

September 2024

Stay Informed. Be Inspired.



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St. John's Lutheran 20275 Davidson Road

Brookfield, WI 53045

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Pastor Ponders

Here we are at the beginning of September again, and every year we ask ourselves, "Where did the summer go?" Does it seem to you that time moves quickly, especially as you get older? I look at the second hand of the clock and it still moves at the same pace it did when I was younger. Reality and the perception of that reality are often different, and it is often the perception upon which we act. We begin to accept our perceptions as truths, where in fact, the truth may be more complicated or complex than what we ourselves perceive.

Our faith in Christ lies in the perceptions of Christ's disciples who followed him and witnessed his ministry and listened to his teachings. But, they could not perceive the reality of his mission while he was with them. How could thev? Up until Easter Sunday, the disciples had never experienced someone rising from the dead and fulfilling God's mission to the world. It has been two thousand years and we still have not directly witnessed such an event. Again, we rely on the written down in perceptions, Scripture, of those who experienced Christ directly.

Perceptions are powerful. We need to ask ourselves, what do people perceive when they walk

by Pastor Brian Halverson

through our church doors or when they encounter us in the communities in which we live and work?

As we begin another ministry program year, I believe people will perceive us as committed stewards of all God's gifts and resources that have been entrusted to us. They will perceive a congregation that is committed to ending around the world, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger that we will lift up in September. They will perceive our commitment to the stewardship of God's creation in our book study and worship in October and November. They will perceive our commitment to the stewardship of God's gift to us in community, as we care for our own and other faith communities and their ministries. Finally, they will perceive our commitment to the stewardship of our personal faith lives as we enter into the spiritual disciplines in the Lenten season during the spiring.

Perception is a powerful thing. Let us perceive, reflect upon, and witness the underlying reality that is truly God's gift in the world today – our Savior and Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Pastor Bria

Coming Soon...

Dinner Groups

Do you like to eat? Sign up this month to join a Dinner Group. See page 8 for details.

September Sunday Schedule

September 1

9:00 one service outside with bluegrass music

September 8 (through May 18)

8:30 - worship

9:45 - education and fellowship

10:45 - worship

Pieper Porch Outing

The annual Pieper Porch Outing for St. John's women and friends will be September 15 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Limited seating is available at Pieper Porch, consider bringing your favorite lawn chair.



Register for Children's Programming

Fall Registration is Open!

Please register your kids for Fall programming. The registration form is for Sunday School, Confirmation, High School Youth Group, and Kids of the Kingdom. One form per family.

Link: https://forms.gle/SinWD4ZFbwphKcLg7



Children, Youth & Families

Look Who's Coming to Preschool



Preschool Prayer for New School Year

As our Preschool teachers, and teachers everywhere, prepare for the new school year, they share this prayer with you:

Dear God,

As we begin a new school year, we remember that you have given us the ability to learn new things. Bless this school year that it will be a time we learn and grow. We ask you to bless our teachers, our classmates and our schools. We give you thanks for the gift of learning. Amen.

We are ready to learn and grow!



Children, Youth & Families

Volunteer!

Have a love to share with the children of St. John's? Consider sharing your time and gifts with our students on Sunday Mornings as part of our Large Group Sunday School team or a Small Group leader! Please reach out to Joanna at jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org to discuss possibilities!

Blessing of Backpacks

We blessed backpacks, and those who wear them, as we remembered we are God's creation.

Sunday School - Created By God To Be

Join us September 8, 2024 for Rally Day and the first day of Sunday School! We ask families to attend together the first week. We will learn all about local stewardship with friends from Wildlife in Need! Regular Sunday School will begin the following week.

At St. John's, Sunday School is for ages 2 – 5th grade. 6th graders and up can participate in our Youth Leadership Team on Sunday mornings. Families: please bring an item for the Waukesha Food Pantry in September!



Contact Joanna with Toddler to 8th

Grade Questions

jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Register Now!

Please register your kids for Fall programming. The registration form is for Sunday School, Confirmation, High School Youth Group and Kids of the Kingdom. One form per family.



Confirmation in the Fall

Confirmation will be continuing on Sunday evenings this fall!

