Inspire

July 2026

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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Facebook: @MakeDisciplesSJL

YouTube: @StJohnsWI

Pastor Ponderings—It's Time to Say Goodbye

By Pastor Karen Natterstad, Interim Pastor

I began as your interim pastor in July 2025 with a commitment to serve for one year. My last Sunday will be July 12. The Call Committee is interviewing potential candidates, so it's possible your next called pastor will begin in a few months. Or, another interim pastor will come. Transitions are rarely easy.

I was speaking this week with someone who was trying to explain the word "bittersweet" to their young grandchild. It's a word to describe a paradox - how two opposite things can both be true at the same time. Bittersweet for the grandchild was the end of school and the beginning of a summer break. Bittersweet for me is the end of my ministry with you and the return to retirement.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Using the words of Carol Burnett, I want to say: "*I'm so glad we had this time together, just to have a laugh or sing a song, it seems we just got started and before you know it, comes the time we have to say so long.*"

Continue praying for the Call Committee and candidates interviewed, and trust God's timing on this. Continue praying for the Selection Team that will hire the right person for the new Office Manager position. Continue praying for your new Council President and Council leaders. Continue praying for your staff, who will be assuming extra duties. Continue praying for one another. St. John's is a gifted, resilient, faith-filled, servant-hearted, community. You are ready for the new season that is coming. I'll be praying for you too.

So what does a return to retirement look like for me? Some of you may have heard I'll be heading out on a bike ride late July. It's an audacious goal. I'll be pedaling for 490 miles across Iowa over seven days in a supported biking event called RAGBRAI. After that, my husband Dean and I, along with our black lab Winnie, are planning for a fall RV trip. And my much neglected sewing room with a number of unfinished projects awaits my attention.

Thanking God for the journey we've shared,
Pastor Karen

Office Manager Job Opportunity

St. John's Lutheran Church in Brookfield has an immediate opening for an Office Manager. This key member of our leadership team will provide leadership and oversight for the Financial, Administrative, Operational, IT and Human Resources functions of the Church.

This is a full-time salaried position with benefits. The ideal candidate for this position will have three to five years related management experience.

A complete job description is available at www.makedisciples.com under Resources, Job Opportunities. (Click or scan the QR code for a shortcut to the job description.) Applicants should submit resumes and references by July 5, 2026, to info@stjohnsbrookfield.org.

Music Notes

Bluegrass Worship

The bluegrass band returns to lead worship on August 2. Invite a friend!

Sunday Sing-A-Long

Watch for your opportunity to suggest favorite hymns (from the hymnals) and contemporary songs (from the provided list) for the Sunday Sing-a-Long in August.

Summer Handbell Camp Returns

Director Heidi Bischmann and members of the St. John's Handbell Choir are excited to host the annual Summer Handbell Camp at St. John's the week of July 27, 2026. Now in its third year, the camp continues to grow and inspire ringers from across the region.

We are delighted to welcome back guest clinician Sandra Eithun, a nationally recognized handbell composer and director. Approximately thirty handbell musicians from Wisconsin and Michigan will gather for this four-day workshop dedicated to strengthening handbell technique, artistry, and musicianship.

The camp emphasizes hands-on learning and collaborative performance. Participants will receive twelve pieces of music on Monday morning—ranging from Level 2 through Level 5 and including both sacred and secular selections—to prepare throughout the week. Each day includes extended mass rehearsals, small group sectionals, individual practice time, and opportunities for fellowship and rest.

The week of ringing and learning will culminate in a public concert featuring three mass choirs, followed by a reception where guests can meet and visit with the musicians. A free-will offering will be received.

Invitation to Join Handbell Choir

If you've ever considered joining the St. John's Handbell Choir, now is a wonderful time! Openings are available beginning this fall. We welcome full-time, year-round ringers as well as seasonal participants. There is a place for YOU—come be part of something special!

For more information, contact Director Heidi Bischmann:

✉ hbischmann@gmail.com or

☎ (414) 305-7812.

Summer Handbell Camp Concert

Children, Youth & Families

Get Kids Ready

'St. John's Preschool is proud and excited to participate in Wisconsin's new Get Kids Ready program beginning in Fall 2026.

Get Kids Ready is a state-funded initiative designed to increase access to high-quality early childhood education for 4-year-old children across Wisconsin. The program recognizes the important role preschool plays in preparing children for kindergarten and future academic success by supporting programs that provide engaging, developmentally appropriate learning experiences like the ones we offer here at St. John's.

