

May 2025

Stay Informed. Be Inspired.



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

262-786-6887

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Pastor Ponders

We are now in the Easter season. It is perhaps easy to forget that both Christmas and Easter are not just one day celebrations but a part of the larger story of Christ's birth and resurrection. In their own way, these holy days are just the beginning of a new chapter in the overall story that unfolds over time. The Easter season, over the fifty days that we observe, give us depth and meaning to what God has done and continues to do.

As Christians we live not only in the world's chronological time but also in God's time, which I would call God's "time-fulness" – a time that is fulfilled and limitless. We give thanks for the day that God has created for us, to be the people God has created us to be

eternal life, so that as these days pass, we know the glory that awaits us in the future.

pass and pass quickly. When I started this pastoral ministry journey thirty-five years ago, I had no idea that my pastoral work in the church would come to an end know what God has in store for me. I know that God has blessed congregations as pastor. As a chaplain I have been privileged to meet and spend time with patients at two different hospitals and one long-term care facility. At the

by Pastor Brian Halverson

and to do what God has created us beginning, I didn't know where to do. And we are deeply thankful God would lead me, but God has that we are baptized into God's been with me every step of the

God is with you too, every step of the way. As a congregation you Time, as we understand it, does will enter a new phase of your mission, and the possibilities for the direction and purpose that God will provide you are exciting - and a little scary, as most transitions are. You have been faithful to God called retirement. Although I don't through these sixty plus years, and the Holy Spirit has great things in store for you in the next sixty I have served faithful years! Continue to proclaim the time-fulness of Jesus Christ, the Good News!

> He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

> > Pastor Bria

Pastor Brian's Retirement

Join Us for Pastor Brian's Retirement Celebration on May 25

St. John's will thank Pastor Brian Halverson for his six years of service among us and wish him a great retirement at the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 25.

During worship we will have a farewell service for him and honor him with the presentation of some gifts from the congregation.

There will be a cake reception following the service where you are invited to share your personal wishes for his retirement with him.

Join us for this special day!



What happens after Pastor Brian Retires? See page 9 for the answer!

Children, Youth & Families

St. John's Preschool is proud to be a Playing to Learn Preschool.

What is Playing to Learn? Throughout the morning it will be teacher-led learning, independent play and

group play. These ways to learn complements a child's brain and body development and provides the foundation to academic success.

What we all say is that if learning looks like playing and fun in Preschool,

learning happens in all the best ways!







Build VBS: Faith in Action

Let-Go of Your Lego!

Do you have Legos hanging out in your basement you don't know what to do with? Kids grown? Running out of space? Donate them to Build VBS and know they will be loved by a new generation of kids! All sizes of Lego and Duplo accepted. Model Cool Lego Builds accepted, too! Lego donations will NOT be returned.

Donate to the blue bin in the donation center.



Who: Kids ages 4-5th grade (finishing)

Ages 6th grade and up are encouraged to join us as leaders!

What: Kids will learn to BUILD their lives on the Solid Rock of Jesus! Each

day the Bible lesson will connect Legos and STEM as we explore

putting our faith into action as we build a Giant Lego Man!

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church, 20275 Davidson Rd, Brookfield,

Wisconsin 53045

When: August 4-7, 2025 from 9:00am-12:00pm.

Join us for closing Family Fun Night at 6:30 on August 7.

How: Register online HERE or click or scan the QR code below.

> If you are registering more than one child, please complete a registration form for each child. Registration deadline is July 20 or

when classes are full.

Costs: \$35 per child before June 1 (\$100 family maximum), \$40 per child

after June 1 (\$120 family maximum) for VBS Monday - Thursday,

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, including snacks and projects.





Children, Youth & Families

Sunday School

- 1. Join us on May 18 during the Sunday School hour for our Super-Duper-End-Of-The-Year-Extravaganza!
- 2. A huge thank you to our Sunday School and Confirmation leaders and our Children, Youth, and Family Board for their commitment, leadership and dedication to our Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at St. John's.

Sunday School leaders: Marie and Jordan Emmons, Jenny Templin, Michelle & Josh Werner, John Roth, Carrie and Phil Peters, Karie Zach, and Sonja Beyerlein. Thanks to Dayne Peters for his A/V skills, and Sara Sadowski and Andrea Rebisch for leading our Stewardship drives!

