

BELIEVE like MARY

TRUST like JOSEPH

HOPE like SHEPHERDS

SEEK like WISE MEN

PRAISE like ANGELS

LOVE like JESUS



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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

The month of December is always a special one, as we prepare for Christmas and afterwards prepare for the new year. Family traditions are taken out of storage to be celebrated once again and hopefully passed down to the following generations. At the same time, we are open to the Holy Spirit to experience the holiness of Christmas in new ways.

Every Christmas eve we tell the magnificent story of the Christ-child born in a manger. It is a story full of wonder and anticipation. We hear the astonishment of the shepherds in the fields when the angel announces the birth of Jesus and imagine the animals gathered reverently around Joseph, Mary,

and the child. We sing the story through our beloved Christmas hymns and light our candles during Silent Night to experience the quiet awe of the moment.



The story endures because its truth is eternal. God came into this world through God's son to save the world

through this child who will grow to be our teacher, friend, and redeemer. Jesus is a gift freely given to us by a most merciful God. Let us rejoice once again in hearing and living in this incredible and miraculous story!

May God bless you in the most joyous of seasons!

Pastor Brian

Coming Soon...

Congregation Service Project

The youth will lead the December service project in the youth room on Sunday, December 8 between services. All ages are encouraged to join the fun of creating cards for our shut-ins. All extra cards will be donated to residents at Luther Manor.

Mystery of the Christmas Star

What did the wisemen see in the sky to guide them to Bethlehem? What time of year was Jesus really born? Join us on Monday, December 9 to find out! Details on page 7.

Do You Prefer Red or White?

Red or white poinsettias, that is. Orders will be accepted through December 9 for Christmas Eve poinsettias. Details on page 6.

When Will You Celebrate Jesus' Birthday?

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

11 AM
2 PM
4 PM
11 PM

December 24



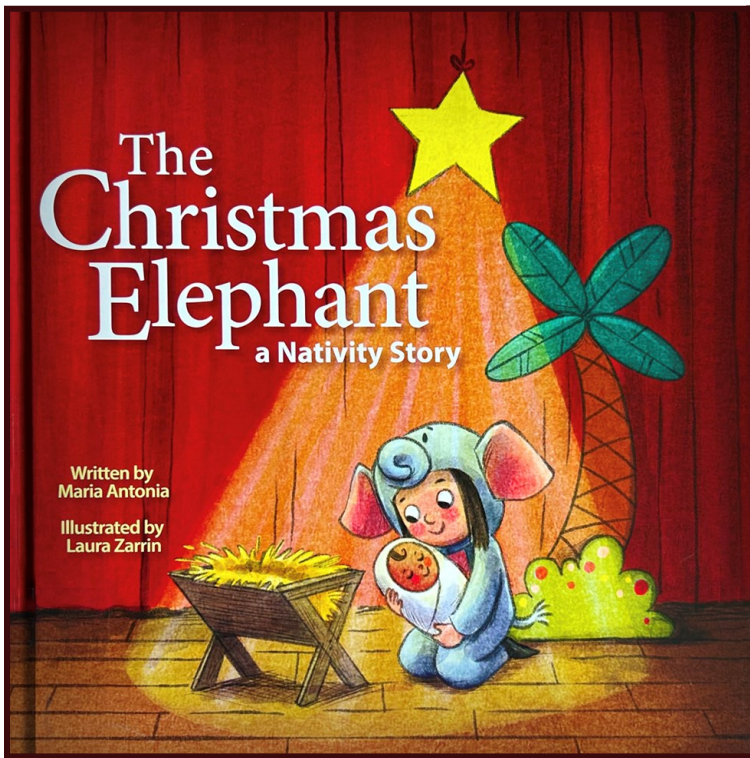
NO CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Children, Youth & Families

For Our Preschoolers, It's All About Learning



Many thanks to our Preschool Families for their generous support of our 11th annual Food Drive. With each donation, the bin filled with healthy food to share with others. What a wonderful experience for our youngest learners.



EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Preschool Christmas Program
and Family Sing-Along

Thursday, December 19 | 6-7:30pm

Join us for our Program featuring our Preschooler's
Holiday Songs, The Christmas Elephant Story,
Family Sing-Along and Refreshments



Preschool's Winter Wonderland photo booth will be available for family photos after our Christmas Program and throughout the holiday season.

Children, Youth & Families

Sunday Evening Education at St. John's

No Sunday evening classes in December. Instead, we invite our 5th-8th graders to join us for Wednesday evening Advent meals and worship in December.

5:45 Light Meal
6:30 Worship

First Communion

We celebrate with five of our young people who took their First Communion on November 10, 2024.

- Kekoa Broussard
- Beckham Lenell
- Grayson Lipscomb
- Jude Peters
- Jacob Roth



Jesse
TREE

God's Big Advent
Story

Sundays at 9:45

Advent Calendars

Sunday School Families (through 5th grade):

Swing by St. John's to pick up your Advent Calendars! They are filled with this year's Family Advent Devotional "Jesse Tree: God's Big Advent Story". They are located in the Gathering Space.

Sunday School

Join us in the sanctuary on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. for Sunday School!

Join us for Sunday School in Advent as we hear a centuries-old way of illustrating how God's story leads to Jesus.

New to Sunday School? New friends are always welcome to come and check us out! Email Joanna for information.

No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant

December 24 | 2:00 p.m.

Our newest Christmas tradition is the interactive "No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant." This is part of the 2:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship that is designed for families with younger children. Of course, all ages are welcome to attend and to participate!

Can't make it at 2:00 p.m.? We will celebrate the birth of Jesus three other times that day: 11:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m.



Contact Joanna
with Toddler to 8th
Grade Questions

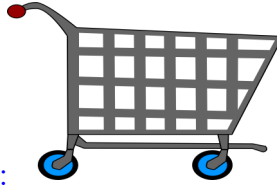
jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org



Children, Youth & Families

All Peoples Food Shopping


Calling all high schoolers to help shop at Woodman's for fresh fruit and frozen meat for the Christmas Food Drive that will be delivered the next morning.



Click here to sign up if you will be attending:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CADAA2DA0F85-53565742-hsfood>

Comparative Religions

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. On February 7, we will be heading to Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun in River Hills to participate in an evening service.



A ministry of
GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN
ministries

2025 Mission Trip

Don't forget to register for our trip to Nashville in July 2025.

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR		
DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
12/8	HS Led Service Project	between services
12/13	Food Drive Shopping	6:30p-8:00p

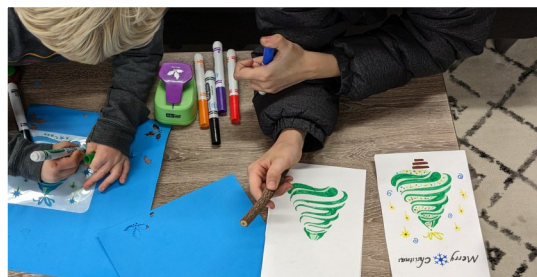


Contact Stephanie with questions about high school and young adult ministry at St. John's

sbroussard@stjohnsbrookfield.org
or 262-453-9201

Youth to Lead Card Making Service Project

Join us on December 8, between services, to make Christmas cards for our shut ins! All extra cards will be shared with residents at Luther Manor.



Supplies - and ideas - will be provided. No artistic experience needed. Join us to help spread Christmas cheer through cards!

Photos of card making in December 2023.

Dance like *Frosty* 

Shine like *Rudolph* 

Give like *Santa* 

Love like *Jesus* 

Worship and Music

Jubilate Chorale Concert

The Jubilate Chorale under the direction on Vicki Taylor and accompanist Becky Whelpley will present "Joy and Wonder" A Christmas Concert with the Chorale and friends.

Saturday, December 7, 7:30 p.m. at St. John's.

Tickets can be purchased on the [Jubilate Chorale](#) website or at the door via cash, check, or Venmo.

- Adults – \$15
- Seniors – \$12
- Students – \$7
- Children 10 and under — free



Advent Worship and Meal

St. John's will be offering three Wednesday evening sung prayer services this Advent season 6:30-7:00 p.m. on December 4, 11 and 18. There will be a simple meal preceding each service at 5:45 p.m.

