Inspire

October 2026

Stay Informed. Be Inspired.

Autumn is God's way of showing us how Beautiful change can be



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

262-786-6887

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YouTube: @StJohnsWI

Pastor Ponderings

Dearest Saints at St John's,

That's all of you! Thank you for your warm welcome home as I serve as your Bridge Pastor. What is that? The bishop explained that it's a short-term part-time pastorate to help a congregation after an Interim Pastorate as a bridge to the new pastor being called. Since I know you and you know me, it seemed good to your council and to me, and most importantly to the Holy Spirit, that I be your Bridge.

My goal will be a 'peaceable, pastoral presence' (PPP). As you may recall, I've grown to love this congregation, and I have confidence that you have all the gifts needed already on board to keep this ship sailing toward the positive future God has in store.

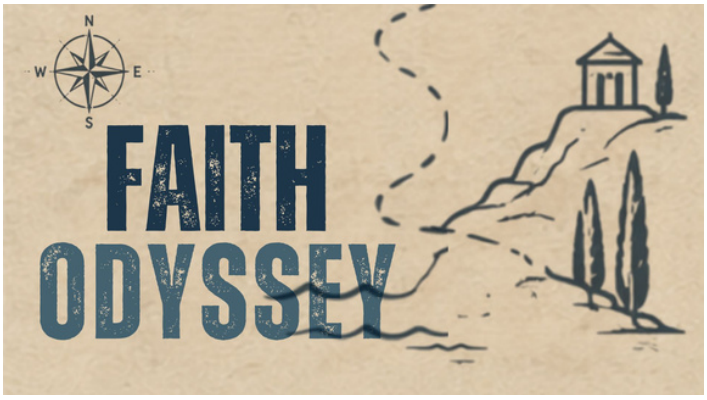
We've kicked off the fall Sunday series I'm calling "Faith Odyssey." Each week we'll explore different facets of this voyage to which Christ calls us. I encourage you to catch each message, in person or online.

I'm so grateful for all who are stepping up to help this time go well – choir directors, those planning and playing music accompaniment, guest preachers (I preach twice a month), the council (especially President Kathy Davis), and your talented staff and many volunteers. And you all. Everyone is helping keep the ship on course. Thank you!!

The Call Team for pastor is diligently working. Your Music Director Search team or interviewing. Please pray for the Spirit to guide them and for the candidates applying. God answers our prayers! So, practice trust in the process, please.

I'm delighted to be your pastoral servant on this part of the journey, and I call you to use your faith, put up your sails, trust the wind of the Spirit to blow, and let Jesus our Captain be our support and sure guide.

With you in the boat,
Pastor Frank



Pondering a Pastor



Continued prayers for discernment for the Call Committee are appreciated. They have received the names of additional pastoral candidates from the synod. They are working to schedule interviews.

Being a Christian

A 10-year-old girl was once asked, "What is it like to be a Christian?" She answered, "It's like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you. Then He cuts open the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff – the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, and other sins – and carves you a new smiling face. Finally, He puts His light inside you so you can shine for the world to see"



Music Notes

Music Director Search



The search for a new Music Director continues. The team is completing second interviews and auditions. Keep praying that God will guide the team to select the best candidate for St. John's.

Kids of the Kingdom

KIDS of the KINGDOM

Kids of the Kingdom begins for PreK - 6th graders on October 7. Rehearsals take place on Wednesdays. Preschool age children begin rehearsals with the large group and then continue with a separate, age appropriate rehearsal led by Mrs. DeCoto.

We meet to rehearse songs 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 ask families to share a few meals throughout the year. Watch for more information.

Celebrating 20 Years with Kenn





This October, Kenn Anderson, our Contemporary Music Director, will celebrate his 20th anniversary with St. John's. Join us between services on October 18 for a reception to thank Kenn for his ministry.

Milwaukee Festival Brass Concert

mfb Milwaukee Festival Brass

The Milwaukee Festival Brass celebrates the tradition of British-style Brass Bands. They will present their Fall 2026 concert at St. John's on October 24 at 4:00. Tickets are available at the door.

