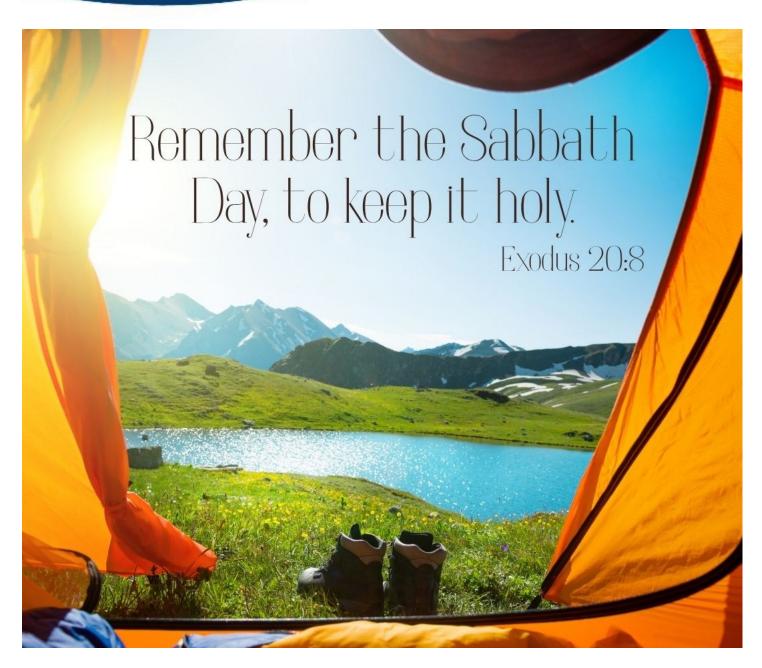


August 2025

Stay Informed. Be Inspired.



In This Issue

Care of God's Community 9
Children, Youth and Family3-6
El Salvador Update7
Mission Exploration Team 10
Worship and Music8



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

262-786-6887

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Pastor Ponders

By Pastor Karen Natterstad, Interim Pastor

Thank you St. John's for inviting me to serve as your interim pastor...again. I served with Interim Pastor Frank Janzow from April 2018 through January 2019 prior to your calling Pastor Brian Halverson.

For those of you who were not a part of St.John's community at that time, let me introduce myself. I've been an ELCA pastor for 38 years congregations in servina Milwaukee Svnod: a Greater in Racine (now congregation merged), Atonement Church. Muskego and Our Savior's Church. Oconomowoc. I retired in 2017. but continued to serve in interim ministry working and then taking extended time off to enjoy "the active retired lifestyle." After St. John's. I served at Gethsemane Church. Brookfield and Matthew's St. Church. Wauwatosa. I share this detail with you as it can be a small world in the Lutheran Church and we may know people in common. Making these connections I think helps us build community.

I am also married to a retired ELCA Clergy, Dean Natterstad, whose 44 years of ministry have been with a number of congregations in this Synod as well. We have two adult children. Our son lives in

Green Bay with our 10 and 12 year old grandchildren and our daughter lives in West Allis with her husband and our 11 and 16 year old grandchildren. We live in Pewaukee, where Dean and I enjoy in our home the company of our

9 year old black lab, Winnie. I continue to provide support to my 94 year old mother who lives in a nursing home in Oconomowoc. She is sharp as can be, manages mobility with an electric wheelchair, and makes the best of nursing home living. She plans to live to 100, now that she's this close.

Dean and I enjoy RV camping, especially in our State Parks. And if it's near a bike trail, we are riding our E-bikes. I enjoy other outdoor

activities too. Staying active, better habits, aging well, have become a bit more important to us at this stage in our lives. I enjoy the solitude of creative activities too quilting, knitting, or working on

jigsaw puzzles.

I'm looking forward to getting re-acquainted with you or meeting you. I'm happy to set aside retirement to serve as your interim pastor. I have great respect for this community and your ministry and am excited

to help you get ready for your "whatever is next." My first impressions I see what I valued so much about you seven years ago joyful worship, long-standing ministries that serve our neighbors in need, sincere care for one another, strong leadership and a devoted staff. Let's keep up this good work. And, let's seek what God has in store for you.

On the journey with you, Pastor Karen, Interim

Get Ready to Rally on September 7



Learn about the programs at St. John's. All people are encouraged to participate; to learn about ministries from softball to quilting, Bible studies to choirs, book clubs to partnerships and visitation team to property. Discover ways you can get involved, serve others, share your talents, and be in community.



Children, Youth & Families

Preschool



Calling all future firefighters & bus drivers to Preschool!