Due to overwhelming parental feedback, Pre-Confirmation for 5th and 6th graders, and Confirmation for 7th and 8th graders will continue with twice monthly, Sunday evening gatherings in the fall. We'll meet from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in person at St. John's and will start each session with a meal.

More info can be found at https://makedisciples.com/ministries/child
-youth/middle-school/

First Communion

First Communion Service and Communion Chat

November 10, 2024 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Communion Chat at 9:30 a.m. the same morning!

Bread Baking with Joanna November 9, 2024 3:00 p.m.



Is your child ready to take communion? Here at St. John's, we welcome children of any age to the Table when you as a family feel it is appropriate. We will be holding $1^{\rm st}$ Communion this year on November 10 with a Communion Chat with Pastor Brian for families in between services. We will have a First Communion Bread Baking Class on November 9 at 3:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Joanna at jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org and fill out the form online.

Link to form: https://forms.gle/Y4MF9PDMVAXUvsGT6

Children, Youth & Families

Fall Registration is Open!

Please register your kids for Fall programming. The registration form is for Sunday School, Confirmation, High School Youth Group and Kids of the Kingdom. One form per family.



Link: https://forms.gle/SjnWD4ZFbwphKcLg7



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

sbroussard@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Sunday Evening Youth Group

Youth Group will begin on October 6 and will be every OTHER Sunday evening from 5:00-6:00 p.m. We will start each evening with a meal before hand at 4:30 p.m.

9th Grade Retreat

September 27 - 29

Our 9^{th} graders will be spending the weekend at Lutherdale connecting and building positive relationships with one another as well as digging deeper into their own faith journeys.

Please turn in forms to Stephanie by Sept 8.

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR				
DATE	ACTIVITY			
9/8	9 th grade Lutherdale Forms Due			
9/8	Rally Day - between services			
9/27-29	9 th Grade Retreat at Lutherdale			
10/6	Youth Group Begins 4:30p-6:00p			

VBS 2024 Wrap-Up

We had an amazing week at VBS with our Champions in Training!!! August 5-9, St. John's hosted 55 children with the help of 21 volunteers for an amazing week of VBS! We raised \$225 for the Special Olympics and connected with a local Special Olympics group for a fun service project. Thanks everyone!



Worship and Music

Join the Choir!

Rehearsals are Wednesdays in the sanctuary, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. We generally sing 2-3 Sundays a month at the 8:30 a.m. service, September through May. We are actively looking for new members and hope you will prayerfully consider.

Never sung before in a choir - NO problem! There is no audition. Highschool age to adult (middle schoolers are welcome with an adult).

Can't commit to the whole year - NO problem!

Contact Becky Whelpley before the first rehearsal. bwhelpley@stjohnsbrookfield.org



KOTK

Wednesday, October 2, Kids of the Kingdom begins for PreK - 6th graders. Preschool age children begin rehearsals with the large group and then continue with a separate, age appropriate rehearsal led by Mrs. DeCoto.

We meet to rehearse songs from 5:15-6:00 p.m. with a dinner to follow.

There is no charge to be involved, we just ask families to share a few meals throughout the year.

We also welcome 7th-12th graders during this time to work with Becky Whelpley.

For more info, contact Lisa at lisajwc@sbcglobal.net.



Questions about music at St. John's?



Contact Becky!

bwhelpley@stjohnsbrookfield.org

St. Olaf Orchestra



The St. Olaf Orchestra, conducted by Chung Park, will perform at St. John's on Saturday, October 12 at 3:30 p.m. during its 2024 Fall Tour.

The St. Olaf Orchestra is a full symphony orchestra rich in international artistry and tradition and known for its enthusiastic and passionate performances. Founded in 1906, the 95-member ensemble has been heralded as one of the finest collegiate orchestras in the country and won the 2013 and 2019 American Prizes in Orchestral Performances among colleges and universities.

This year's tour will feature works by Bach, Anna Clyne, Dvořák's Symphony No. 8, student soloists, and more!

Tickets are \$10 and free for students, available at stolaf.edu/tickets/orchestra or 800-363-5487.