Special Days

Reformation

Reformation Day is October 31. Lutherans commemorate it in 2026, on Sunday, October 25.

Reformation Day is a Protestant day of remembrance marking the start of the Reformation, sparked in 1517 by Martin Luther's 95 Theses challenging the Catholic Church's sale of indulgences. Luther's call for change emphasized that forgiveness comes through God's grace alone, inspiring shifts in theology, worship, education, and culture. Originating from this act in Wittenberg, it evolved into an annual commemoration of the religious and societal transformation that reshaped Europe.



All Saints' Day

For ELCA Lutherans, All Saints Day is November 1.

All Saints' began in the early Church as a commemoration of martyrs, but in the Lutheran tradition it has been broadened to honor all who have been baptized into Christ's death. Martin Luther emphasized that all believers are saints by God's grace, not by works, and that this truth is central to the day's meaning.

For ELCA Lutherans, All Saints Day is a grace-filled celebration of the whole company of the faithful, rooted in the Lutheran conviction that all are saved by grace and all are saints in Christ

Children, Youth, & Families

Preschool

Our preschoolers had a wonderful time at Cozy Nook Farm under the sunny skies! They were so excited to meet and feed the friendly cows and goats. Everyone got the chance to pick their very own pumpkins, each one ready for Fall decorating. The highlight of the day was the hayride through the tall cornfields! It was such a joyful adventure and a perfect way to celebrate the start of the Fall season with our friends.'











Youth Fundraiser: Italian Dinner and Silent Auction

Friday, October 24 | Dinner begins around 5:30 PM

Come hungry and help support our High School Youth as they prepare for their trip to the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis!

Following the 4:00 PM Milwaukee Festival Brass matinee concert, join us for a delicious Italian dinner provided by Leah's in Muskego, featuring mostaccioli, salad, garlic bread, and dessert. Be sure to stick around and check-out our Silent Auction, too!

🎟️Meal Tickets: $25 per person
👧Children 10 & under eat FREE!

Every ticket purchased helps our youth offset the cost of attending the ELCA Youth Gathering and being part of this incredible faith-forming experience. Italian Fundraiser Dinner – Fill out form for tickets.

Purchase your meal tickets now and join us for an afternoon of music, great food, fellowship, and support for our youth!

📅Save the Date: Friday, October 24
🎺Milwaukee Festival Brass Concert: 4:00 PM
🍝Italian Dinner: Approximately 5:30 PM
🎁Silent Auction begin October 11



Children, Youth, & Families

First Communion

First Communion Service
November 22, 2026
8:30am & 10:45am

Bread Baking and First Communion Class
November 8, 2026
12:00pm

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. We will be holding First Communion this year on November 22. We will have a First Communion Bread Baking Class on November 8 at 12:00.

Please RSVP to Joanna at jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org and fill out the form online.

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



Pumpkins for Shut Ins

Our Youth Leadership Team also created these adorable pumpkins to share with our visitation team to give to our shut-ins.



Sunday Evening Education

We are excited to offer biweekly programming for our 5th – 12th graders on Sunday evenings from 4:30-6:00pm. Kickoff is on October 11!

October 11 & 25

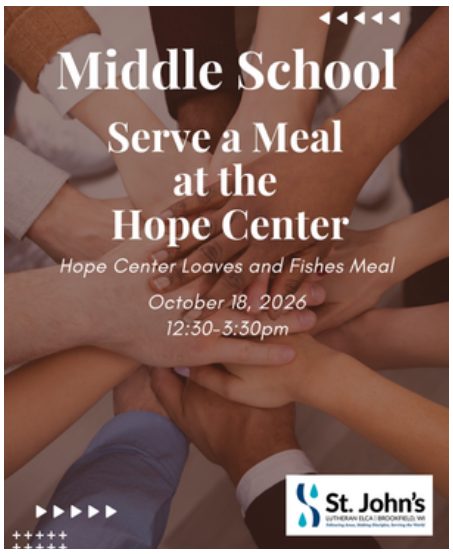
4:30-5:00p	Dinner
5:00-6:00p	5th- 6th grade Connect Class
	7th-8th grade Confirmation
	9th-12th grade Youth Group

Contact Joanna or Stephanie with any questions!

