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St. John's Lutheran
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Pastor Ponders

by Pastor Brian Halverson

Every January 1 we celebrate the beginning of a new year. Many of us also make new year resolutions that, often, are observed for about two weeks and then it is back to the old habits again.

Perhaps we should take this time to make goals rather than resolutions. Goal setting and action allow for the reality that we may not always keep on the “straight and narrow” of reaching the goal right away and gives us grace to persevere until either the goal is met or adjusted.

One goal may be to write a gratitude list more often. Such a list helps us focus on God’s presence and strength as we continually thank God for his mercy and care for us.

Another goal may be to read a chapter in Scripture or a devotional which again helps us center our day in the Word of God, finding inspiration or comfort in God’s eternal promises.

A third goal might be to attend worship more often, intentionally centering our week in Christian fellowship and community. Sometimes going to church may feel like going to the health club or going out to exercise – difficult to get motivated but once there, often feels refreshing and spiritually satisfying.

Finally, a goal may be to be more generous in giving to the community of faith, whether it is increasing our financial giving or giving more of our time to

ministries that proclaim the good news in word and deed. This helps us to be continually aware that life is so much more than just our immediate concerns or worries.

Most important, remember these goals are not ends in themselves. Like prayer, they are spiritual practices that keep God present in our thoughts and actions at all times and help us to live faithfully in the mission set before us by Jesus Christ.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Brian

Endowment Grant Applications Wanted



Applications will be accepted for St. John’s Endowment Grants during January.

If you would like your service project considered for a grant, fill out a form online. (Paper copies are available at the info desk. Put the completed form in our committee mailbox (bottom right cubbie of the admin boxes) or mail back to church.)

Applicants must be a member of St. John’s and funds must be used expeditiously.



Children, Youth & Families

St. John's Preschool Christmas Program



On December 19, decked out in their holiday finest, our Two, Three and Four year olds sang favorite Preschool songs and Christmas songs.

Mrs. Wagner read The Christmas Elephant, a Nativity Story. We laughed when Ellie tried to be a lamb for the Christmas pageant when she only wanted to be an elephant. We wondered who would find the missing Baby Jesus and cheered when Ellie found the baby. Together we were reminded that Christmas is all about



Jesus and that Baby Jesus loves everyone.



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.

Now Enrolling for 2025-2026

Two Year Old Class
My introduction to Preschool

Three Year Old Class
I'm learning and exploring in Preschool

Four Year Old Class
I'm getting ready for 4K and 5K

Email Us at: lnickinger@stjohnsbrookfield.org
Call Us at: 262-786-4298

The flyer features a colorful illustration of a classroom with a green chalkboard, a clock, and a window. Several diverse cartoon children are shown around the text, some holding the sign. The background is a warm, yellowish-brown color.

Children, Youth & Families

Save the Date for VBS

Join us for Build VBS this summer at St. John's as we explore how to build our lives around Jesus, with LEGOS! Registration opens in February.



Sunday Evenings

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.

5th and 6th grade calendar:

Jan 5 Connect Class 4:30-6:00p
Jan 19 Connect Class 4:30-6:00p

7th and 8th grade calendar:

Jan 12 Confirmation 4:30-6:00p
Jan 26 Confirmation 4:30-6:00p



Contact Joanna
with Toddler to 8th
Grade Questions

jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Advent Recap

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

Sunday School

Join us on Sundays at 9:45am for Sunday School! In January we are starting a new unit called "Rain or Shine: Trusting God in Every Season". We all face times of sadness or despair, joy and happiness! Thankfully, while on earth, Jesus faced all the same emotions we face. He understands loss and sadness, and reminds us that **no matter what, we are not alone.**

Sunday School programming is for ages 3-5th grade (and 2 yr olds with a parent!) 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.



Sunday School Stewardship Update

School is starting in El Salvador, so this month we will finish up collecting for our scholarship student Marlon! Marlon is a 9th grade student who loves the outdoors and soccer. Miss Becky is traveling to El Salvador this month and will take with her the cards we are making for the students on January 5. Donate during Sunday School or online through the Vanco Sunday School Offering button. Muchas Gracias!

