

April showers ... bring rainbows

Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind.
Genesis 9:14-15



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

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Pastor Ponders

by Pastor Brian Halverson

When I was a student living in Uppsala, Sweden, I would walk through the graveyard on my way to the dormitory, often at night. It was a picturesque and quiet place. Tall, branching shade trees lined the pathways through rows of old headstones of those who lived one, two, even three hundred years before. Some were prominent names in Swedish history, but most were the names of common folk. Some plots were filled with families who were buried next to one another, while others seemed to be alone. All had lived their lives, and according to the dates chiseled in the stone, some lived lengthy lives while others were tragically short. I tried to imagine what their lives must have been like hundreds of years ago.

For some, cemeteries are where death prevails and has the last word. For most of us, however, cemeteries are Holy ground. When we visit a loved one who has died and been buried, we experience a

place of peace...a place to honor our loved one through our memories and acknowledge that they are still alive in our hearts and minds.

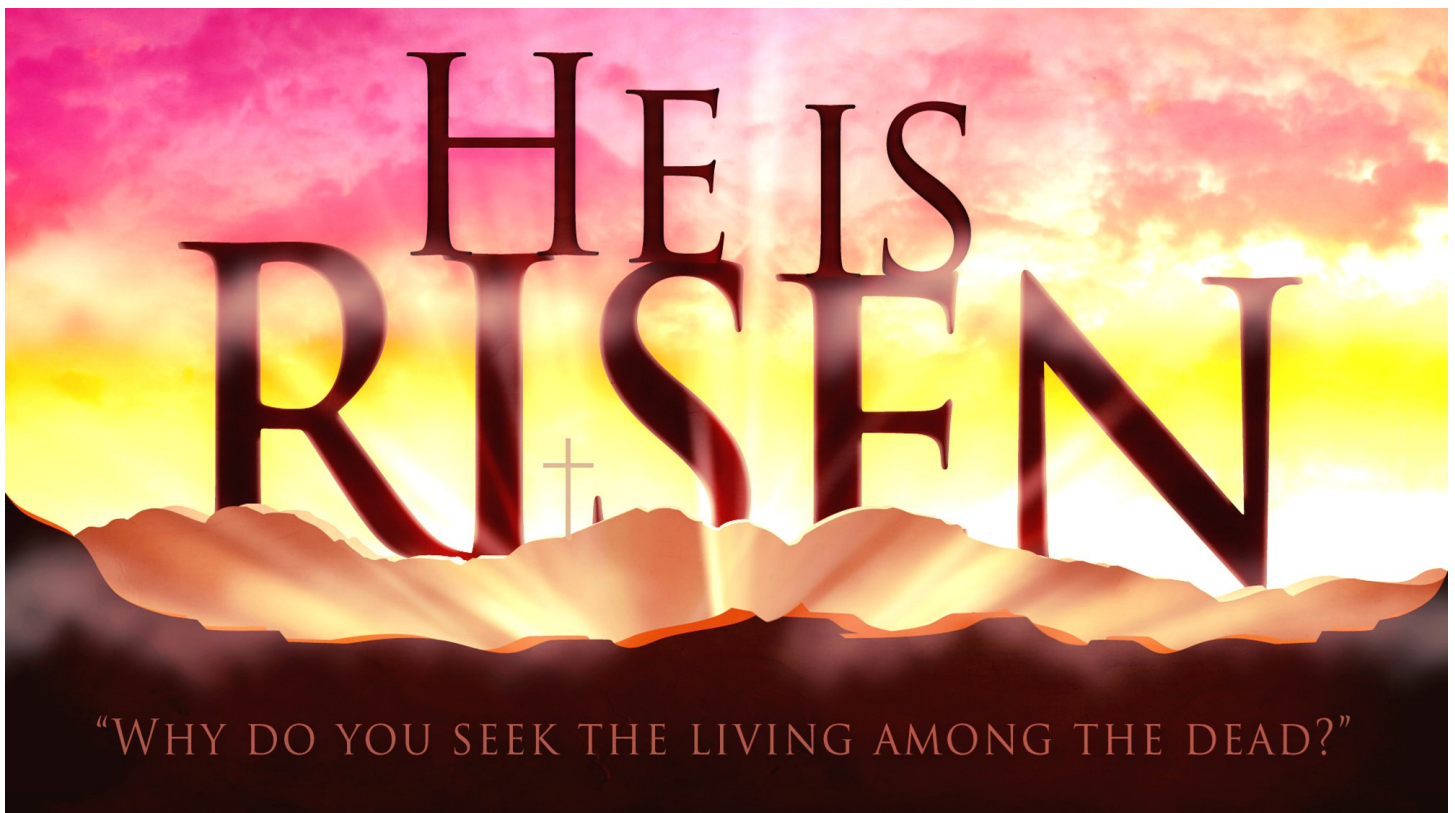
Most importantly and fundamentally, we know that our loved ones who have died are not among the dead. They are living with the risen Lord, who broke the bonds of sin and death, and promises us a life which is eternal. The power of evil has been vanquished and the victory won. Instead of fearing death, we can rest, assured that the resurrection of Christ that we celebrate this month is God's promise kept. We are alive eternally in Christ.

Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but risen.

**Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here, but risen.**

(Luke 24:5)

Pastor Brian



Children, Youth & Families

Preschool Family Night with Wildlife in Need

St. John's Preschool Family Night with Wildlife in Need on March 7 was fun and very educational.

The featured ambassadors were Evie, the Eastern Fox Snake and Meadow, the large Bull Snake. Both Evie and Meadow were happy to come and greet us. Evie let us all pet her, too.

Our third Ambassador was Leucius the Opossum. He was very happy to be at Family Night because he ate all his grapes, cat food and dog food while we watched. He even sat on the table watching us when he was done eating!

Each year we hold a fundraiser for the visiting ambassadors and this year Coins for Critters raised \$163 to purchase heat lamps for the snake enclosures at Wildlife in Need.

We ended the evening with an Ice Cream Sundae Bar with so many toppings. What a great way to round out a great Preschool Family Night.



I see you at



St. John's Preschool

WHERE WE PLAY, DISCOVER, LEARN AND GROW.

OPENINGS AVAILABLE!
20275 Davidson Road Brookfield, WI 53045
Irickinger@stjohnsbrookfield.org
262-786-4298



Children, Youth & Families

Sunday School at 9:45

Join us Sundays at 9:45am for Sunday School! During Lent we are learning about Jesus' ministry!

Sunday School programming is for ages 3-5th grade. Students in 6th – 8th grade are invited to join the Youth Leadership Team which meets on Sundays in the Paul Room. Questions? Contact Joanna at jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org.



Contact Joanna
with Toddler to 8th
Grade Questions

jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Youth Leadership Team

6th – 8th graders! Join Mrs. Beyerlein and Mrs. Zach on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:30 downstairs for food and fun!



Sunday Evening Ed

We are excited to offer programming for our Middle Schoolers on Sunday evenings from 4:30-6:00pm.

5th & 6th grade Calendar

April 14	Connect Class	4:30-6:00pm
April 28	LAST Connect Class	4:30-6:00pm

7th & 8th grade Calendar

April 7	Confirmation Class	4:30-6:00pm
April 21	Confirmation Class	4:30-6:00pm

Contact Joanna with questions!

Pancake Breakfast on May 5

Middle Schoolers! Each year we host the Pancake Breakfast in honor of the 9th grade Confirmation Class. Join us on May 5 from 8:00am-12:00pm and flip a pancake or two!

[Sign Up Here](#)



May 5

9:00 a.m. - pancake breakfast

10:45 a.m. - confirmation worship

Middle School Events

On March 24 our Confirmation students and their families served 90 people the Loaves and Fishes meal at the Hope Center. Thanks for all your hard work!