Middle School Hope Center Meal

Middle Schoolers!
Join us October 18 from 12:30-3:30 at the Hope Center of Waukesha to prepare and serve the Loaves and Fishes Meal.

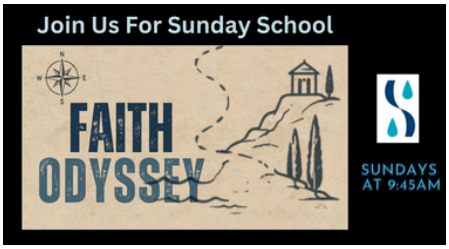
Sign Up Here --
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CADAA2DA0F85-middle5#/



Sunday School

Sunday School is off to an amazing start! This year's theme is Faith Odyssey, and we are building faith while walking through the great journey of life! We start altogether in the Sanctuary at 9:45 and then head to small groups. New Friends are always welcome to join us!

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 in the Paul Room.



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 meals for the Hope Center!





Contact Joanna with Toddler to 8th Grade Questions

jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Children, Youth, & Families

9th Grade Retreat

Friends, fun, faith, and flying were all part of the Lutherdale experience for our 9th graders.



High School Sunday Mornings

We're excited to offer another opportunity for our high school youth to connect, serve, and grow together!

Throughout the year, high schoolers are invited to gather in the Youth Room during the Sunday morning Education Hour, approximately 9:45–10:45 AM. Our Sunday mornings will have a special focus on service and putting our faith into action, with a variety of projects, activities, and opportunities to serve our congregation and community together.

This is in addition to our Sunday evening High School Youth Group!

Whether you join us every week or whenever you're able, all high school youth are always welcome. We can't wait for another way to spend time together while serving others!

Youth Ministry Calendar

DATE	EVENT	TIME
10/4	9th Grade Confirmation	4:30p-6:00p
10/11	Youth Group begins	5:00p-6:00p
10/21	ELCA Youth Gathering Registration Opens	
10/24	Italian Dinner Fundraiser + Silent Auction	5:30p-8:00p
10/25	Youth Group	5:00p-6:00p

ELCA Youth Gathering Chaperones Needed

We're looking for MALE chaperones to join our group for the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering next summer! If you enjoy working with high school youth and would like to be part of this incredible faith-filled experience, we'd love to have you join us. Please reach out to Stephanie for more information.

ELCA Youth Gathering

Minneapolis, here we come! The ELCA Youth Gathering is June 27–July 2, 2027, and we are excited to start getting our group registered!

Gathering financial assistance applications are open October 1–16. St. John's also has scholarship opportunities available for those who may need additional assistance.

Registration begins October 21 with a $100 deposit!

If you're currently in 8th - 12th grade and interested in joining us in Minneapolis, please reach out to Stephanie for more information. We would love to have you join us!



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

262-453-9201 or
sbroussard@stjohnsbrookfield.org

Italian Dinner Tickets



Click the link below to order your tickets for the Italian dinner. At the end of the form, a payment link will direct you to PayPal. Enter needed info, click submit, then enter payment information.

Italian Fundraiser Dinner – Fill out form

Connecting and Serving

Women's Outing



Thank you to the great group of women who attended this year's gathering at Raised Grain Brewery. We enjoyed catching up, good snacks, and tasty beverages.

Fall Clean Up

Monday, October 5 at 4:30 p.m. we will gather to clean up the St. John's property and prepare it for winter. Many jobs are available for all skill levels. Come when you are able, leave when you must. All are welcome to join the fun and fellowship! Food will be served. Please RSVP on Sign Up Genius so there is enough food.