As a participating provider, St. John's Preschool will continue offering a nurturing, Christ-centered environment where children learn through hands-on exploration, creative play, social interaction, and age-appropriate academic activities. Through Get Kids Ready, eligible 4-year-old students enrolled in our preschool program may be able to attend **at no cost to their families.**

Cozy Nook Farm

Each September, our 3K and 4K students look forward to one of their favorite preschool traditions; a field trip to Cozy Nook Farm!

During this special outing, children can meet and feed farm animals, explore the farm, and pick their very own pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. It's a fun-filled day that brings classroom learning to life while creating lasting memories with friends and teachers.

We're excited to share that Cozy Nook Farm was recently featured as a showcase farm during Wisconsin Dairy Month by CBS 58 Milwaukee. Learn more about the farm and its story here:

View Story Here

If your family (or someone you know) has a 3- or 4-year-old who would enjoy hands-on learning experiences like this, we'd love to welcome you to St. John's Preschool. Enrollment for the upcoming school year is now open!

Learn more and schedule a tour today at: makedisciples.com/preschool.

Get Kids Ready for Parents and Caregivers

We are grateful for this opportunity to expand access to quality preschool education and look forward to helping even more children build the skills, confidence, and curiosity they need for a successful transition to kindergarten and beyond. Families interested in learning more about our preschool program are encouraged to contact us or schedule a tour – tbailiff@stjohnsbrookfield.org '

Eligibility for Get Kids Ready funding is determined according to Wisconsin Department of Children and Families program requirements.

Children, Youth & Families

4th of July Parade

Join us at 8:30am on July 4 at St. John's in the circle drive to cheer on the community participating in the 4th of July parade. We'll pass out St. John's info and treats to parade goers! (Following the parade there is a Town of Brookfield 4th of July celebration in Marx Park.)

Sign up online!

VBS Needs

Help VBS planners by clearing out your closets! (Please don't buy new items.) Donations of items listed below should be put in the bin in the Fellowship Hall. (Items will not be returned.)

- Brown paper packaging (like what comes in an Amazon box.)
- ~~Beanie Babies~~ (We have enough Beanie Babies!)
- Vines or greenery (no floral arrangements)
- Old colorful t-shirts (any size) for a craft project. Bonus if they have an animal print or an animal on it.

Contact Joanna with Toddler to 8th Grade Questions

jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Who Will You Encounter at VBS?

Creation Corner

Don't Be a Light Polluter!

Turn off all exterior lights at Bedtime

For millions of years, life has relied upon Earth's daily cycle of light and dark. Artificial light at night has negative and deadly effects on many creatures including amphibians, birds, bats, mammals, insects and plants. Every flip of the switch alters ancient patterns of mating, migration, feeding, and pollination. Sometimes, being in the dark is a good thing!

Children, Youth & Families

Save the Date: High School Lock –In!

High school youth — mark your calendars for our Lock-In beginning on **Saturday, August 1 at 3:00 p.m.**! This overnight event is always a favorite filled with games, food, laughter, late-night fun, and time together as a youth group community.

We'll wrap up the weekend after worship on Sunday, August 2. Be sure to save the date and sign up soon!

Sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CADAA2DA0F85-64602143-high

Chaperones Needed for Upcoming Youth Events

We are currently in need of **one male and one female chaperone** for two important upcoming youth events:

- **High School Lock-In:** August 1–2
- **9th Grade Confirmation Retreat:** September 11–13

These events are a valuable part of our youth ministry, but **we cannot hold them without enough adult volunteers**. If you are interested in helping support our students and creating meaningful faith experiences for them, please consider serving as a chaperone.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Stephanie as soon as possible.

Youth Gathering 2027

Minneapolis, here we come! The ELCA Youth Gathering is June 28–July 2, 2027, and it's shaping up to be an incredible week of faith, friendship, service, worship, and unforgettable experiences alongside thousands of Lutheran youth from across the country. If you're currently in high school, start getting excited—sign-up will be available in early fall!

