

October 2025

Stay Informed. Be Inspired.



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

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Pastor Ponders—What's the Key?

By Pastor Karen Natterstad, Interim Pastor

"Nothing Can Separate us from the Love of God" - Romans 8:39

The delegation that visited Los Héroes de la Fe, El Salvador in July presented a gift to St. John's during their presentation at worship on Sunday, September 14. The gift from our partner congregation is a folk art keyshaped key holder. The gift means so much more as it was presented with a message and Bible verse. We are given the key to their community. We are always a welcome guest, free to

Salvadorans. Like you, I continue to offer my prayers of gratitude and intercession for our friends. But it doesn't take much to imagine the importance of the Church in their community. I'm convinced that the Church's pastors, leaders, and people witnessing and practicing the love we know in Christ are bringing hope, help, healing, faith development and community. It's also what we strive to do as a

Church in Brookfield. We love so that others may know Christ's love too.

This fall at St. John's, you're invited to participate in the

churchwide study, 40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY. We'll be focusing on six themes for what it means to be a congregation that shares the love of Christ. You have three ways to participate: 1) attend weekly worship;

2) join a small group that will be using a video and provide discussion, or

3) purchase and read a daily devotional book.

We have six keys we use in the Church community to open the door to God's amazing grace!

- PRAY God's love may be experienced.
 (Love One Another)
- others, friends and strangers.
 (Reaching Out Together)
- CONNECT value Godgiven abilities and experiences and work together.

 (Belonging Together)
- COMMIT be life-long learners, open your Bibles and grow in faith (Growing Together)
- SERVE many hands make bigger things possible. (Serving Together)
- WORSHIP giving God our thanks and praise! (Worshipping Together)

On the journey with you, Pastor Karen

enter, with full access to their community, church, homes and lives. The Bible verse, Romans 8:39, represents the bond and fellowship of this long-standing partnership: "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Amen. And amen.

Like some of you, I've known this partnership more from a distance. I've been honored to meet some of the visiting El

Join the Team-Sign Up to Serve on Sundays



Each week, we need 22 volunteers to make Sunday mornings run smoothly. For you football fans, that is a full team of offense and defense.

Whether you want to be a superstar and work in many positions or you want to be a benchwarmer to occasionally substitute, your role on the team is valuable. Use your gifts to make Sunday morning special.

Join the team ... the rewards are heavenly!



Children, Youth & Families

Preschool's Day at the Farm

We had a beautiful Fall day at Cozy Nook Farm! Our Three and Four Year Olds with their grownups met, petted and fed so many cows. Goats, too.

And what better way to end a day at the farm than to take a hay ride out to the Pumpkin Patch to choose just the Best. Pumpkin. Ever.





We think we have some future farmers here!





ELCA World Hunger

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. – Matthew 25:35

Part of our outreach emphasis for October includes highlighting the efforts of the ELCA World Hunger appeal.

By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, we meet basic needs and recognize the universal human right to food. But ending hunger is about more than food. By connecting people with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water, education, health care and sources of income, long-term, sustainable change can be accomplished.

We relationships start with marked by listening. We believe people know their own communities best. It is our congregations and our global companion churches that first identify the local needs and related solutions to help make a difference.

Working through ELCA congregations, global companion churches, The Lutheran World Federation and many partners like Lutheran World Relief, the ELCA reaches more places more

effectively than we could ever do alone. We fund relief and development projects that assist our sisters and brothers in need, and engage members of the ELCA in education and advocacy to help change the systems that perpetuate poverty.

As in years past we ask all to prayerfully consider either a significant one time donation, OR consider monthly giving what you would spend on a fast food meal to help fight world hunger through our "Burger A Month" club. Learn more at https://www.elca.org/hunger

Children, Youth & Families

Sunday Evening Education at St. John's

We are excited to offer biweekly programming for our $5^{th}-12^{th}$ graders on Sunday evenings from 4:30-6:00pm. Paper calendars are available in the Fellowship Hall.