Handbell Choir



ST. JOHN'S HANDBELL CHOIR
Tuesdays at 6:30 pm beginning Sept. 10

OUR CHOIR – The SJLC Handbell Choir is an intergenerational group made up of 11-15 ringer musicians. We play 4-1/2 octaves of Malmark Handbells and 3 octaves of Malmark ChoirChimes once or twice each month at the 8:30 a.m. worship service.

OUR MUSICIANS – Each person brings to the bell choir his/her individual level of musical ability, patience and a sense of humor. Together we play hard, laugh lots and share God's blessings through our special music in rehearsals and worship.

NO SCARY AUDITION – There is no audition required to join the handbell choir, and it is not necessary to have past ringing experience. Music reading skills are helpful. What are most important are a willing spirit, a joyful heart and a positive attitude!

WE NEED YOU – There are openings in the choir beginning this fall. We would love to have you join us! We are looking for full time ringers year round, or seasonally. We have a place for YOU! Be a part of something special!

CONTACT HEIDI – If you or someone you know would like to play with the Handbell Choir, contact Heidi Bischmann – hbischmann@gmail.com or (414) 305-7812.

NEW RINGERS ALWAYS WELCOME

What's New at St. John's?

Our New Office Coordinator

We are excited to introduce our new Office Coordinator. You may recognize her. Heidi Bischmann, the handbell director at St. John's, has accepted the position!



Normally, a new job means meeting new people. Heidi was excited to be able to call her coworkers friends from Day 1. She feels called to serve in this way.

Be sure to welcome Heidi to this new role when you see her. Don't worry ... she will continue as handbell director as well!



Our New Gathering Space

For over four years, the Interiors Team has been an active part of the ministries at St. John's. Our efforts are supported by Pastor, Council, the Property Team, and members who have graciously advised and been a part of our planning and execution efforts for the Pave the Way campaign.

Collectively, Pastor Brian and Groth Design Associates have supported and encouraged our efforts to create an entry space that is more user-friendly and welcoming. An article that they shared with us speaks directly to where we are as a congregation: an aging narthex area that reaches back to the time when our new Centrum built. Almost twenty-five years later we are reminded of new paradigms that provide creative ways to bring people together.

"If the collective goal of the church is to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20), then designing spaces that bring people together becomes a tool for ministry to help accomplish that mission. For instance, when people gather as a corporate body, they form community that reflects the nature of what God intended, and are sent out to reach others, then disciples are made. But first, we need spaces that bring people together. Two ways to design for reaching those outside the church and younger generations would be by creating spaces for short connecting conversations and for longer

interactions that become more personal and allow for

by Gail Rennie

community sharing."

Following the example of our architect, Groth Design Associates, we have created the idea of a coffee station which will have coffee available on a console table under the screen outside just the sanctuary. **Fellowship** is encouraged by high-top tables, new spaces by the fireplace and window area to facilitate coming together in small groups - to GATHER - to create comfortable user-friendly spaces. This Gathering Space (as we will be calling it) will give us spaces that allow creative interaction. It will define who we are to new people considering a new church home: a place where we can interact that is brighter, lighter and more welcoming than our former coffee area in the dark Fellowship Hall.

We look forward to the excitement of seeing the new furnishings, fireplace, artwork and coffee station Come and September. get your excited about new GATHERING SPACE. Matthew's gospel says it so well: "Go, then, to people everywhere and make them my disciples." We were given a commission. Let's join in Christ's commission and reach out. WELCOME should written all over our faces and the new fresh image that we present to people we hope to bring into our community.

Sign Up in September

Dinner Groups

What are "Dinner Groups"?

- Designed for families of all types: singles, empty nesters, couples, families with young children.
- Each group has four families, assigned randomly.
- Each family in the group takes a turn to host a meal or other activity: in their home, at a park, at church, or anywhere. The meal can be potluck, a themed meal, or whatever works for the hosting family.
- The groups meet approximately once every 3 months – or whatever timing works for each group.
- The intention of Dinner Groups is to be FUN! Also, it is a low stress and low commitment way to meet new people from all generations.