Children, Youth & Families

HS Youth Group Calendar

Date	Event	Time
4/7	Youth Group	4:30-6:00pm
4/14	Youth Group	4:30-6:00pm
4/18	9th Grade Confirmation	6:30-8:00pm
4/21	Youth Group	4:30-6:00pm
4/28	ELCA Bracelet Making	2:30-4:30pm
5/3	Confirmation Evening	6:30-8:00pm
5/5	Pancake Breakfast	9:00-11:00am



El Salvador Youth Group

Join us Sunday, April 21 for a fun filled evening with Pastor Santiago from our sister church Los Héroes in El Salvador! The timing will still be the same, 4:30 p.m. dinner followed by 5:00 p.m. youth group.

It is also Stephanie's birthday!



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

sbroussard@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Pancake Breakfast

May 5

9:00 a.m. breakfast
10:45 a.m. confirmation worship



Confirmation Weekend

Friday, May 3 6:30pm

9th grade students will present their independent service project reports from this past year, along with lots of yummy treats to celebrate them.

Sunday, May 5 9:00am

Pancake breakfast to celebrate our 6 confirmands

Sunday, May 5 10:45am

Come join us as our 6 confirmands affirm their baptism!



ELCA Youth Gathering - Bracelet Making

Greater Milwaukee Synod Bracelet/Clothespin making party!

Join us on Sunday, April 28
at St. John's Lutheran Church, Brookfield
20275 Davidson Road



2:30-4:30 PM

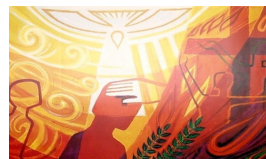


We're making bracelets (Taylor Swift style) & clothespins to share with other youth at the Youth Gathering.



Bring bead supplies if you have them (we'll bring some too) and a snack to share!

8th Grade Parent Meeting



Come 15 minutes early to pick up your student and join Stephanie Broussard on Sunday, May 5 at 5:45pm to talk about what their 9th grade (and final year of confirmation) is going to look like!

Graduate Information

St. John's will honor and pray for our graduates on Sunday June 2. If there is a high school or college graduate in your house, please click the link below to submit information on the graduate.

<https://makedisciples.com/graduate-recognition/>



Children, Youth & Families

Save the Dates for Summer VBS

August 5-9 | 9:00-12:00

Join us this summer for Summer Games VBS: Champions in Training! Kids ages 4-5th grade will compete in our own Summer Games and learn what it really takes to be a champion using the Fruits of the Spirit as a guide.

VBS runs August 5-9 from 9:00am-12:00pm. The early bird cost is \$30/child for the week (\$100 family maximum) if registered before June 10.

Registration deadline is July 31 or when classes are full. You may use the links or the QR code.



[Register Here](#)

[Pay Here](#)

The graphic features the text "summer Games" in a bold, black, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, the letters "V", "B", and "S" are each enclosed in a colored circle (blue, black, and red respectively). These circles are arranged in a way that they overlap, with an orange circle containing "August 5-9" and a green circle containing "9:00-12:00" positioned between them. To the left of the "V" circle is an illustration of a hand holding a lit torch. Below the "VBS" circles, the text "CHAMPIONS IN TRAINING" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom left of the graphic is the website "makedisciples.com". At the bottom right is the logo for St. John's Lutheran ELCA, Brookfield, Wisconsin, which consists of a stylized blue and white "S" shape with a water drop above it.

Ready for Fireside Chats

A fireplace has been installed as part of the Pave the Way narthex enhancements. Come, sit with a friend for a cozy chat!



Staffing

Custodial Job Opportunity

St. John's is hiring a part-time custodian. The Custodian oversees the cleaning and general maintenance of the building. This role is part time, requiring approximate 15 to 20 hours per week. Must be available weekends and work a flexible schedule.

Please contact Building Supervisor William Stace at 262-786-6887 x103 with questions.