October 5 & 19

4:30-5:00 Dinner 5:00-6:00

> 5th- 6th grade Connect Class 7th-8th grade Confirmation Class 9th-12th grade Youth Group



Contact Joanna with Toddler to 8th Grade Questions

jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Sunday School

Sunday School is off to an amazing start! This year's theme is Origin Story, and we are walking through the great stories of the Bible to learn our history. We start all together in the Sanctuary at 9:45 and then head to small groups. New Friends are always welcome to come and visit!

At St. John's, Sunday School is for ages 2 – 5th grade. 6th graders and up can participate in our Youth Leadership Team on Sunday mornings.



Family Sunday School

Join us on Oct 26 for a Family Service Project with Stephanie and the High School Youth. We will be tying quilts for the Linus Project. No regular Sunday School this day.

Bring a Friend Week!

Invite a friend to Sunday School on October 19.



Middle School News

Youth Leadership Team is on a roll!

6th—8th Graders can share their faith through volunteering as student leaders for Sunday School and within the larger congregation. Students LOVE this time. It is relaxed and they complete lots of different service projects. Students can drop in as they are able.

This month they made pumpkin gnomes for our Shut-Ins!



Middle School Roller Skating

Join us for Roller Skating at Skateland on Oct 10th! Meet at Waukesha Skateland at 6:30pm and pick up at 9:00pm. Friends are welcome! Cost \$5 per student.

Sign up online.

First Communion

Is your child ready to take communion?

Here at St. John's, we welcome children of any age to the Table when you as a family feel it is appropriate. This year, First Communion will be on November 9. First Communion Class, with bread baking, is on November 2 at 3:00.

To register for First Communion:

- 1. RSVP to Joanna at jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org
- 2. Fill out the form online.

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

First Communion Service

November 9, 2025 8:30am & 10:45am

Class with Bread Baking

November 2, 2025 3:00pm



Children, Youth & Families

Comparative Religion Mentors

Our first 9th Grade Comparative Religions class will be held on Sunday, October 12th from 4:30–6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.

We are excited to welcome **Anup**, a guest speaker from the **Sikh faith**, who will share with us about Sikh beliefs, practices, and traditions. This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to learn firsthand from a member of the Sikh community and to deepen their understanding of world religions.

Parents are warmly invited to join their students for this session as we learn together and engage in meaningful conversation.

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR				
DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME		
Oct 5	Youth group begins	4:30 pm—6:00 pm		
Oct 12	9th grade confirmation comparative religions	4:30 pm—6:00 pm		
Oct 19	Youth group	4:30 pm—6:00 pm		
Oct 26	HS leads Service Project— Project Linus	Between services		



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

sbroussard@stjohnsbrookfield.org or 262-453-9201

Congregation-Wide Service Projects

OCTOBER—PROJECT LINUS

Mark your calendars! **Sunday, October 26**, is our next Congregation-Wide Service Project.

Between services, join us in the **Youth Room** as we come together to create **blankets for the Waukesha chapter of Project Linus**. Project Linus provides handmade blankets to children who are ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need of a little extra comfort and care.

This is a project for all ages—young and old alike! Whether you're tying knots, cutting fabric, or cheering others on, there will be a way for everyone to participate.

Come lend a hand, share in fellowship, and help us wrap our community in love.



SEPTEMBER—MEALS FOR SHUT-INS

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for this month's Congregation-Wide Service Project! Together, we prepared 20 homemade single-serve meals that will be delivered to our shutins over time.

This effort not only provides nourishment, but also reminds our homebound members that they are loved and remembered by their church family. Your time, hands, and hearts made a difference—thank you!

See page 8 for more!

Worship and Music



Join Us for ADVENT FEST

Get into the spirit of the season with food, worship, music, decorating, and cookies!

Together we'll enjoy dinner, worship, crafting, music, and an evening of fun for all ages. And please, invite a friend.

We'll share a light meal any time from 5:45-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. About 7pm, we'll have a time of worship in the Sanctuary followed by various stations of decorating throughout the church. End your evening with some cookies, a photo booth and great memories.

We do ask that children be accompanied by an adult.