Click or scan this QR code to sign up...

Reserve Your Directory

The updated church directory is scheduled to be distributed in late October! Reserve your copy online today! Cost will be \$5 per directory. (Pay when it is received.)

Any last minute photos or contact information changes need to be submitted by September 22 to be reflected in the directory.



Congregation Study

"Stewardship: Care of God's Each chapter finishes with an eye-Creation" is our theme for Adult Ministry this Fall. We will be using Sandra Richter's L. book "Stewards of Eden What Scripture Says About the Environment and Why It Matters". Richter knows the Bible and is an expert on ancient Israeli culture.

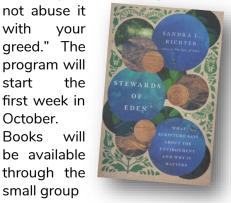
She starts out with the creation story where God commands us to be good stewards of His very good creation. "If you love what God loves, you are probably going to wind up caring about it."

She follows with examples of ancient Israeli practices, commanded by Old Testament law, that can serve as models for us today, practices that promote sustainability regarding our care of the land and animals.

opening case study of some of the poor practices followed today. A summary may be "The earth is the Lord's and all it contains. You may use it in your need. But you shall

not abuse it with your greed." The program will start the first week in October. Books will be available

small group



facilitators. For those not part of one of the groups, we will have a few books available in the church lobby for a donation of \$15, or you can purchase a book directly through your normal book buying process.

Creation Corner

Did you know?

An estimated 500 billion disposable coffee cups are produced globally per year. That's enough to wrap around the earth 1,360 times! And disposable coffee cups are NOT recyclable. We can do our part in reducing this waste by bringing our own coffee cups on Sunday or using one of St. John's.



Events To Not Miss

Rally Day Will Be Wild

This year, we are focusing on Stewardship - Stewardship of Creation. Stewardship Community, and Stewardship of Ourselves. Join us on September 8 for Rally Day, as we welcome a local stewardship organization, Wildlife in Need, to kickstart our year! Meet animal ambassadors and hear about Wildlife in Need's mission and work in community. Grab a cup of coffee and meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. Entire congregation welcome!



St. John's Webstore Open

Have you noticed the St. John's shirts that the cool kids are wearing? Your chance to order your own St. John's gear is coming.

The link to the "Grand Opening" of the St. John's webstore will be shared in the Happenings email on September 6. The link will be on the website.

The webstore will only be open September 6 to 22 ... don't miss it! Shop early. Shop often. There is something for everyone: shirts, hats, jackets, bags, and a blanket!



Winter Farmers Market

As we focus on Stewardship of God's Creation this fall, we welcome the Winters Farmers Market back to St. John's. Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 24. What wonderfully fresh items will you pick up for Thanksgiving?



Pave the Way Update

by Pastor Brian Halverson

I want to give you an update on our Pave the Way campaign. As you may have noticed, we have finished paving the circle drive and have replaced the outdoor lighting with new ones that are more effective and which we now own. This work has made a great and positive difference to our outdoor entrance area. We have also furniture purchased new and artwork for the Narthex, and we have donated the first installment of our pledge to the Hope Center, of which we have committed 10% of our total amount pledged and received.

Currently we have received \$305,000 \$220,000 of the pledged, and we hope to have the full amount received by the end of If you have already December. fulfilled your pledge, I want to say thank you! I would encourage those who have not yet fulfilled your pledge to please do so.

We still have exciting work ahead of us! Let us be ever thankful for all of our commitment to the health and wellbeing of our church and our community!



Council Communications

St. John's Lutheran Church Council Report

The meeting was held on Monday, August 19, 2024.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Brian shared his thoughts on the fall stewardship program, emphasizing caring for creation, which includes plans for using "green space" and energy efficiency in St. John's future.

Finances: Offerings in July were under budget, this after strong offerings in May and June. We are currently about 11% under planned income for the year which is not unusual for this time of the year.

President's Report: The council discussed plans to have the Interiors Committee meet with the church staff and groups with

ministry displays in the Gathering Space in order to better communicate plans and ideas for using the space.