The setting "Joyous Light" by Ray Makeever is a contemporary setting of an ancient pattern of prayer, offered up in thanksgiving as daylight gives way to night.

5:45 p.m. light meal


6:30 p.m. Joyous Light worship



Music Sunday is December 15

A long tradition at St. John's is to celebrate a Christmas Music weekend during Advent. This is a time when all of the musicians, congregation and friends come together to present music of the season. It is a time when we come together to hear Advent and Christmas texts and music that resonates with both seasons. We look forward to worshipping with you at 8:30 a.m. on December 15. The Praise Band will lead music for the Advent 3 service at 10:45 a.m.

Questions about
music at
St. John's?



Contact Becky!
bwhelpley@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Preparing for Christmas with Poinsettias



One Christmas tradition we have is filling the sanctuary with poinsettias. If you wish to purchase a poinsettia in tribute to someone, please sign up online or use the QR code. Payment may be made online or in the offering - with an indication for poinsettias.

Orders are due by December 9.



What Was the Christmas Star?

WHAT: A private show and star talk at the Planetarium at Retzer.

WHEN: Monday, December 9, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

HOW: Sign up online to reserve your spot. The show is \$5 per person. Payment before December 9 may be made in the offering, in the mail, or online. Payment will be accepted at the planetarium also.

WHY: "We'll see which of these signs in the sky could have been remarkable enough to cause the wise men to travel across the desert from Babylon to Bethlehem just to see a newborn King."

Journey back over 2000 years to Bethlehem as we seek to discover a scientific explanation for the star the wise men followed to find the baby Jesus. This modern retelling of the Christmas story is sure to charm and captivate audiences of all ages.

Private showing

December 9
7:00-8:00 pm
\$5 per person

Mystery of the
Christmas Star



Sign up to reserve
your spot at the
Planetarium



Year End Giving

Are you considering a charitable donation before December 31 to maximize tax benefits? Consider donating to St. John's. Gifts can be made in several ways:

1. Cash
2. Appreciated stock
3. Company matches
4. Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)
5. Real estate.

This information is not legal or tax advice. Information is from sources deemed reliable. Contact your own legal or tax advisor before taking any action that would have a legal or tax consequence.

2024 Donation Deadline

Any donations you wish to claim in 2024 must be received in the office or postmarked by December 31, 2024. If a donation is received before December 31, 2024, that you wish to have recorded as a 2025 contribution, please clearly indicate your intentions.

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.

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.

**Thank
You**

Gratitude Gathering

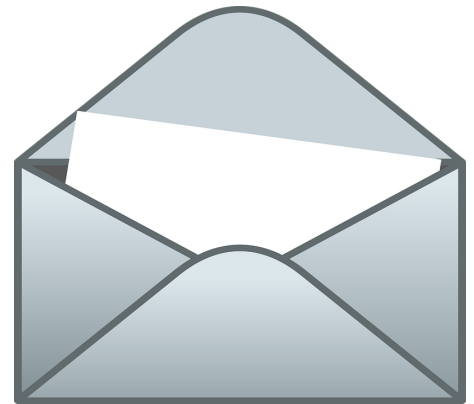
Thank you to all who attended the Gratitude Gathering following the Thanksgiving Eve service. Many enjoyed the fellowship and the generous variety of pies donated by members. Thank you one and all for your participation.



Card Ministry

A big "Thank You" to all who have collected cards for this ministry for 25 years. We will continue this mission by saving **NEW CARDS WITH THEIR ENVELOPES** for Hope Center and nursing homes.

So far this year, we have collected 677 cards. The cards may be placed in the blue bin in the donation location in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Kathy Hoepner with any questions at 262 786-0412 or tkhoepner2@gmail.com.



Food Pantry Open House Invite

YOU'RE INVITED!
RENOVATION OPEN HOUSE

Date: Wednesday, December 11
Time: 4:30 pm-6:00 pm (presentation at 5:00 pm)
Location: 1301 Sentry Drive, Waukesha

You are invited to visit The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County as we highlight the improvements made to our client services space to enhance the shopping experience and better serve our community.