We need your help to make our Advent Fest go smoothly. Please sign up through sign up genius "Advent Fest" on our web page. Help is needed with event setup, meal service, meal clean up, and final clean up.









Mold Abatement in Sanctuary

You may have noticed the growing patches of mold on the sanctuary ceiling. Mold abatement will happen the first week of October. In preparation for the treatment, the entire sanctuary needs to be wrapped in plastic ... especially the organ!



Questions about music at St. John's?



Contact Becky!

bwhelpley@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Community Events Trivia Night

Join St. John's friends on Wednesday, **October 8**, from 6:30-8:30, for General Knowledge Trivia. **Where?** Good Harvest Market, 2205 Silvernail Rd, Pewaukee. Bring your thinking caps and have a fun evening!

Milwaukee Festival Brass

The Milwaukee Festival Brass will present "Brass Thrills and Chills" in concert on **October 25 at 2:00 p.m.** at St. John's.

Jeanyi Kim Performs Vivaldi

Celebrate the fall season opener of the Menomonee Falls Symphony Orchestra on **October 25** with selections from Vivaldi's memorable Four Seasons featuring Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Associate Concertmaster Jeanyi Kim. St. John's own Lisa Weiss-Cornelius will be a featured soloist on one of the pieces.

Care of God's Community

The weekly themes for our Fall study are below. Join us each week in worship to hear the key points in the sermon.

Week 1-Loing One Another

Week 2-Reaching Out Together

Week 3-Belonging Together

Week 4-Growing Together

Week 5-Serving Together

Week 6-Worshipping Together.



The study runs through the first week in November. It is not too late to get the book and do the daily devotions.

It is not too late to join a video discussion group. The video discussion groups meet on:

- ⇒ Sunday mornings (in the conference room),
- ⇒ Thursday afternoons (in the library), and
- ⇒ Saturday mornings (in the library).

Whether you hear the sermons, do the devotions, join a group, or some combination during this time, we encourage you to pray for our community and how we can be better together.

Better Together

Meet Your MET

Meet our Mission Exploration Team. They will meet regularly over the next few months, with each other and with different groups, to gather information. They are tasked with answering questions such as "Who is St. John's?", "Where has St. John's been?" and "Where is St. John's going?". Pray for them, support them, encourage them, and talk to them as they do this important work on our behalf.



MET members from left to right are: Jeremy Beyerlein, Sara Everts, Andy Petersen, Mary Tollander, Shelley Saeger, and Jerry Hanson.

Fall Clean Up

The annual fall clean up was Monday, September 29. The weather was perfect! Thank you to the crew of 27 who showed up to tend the grounds. Your ministry is appreciated. (And the bushes look great!)



Winter Farmers Market

Winter Farmers Market and Meal is scheduled for November 23. A great opportunity to support local farmers ... and get fresh items for your Thanksgiving meal.



Better Together

September Service Project

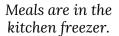
SEPTEMBER—MEALS FOR SHUT-INS

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for this month's **Congregation** -Wide Service Project! Together, we prepared **20 homemade single-serve meals** that will be delivered to our shut-ins over time.

This effort not only provides nourishment, but also reminds our homebound members that they are loved and remembered by their church family. Your time, hands, and hearts made a difference—thank you!











October Outreach Focus is Coats

It is October and time for our Winter Wear collection! Before we know it, we will be in the season of slush and snow. Help students get ready for Wisconsin's winter by supporting the Winter Wear ministry at All Peoples Church. During October, we are accepting donations of the following:

- Winter jackets (waterproof with hoods are best) - new or gently used and cleaned
 - ♦ sizes 3T to 18 in boys, girls, and unisex
 - men's sizes L, XL, and XXL for teen boys
- New hats
- New gloves and mittens
 - ♦ size toddler through adult
- New or gently used and laundered scarves.



Serving the World

ENROLL TO SERVE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Worship is integral to our faith. October 12. Forms We gather each week to praise our loving, generous God. We currently need 22 people to make Sunday mornings go smoothly, and to make worship worshipfilled.

Whether you prefer to serve behind the scenes or in front of others, there is a place for you.