Join in a Time of Prayer

Pray Without Ceasing

Led by Pastor Jim Holmberg

October 13
5:00 p.m.

In the conference room

All are welcome to join in prayer.

Softball Team



Top: Carter Aune, Brian Harms, Alex Stephens, Joe McGrath, Scott Lange
Middle: Craig Douglas, Ben Allbaugh, Tim Lange, Bill Hughes, Jared Cisz
Bottom: Terry Hoeppner, Jason Rateike, Scott Schweiger, Justin Douglas, Mike Wright, Ray Fuerstenberg

The St. John's softball team had a fun summer. They finished 10th in the league with a record of 3-9. Thanks to Terry Hoeppner for keeping the books, Brian Harms for leading the team, and the fans for all the support.

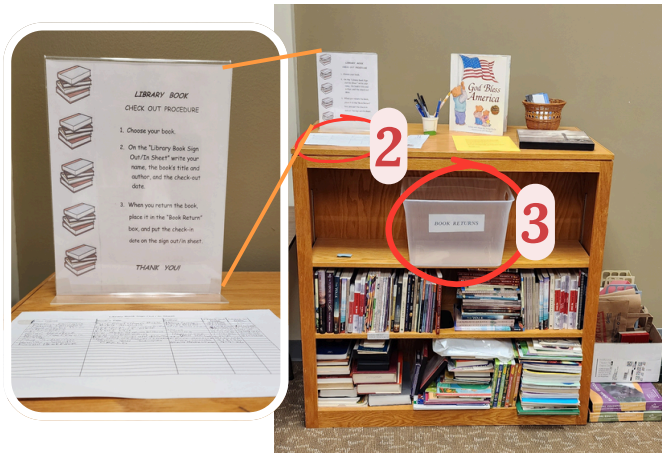
Check It Out

How to Check Out Books from the Library

CHECK OUT PROCEDURE

1. Choose your book
2. On the "Library Book Sign Out/In Sheet" write your name, the book's title and author, and the check-out date.
3. When you return the book, place it in the "Book Return" box, and put the check-in date on the sign out/in sheet.

There is no "due date" for books from the St. John's library. Our honor system is that books are returned when you are finished with them.



Serving the World

Quilt Sunday

Our annual Quilt Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, October 4. This is the weekend where quilts that the quilting ministry has been constructing all year are displayed in the worship area. Following the second service, the quilts will be packed up and shipped to those in need in our country and in areas in need throughout the world through Lutheran World Relief. The cost to ship one quilt is about $4. **LWR is always grateful for donations to help with shipping expenses**.

LWR has a long history of helping those in need around the world. Their mission is to affirm God's love for all people, working with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering. Our quilts can be used by those in need as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings.

Join us between services on October 4 for cake and coffee and to learn more about this rewarding ministry. Special thanks to all those who have helped make tops, pinned and sewed quilts together, tied quilts and helped out by sewing tops at home. Better yet, if you haven't tried it, grab a 'Quilt To Go' packet from the rack in the gathering space, lend a hand and make a top. Instructions and fabrics are included. We meet monthly on the second Tuesday, from 6-8 pm. New helpers are always welcome.



October Outreach - Coat Drive for All Peoples

Winter is coming soon. Our October outreach focus is winter gear for students at All Peoples Church. In 2025, they distributed winter gear bags to 403 children!

How can you help?

- Give new or gently used and cleaned winter jackets (sizes 3 months to adult 3XL
- Give new mittens, gloves and hats
- Give new or gently used and cleaned scarves
- Give funds to puchase gloves in bulk and distribution bags.



Please do not donate cloth, leather, or old-fashioned adult coats, other types of clothing, shoes, or boots.