[Link to job description](#)

Welcome, Margie

Margie Martinez is our new Administrative Assistant. She grew up in the city of Waukesha, where she attended high school and graduated from WCTC. She lives in Waukesha with her cat, Enzo.

Her background is in office work. She is happy to be a part of the St. John's staff and is looking forward to using her skills in this new position with the church.



Celebrating Partnership

Pastor Santiago to Visit Wisconsin in April

We are glad to welcome Pastor Santiago from Los Héroes en la Fe Lutheran Church in El Salvador, our partner congregation, with whom we have had a twenty-six year relationship. Many of you, who were here at the start of this relationship are still here and have the stories to share about your experiences. There are many of you who are current members who joined the St. John's during these years and are committed to strengthening and sustaining our partnership, particularly through the scholarship program.

Pastor Santiago will be in Milwaukee from April 19 until May 1. He will visit with various ministries and groups at St. John's during his stay.



On Sunday, April 21, he will join us for both worship services. Between services we are holding a brunch in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate our 26th year of partnership and recognize Pastor Santiago's dedication and commitment to the gospel in El Salvador and in our partnership. If you have a connection to El Salvador, and wish to help with the brunch, please see the Sign Up Genius.

We are excited to host our brother in Christ! Together, let us celebrate how the Holy Spirit, in the name of Christ, is moving in our churches to lift up and live out the Gospel!



Los Héroes en la Fe

Caring for Our Neighbors / Serving the World

Newborn Kits 2024

Newborn Kits is St. John's missionary focus for April. Our 2024 goal is 600 kits again.

Thanks to the many donations already given, we have a great start already! Towels & wash cloths were purchased during Black Friday sales last November. We need about \$3000.00 in cash donations to cover the cost of the towels, wash cloths, diapers, diaper pins, etc.

Needed Items:

- Monetary Donations (about \$3000)
- 473 receiving blankets
- 378 onesies (preemie, newborn, or 0-3 month sizes)
- 123 baby hats (free yarn is available to knit or crochet hats – contact Mickey)
- 256 Ivory bar soap (bath size)
- 200 twist ties (used to attached labels to each kit)
- USED pillow cases (optional - please do not buy new ones, but we can use any you no longer need)

Once we assemble the kits, we deliver them to Global Health Ministries in MN. They then ship the kits to various developing nations in Africa, Asia, & Central America. Newborn Kits are gifts that help a new mom celebrate her baby, with supplies & clothes to care for her child. Importantly, they are also used by overseas partners to encourage young women to seek prenatal care during pregnancy, greatly improving their chances for a healthy, happy outcome. Once that connection is made, they can also encourage postnatal care, including vaccinations & well-baby checks that can help a newborn thrive.

This ministry is only successful due to your generous donations! In the past 25 years, St. John's has donated a total of 13,067 Newborn Kits! Let's continue to help one baby at a time!

Please contact Mickey Fank with any questions!

Lenten Supper Thank You

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped with this year's Lenten Dinners! A special shout-out to the church Council, Senior Choir, Confirmation & Sr. High families, Bell Choir, and the many congregation members who jumped in to help. It's always fun to share a meal with our church family!

Following Jesus
Making Disciples
Serving the World

Creation Corner

Prepare your meals from your refrigerator first this week, not your freezer or pantry.

Agriculture is the biggest user of water in the US. The average American consumes more than 1000 gallons of water indirectly through their diet each day. Wasted food = wasted water. Check your refrigerator first this week to avoid spoilage, over shopping, extra trips to the grocery store, and wasted money!



Contents of a Newborn Kit:



SAVE the DATES:

Room Set Up:
Monday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Possible Fellowship Dinner:
Tuesday, July 23
(Need a group/person to plan this)

Assembly of the kits:
Tuesday, July 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Music Notes

Jubilate Chorale

The Jubilate Chorale will present a concert "One Voice" featuring the chorale, chamber orchestra and Brookfield East Choirs singing Dan Forrest's large work Jubilate Deo and other pieces. Becky Whelpley is the accompanist for the Chorale.