St. John's Preschool

We have Openings in Our Preschool Classes for You in September!

makedisciples.com/preschool lrickinger@stjohnsbrookfield.org - 262-786-4298 20275 Davidson Road Brookfield, WI 53045

Our Mission

The mission of St. John's Preschool is to foster learning in a nurturing environment in which our young children are loved, respected and valued.

We believe that children begin a lifetime of learning through play. Children are Playing to Learn in a warm and loving Christ-centered environment.

We Thankful, Grateful, & Blessed This is what our families say about St. John's Preschool

My children really thrived in an environment where the emphasis was on learning through play. I felt the curriculum was age appropriate for the developmental stage of my children. I appreciated the amount of one-on-one attention that my children received. I felt comfortable leaving my children in the care of experienced and patient staff members, who always showed my children kindness. I have and will continue to recommend St. John's Preschool to those looking at preschool options.

-Dani B..



St. John's provides a wonderful, nurturing preschool experience with age appropriate curriculum for children. Every morning my children are excited for school because of the warm, welcoming teachers greeting them. There is always a large variety of play based learning activities set up for the day that support children's overall social and cognitive development.

-Jena J.

Children, Youth & Families

Confirmation in the Fall

Confirmation will continue Sunday evenings this fall!

Due to overwhelming parental feedback, Pre-Confirmation for 5th & 6th graders, and Confirmation for 7th and 8th graders will continue monthly. Sunday with twice evening gatherings in the fall. We are excited to announce that both classes will meet on the same night this year to reduce families trips! We'll meet from 4:30-6:00pm in person at St. Johns and will start each session with a meal. Look for more information and a fall schedule to come out shortly!

Family Fun Night

Fun for all ages!

You're invited to a church-wide Family Fun Night at 6:30pm in the circle drive at St. John's Lutheran Church. Join us for ga-ga ball, fellowship, and lots of fun! We will have the Lego challenges from VBS week set up in the Fellowship Hall for you to explore as well!

Families are encouraged to attend; bring a friend! All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Fall Registration is Open!

Only one registration form needed per family.

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.office.com/ r/0d8eJRiryw









Contact Joanna with Toddler to 8th Grade Questions

jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Sunday School

Save the date for September 7, 2025, for Rally Day and the first day of Sunday School! At St. John's Sunday School begins at age 3.

Meet at 9:45 in the Sanctuary. More information can be found on our website!



Backpack Blessing

We invite EVERYONE to bring their backpack, briefcase, lunch bag or tote bag for a special blessing to begin the school year surrounded in prayer.

August 24, 2025

8:30 & 10:00 a.m.



Volunteer!

Have a love to share with the children of St. John's? Share your time and gifts with our students on **Sunday Mornings** as part of our Large Group Sunday School team or as a Small Group leader! Pastor Karen also is looking for someone to help with **Sunday evening Confirmation**. Reach out to Joanna to discuss at <u>jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org</u>.



Children, Youth & Families

ELCA Gathering Expedition



Register Now for the Gathering **Expedition at Lutherdale!** October 31 - November 2 for 9th-12th Grade Youth

The Gathering Expedition is more than just a retreat—it's a powerful weekend designed to help you pause, listen, grow, and move. Together, we'll worship, wrestle with big questions, and build deeper connections with one another and with God.

It's a sacred space for youth to explore where God is moving in their lives and a mini version of the ELCA Youth Gathering.

Cost: \$175 per person – includes all food and lodging

Registration Due: September 14 Deposit: \$50 required to lock in

your spot

Faith is on the move. Let's go! We can't wait to hit the road with vou!

Link: https://forms.office.com/pages/

responsepage.aspx?

id=Ompp7QdOGUqbKOSvQsdu7juqQOcvsKNJL R7q4k2whixUQkpUTzhCVVEwQjQzN0YyREFD WUFIR0pPUS4u&route=shorturl

Kick-Off 9th Grade Confirmation



DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER!

Don't forget to sign up for our Confirmation Kick-Off Weekend at Lutherdale on September 5-7!

You should have received an email with all the details. including times and a packing list. If you didn't, let Stephanie know ASAP!

Registration & payment are due by August 17 - don't wait! You won't want to miss this awesome weekend of faith, fun, and friendship to kick off the year!



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

sbroussard@stjohnsbrookfield.org or 262-453-9201

Register Now for Our High School Lock-In!



Register Now for Our High School Lock-In!

August 16 at 2PM until August 17 after 2nd service

Get ready for an epic overnight adventure filled with games, snacks, late-night laughs, time to grow in faith and friendship!

Bring your friends and your best energy—we're making memories that'll last way beyond the weekend.