Celebrating Care for Creation

Title: Celebrating Care for Creation;
an interfaith gathering in the spirit of St. Francis
When: Sunday, October 4, 2026 | 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Where: Redeemer United Church of Christ
(Sanctuary Garden & Great Hall)
W220 N4915 Town Line Road, Menomonee Falls

Are you passionate about the environment? Looking for ways you and your faith community can better care for our planet? Join neighbors from all backgrounds for a regional, interfaith gathering to nurture and resource your calling to creation care. In the spirit of St. Francis, we will begin outdoors with a "Living Water" prayer service in the Sanctuary Garden, followed by refreshments, resource tables, and discussions indoors. This event is free and open to everyone—whether you are already deeply involved in environmental work or just wondering how to get started! Sponsored by the Waukesha County Creation Care Network, WI Conference United Church of Christ, and the Cooperating Churches of Sussex.

Learn more and register at: www.wcccn.org



This and That

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.



Bazaar Brainstorming

Do you remember the Holiday Bazaar?

Do you have in interest in having a Bazaar 2027?

Please join us for a brainstorming session on **October 8 at 5:30p.m.** All creative suggestions are welcome!



Outreach for Hope

Thank you so much to eveyone at St. John's for your incredible support of the Outreach for Hope Ride, Run & Walk! Whether you participated, donated, cheered us on, or simply encouraged the effort, your generosity helped make a real difference in our community. I'm grateful to be part of a congregation that continues to show up for others.

Thanks,
Phil Peters

OUTREACH FOR HOPE
RIDE RUN WALK 2026
HOPE ON THE MOVE

October Birthdays

1	Jude Peters	10	Jennifer Cranfill	17	Henry Cesar	23	Megan Bingenheimer
1	Brian Zach	11	Ray Jarock	18	Navvi Broussard	25	Carter Aune
4	Jack Scanlon	12	Jen Aune	18	Roy Pingel	27	Joanna Salinas
5	Noah Rebisch	12	Jeremy Beyerlein	19	Michelle Harms	28	Rog Lewis
5	Sara Sadowski	12	Connor Koscielniak	19	Jordan Moskopf	29	Jerry Hanson
5	Josh Schilling	13	Kathi Hanson	20	Bailey Ebbole	29	Dayne Peters
7	Jill Dahlgren	14	Caleb Erdahl	20	Phil Peters	30	Jenny Walker
8	Tom Woodworth	14	Bree Walker	20	Lyla Turner	31	Chris Anderson
9	Brent Voldahl	15	Chris Burns	22	Eli Wagner	31	Mary Hughes
9	Karen Wicklund	16	Henry Driessen	22	Jeremy Zimdars	31	Brian Keierleber

Council Communications

Greetings to St. John's Members,

The Congregation Council met on September 21, 2026. Following an opening devotion, Council approved the agenda and the August 17 meeting minutes.

Constitution Revision
Council continued work on the congregation's revised Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions and began the formal timeline for congregational consideration. The current plan is to distribute the proposed governing document to the congregation in early December, with a Special Congregation meeting planned for January 10 and the Semi-Annual meeting scheduled for February 7, 2027, consistent with required notice and approval procedures.

Treasurer and Financial Coordination
Council formally appointed Lisa Belli-Fuchs and Carrie Peters as Co-Treasurers for the remainder of the current Treasurer term, May 2027. Council also reviewed and clarified financial responsibilities among the Co-Treasurers, church staff, Financial Secretaries, and Finance Team to strengthen continuity, internal controls, reporting, and budget preparation.

Financial Report
Council reviewed and approved the August 2026 Financial Report. Monthly giving was 4% under budget and 2% under budget year to date. Overall monthly income was 1% over budget and 3% under budget year to date, while expenses were 4% under budget for the month and 6% under budget year to date.

The August summary reported total assets of $462,617.65 and expenses $19,622.40 below income. Finance recommended maintaining available cash reserves as the fall program year begins. Council also received updates on designated-fund reconciliation and Pave the Way financial planning.

Transition and Call Process
Council noted that the PACT transition-support form has been completed and signed. The Call Committee continues its work, with candidates actively under consideration.

Worship and Organizational Planning
Council discussed follow-up on the summer worship survey and continued refinement of the church organizational chart. The chart is intended to clarify leadership, accountability, ministry coordination, and communication among Council, staff, ministry teams, and Finance. Pave the Way remains identified as a Council initiative with financial coordination through the Finance Team.