IMAGINE more

JULY CALENDAR		
DATE	**ACTIVITY**	**TIME**
Jul 5	Boundary Waters Blessing	9:00am
Jul 11-18	Boundary Water Trip	
Aug 1-2	Lock-In	3:00pm
Aug 2	Boundary Waters Recap	9:00am

Boundary Waters Trip Prayer Partner Packets

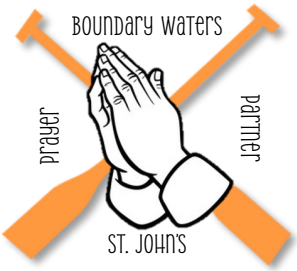
This summer, our high school youth will be heading to the Boundary Waters for a week of canoeing, camping, community, and faith growth. We invite you to support our group by becoming a Prayer Partner during the trip!

Prayer Partners will receive a packet with:

- A profile of our youth participants
- A brief trip itinerary
- Daily prayers and ways to support the group throughout the week

Prayer Packets will be available July 12 in the gathering space.

Thank you for surrounding our students with encouragement and prayer as they embark on this unforgettable adventure!

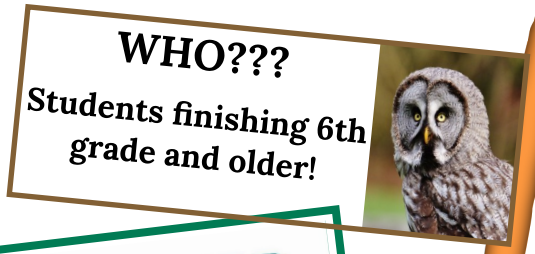


Contact Stephanie with questions about high school and young adult ministry at St. John's
262-453-9201 or
sbroussard@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Vacation Bible School

Calling all Camp Counselors and Volunteers

Students finishing 6th grade and older – 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 Animal Encounters and each day there will be a new animal to meet! It's sure to be a super fun week. Sign up is below.



Registration Closes Soon

Who: Kids ages 4-6th grade (going into). Ages 7th grade and up are encouraged to join us as leaders!

What: Join us for an exciting week of Animal Encounters as we dive into stories in the Bible and meet their animal stars! Each day will include a live animal encounter, crafts, snacks, and outdoor fun!

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

When: August 3-6, 2026, from 9:00am-12:00pm.

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

How: Register online.here
https://forms.gle/te15ApooSkztTuzU7

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.

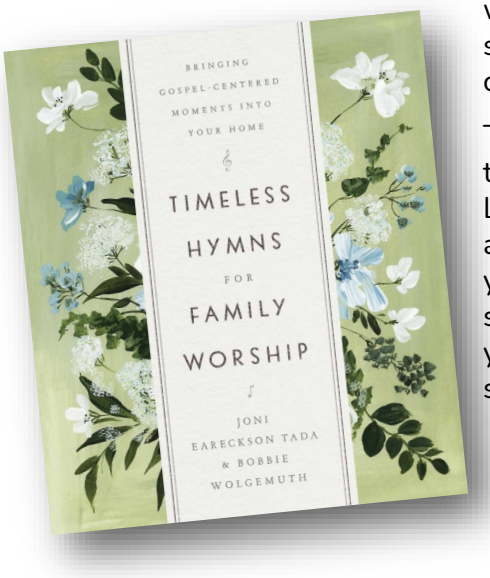
Costs:
$40 per child after June 1 ($120 family maximum) for VBS Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, including snacks and projects.

Scan or click this QR code for all things VBS.

Check It Out

The hymns we sing in church are so beautiful. Wouldn't it be nice to play and sing them by yourself or with your family, too! The book. Timeless Hymns for Family Worship is written by Joni Eareckson Tada and Bobbie Wolgemuth, and it shows you how to bring these gospel centered moments into your home.

Featuring 18 favorite Christian songs, this book includes the fascinating historical backgrounds of the hymns and information about the authors who penned them. The sheet music and full lyrics are included for each song, including such favorites as "This is My Father's World," "How Great Thou Art," "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," and 15 more that we all enjoy singing at church.



This book is at the St. John's Library, available for you to play and sing along with your favorite songs.

Say "Cheese"

As you enjoy fun summer activities—from picnics, to weddings, to vacations, to graduations—take pictures! Send us your favorite photo of everyone in your household. We can use it to update your photo in our database that we will use for the next directory.

Have your kids grown?
Do you have a new hairstyle?

You may update your photo at any time, for any reason. Photos may be emailed to the office.