Property Committee: The time and effort donated by our many talented volunteers was held up, work which saves the church a great deal of money.

Council discussed up-coming property expenses which include a needed update of our security camera system at church.

"Pave the Way" Campaign: About \$1,000 was contributed during July. Council discussed a letter to the congregation updating where we stand financially with the campaign.

The circular drive work has been completed and the company paid for the work. Several other planned expenses will be paid in the next month.

New Business: Curtis Templin was appointed to serve a three-year term on the Endowment Committee.

Paul Bulgerin Church Council President

St. John's Council

President	
Paul Bulgerin	262-352-9050
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
Brittany Larson	262-527-2404
Liz Roth	847-533-4806

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 16 AT 6:30 P.M.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2 Nicci Gillette

2 Angie Grimord-Caravella

3 Leah Bohne

3 Dorothy Hintz

3 Heidi Hornung

4 Cheryl Granlund

5 Dick Gennerman

5 Chris Wagner

05 1115 1

6 Ezekiel Beyerlein

6 Raelynn Lipscomb

6 Evan Voldahl

7 Tim Tollander

September Birthdays

7 Bennett Warp

8 Calla Gatzke

8 Ryan Zahn

9 Matt Sternkopf

10 Brent Logan

10 Carrie Peters

11 Anna Resop

12 Patricia Dybro

14 Melissa Caravella

14 Pat Johnson

14 Ron Storjohann

15 Sean Beug-Hoffman

15 Ray Fuerstenberg

15 Linda Gugel

16 Coleen Marshall

18 Weston Wiegelman

20 Miles Sternkopf

21 Mary Schwartz

21 Melissa Seamonson

22 Laura Rickinger

22 Kathy Sturgill

24 Pauline Shoemaker

25 Hayden Fritz

26 Grayson Lipscomb



27 Joy Miller

27 Charlotte Moran

27 Jackie Scanlon

29 Jackson Rebisch

29 Lucy Schettler

30 Emily Brooks

30 Karen Bulgerin

30 Linnea Logan

30 Dave Sturgill

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Calendar
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Saturday	7	41	21	28	
Friday	6:15a virtual men's group	6:15a virtual men's group 10:00a prayer shawl group	20 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi 7:00p Book Club (offsite)	27 6:15a virtual men's group	*worship service/event is live streamed
Thursday	5 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	12 4:00p Finance Team mtg 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA 7:00p Faith Alive	19 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	26 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA 7:00p Faith Alive	group or complete s website. nents and
Wednesday	4 8:30a Retired Men's bfast 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	11 9:30a Morning Circle 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	18 12:00p Retired Men's lunch 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	25 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	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 - <u>Documents and Forms.</u> Contact <u>Pam</u> with questions.
Tuesday	3 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 6:00p quilters	10 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal 6:30p HR Team Zoom mtg	17 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 1:00p book club 6:30p handbell rehearsal	24 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal	To reque ministry the Facility the Facility It is unde
Monday	2 Labor Day Office closed 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon	9 Food Pantry Pick Up 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon	16 11:30a Hope Center meal 1:00p Women's Study Grp 5:00p Al-Anon 6:30p council meeting	23 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon	30 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon
Sunday	1 9:00a worship*	8 Rally Day 8:30a worship* 9:45a education and fellowship 10:45a worship	15 8:30a worship* 9:45a education and fellowship 10:45a worship 2:00p Pieper Porch Outing	22 webstore closes 8:30a worship* 9:45a education and fellowship 10:45a worship	29 8:30a worship* 9:45a education and fellowship 10:45a worship

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

Irickinger@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 God welcomes because 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.

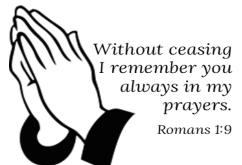
Praying for ...

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

Marion S	Mickey F
Floyd K	Nancy K
Dylan H	Carol S
Carol M	Phyllis W
Carole L	

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.





TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MINISTRIES AT ST. JOHN'S, CLICK OR SCAN THIS QR CODE.

makedisciples.com



Staff Phone Extensions

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

Extensions:

100 Heidi Bischmann, Office Coordinator

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