Ways to serve on a Sunday morning are:

- assisting minister (8:30 only)
- audio/visual
- coffee host (only need subs)
- communion server
- communion set up/clean up
- greeter
- lector
- usher.

We are implementing a new scheduling system better coordinate all Sunday morning volunteers. If you wish to serve in any capacity between now and January—whether you want to serve one time or every weekyou need to fill out a form by are available online through this QR code and on pink paper in the gathering space.



Your information will be entered into the scheduling system. You will receive an email from the Ministry Scheduler Pro. scheduling system, to input dates you are NOT available to serve.

Once serving preferences and cannot serve dates are entered, a schedule will be generated. Instructions on how to swap a date or to request a sub will come with the schedule.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of serving our community through these ministries.

October 12	Deadline to enroll in initial schedule
October 19	Deadline to enter "cannot serve" dates
October 26	November to January schedule distributed

QUILTING

At the end of August, several gathered to learn and practice a new quilting technique. Two quilt tops using that technique are shown below.

All of the quilts made this past vear will be displayed and blessed worship on October 5. The quilting group is serving the world. one quilt at a time.



October Birthdays



1 Brian Zach

4 Jack Scanlon

5 Noah Rebisch

5 Sara Sadowski

5 Josh Schilling

6 Ellie Springer

7 Jill Dahlaren

8 Tom Woodworth

9 Flizabeth Grimord

9 Brent Voldahl

9 Karen Wicklund

10 Jennifer Cranfill

11 Ray Jarock 12 Jen Aune

12 Jeremy Beyerlein

12 Connor Koscielniak

13 Emily Decker

13 Kathi Hanson

14 Caleb Frdahl

14 Bree Walker

15 Chris Burns

16 Henry Driessen

17 Henry Cesar

18 Navvi Broussard

18 Roy Pingel

19 Michelle Harms

19 Jordan Moskopf

19 Beverly Wargowski

20 Bailey Ebbole

20 Phil Peters

20 Lyla Turner

22 Eli Wagner

25 Carter Aune

25 Eli Decker

BIRTHDAY

25 Kyler Morrison

27 Joanna Salinas

28 Rog Lewis

29 Jerry Hanson

29 Dayne Peters

30 Jenny Walker

31 Chris Anderson

31 Ouinn Decker

23 Megan Bingenheimer 31 Alexis Grimord-Caravella

31 Mary Hughes

Brian Keierleber

Council Communications

The meeting was held on Monday, September 15, 2025.

Finances: Giving for the month was slightly under budget due to low attendance on August 10 following the heavy rains. For the year, giving is still above the budgeted amount. Total income for the year is up due to healthy investment income.

Pastor's Report: The Mission Exploration Team is in place. The members of the MET were introduced at worship on September 14 and the MET held its first meeting that same day.

The Ministry Fair on September 7 was a good opportunity to promote up-coming ministry events for the new fall program.

The Stewardship Committee will be working on the 2026 giving campaign which will be presented to the congregation later in the fall.

Pastor Karen shared a few changes in worship planning. She is bringing back assisting ministers at the 8:30 service. We will also use the offering box at that service, something we have been doing at 10:45. She will begin offering prayer request cards so that people can submit requests for specific prayers.

A draft for a new facility use policy for outside groups using the church building was shared with the council. This will be reviewed and then discussed again at the October meeting. President's Report: In an effort to keep the work of the MET in front of the congregation, members of the MET will give updates twice per month in worship. St. John's members are welcome to talk with the MET members.

Property Committee: The council approved spending money for mold abatement work to deal with a problem in the church building.

"Pave the Way" Update: The Town of Brookfield has given approval for St. John's to construct an electronic church sign outside the worship area. Funds for this have been designated. The sign design group will look at the specifics of what this sign will be like.

Old Business: The council approved spending up to \$1,000 for attorney fees to deal with the issue we are having with GFL, our former trash collection company. This is a result of St. John's decision to go with a different company and the buyout policy GFL has.

Respectfully Submitted, Paul Bulgerin Church Council President

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: OCTOBER 20 AT 6:30 P.M.