Children, Youth and Family Board: Linnea Logan, Sonja Beyerlein, Karie Zach, Curtis Templin, and CYF staff.

Sunday School Calendar

- May 4 Happy Confirmation Day! There is no regular Sunday School but we invite you to stop by and bring a donation to HAWS in the Youth Room at 9:45 and there is a pancake breakfast beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- May 11 Happy Mother's Day!

 There is Sunday School this day.
- May 18 Last day of Sunday School! Join us for our Super-Duper-End-Of-The-Year-Extravaganza!

VBS Volunteers 6th Grade and Older

Calling all Camp Counselors & Volunteers

VBS is August 4-7. Join us for the week of VBS and help create an amazing experience for all of our elementary school friends. This year's theme is Build VBS and is Lego themed! It's sure to be a super fun week. Sign up to help with preschoolers, at a station, be a camp counselor, and more! Sign Up Here

Back by popular demand --

Volunteer Training Lock In on July 26-27

Sunday Evenings

We are wrapping up our Sunday evening programming! Thanks for a wonderful year!

5th and 6th grade has wrapped up for the year!

7th and 8th grade calendar:

May 4 Last Confirmation class of the year!

May 4 8th grade parent meeting 5:45p

Save the Dates! Family Fun Nights 2025 June 27 & August 7 at 6:30

6th-8th Graders

Sign up to work the Pancake Breakfast on May 4 in honor of 9th grade Confirmation!

Sign Up HERE → <u>High School Youth</u> Group: 2025 Pancake Breakfast

Contact Joanna with any questions!



8th Grade Parent Meeting

Attention parents of 8th graders:



Come fifteen minutes early to pick up your student from confirmation on Sunday.

May 4. Join Stephanie Broussard at 5:45 p.m. to talk about what their 9th grade (and final) year of confirmation is going to look like!



Contact Joanna with Toddler to 8th Grade Questions

jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Children, Youth & Families

Confirmation Weekend

Friday, May 2 | 6:30 p.m.

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

Sunday, May 4 | 9:00 a.m.

Pancake Pancake breakfast to celebrate our seven confirmands.

Sunday, May 4 | 10:45 a.m.



Come join us as our seven confirmands affirm their baptism! (Yes, there is an 8:30 worship also!)

8th Grade Parent Meeting

Come 15 minutes early to pick up your student and join Stephanie Broussard on Sunday, May 4 at 5:45 p.m. to talk about what their 9th grade (and final year of confirmation) is going to look like!

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR					
DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME			
May 2	Confirmation Evening	6:30p-8:00p			
May 4	Pancake Breakfast	9:00a-11:00a			
5/4	Confirmation	10:45 service			
May 4	8th Grade Parent Mtg	5:45p-6:00p			

Youth Led Service Projects

April Care Packages

Our youth led service project for April was packing care packages for our young adults.







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

sbroussard@stjohnsbrookfield.org or 262-453-9201



Graduate Information

St. John's will honor and pray for our graduates on June 1 at 9:00 a.m. If there is a high school or college graduate in your house, please click or scan the QR code to submit information on the graduate.



Stewardship Update

Hello, I'm Chris and I'm on your Stewardship Committee.

I am happy to report that giving for 2025 continues to be above goal. THANK YOU!

Today I want to tell you about a ministry I am involved with through St. John's - **Project Move** at the **HOPE Center**.

We have a team of four dedicated grunts – Joe Shaeffer, Gregg Everts, Brian Harms and myself – who take our turn rotating with eight other crews from neighboring churches. We head out on a Saturday morning a few times a year in one of the Hope Center trucks to pick up furniture and appliances from donors located throughout Waukesha Country. We bring the items back to the large Hope Center garage where people in need can come and pick out items they need for **FREE!**

These households are often starting out fresh, sometimes after previously traumatic experiences, and have very few possessions. Children may be sleeping on floors with their clothes in a backpack, families may not have a way to store or cook food, and households may struggle to find money to do laundry at a laundromat.

In 2024 there were 223 households who received a total of 1407 items to help them start life anew. These include items such as beds, dressers, couches, tables, refrigerators, stoves, washers, and dryers. These items do not just meet material needs, but provide them Hope in a fresh start.