Join us as we thank the donors, individuals, and companies who made these renovations possible with as little disruption to client services as possible. Refreshments will be provided. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Giving Envelopes

Giving envelopes for 2025 will be available for pick up soon. As more people choose to give offerings online instead of using giving envelopes, we continue to consolidate envelope numbers. **If you plan to continue to use envelopes in 2025 and currently have an envelope number over 150, you will be given a new number.**

Anyone with a number less than 150 who no longer needs envelopes, please let the office know so that number may be reassigned.

Council Communications

The meeting was held on Monday, November 18, 2024.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Brian shared his proposal to create a special Environmental Sustainability Task force to look at ways in which St. John's can be a better steward of the environment and how we can use our property and facilities toward that end. The council approved this.

Pastor Brian is planning to have an expert on "family systems and dynamics" to come early next year to meet with our staff and council to discuss how we communicate with one another at church, deal with issues and conflict and work efficiently with one another.

The new ovens in the church kitchen have been installed. Pastor thanked those who made special donations to purchase them.

Finances: Through the end of October, the congregation continues to run a large giving deficit. Council discussed ways of addressing this with the congregation and encourage strong giving at the end of the year.

The proposed 2025 church budget was discussed. The Finance Committee will meet on December 12 to continue working on it. We hope to have a good feel for 2025 pledges by that time.

President's Report: I had a conversation with Pastor Kristen Nielsen from the synod office about the pastoral transition St. John's will experience with Pastor Brian's retirement next May. (See the article on page 10 in the newsletter with more details on this.)

Property Committee: A proposal is being worked up on needed boiler repairs. It will be submitted to the council.

"Pave the Way" Campaign: About \$286,000 of the pledged \$311,000 has been given to the campaign. Council received a brief update on the interior signage as well as work that has been done to plan for a new outside sign.

Paul Bulgerin
Church Council President

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:
DECEMBER 16 AT 6:30 P.M.**



December Birthdays



1 Mari Osmon	11 Michael Haas	17 Dale Landgren	26 Fred Fuller
1 Lori Paget	12 Barb Bessette	18 Jen Beug-Hoffman	27 Lily Fuller
3 Isaac Roth	12 Robert Wagner	18 Anna Douglas	27 Duane Walsh
4 Maelyn Olson	13 Ronald Bertrand	19 Carole Lewis	28 Heidi Bischmann
5 Gary Bruck	13 Gary Fritz	20 Brooklyn Barz	28 Jessica Gugel
6 Jenny Augustine	13 Sharlene Waller	20 Zack Clerc	28 Everleigh Pavlichek
7 Riley Ebbole	13 Andrea Warp	20 Sandy Koscielniak	29 Mayzie Allbaugh
7 Michael Petfalski	15 Payton Fuerstenberg	20 Kyle Koscielniak	29 Samantha Bulgerin
7 Reini Wasemiller	15 Toby Petfalski	20 Don Spencer	30 Jacob Hoem
8 Mariah Fuller	15 Jack Whitaker	23 Mark Surma	30 Peggy Keough
8 Kelly Petfalski	15 Will Whitaker	24 Hannah Beukema	30 Ryan Rateike
8 Jo Riley	16 Mark Paget	25 Carol May	31 Hailey Adams
9 Jason Turner	17 Ryan Gillette	25 Mark Reinfeldt	31 Hope Burns
10 Evie Douglas	17 Avery Johnson	25 Sandy Scherer	31 John Seamonson



What Will Happen After Pastor Brian Retires?

I have had people ask me where things stand with the work to be done as we move toward Pastor Brian's retirement next May, welcome an interim pastor and call a new pastor to St. John's. The short answer is that we have not yet done anything about these things because it's not yet the time to do any of this work.

I recently spoke with Pastor Nielsen, who is an assistant to the bishop of our Greater Milwaukee Synod, about the transition process. She will be the synod staff member who will work with us during the transition period.