Creation Corner

Avoid Extra Packaging!

It's almost trick or treat season! Have you bought your Halloween treats yet?

This year, be extra choosy when purchasing candy or other treats. Pick the one with the least amount of plastic packaging. Look for packaging that can be recycled or composted. All that individual packaging really adds up in our waste cycle.



New Hope Center Director

Hope Center is proud to announce the appointment of Tonya Lyons as its new Executive Director. Lyons brings over a decade of experience in nonprofit leadership, housing services. and youth will lead the advocacy, and organization in its mission to reduce the risks of poverty and homelessness in Waukesha County.

Hope Center has served the Waukesha community for over 44 years, providing essential services such as food, clothing, and shelter to individuals and families in need.

For more information, visit www.hopecenterwi.org.

Calendar of events for October 2025

Saturday	4 8:30a 40 Days group	11 8:30a 40 Days group	18 8:30a 40 Days group 9:30a Women of Faith book club	25 8:30a 40 Days group 2:00p Milwaukee Festival Brass concert	Coming in Nov.: 11/2 All Saint's Day 11/23 Winter Farmers Market 11/26 Thanksgiving Eve worship
Friday	3 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi	6:15a virtual men's group 8:30a Friday book club 10:00a prayer shawl group 1:30p Tai Chi 6:30p Chinese Christian Church	6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi 6:30p Chinese Christian Church	24 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi 6:30p Chinese Christian Church	31 Halloween 6:15a virtual men's group 1:30p Tai Chi 6:30p Chinese Christian Church
Thursday	2 10:30a Cream City Crooners 1:30p 40 Days group 6:00p Faith Alive Group 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	9 1:30p 40 Days group 6:00p Faith Alive Group 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	16 10:30a Cream City Crooners 1:30p 40 Days group 4:30p Finance Team mtg 6:00p Faith Alive Group 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	23 1:30p 40 Days group 6:00p Faith Alive Group 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	30 1:30p 40 Days group 6:00p Faith Alive Group 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA
Wednesday	1 8:30a retired men's b-fast 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	8 9:30a Morning Circle 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	15 12:00p Retired Men's lunch 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	22 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	29 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal
Tuesday	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 <u>Heidi</u> with questions.	7 8:30a property team 5:30p Kathak dance class 6:00p quilters 6:30p handbell rehearsal	14 8:30a property team 5:30p Kathak dance class 6:30p HR Team Zoom mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal	21 8:30a property team 1:00p book club 5:30p Kathak dance class 6:30p handbell rehearsal	28 8:30a property team 5:30p Kathak dance class 6:30p handbell rehearsal
Monday	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 Heid! with questions.	6 Food Pantry Pick Up 9:45a yoga 11:00a staff mtg 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon 6:30p MET	13 9:45a yoga 11:00a staff mtg 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon	9:45a yoga 11:00a staff mtg 11:30a Hope Center meal 1:00p Women's Bible Study 6:30p Al-Anon	27 9:45a yoga 11:00a staff mtg 11:30a PEO meeting 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon
Sunday	*worship service/event is live streamed	 5 "40 Days" week 2 8:30a worship* 9:45a education and fellowship 9:45a 40 Days group 10:45a worship 4:30p youth programming 	12 "40 Days" week 3 8:30a worship* 9:30a education and fellowship 9:45a 40 Days group 10:45a worship 4:30p youth programming	19 "40 Days" week 4 8:30a worship* 9:30a education and fellowship 9:45a 40 Days group 10:45a worship 4:30p youth programming	26 "40 Days" week 5 8:30a worship* 9:30a ed and fellowship 9:30a service project 9:45a 40 Days group 10:45a worship

Contact Us Office Hours

The St. John's phone is answered and doors are monitored for entry 9:00-Noon, Monday to Friday.

Church

phone: 262-786-6887 email: to email a staff member, please click on the link by their

photo on the website under Staff.

Preschool

phone: 262-786-4298

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	Doris K
Dylan H	Mark A
Nancy H	Terry H
Sonja B	

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



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COMMENT
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