Music Director Recruitment
Council received an update on Music Director recruitment. Additional information on the recruitment team and its work will be shared with Council as the process continues.

2027 Benefits and Compensation Planning
Council approved the selected 2027 Portico healthcare-plan option for submission by the October 14 deadline. Council also discussed the Human Resources and Finance recommendations for 2027 staff compensation and benefits as part of the upcoming budget-planning process.

Thank you for your continued prayers, participation, and support of St. John's ministries!

Yours in Christ,
Kathy Davis, President

Next Council Meeting:
October 19
at 6:30 p.m.







Calendar of events for October 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 Jason with questions.			1 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	2 6:15a virtual men's group 6:00p Tai Chi 6:00p AUM Dance	3 8:30a men's group 10:00a AUM Dance 1:00p private event
4 **8:30a worship*** 9:45a fellowship and ed **10:45a worship** 4:30p 9th gr confirmation	5 Food Pantry Pick Up 11:30a Hope Center meal 4:30p Fall clean up & food 6:30p Al-Anon 8:00p Women's AA	6 8:30a property team 10:15a staff mtg 6:00p quilters 6:30p handbell rehearsal 6:30p scouts	7 8:30a retired men's b-fast 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	8 5:30p Bazaar Brainstorm 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	9 6:15a virtual men's group 10:00a prayer shawl group 6:00p Tai Chi 6:00p AUM Dance	10 8:30a men's group 10:00a AUM Dance
11 **8:30a worship*** 9:45a fellowship and ed **10:45a worship** 4:30p youth programming youth auction begins	12 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p Al-Anon 8:00p Women's AA	13 8:30a property team 10:15a staff mtg 5:00p Pray without Ceasing 6:30p handbell rehearsal 6:30p scouts 6:30p HR Team Zoom mtg	14 9:30a Morning Circle 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	15 6:30p Finance Team mtg 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	16 6:15a virtual men's group 11:30a Women of Faith 6:00p Tai Chi 6:00p AUM Dance	17 8:30a men's group 10:00a AUM Dance
18 **8:30a worship*** 9:45a fellowship and ed **10:45a worship** 12:30p - youth at Hope Ctr 1:00p Eagle BOR	19 11:30a Hope Center meal 1:00p women's Bible study 6:30p Council Meeting 6:30p CYF Board meeting 6:30p Al-Anon 8:00p Women's AA	20 8:30a property team 10:15a staff mtg 1:00p book club 6:30p handbell rehearsal 6:30p scouts	21 12:00p retired men's lunch 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	22 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	23 6:15a virtual men's group 6:00p Tai Chi 6:00p AUM Dance	24 8:30a men's group 10:00a AUM Dance 4:00p concert 5:30p youth Italian dinner youth auction ends
25 Reformation **8:30a worship*** 9:45a fellowship and ed **10:45a worship** 4:30p youth programming	26 11:30a Hope Center meal 11:30a private event 6:30p Al-Anon 8:00p Women's AA	27 8:30a property team 10:15a staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal 6:30p scouts	28 5:15p Kids of the Kingdom 6:00p AA 6:00p TOPS 6:30p choir rehearsal	29 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p AA	30 6:15a virtual men's group 6:00p Tai Chi 6:00p AUM Dance	31 8:30a men's group 10:00a AUM Dance

Contact Us

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
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.

Our Core Values

- 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	Pauline S
Carol M	Doris K
Dylan H	Mark A
Gary G	Nancy H
Dick G	Jeremy G

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
open
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 Jason Hamilton, Office Manager
101 Pastor Frank Janzow, Bridge Pastor
102 Pam Klink, Communications Coordinator
104 Joanna Salinas, Children's Ministry
105 Stephanie Broussard, Youth Ministry
106 Dorothee Chen, Bookkeeper
107 Music Director
200 Teresa Baliff, Preschool

Attention Facebook Users

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