Call Committee

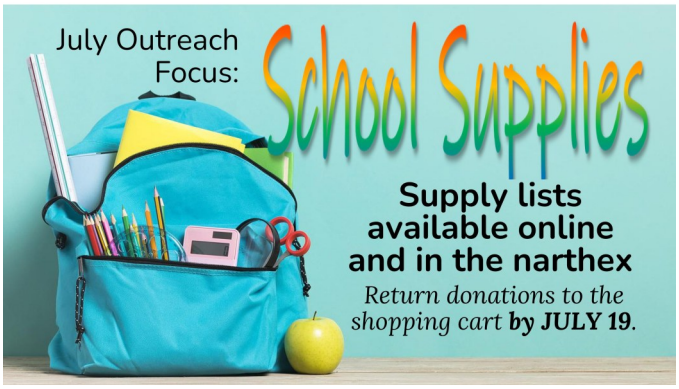
Please continue to pray for the Call Committee as they interview potential candidates for our next pastor. Watch for updates as they move forward.

July Birthdays

1	Gail Mathes	7	Cali Walker	17	Alice Yourell		
1	Diane Mueller	8	Vicki Latus	19	Michele Bertrand		
2	Karen Davis	8	Barbara Reed	19	Emma Campeau	26	Deborah Petersen
2	Adalyn Elfers	9	Nicco Caravella	19	Kari Stahl	26	Tom Potratz
2	Michael Wright	10	Mary Spencer	19	Charlotte Werner	28	Linda Klemm
3	Michelle Werner	11	Huxley Peters	20	Dorothy Schmidt	28	Jacob Roth
4	Theodore Boll	11	Sam Sadowski	21	John Augustine	29	Jean Borkenhagen
5	Todd Athorp	11	Ricky Wicklund	21	Dennis Whitehead	29	Becky Smith
5	Cindy Schaefer	12	Kathi Campbell	22	Maggie Scanlon	30	Jan Delzer
6	James Mathes	15	Gail Rennie	24	Kyle Cornelius	30	Tyler Rateike
6	AJ Warp	15	Isabella Salinas	25	Austin Fuller	30	Ryan Walker
7	Campbell Erdahl	16	Luke Wagner	25	Bill Hughes	31	Missi Anderson
7	Mickey Fank	17	Sharon Mahoney	26	Debbie Bruck	31	Paul Moran

Serving the World

School Supplies for All Peoples



Vacation has just begun, but you might be surprised to know some of our students go back to school during the first week of August!

Last year, All Peoples distributed fully outfitted book bags to 272 students in need. Your support is key to giving our students what they need to be ready and confident when school begins again.

We invite you to purchase any of the items from our bulk supply list or fill a backpack with a grade specific list and deliver them to St. John's **by July 19.**

The bulk list and grade-level backpack lists are available here. You can also purchase backpacks from Bags in Bulk.

Women's Center Thank You

Thank you to each thoughtful person who gave to the annual collection for the Waukesha Women's Center. The many items that we send , sends a message of caring.

Newborn Kit Assembly

All are invited! We begin the evening by sharing a light meal. Following the meal and time of fellowship, we will move downstairs to assemble the kits.

Once we assemble the kits, we deliver them to Global Health Ministries in MN. They then ship the kits to various developing nations in Africa, Asia, and Central America. Newborn Kits are gifts that help a new mom celebrate her baby, with supplies & clothes to care for her child. Importantly, they are also used by overseas partners to encourage young women to seek prenatal care during pregnancy, greatly improving their chances for a healthy, happy outcome. Once that connection is made, they can also encourage postnatal care, including vaccinations & well-baby checks that can help a newborn thrive. Simple access to a skilled nurse or midwife during pregnancy can mean the difference between life and death for a mom and her baby.

This ministry is only successful due to your generous donations! In the past 27 years, St. John's has donated a total of 14,417 Newborn Kits! Let's continue to help one baby at a time!

Please contact Mickey Fank with any questions!

Sign up online for the fellowship meal by clicking or scanning the QR code. Wraps and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass .

Council Communications

The meeting was held on Monday, June 15, 2026.

Finances: Monthly giving exceeded budget expectations for May. Overall income for the month was above budget. Expenses remain generally in line with budget projections.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen gave updates regarding ongoing staff transitions and plans for maintaining church operations during this period of change.

The Council approved recommendations from the Human Resource Committee related to staffing needs and organization structure.