We're also looking for two awesome overnight chaperones — one male and one female — to join the fun and help keep things smoothly. If you're running interested, let Stephanie know!

Register and sign up here: https://forms.office.com/pages/ responsepage.aspx? id=Ompp7QdOGUqbKOSvQsdu7juq QOcvsKNJlR7q4k2whixUQUwyUDA wVFdTNjBVSEpOVUDVlhORTlTUy4u &route=shorturl

Support and Connect with Our Youth

Comparative Religions

Help Shape Young Hearts and Minds: Be a Comparative Religion Mentor!

As our 9th graders enter their final year of Confirmation, we invite you to play a vital role in their journey of faith and understanding. This year,

students will explore Comparative Religions, learning not only about Christianity but also about other faith traditions through study, conversation, and real-world experiences. religion, accompanying students to experience different faith traditions in person.

HELP SHAPE YOUNG HEARTS
AND MINDS:
BE A COMPARATIVE
RELIGION MENTOR!
Mentors are needed for 9th graders

We are looking for adult mentors who are willing to walk alongside our youth as they reflect on their beliefs, ask big questions, and expand their understanding of the world around them.

You do not need to be an expert in world religions—just someone who is curious, compassionate, and willing to grow alongside our young people. If you're looking for a meaningful way to give back, to build relationships, and to help shape the future of our church, this is a powerful and rewarding opportunity.

in their final year of Confirmation. MENTOR COMMITMENT:

- Once a month on Sunday evenings (October-April)
- One worship visit per month to another congregation

INTERESTED? CONTACT STEPHANIE.

Mentor Commitment:

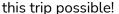
- Once a month on Sunday evenings (October–April) during our regular Confirmation gatherings.
- One worship visit per month to a congregation of another

Interested? Reach out to Stephanie for more details or to sign up. Let's make this an unforgettable year of learning and connection!

Nashville Mission Trip Recap

Our high school youth spent a powerful week in Nashville serving and learning alongside ministries that support the unhoused and those in deep need. From preparing and serving meals to offering a listening ear and open heart, our students experienced firsthand what it means to love our neighbors with compassion and dignity. It was a week filled with eye-opening moments, heartfelt conversations, and a deeper understanding of how God calls us to serve.

Thank you for your prayers, donations, and encouragement—you made





El Salvador Update

The delegation visit in El Salvador was filled with lots of hugs, learning and fun!



The group had a tour of the Los Héroes Community Health Center and participated in a sex education workshop led by Nurse Lorena and Dr. Janeth. The children, youth, parents and grandparents shed their giggles and learned to say (with confidence) the anatomical names for reproductive organs. Lorena and Janeth are building a wonderful rapport with the community and creating a safe space for holistic health and wellness. Our churches provide ongoing support for this important ministry!

Want to know more about this trip?
Want to know more about El Salvador?
Want to know more about our partnership?
Want to know more about scholarship students?

Learn more in September on El Salvador Sunday!



Can't wait until September?
Click here to learn more about
El Salvador now!

(or email: ElSalvador@allpeoplesgathering.org)



August Birthdays

- 1 Josh Werner
- 2 Sonja Beyerlein
- 2 Gene Kaiser
- 3 Debbie Hipke-Fuller
- 3 Phyllis Reichert
- 3 Heidi Wright
- 4 Oliver Lenell
- 5 Alea Martin
- 5 Ethan Vanden Heuvel
- 5 Ryan Wagner
- 5 Karie Zach

- 7 David Douglas
- 7 Linda Elfers
- 7 Judy Klawitter
- 7 Steven Wimmer
- 9 Cordelia Reinfeldt
- 10 Jay Carlson
- 10 Jorja Cesar
- 10 Adelyn Lange
- 11 Kekoa Broussard
- 11 Isabella DuChateau
- 11 Sandy Landgren

- 12 Lori Schettler
- 13 Dale Granlund
- 14 Alyssa Vetta
- 15 Addisyn Kaiser
- 17 John Nugent
- 17 Karen Wilson
- 18 Rhonda Bohne
- 18 Jack Shaffer
- 18 Kevin Wolfmeyer
- 21 Emily Krusche-Bruck
- 21 Carol Wasemiller

- 22 Jason Gillette
- 22 Bill Reed
- 26 Dan Blask
- 26 Nate Nelson
- 26 Ella Salinas
- 27 Rich Warp
- 28 Sue Murack
- 28 Paul Whitaker
- 30 Cathy Whitaker
- 31 Carol Hein
- 31 Barb Lange

Worship and Music

Summer Handbell Camp

Summer Handbell Camp 2025 was a huge success. Sandra Eithun, composer and clinician, directed 30 camp participants. They learned new techniques while learning 11 songs, that were showcased in concert on July 31.



