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 1:00p women's study grp 6:30p Al-Anon	<b>16</b> 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 1:00p book club 6:30p handbell rehearsal	<b>17</b> 12:00p Retired Men's lunch 5:15p KOTK 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	<b>18</b> 6:30p Al-Anon 6:30p 9th Grade Confirmation	<b>19</b> 6:15a virtual men's group 7:30p Chinese Bible Study	<b>20</b> 8:30a Saturday Men's Grp 10:00a Book club (offsite)
<b>21</b> <b>8:30a worship*</b> 9:45a education & fellowship <b>10:45a worship</b> 4:30p youth group 4:30p 5th/6th graders	<b>22</b> 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon	<b>23</b> 8:30a property team 8:30a ladies Bible study (offsite) 10:00a staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal	<b>24</b> 5:15p KOTK 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	<b>25</b> 6:30p Al-Anon 6:30p Indian Culture Dance	<b>26</b> 6:15a virtual men's group 7:30p Chinese Bible Study	<b>27</b> 8:30a Saturday Men's Grp
<b>28</b> <b>8:30a worship*</b> 9:45a education & fellowship <b>10:45a worship</b> 11:30a 9th Grade to Sikh Worship 4:30p youth group 4:30p 7th/8th graders	<b>29</b> 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon	<b>30</b> 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal	<b>31</b> 5:15p KOTK 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	<div>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 - <a href="#">Documents and Forms</a>. Contact <a href="#">Pam</a> with questions.</div>		*worship service/event is live streamed



# 2023: A Year in Review