And a HUGE thank you to everyone who contributed in November and December! We were able to donate a car-full of items (and help sponsor a family) through the Waukesha County Christmas Clearing Council and help their families have a great Christmas!

Baptism

Interested in Baptism for yourself, your child or grandchild? Please reach out to Pastor Brian at pastorbrian@stjohnsbrookfield.org.



Children, Youth & Families

Subs and Pizza

Beginning January 19, we will be taking orders for Superbowl Sunday Subs and Pizzas! Orders due by February 2.



2025 Mission Trip

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



M&M Thank You

A huge THANK YOU to all who donated to our M&M fundraiser!

We raised **\$1206.56** towards the high school trip to Nashville this summer!



HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
1/12	Youth Group	4:30p-6:00p
1/19	HS Led Service Project	Between services
1/23	9th grade confirmation - Sikh	6:30p-8:00p
1/26	Youth Group	4:30p-6:00p



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

sbroussard@stjohnsbrookfield.org
or 262-453-9201

Next Service Project is January 19



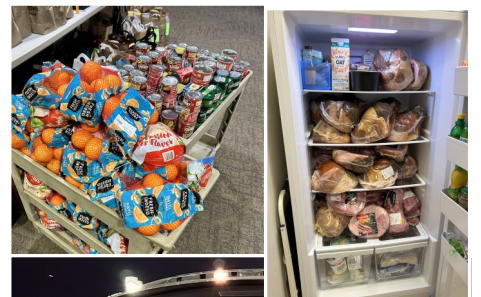
Congregational Service Project
January 19
between services

TOYS
for shelter pets

Join us January 19 between services to create toys for shelter animals! During this cold weather many animals are unable to get their energy out outside, so we are going to make some things for them to use inside!

Food Shopping

Fun filled night of food shopping for the Christmas Food Drive.



December Service Project - Card Making



Worship and Music

Thank You, Musicians

A heartfelt thank you to all who enhanced our beautiful Advent and Christmas services! Especially our wonderful directors Kenn Anderson, Heidi Bischmann and Lisa Weiss-Cornelius. Also Lana DeCoto, Brent Logan, all choir members and instrumentalists, and the middle school ensemble. We are truly blessed to worship together.

Epiphany Worship

Hephatha and Kingo congregations invite you to an Epiphany Day worship service celebration. The light of Christ shines hope into the world!

Date and time: January 6, 2025
5:00 p.m.

Where: Hephatha Lutheran Church
1720 W Locust St. Milwaukee 53206

The offering will benefit Outreach for Hope.

Thank you, Assistants

Thanks to all who volunteered to serve communion, usher, and light candles at all of the Christmas Eve services. Without you, the worship services would not have run as smoothly. Thanks to all those who helped with the Christmas Pageant, getting everyone ready for their parts in the play. Again, without your help, this would not have been possible. If you enjoy serving communion or ushering, remember, these people are needed each and every Sunday. Check out the Sign up Genius, or talk to Sandy Paukner. We can always use more volunteers!

Questions about
music at
St. John's?



Contact Becky!

bwhelpley@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Thank You for Pageant Help

A huge thank you to Michelle Sternkopf, Sandra Wicklund, and Jane Olinger for their help with our Instant Christmas Pageant!



Serving the World

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.)

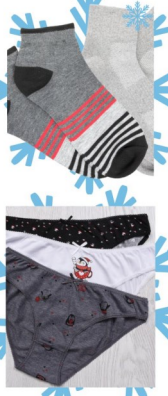
Contact Brian Cranfill at 262-786-2619 with questions

JANUARY
Outreach Focus

Socks
and
Undies

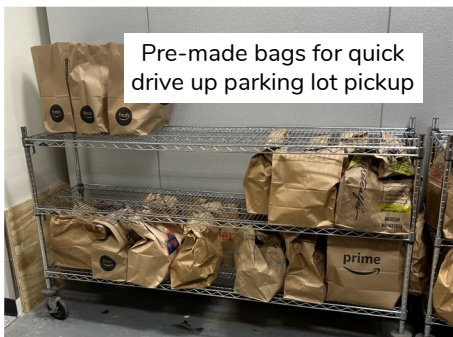
for

HOPE CENTER



Waukesha Food Pantry Open House

In order to serve their clients better, the Waukesha Food Pantry recently completed a remodel of their main service area. Brian and Jennifer Cranfill attended the Open House.