President's Report: Kathy provided an overview of Church Council's role and responsibilities, which is to lead the congregation in stating its mission, do long-range planning, set goals and priorities and evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.

"Pave the Way" Campaign: Kathy shared an update from Brian Zach on the sign project. A joint public meeting is scheduled for June 23. Additional meetings with local officials are anticipated in July. If approvals proceed as expected, Lemberg Electric will begin fabrication of the sign, with installation projected later this year.

Summer Worship: Council discussed congregational feedback regarding the transition to a single summer worship service. Discussion focused on communication, worship participation, attendance patterns, and the overall experience of member during this transition period. Council will revisit the topic and identify an evaluation process for obtaining feedback from congregation members and staff.

Celebration of Pastor Karen's Ministry: A celebration will be held on July 12 following the worship service. The Council will present Pastor Karen with a gift and congregation members will be invited to contribute.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Davis,
Church Council President

Next Council Meeting: July 20 at 6:30 p.m.

YAP BBQ and S'mores

What: YAP BBQ and S'mores

When: July 19, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Where: St. John's firepit

Who: All young adults and/or parents of young children

Bring: Roasting sticks and kids, if you have them. (Some roasting sticks will be provided; children will not.)

Calendar of events for July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*worship service/event is live streamed	To request space for your small group or ministry to meet in the building, please complete the Facility Use Form on the St. John's website. It is under the Resources tab - Documents and Forms. Contact Pam with questions.		1 8:30a retired men's b-fast 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	2 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	3 *office closed* 6:15a virtual men's group 6:00p Tai Chi	4 8:30a parade prep 9:00a parade
5 **9:00a worship***	6 *Food Pantry Pick Up* 11:00a staff mtg 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon 8:00p Women's AA	7 8:30a property team 6:00p quilters 6:30p scouts	8 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	9 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	10 *office closed* 6:15a virtual men's group 10:00a prayer shawl group 6:00p Tai Chi	11 Boundary Waters trip departs
12 **9:00a worship***	13 11:00a staff mtg 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon 8:00p Women's AA	14 8:30a property team 6:00p stewardship team 6:30p HR Team Zoom mtg 6:30p scouts	15 12:00p retired men's lunch 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	16 4:30p Finance Team mtg 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	17 *office closed* 6:15a virtual men's group 11:30a Women of Faith 6:00p Tai Chi	18
19 **9:00a worship*** 1:00p Eagle Scout BOR 5:00p YAP gathering	20 11:00a staff mtg 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Newborn Kit set up 6:30p council meeting 6:30p Al-Anon 8:00p Women's AA	21 8:30a property team 6:00p Newborn Kit dinner and assembly 6:30p scouts	22 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	23 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	24 *office closed* 6:15a virtual men's group 6:00p Tai Chi	25 3:00p VBS training
26 **9:00a worship***	27 9:00a handbell camp 11:00a staff mtg 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon 8:00p Women's AA	28 8:30a property team 9:00a handbell camp 6:30p scouts	29 9:00a handbell camp 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS	30 9:00a handbell camp 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 7:00p Handbell Concert	31 *office closed* 6:15a virtual men's group 6:00p Tai Chi	Coming Soon: 8/1 HS lock in 8/2 bluegrass worship 8/3 VBS 8/6 Family Fun Night 8/9-23 Sing-a-Longs 8/30 Backpack Blessing

Contact Us

Office Hours

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

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
tbailiff@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:

Connor	Sonja B
Carol M	Doris K
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	
Kathy Davis	414-870-0307
Vice-president	
Brittany Larson	262-527-2404
Secretary	
Jack Shaffer	262-212-4240
Treasurer	
Pauline Shoemaker	262-784-1638
At Large	
Gregg Everts	414-640-9988
Bruce Campbell	414-708-5024
Liz Roth	847-533-4806
Patrice Krimpelbein	262-389-0014
Lily Fuller	262-606-0576

St. John's
LUTHERAN ELCA
Brookfield, Wisconsin

To learn more about ministries at St. John's, click or scan this QR code.

Following Jesus, Making Disciples, Serving the World.

makedisciples.com

Staff Phone Extensions

St. John's Phone Number: 262-786-6887

Extensions:

100 open, Office Manager
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 Dorothee Chen, Bookkeeper
107 Becky Whelpley, Music Director
200 Teresa Baliff, Preschool

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Evangelize with our posts, be sure to: LIKE COMMENT SHARE