A HURC THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PROVIDED SPECIAL MUSIC THIS SUMMER!

Questions about music at St. John's?



Contact Becky!

bwhelpley@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Join the Choir!

September 3 in the sanctuary, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

We generally sing 2-3 Sundays a month at the 8:30 a.m. service plus holidays September through May. We are actively looking for new members and hope you will prayerfully consider. Highschool age to adult (middle schoolers are We meet to rehearse songs welcome with an adult).

Never sung before in a choir - NO problem! There is no audition.

even all the Sundays that are meals throughout the year. We scheduled? NO problem! Contact also welcome 7th-12th graders Becky Whelpley before the first during this time to work with rehearsal.

bwhelpley@stjohnsbrookfield.org contact

Kids of the Kingdom

Our first rehearsal is Wednesday, Kids of the Kingdom begins for PreK - 6th graders on October 1. Rehearsals take place Wednesdays. Preschool age children begin rehearsals with the large group and then continue with a separate, age appropriate rehearsal led by Mrs. DeCoto.

from 5:15-6:00 p.m. with a dinner to follow. We sing once a month in worship. There is no charge to be involved, we just Can't commit to the whole year or ask families to share a few Becky Whelpley. For more info, Lisa lisajwc@sbcglobal.net.

Weekend Worship

Creation Corner

Adjust your water softener cycle!

Does your home have a water softener? If your bill comes from the Waukesha Water

Utility. likely no longer need it! If you do use one. be aware that older water softeners regenerate on a timer, flushing unneeded sodium and precious water down the drain



on a regular schedule. You may be wasting up to 50 gallons of water each time!

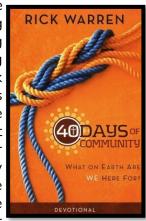
Minimize the environmental impact of yours by making sure it has an on-demand setting and have a service technician come out to adjust your unit's settings for the proper level of hardness and efficiency.

Care of God's Community

Fall Theme - CARE OF GOD'S COMMUNITY

You may remember that last Fall our congregational theme was "Care of God's Creation". This Fall, our theme will be "Care of God's Community". For the congregational study, we will be using Rick Warren's six-week video series entitled "Better Together". Many of you are familiar with Rick Warren. A several years ago, we studied his very popular book "The Purpose Driven Life". (I find his videos to be very powerful, pragmatic, and rewarding.)

In this "Better Together" six-week series, the sessions focus on loving God's family, reaching out together, fellowshipping together, growing together, serving together, and worshiping together. This is a video series, not a book discussion per se. Rick Warren has a "40 Days of Community – What on Earth Are We here for?" devotional book that consists of 40 short daily devotions that will help prepare you for the videos, although reading the short daily devotions is not necessary to participate in the video series and associated discussions. Please consider participating. We think you will find it very rewarding. More info to follow.



Your Adult Ministry Team

Serving and Socializing Outreach For Hope Woman's Outing

Outreach for Hope supporters will gather on the morning of Saturday, September 27 for their largest fundraising event of the year! Join the road and trail bike ride, walking and running routes —or simply join in the picnic lunch and fellowship that follows.

Register at OFHRRW.org.



Women of St. John's ... watch for information about the next women's outing in September. We will be at a new location.

Overnight with Our Youth

Our youth are having a lock-in Augusts 16-17. To make it possible, we're also looking for two awesome overnight chaperones — one male and one female — to join the fun and help keep things running smoothly.

Contact Stephanie with questions.

Quilting Event

Our next Quilting Event:

August 28, 2025 12:30 – 3pm Diamond Trails

Back by popular demand: another group quilting day! It's fun to sew together in a group....learn something new, trade tips, and contribute to a worthy cause: Lutheran World Relief quilts. Come and join us to try another yet another way to make half square triangles (using strips). We will arrange them into the pattern called Diamond Trails. We will work together to hopefully create two quilt tops!

All fabric is prepped and provided. Let us know if you use one of our machines or will bring your own. We will be downstairs in the Ruth and Naomi room for A/C. We can leave everything setup in case folks want to finish up Friday morning. Please sign up on the sign up genius so we can plan accordingly. If you have questions, Klaudia Hollander or Jennifer Cranfill have answers!



Council Communications

Church Council Meeting Update for July 2025

The church council met on Monday, July 21. We welcomed Pastor Karen Natterstad, our new interim pastor, to the meeting.