Loaves and Fishes

February 23

"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 23. We need a few people to help prepare food, greet our guests, and serve the meal. Mark your calendars! If you are not familiar with this program and would like more information, please contact Dawn Williams @ 262-309-9333 or nytwnd88@gmail.com

Loaves and Fishes



Caring for God's Creation

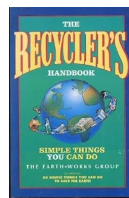
The Recycler's Handbook

By Pastor Brian Halverson

During this past autumn season we explored and considered how we are stewards of God's creation. We read about how stewardship is woven throughout the Old and New Testaments, thereby putting great emphases on how we are God's representatives on this planet. As representatives, we act in God's salvific plan as the world's guardian, taking loving care of all that God has created.

Over the past two years, Joanna Salinas has been writing newsletter articles which include ways in which we can take care of the environment, and we will continue to do so because of its great importance. One of the most important ways we can ensure a cleaner environment is, of course, to recycle.

In a book entitled *The Recycler's Handbook*, the author fills the pages with easy and helpful things we can do to recycle. Many of the suggestions you probably already know and do, but it is good to hear them again as a reminder of our commitment.



One of the ways is to bring "forever" shopping bags that you can purchase at any grocery store (usually printed with the store's name on it). This saves on using the plastic bags. This saves on the amount of plastic that needs to be recycled or that doesn't get recycled at all. And it helps in not having a mountain of plastic bags building up in your closet.

So when the grocery clerk asks you if "plastic is ok", just say, No, I've brought my own." This will go a long way to eliminate a great deal of plastic in our landfills or waterways.

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!!!



El Salvador News

Becky Whelpley will be traveling to El Salvador in January, representing St. John's. The first part of the trip will be the election of the new bishop. Pictured below is the new national council for the Salvadoran Lutheran Church. The new bishop-elect, Pastor Guadalupe Cortez, is second from right.



The second part of the trip will be the blessing of the new mini-clinic in Los Héroes.



Bargello Quilting



Would you like to learn or try out the Bargello quilting technique? Come try it out! All materials will be provided. Please sign up so we can plan for you. The only requirement is for you to be able to sew an accurate 1/4" seam.

January 10
1:00-4:00 p.m.

Use QR to sign up.



Council Communications

The meeting was held on Monday, December 16, 2024.

Pastor's Report: At the annual meeting in early February, Pastor Brian will share his idea for a special Environmental Sustainability Taskforce 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. He encourages the congregation to approve this recommendation and to include this in our congregational mission.

Pastor Carol Juenette, who specializes in "family systems and dynamics", will meet with our staff and council on Saturday, February 1, to discuss how we communicate with one another at church, and how we can better deal with issues and conflict and work efficiently with one another. These are important topics for us to

discuss as we move into the Mission Exploration Team process during the pastoral transition next year.

Worship attendance continues to be strong. The music Sunday worship service was excellent.

Finances: November giving was two percent under the budgeted amount. We continue to run a significant deficit through the first eleven months of the year. It is hoped that the end of year giving letter to the congregation will bring in additional offerings help to close that gap in December. We did have strong contributions in the first two weeks of December.

The proposed 2025 church budget was discussed at length. We will need to make some significant budget reductions for the coming year. Various options for this were discussed. Council also looked at

several ways in which we can encourage additional congregational giving to help reduce the deficit. These plans will be shared with the congregation in early 2025.

President's Report: The 2025 staff holiday schedule was approved.