So, if you need to find a loving home for a piece of furniture or appliance you don't need anymore, call the Hope Center and schedule a pick up. And if you want to join the team – let me know. Our crew is all 50+ now and we would gladly welcome some healthy strong

by Chris Klink

Thank you for making Project Move—and everything we do together at St. John's—possible!

backs!

Stewardship Committee Update

• March / 1Q General Giving Summary

March 2025	2024/Goal	2023	
\$61,847	\$53,045	\$43,371	
Q1 2025	2024/Goal	2023	
\$229,651	\$199,255	\$234,372	

- Giving continues above goal. THANK YOU!
- · Chris' Impact Story: Project Move





2024 Hope Center Snapshot

CLOTHING SHOP

- 3,410 unduplicated individuals visited the clothing shop 30,290 times
 - approximately 36% of all visits were for children
- · 81,034 articles of clothing were distributed
- 758 households received 2,521 household items
- · 10 layettes were distributed

PROJECT MOVE

 223 households received 1,407 furniture items

е

DAY CENTER

992 unduplicated individuals visited the day center 19,559 times

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

 \$24,265 in financial assistance distributed to 908 clients

DONATIONS

- 1,100 furniture items donated
- 4,115 household items donated
- 75,026 clothing items donated
- \$105,368 retail value of food donated

MEAL PROGRAM

- 19.559 breakfasts served
- · 17,610 lunches served
- 9,723 dinners served
 - 565 unduplicated individuals visited the evening meal program

SHOWER PROGRAM



 137 unduplicated individuals visited the day center 1.042 times

Little Liturgical Library

We are excited to share our heartfelt thanks to each of you for your generous support in launching our new Little Liturgical Library! Located at the back of the sanctuary, this cozy corner is already making a meaningful difference for our children and youth during worship.

Thanks to your donations, encouragement, and enthusiasm, we've created a welcoming space filled with thoughtfully chosen books and quiet resources that help our young people engage with the liturgy in age-appropriate ways. Whether they're reading about the life of Jesus or exploring the meaning of baptism, these tools are helping form faith right in the heart of our worship space.

Your support is a beautiful reminder that our whole church family plays a role in nurturing the spiritual lives of the next generation. Thank you for making this vision a reality!

Have you had a chance to check out the Little Liturgical Library yet?



Creation Corner

Make your home more efficient, for FREE!!!

Did you know that Focus on Energy offers multiple energy -saving packs full of a variety of efficient home products for every room and need—all sent straight to your doorstep for FREE! If you pay a utility bill in Wisconsin, head to the Focus on Energy website and pick a pack of savings each year.



https://focusonenergy.com/residential/energy-saving-packs

May Birthdays

- 1 Oliver Boll
- 1 Paul Bulgerin
- 1 Gavin Campeau
- 2 Devri Zick
- 3 Judi Berglund
- 3 Michelle Sternkopf
- 4 Hannah Bulgerin
- 8 Bob Davis
- 8 Helen Linsemeyer
- 9 Stephanie Athorp
- 11 Edith Belli
- 11 Terry Hoeppner
- 11 John Holmberg
- 12 Brent Keierleber
- 13 Diane Nelson
- 13 Gavin Stefanski
- 14 Greg Reinfeldt
- 15 Ariel Lipscomb
- 15 Andrea Rebisch
- 16 Donna Yourell
- 17 Billy Emmons
- 17 Arlene Katka
- 18 James Larson
- 19 Kris Wasserman



- 20 Judy Hintzman
- 20 Roy Osmon
- 20 Ardythe Seeber
- 21 Pat Janz
- 21 Max Kapellusch
- 21 Gerry Milz
- 21 Carol Smith
- 22 Sara Everts
- 23 Eloise Lange
- 23 Joshua Seamonson
- 23 Tommy Werner
- 24 Jan Gregoire
- 24 Dylan Yourell
- 25 Jon Hintzman
- 25 Gary Schettler
- 26 Maria Koscielniak
- 27 John Almasi
- 27 Brian Halverson
- 27 Julie Webb
- 28 Anna Petersen
- 30 David Balzer
- 30 Joseph Balzer
- 30 Ed Henschel
- 31 Virginia Degen-

hardt

Worship and Music

Journey of the Heart

Jubilate Chorale Concert Vicki Taylor - Director

Becky Whelpley- accompanist

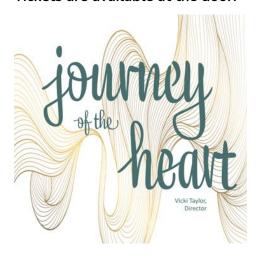
Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Ascension Lutheran Church 1415 Dopp Street Waukesha, WI 53188

Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 3:00 pm

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 12700 West Howard Avenue New Berlin, WI 53151

Tickets are available at the door.



Questions about music at St. John's?



Contact Becky!

bwhelpley@stjohnsbrookfield.org

MAY 25 Pastor Brian's last Sunday Join us for worship to wish Pastor Brian a Happy Retirement Cake reception to follow worship

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

The standard opening hymn for Easter Sunday is this masterpiece by Charles Wesley. Yet surprisingly his brother John did not include it in his monumental 1780 Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People Called Methodists. The florid notes for the Alleluias remind us that sometimes singing moves beyond the mere words, adding a larger dimension to our praise.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1017-1788

Source: Sacred Poems and Hymns Notes by Austin C. Lovelace



Thank You Musicians

Thank you to all musicians who enhanced our Lent and Easter worship! It takes a lot of folks working together and we



What Happens After Pastor Brian Retires?

We will see some important changes at St. John's following Pastor Brian's retirement on May 25.

As Council President, I am working to secure supply pastors for the month of June and part of July. There is usually a period of about a month and a half between when a pastor leaves, or retires, and when the interim pastor arrives. We will be in good hands at worship with a number of familiar pastoral faces leading us in worship. We will also have a pastor available in case of emergency situations.

Pastor Kristin Nielsen, assistant to the bishop, will work with us on all that is about to happen. She has said she will meet with the church council in early June to discuss calling an interim pastor. Once in place, the interim pastor will serve St. John's and work with the Exploration Mission Team it does (MET) as its congregational assessment. We will be choosing the members of the MET shortly after the interim pastor arrives. If you would like to considered to serve on this group, please let me know.

The interim pastor will head up the work of the MFT.

We will have more information on this whole process to share with you at the June 1 annual meeting. I am available if you have any questions about what is to come at St. John's.

Paul Bulgerin



The Property Times

By Bill Stace

A monthly insight behind-the-scenes at St. John's

Accordion Door

Do I hear Polka music! No, it is our old worn-out accordion door being replaced. Due to some shipping damage, installation of the door has been delayed. Our team will install it in a few weeks.





Questions about property at St. John's?

Contact Bill!

wstace@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Bucket is Gone

I know our bucket in the Narthex was quite attractive, but alas it is gone, and the leak has been taken care of. A roof replacement is in the works!

The Property Team

Our Volunteer Team of nonprofessional and professional members brings their knowledge and skills to keep things running smoothly and make St. John's a pleasant place to worship.

More Eyes Needed

We need more eyes! If you see anything that you feel Property should address, feel free to contact me ... or better yet ... join our property team!

Synod Assembly Worship

Linnea Logan is gathering a group to go to worship together! Sign up if you would like to carpool and sit together.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CADAA2DA0F85-56450409-svnod

This is a time to ground us in the word of God, brings us together as the body of Christ, and help us prayerfully reflect and prepare for the work ahead.

Friday, May 30 at 7:00 p.m.

The worship is open to all. It is not necessary to register for the assembly to attend worship. This year, worship will be energetic and contemporary, in the style of the ELCA Youth Gathering.

Council Communications

The meeting was held on Monday, April 21, 2025.

Youth Endowment Fund: Linnea Logan, who is a member of the new Youth Endowment Fund Committee, came to give an update to the council. In 2024 a family at St. John's gave a generous gift to help establish this fund which will help, in an ongoing fashion, with special youth ministry activities. The group would like to establish this fund through the ELCA. We will need an additional \$10,000 to meet the ELCA's minimum of \$25.000 for such an endowment. **Further** announcements about this fund, and how St. John's members can contribute to it, will be made at the June 1 annual meeting and in the months to come.