Saturday, May 4, 7:30 pm
at St. Luke's Lutheran Church
300 Carroll St. Waukesha

Sunday, May 5, 3:00pm
at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
12700 W Howard Ave., New Berlin

Tickets available at the door.

Thank You

Thank You Musicians! Many thanks to all of the vocalists and instrumentalists who gave of their time and talent to bring meaning and joy to our Lent and Easter season! May we, as Easter people, carry the good news into all aspects of our lives.

If you would like to be involved in any way, it is never too late. Talk with Becky Whelpley.

Questions about
music at
St. John's?



Contact Becky!
bwhelpley@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Easter Fun Facts

What is Easter?

Easter is one of the principal holidays in Christianity. It marks the Resurrection of Jesus three days after his death by crucifixion. For many Christian churches, Easter is the joyful end to the Lenten season of fasting and penitence. The earliest recorded observance of Easter comes from the 2nd century, though it is likely that even the earliest Christians commemorated the Resurrection, which is an integral tenet of the faith.

When is Easter?

The Council of Nicaea in 325 decreed that Easter should be observed on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox (March 19-21). Easter, therefore, can fall on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25.

Eastern Orthodox churches use a slightly different calculation based on the Julian rather than the Gregorian calendar.

What about Easter eggs?

The use of painted and decorated Easter eggs was first recorded in the 13th century. The church prohibited the eating of eggs during Holy Week, but chickens continued to lay eggs during that week, and the notion of specially identifying those as "Holy Week" eggs brought about their decoration. The egg itself became a symbol of the Resurrection. Just as Jesus rose from the tomb, the egg symbolizes new life emerging from the eggshell.

Source: www.britannica.com

New Easter Paraments

Did you notice the new Easter paraments during Easter worship?



LECTERN

Fun fact: The symbol on the altar parament is known as Chi-Rho (X + P). It is the oldest known monogram (or letter symbol) for Christ.



ALTAR

Council Communications

Fellow Disciples,

I pray this news finds you healthy and well in the Lenten Season. The following are highlights from the March 18 Council meeting.

President Report

- We are happy to announce hiring of Margie Martinez for the Administrative Assistant position. Margie started March 4 and brings a plethora of admin experience to St. John's. Help us in welcoming Margie the next time you are at St. John's by stopping in and introducing yourself.
- Reminder: Office hours are Monday – Friday, 9:00 to 12:00.
- Work is underway with GO TECH, our new IT provider. GO TECH started in early March and has begun exploring our IT efficiencies

and enhancements. Look for IT enhancements to come in April.

- Avenue Systems became our new Audio/Visual (A/V) provider for the sanctuary equipment. They are happy with our equipment updates over the past few years and only had a few minor improvements to enrich the sound quality for in person and online worship.
- Council approved two HR policies: Payroll Policy dated December 26, 2023 and the Employee Recognition Policy dated March 8, 2024.
- St. John's is looking to hire an additional part time Custodian. Interested individuals should contact the church office for details.
- Save the date: We will hold our Congregational Meeting on June 2

Financial Report

- Three months into the 2024 financials, St. John's looks to be fairly in line with the approved budget. This has to do with expenses being slightly lower than expected and strong early giving.
- Pave the Way Finance update: More than \$200,000 of the Pave the Way pledges have been received.
- The balance of the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) as of March 7 was \$120,248.64

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

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:
APRIL 15 AT 6:30 P.M.**



April Birthdays

- 2 Cindi Wright-Kau
- 3 Dominic Gaska
- 3 Alyssa Mallmann
- 3 Steph Moran
- 3 Anna Potratz
- 3 Phyllis Whitehead
- 4 Brian Harms
- 4 Pat Murack
- 4 Kathy Sattler
- 4 George Vogt
- 5 Grant Gundlach
- 5 Linda Nelson
- 5 Carol Schulz
- 5 Jeff Weyer