Finances: Offerings for June were 7% under the budgeted amount. It is not unusual for offerings to fall off during the summer months. So far for 2025 our offerings are 6% over the budgeted amount, which is good news. Expenses are still slightly under budget for the year.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen asked, and the council approved, that \$40,000 of her salary and compensation amount be designated for housing allowance. The council also agreed that she can take eight days of previously planned vacation time before the three-month period usually stipulated for new interim pastors.

Pastor Karen took the council The council also discussed plans through the timeline congregations go through when a pastor leaves and what happens when an interim pastor is called and work on the Mission Exploration Team begins.

She plans to soon begin work recruiting members for the Mission Exploration Team (MET) hopes that the MET will begin its work in September.

President's Report: I talked about plans to make sure that the congregation is kept fully informed of all that will happen during the interim period and while the MET does its work.

Property Committee: The council approved \$17,700 from the capital improvement fund to replace the flat roof over the gathering space area. This is the original roof from when this area was constructed in 1989. Work will be done soon.

and funding sources for the landscaping work to be done outside by the cross. Property will report back on this.

Old **Business:** The council approved the recommendation from the Finance Committee that the handbell director's position be paid for one additional hour per week.

Sincerely, Paul Bulgerin Church Council President

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 15 AT 6:30 P.M.

Mission Exploration Team (MET)

Now that Pastor Karen Natterstad is serving as our interim pastor, the next big step for the congregation is the creation of the Mission Exploration Team (MET).

The MET is not the call committee. The call committee will be formed later, when the work of the MET is done.

The MET's job is to create a congregational profile of who we are, what are our strengths and weaknesses as a congregation, what are our goals and hopes as we seek a new pastor. The MET

will conduct meetings with various groups at church, analyze the statistics of our church finances. worship attendance and demographics to give us a good idea of what truly makes up St. John's Lutheran.

All of this will take a number of months. When this work is done. the MET will present its findings to the congregation at a "town hall" meeting. It is only after the work of the MET is completed that we will move on to creating a call committee.

We are looking for candidates to serve on the MET. If you have someone you feel would be a good fit for this group, please talk with Pastor Karen. It is her responsibility, as our interim pastor, to choose the members of the MET and to lead them in their work.

We will keep the congregation informed along the way as the MET conducts its important work.

Paul Bulgerin Church Council President

Calendar of events for August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
to meet in the buildir Facility Use Form on the	ur small group or ministry ng, please complete the e St. John's website. It is - Documents and Forms. ions.	*worship service/event is live streamed	Coming in Sept.: 9/2 Preschool begins 9/3 first choir rehearsal 9/7 Rally Day and Ministry Fair 9/9 first handbell rehearsal 9/27 Outreach for Hope bike/run/walk		1 Office Closed 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi	2
3 8:30a worship* 10:00a worship outside 12:00p VBS setup	4 Food Pantry Pick Up 9:00a VBS no yoga 10:00a staff mtg 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon	5 8:30a property team 9:00a VBS 5:30p dance class 6:00p quilters	6 8:30a retired men's b-fast 9:00a VBS 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	7 9:00a VBS 6:30p Al-Anon 6:30p Family Fun Night 7:00p AA	8 Office Closed 6:15a virtual men's group 10:00a prayer shawl group 1:30p Tai Chi	9 8:00a Rayaru Aaradhane Group
10 8:30a worship* 10:00a worship outside	no yoga 10:00a staff mtg 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon	12 8:30a property team 5:30p dance class 6:30p HR Team Zoom mtg	13 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	14 4:30p Finance Team mtg 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	15 Office Closed 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi	16 9:30a Women of Faith book club 2:00p High School event
17 8:30a worship* 10:00a worship outside	18 no yoga 10:00a staff mtg 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p council meeting 6:30p Al-Anon	19 8:30a property team 5:30p dance class 7:00p stewardship meeting	20 12:00p Retired Men's lunch 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	21 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	22 Office Closed 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi	23
24 backpack blessing 8:30a worship* 10:00a worship outside 31 9:00a worship*	25 no yoga 10:00a staff mtg 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon	26 8:30a property team 5:30p dance class	27 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	28 12:30 group quilting event 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	29 Office Closed 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi	30

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, 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 Connor
Carol M Julia
Dylan H Mark A
Nancy H Sandra S

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	
Brittany Larson	262-527-2404
Secretary	
Josh Werner	262-271-0639
Treasurer	
Pauline Shoemaker	262-784-1638
At Large	
Gregg Everts	414-640-9988
Mark Latus	262-784-1183
Brittany Larson	262-527-2404
Patrice Krimpelbein	262-389-0014
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 Pastor Karen Natterstad, Interim 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