"Pave the Way" Campaign: About \$295,000 of the pledged \$311,000 has been given to the campaign.

The invoice for the new interior signage was approved by the council. The signage designs were previously shared with the staff and Property Committee.

Paul Bulgerin
Church Council President

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:
JANUARY 20 AT 6:30 P.M.**



January Birthdays



1 Sue Hamman	13 Patti Baeten	19 Ellen Bertrand	27 Malachi Beyerlein
2 John Beukema	13 Natalie Mathes	20 Ellie Fuchs	27 Marc Delzer
4 Hadley Brooks	14 Jeff Gubbins	21 Connor Hutchinson	27 Jacki Hale
4 Bill Sattler	14 Kathy Hoepfner	21 Angela Sidebottom	27 Jeremy Hale
6 Jeff DuChateau	15 Austin Klemm	22 Karen Wolfmeyer	27 Jim Johnson
7 Gary Grunau	15 Liam Sadowski	23 Kyle Weyer	27 Valy Keierleber
8 Owen Pavlichek	16 Callum Morrell	23 Dan Wimmer	28 Floyd Keierleber
8 Jason Rateike	16 Dawn Vogelsang	25 Teresa DuChateau	28 Sharon Krukar
8 Henry Sidebottom	17 Lola Koscielniak	25 Ryan Jerins-Boll	30 Jim Morgan
11 Liam Brooks	17 Joseph Sidebottom	25 Eli Zach	30 Jim Truax
12 Anja Logan	18 Mark Latus	26 Tony Madrigal	31 Justin Belli
12 Andrew Zick	18 David Seamonson	27 Dave Beyer	31 Spencer Dominguez

2024 Year in Review



Calendar of events for January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <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 Heidi with questions.</p> </div>			1 Office closed 6:00p AA	2 6:00p Faith Alive 6:30p AI-Anon 7:00p AA	3 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi	4 8:30a Saturday Group
5 8:30a worship* 9:45a education and fellowship 10:45a worship 4:30p youth programming	6 <i>Food Pantry Pick Up</i> 9:45a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon	7 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal 6:30p Kathka dance group	8 9:30a Morning Circle 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	9 6:30p AI-Anon 7:00p AA	10 6:15a virtual men's group 10:00a prayer shawl group 1:00p Bargello Quilting 1:00p Tai Chi beginners 1:30p Tai Chi 7:30p Chinese Church	11 8:30a Saturday Group
12 8:30a worship* 9:45a education and fellowship 10:45a worship 2:00p piano recital 4:30p youth programming	13 9:45a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon	14 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 6:00p quilters 6:30p HR Team Zoom mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal 6:30p Kathka dance group	15 12:00p Retired Men's lunch 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	16 4:00p Finance Team mtg 6:00p Faith Alive 6:30p AI-Anon 7:00p AA	17 6:15a virtual men's group 1:00p Tai Chi beginners 1:30p Tai Chi 7:30p Chinese Church	18 8:30a Saturday Group 9:30a Women of Faith
19 8:30a worship* 9:45a education and fellowship 9:45a service project 10:45a worship 4:30p youth programming	20 9:45a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 1:00p Women's Study Grp 6:30p AI-Anon 6:30p council meeting	21 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 1:00p book club 6:30p handbell rehearsal 6:30p Kathka dance group	22 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	23 6:30p AI-Anon 6:30p 9 th grade confirmation 7:00p AA	24 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi 7:30p Chinese Church	25 8:30a Saturday Group
26 8:30a worship* 9:45a education and fellowship 10:45a worship 4:30p youth programming	27 9:45a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p AI-Anon	28 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal 6:30p Kathka dance group	29 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	30 6:00p Faith Alive 6:30p AI-Anon 7:00p AA	31 6:15a virtual men's group 1:00p Tai Chi beginners 1:30p Tai Chi 7:30p Chinese Church	*worship service/event is live streamed

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	Carole L
Floyd K	Carol M
Dylan H	Phyllis W
Julia	Connor
Dale L	Bev W
Mark A	

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



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**