Synod Call Information: There is information on the Greater Milwaukee Synod website about the Mission Exploration Team process, calling an interim pastor and putting together a call committee to find a new pastor. You can check it out at: <https://milwaukee-synod.org/resources/for-congregations/the-call-process-for-congregations/>

Mission Exploration Team (MET): The first step to be taken, after we do a great job celebrating Pastor Brian's ministry and congratulating him on his well-deserved retirement, will be to create a Mission Exploration Team to conduct a thorough analysis of our congregation; our strengths and weaknesses and our ministry goals for the future.

The council will solicit names for the MET and will oversee its work. All members will be invited to share in the Mission Exploration Team's work as it explores these topics with the congregation.

Interim Pastor: Pastor Nielsen told me that the synod has begun considering who might serve as our interim pastor but has not selected anyone. There is a possibility that we might know who the interim pastor is before Pastor Brian's retirement in May. However, the interim pastor will most likely not begin right away following Pastor Brian's retirement. We may need to plan for supply pastors and emergency pastoral coverage for a period of at least several weeks following his retirement.

The council will meet with the interim candidate and the council has the authority to approve or reject the candidate.

The interim pastor will head up the work of the MET. This is part of the training interim pastors receive. The MET reports regularly to the council.

Forming a Call Committee: When the time comes to form a call committee, and this will probably take months following the arrival of the interim pastor and the start of the MET process, the council will solicit names for call committee members. A special congregational meeting will be held and the members of the call committee will be elected at that meeting.


The call committee will then begin its work, with the synod's guidance, of receiving profiles on potential candidates, conducting interviews and making a recommendation to the congregation of a new pastoral candidate.

Finally, another special congregational meeting will be held to vote on the pastoral candidate.

As you can see, there is a lot of work to be done and it will take time to do it well. So, be patient. In the meantime, you are welcome to talk with me if you have any questions about the process.

Paul Bulgerin
Church Council President

Calendar of events for December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent 1 8:30a worship* 9:45a education and fellowship 10:45a worship	2 9:45a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon	3 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 6:00p quilters 6:30p handbell rehearsal 6:30p Kathka dance group 7:00p Grief Support Group	4 8:30a Retired Men's bfast 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 5:45p meal 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p Advent worship 7:00p choir rehearsal	5 6:00p Faith Alive 6:30p AI-Anon 7:00p AA	6 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi 7:30p Chinese Church	7 8:30a Saturday Group 7:30p Jubilate Chorale Concert
8 Advent 2 8:30a worship* 9:45a education and fellowship 10:45a worship	9 Food Pantry Pick Up 9:45a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon 7:00p Christmas Star show at Planetarium	10 8:30a property team 8:30a Bible Study (offsite) 10:00a staff mtg 6:30p HR Team Zoom mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal 6:30p Kathka dance group 7:00p Grief Support Group	11 9:30a Morning Circle 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 5:45p meal 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p Advent worship 7:00p choir rehearsal	12 4:00p Finance Team mtg 6:30p AI-Anon 7:00p AA	13 6:15a virtual men's group 10:00a prayer shawl group 1:30p Tai Chi 7:30p Chinese Church	14 8:30a Saturday Group 10:30a Christmas Party
15 Advent 3 8:30a worship* 9:45a education and fellowship 10:45a worship	16 9:45a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 1:00p Women's Study Grp 6:30p AI-Anon 6:30p council meeting	17 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 1:00p book club 6:30p handbell rehearsal 6:30p Kathka dance group 7:00p Grief Support Group	18 12:00p Retired Men's lunch 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 5:45p meal 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p Advent worship 7:00p choir rehearsal	19 6:00p Preschool Program 6:00p Faith Alive 6:30p AI-Anon 7:00p AA	20 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi 7:30p Chinese Church	21 8:30a Saturday Group
22 Advent 4 8:30a worship* 9:45a education and fellowship 10:45a worship	23 9:45a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon	24 11:00a worship* 2:00p worship* 4:00p worship* 11:00p worship	25 Christmas 6:00p AA Office closed 	26 6:30p AI-Anon 7:00p AA	27 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi	28
29 9:00a worship*	30 9:45a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon	31 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg Office closed	*worship service/event is live streamed	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 Heidi with questions.		

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:

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

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.

Council Contacts

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

Jack Shaffer 262-212-4240



St. John's
LUTHERAN ELCA
Brookfield, Wisconsin

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



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