Pastor's Report: Pastor said we had a meaningful Lenten season and Holy Week. He complimented all the excellent music we heard and said that over 500 people attended the Easter Sunday worship services.

Finances: Giving has been strong through the first three months of the year. Part of the giving surplus we currently have is the result of several members who give their offerings every other year. The Council discussed whether to credit part of this to the 2026 budget year, knowing we won't receive this additional giving next year, or if we should count it all for 2025. The Council will discuss this again at its May meeting.

We also discussed giving so far in 2025 regarding the "challenge budget" motion passed at the February 1 annual meeting. After

a lengthy and good conversation, we decided to wait until May, when we see what April giving is like, before making any recommendations to designate some of the year-to-date offerings to help restore budget cuts in the 2025 budget.

President's Report: Pastor Brian's exit interview, which will be led by Pastor Kristin Nielsen, assistant to the bishop, will be held on Saturday, April 26. Exit interviews are always conducted when a pastor takes another call or retires.

As council president, I am working to recruit supply pastors who will lead worship during the month of June and part of July until we should have our interim pastor in place. Pastor Carol Wasemiller has offered to serve as our emergency on-call pastor during those weeks.

Property Committee: We are waiting on a repair estimate for the roof leak in the Gathering Space. This is due to the deterioration of a section of the flat roof. This is the original roof from when this area was constructed in 1989.

Our spring clean-up day will be held on May 5.

"Pave the Way" Update: The interior signage is in place and looks very good.

We are making a deposit to the outdoor sign company. This company will work with us to apply to the Town of Brookfield to receive permission to install an electronic church sign. Should this application be denied, we will proceed with a regular static

outdoor sign. This will be significantly less expensive than an electronic one. The funds are available for either project.

Nominating Committee: While we are still looking for a candidate to serve as council treasurer, the other council positions and the two positions for the Endowment Committee all have nominees who are willing to serve. They will be elected at the June 1 annual meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Bulgerin Church Council President

> NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: MAY 19 AT 6:30 P.M.



Calendar of events for May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*worship service/event is live streamed	Coming in June: Jun 1—one 9:00 worship Jun 1—annual meeting Jun 8—summer worship hours begin Jun 27—Family Fun Night	to meet in the buildir Facility Use Form on th	ur small group or ministrying, please complete the e St. John's website. It is o - Documents and Forms. cions.	1 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	2 6:15a virtual men's group 6:30p Confirmation Presentations 7:30p Chinese Church	3
4 Confirmation Day 8:30a worship* 9:00a pancake breakfast 9:45a HAWS forum 10:45a worship 4:30p youth programming 5:45p 8th grade parent meeting	5 Food Pantry Pick Up 9:45a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 4:00p Spring Spruce Up 6:30p Al-Anon	6 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 6:00p quilters 6:30p handbell rehearsal	7 8:30a retired men's b-fast 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	8 6:00p Faith Alive 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	9 6:15a virtual men's group 10:00a prayer shawl group 12:15p book club 1:30p Tai Chi 7:30p Chinese Church	10
11 8:30a worship* 9:45a ed and fellowship 10:45a worship	12 9:45a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 5:00p Al-Anon	13 8:30a property team 8:30a ladies Bible study 10:00a staff mtg 6:30p HR Team Zoom mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal	9:30a Morning Circle 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	15 4:30p Finance Team mtg 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	16 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi 7:00p Women of Faith bookclub 7:30p Chinese Church	17
18 8:30a worship* 9:45a program year celebration 10:45a worship	19 9:45a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 1:00p Women's Study Grp 6:30p Al-Anon 6:30p council meeting	20 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg 1:00p book club	21 12:00p Retired Men's lunch 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	22 6:00p Faith Alive 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	23 Office Closed 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi 3:30p Vocal Music Recital	24
25 9:00a worship* Pastor Brian's last Sunday. Cake reception to follow worship.	26 Office Closed 9:45a yoga 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon	27 8:30a property team 10:00a staff mtg	28 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	29 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	30 Office Closed 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi 7:00p Synod Assembly worship Synod A	31

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 God welcomes because regardless of race, age or culture, orientation, sexual 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 Connor
Carol M Julia
Dylan H 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