- 6 Ralph Berglund
- 6 Rick Elfers
- 6 Meara Holmberg
- 6 Sarah Klemm
- 6 Elizabeth Roth
- 7 Evan Roth
- 7 Rich Smith
- 8 Evan Zach
- 9 Phyllis Ten Pas
- 10 Tessa Olderman
- 10 Virginia Walsh
- 11 Jim Allard
- 11 Taylor Aune
- 11 Ryan Cornelius

- 11 Nate Schettler
- 12 Daniel Hoem
- 13 Kristina Harms
- 14 Geraldine Knee
- 16 Nancy Hartman
- 17 Jacob Vetta
- 19 Zachary Hutchinson
- 19 Gage Lurvey
- 20 Brittany Larson
- 20 Kara Pirlot
- 21 Mary Balzer
- 21 Steph Broussard
- 22 Pam Klink
- 22 Andrew Sommer



- 22 Karen Sommer
- 23 Dick Granholm
- 24 Dawson Cvikel
- 24 Phil Lange
- 25 Jacob Balzer
- 25 Sue Keith
- 25 Joe Schaefer
- 27 Colleen Anderson
- 27 Gail Jacobsen
- 27 Haley Larson
- 28 Dawn Williams
- 29 John Stahl
- 29 Jonah Wagner

Calendar of events for April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*worship service/event is live streamed	1 office closed 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon	2 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 6:00p quilters	3 8:30a Retired Men's bfast 5:15p KOTK 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	4 6:30p AI-Anon 6:30p Indian Culture Dance	5 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi 7:30p Chinese Bible Study	6 8:30a Saturday Men's Grp
7 8:30a worship* 9:45a education & fellowship 10:45a worship 4:30p youth group 4:30p 7th/8th graders	8 Food Pantry Pick Up 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon	9 8:30a property team 8:30a ladies Bible study (offsite) 10:00a staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal 6:30p HR Team Zoom mtg 6:30p Lutherland Trip Mtg	10 9:30a women's Bible study 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	11 4:00p Finance Team mtg 6:30p AI-Anon 6:30p Indian Culture Dance	12 6:15a virtual men's group 9:00a book club (offsite) 10:00a prayer shawl group 1:30p Tai Chi 7:30p Chinese Bible Study	13 8:30a Saturday Men's Grp
14 8:30a worship* 9:45a education & fellowship 10:45a worship 4:30p youth group 5:00p 5th/6th graders	15 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 1:00p women's study grp 6:30p AI-Anon 6:30p council meeting	16 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 1:00p book club 6:30p handbell rehearsal	17 12:00p Retired Men's lunch 5:15p KOTK 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	18 6:30p AI-Anon 6:30p 9th Grade Confirmation	19 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi 7:30p Chinese Bible Study <i>Pastor Santiago arrives</i>	20 8:30a Saturday Men's Grp 10:00a Book club (offsite)
21 8:30a worship* 9:30a Brunch with Santiago 10:45a worship 4:30p youth group 4:30p 7th/8th graders	22 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon	23 8:30a property team 8:30a ladies Bible study (offsite) 10:00a staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal	24 5:15p KOTK 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	25 6:30p AI-Anon 6:30p Indian Culture Dance	26 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi 7:30p Chinese Bible Study	27 8:30a Saturday Men's Grp
28 8:30a worship* 9:45a education & fellowship 10:45a worship 2:30p ELCA bracelets 4:30p 5th/6th graders	29 10:00a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon	30 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <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 Margie with questions.</p> </div>			

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	Jerry M
Floyd K	Nancy K
Dylan H	Carol S
Carol M	Phyllis W

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

Staff Phone Extensions

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

Extensions:

- 100 Margie Martinez, 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



St. John's
LUTHERAN ELCA
Brookfield, Wisconsin

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
MINISTRIES AT
ST. JOHN'S, CLICK OR
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makedisciples.com



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