

St. John



Commitment
to Community

MARCH 2022

The Messenger is a publication of St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet, IL

40 40 AND
DAYS, NIGHTS, 1

BIG Promise

Join us for St. John's cherished tradition, the
Lenten Bible Drama!

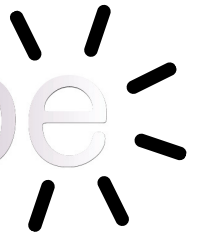
Board Noah's Ark
Wednesdays
7pm* in the Sanctuary
March 9 - April 6

* Concurrent Livestream begins at 6:55pm



Lament to Hope

Readings from the Gospel of John



lenten
bible study
&
devotional
materials

3 - 5pm
starts 3/10
thursdays
with Pastor Jen

zoom

to sign up, email
jenbeamsley@stjohnjoliet.org

Can't make the live study on Thursdays? No problem! Email Pastor Jen and she'll send you a link to the study and the class materials you can use for devotion. If you don't know how to use Zoom, or need a refresher, let Pastor Jen know, and she will provide you with tech support.

52 Years of Women's Ordination in the ELCA March is Women's History Month!

With the pandemic, we didn't take much notice of a 2020 landmark in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), but there are some worth celebrating, even two years later!

2020 marked

- 50 years of women's ordination of European Descent
- 40 years of women's ordination of African Descent
- 10 years of women's ordination of people who are openly LGBTQ+



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUdfPdDrd-o>

A few images and experiences of this history are captured in this brief video of female pastors and bishops:

When I was in my 30's, I first felt the Holy Spirit calling me into ministry in The Church as a pastor. At the time I had a female pastor in North Aurora who had attended seminary as a second career and as a mother. I don't think I would have pursued a career as a pastor myself, if I hadn't seen her example.

When I came with my family to St. John, Pastor Peter Holmer had Bible Dramas for Lenten worship that always included a God character that was unmistakably a female. Pastor Linda and Pastor Nicole preceded me, and Pastor Jen became the example for me. Her style of leadership is unmistakably her own, unmistakably of the Spirit, and unmistakably guiding us to more truly and compassionately become ourselves and God's presence in the world.

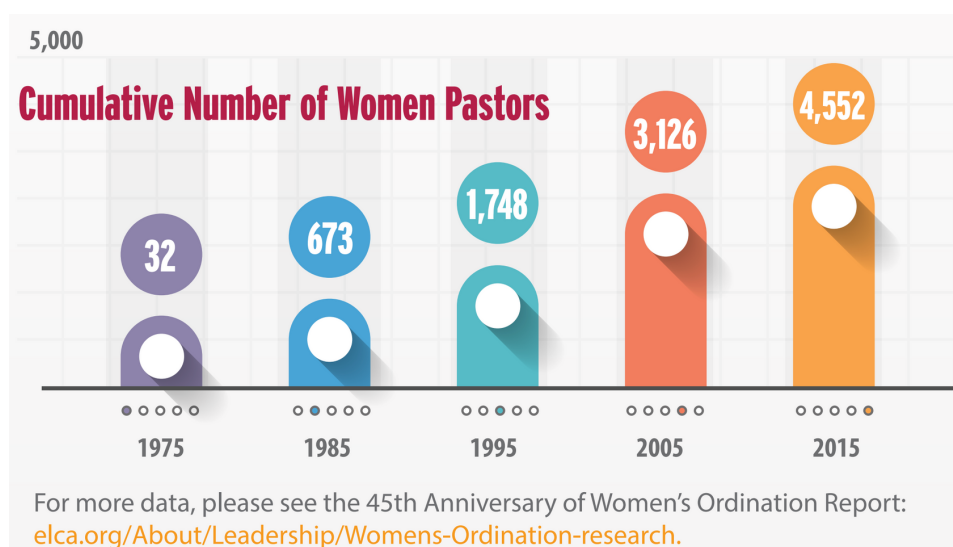


Chart Source

Ordination
Report

I am fortunate that I haven't stumbled too often over the shards from the glass ceiling that are under our feet. I am grateful for all the women who pursued ordained ministry ahead of me, making it easier for me to envision that God could be calling me to similarly amazing work.

Although women have always been integral parts of ministry and mission, the institutional church has been slow in recognizing the gifts women offer the world as well as embracing how the Holy Spirit moves through women as well as men. There are many denominations and faith traditions that still do not allow women to take leadership roles.

Thank you for seeing the Holy Spirit's presence and movement in the many, many women of The Church! Thank you for being God's Church!



Peace + Joy,

Pastor Robin

Pastor Robin

Share Our Worship Link

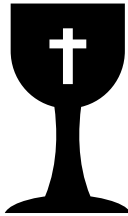


LOOKING AHEAD HOLY WEEK



**Palm
Sunday**

4/9 4/10
5:30pm 8:30am*
 11:00am*



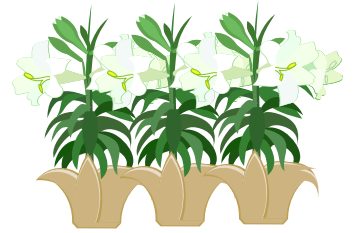
**Maundy
Thursday**

4/14, 7pm*



**Good
Friday**

4/15, 7pm*



**Easter Easter
Saturday Sunday**

4/16 4/17
5:30pm 6:30am*
 8:30am*
 11:00am*

* Concurrent Livestream



Looking Back



Pam Blaesing posted on Jan. 24th



"Hello from the Monday Night Small Group and our fearless leader Linda Evans. We continue our study of Corinthians."

Jim Eklund posted on Jan. 25th



"St. John's 1982 Softball Team, Church League 2nd Place, 40 years ago, 10-5 record"

Pastor Robin posted on Feb. 28th



"These servants of the Lord are cooking ham again this Thursday to feed homeless people at Daybreak. God bless them all! Can you help serve the meal at Daybreak (611 East Cass St., Joliet) on any first Thursday of the month, 6pm - 7:30 pm? You don't even have to do dishes!"



On Feb. 3, Erica Swanson posted photos of the Youth Service Team making Linus Project blankets. 17 so far...

Thank you for your donations!!



Youth, Young Adults, & Family

Faith Milestone: 1st & 2nd Graders

The 10 Commandments

We learn the 10 Commandments as a guide for living faithfully with people to create peaceful societies, to be an example of God's intention, and to love one another as God desires. What important guidelines to be reminded of right now, whether we are quarantined in close quarters, are connecting online, or are re-engaging in-person again!

It's time for our 1st and 2nd graders to be introduced to these valuable commandments starting February 6 and through the spring in their Sunday school class! When the lessons are complete, we will have a blessing together and a small gift for kids who participate.

Attend Sunday school on Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
Meet in the sanctuary with Mrs. Morris, 1st grade teacher, and Mr. Bloomquist, 2nd grade teacher.
Register your 1st and 2nd grader for Sunday school at stjohnjoliet.org, if you didn't last fall!

Questions about 10 Commandments Faith Milestone?
Contact: Amy Morris tommorris1217@aol.com, or
Pastor Robin at (815)439-2320 ext. 101, robincaldwell@stjohnjoliet.org

Tween GO!: 4th-6th Graders

Once A Month Gatherings

Tween = 4th, 5th, 6th grade kids
GO = God & Others

If you are in 4th, 5th, or 6th grade, you can be part of our Tween GO ministry! We meet one Sunday afternoon a month. Come join us for a meal, creative activities, small groups who learn about loving our neighbors and highs/lows!

Next date: Sunday, March 20th from 12:15 - 2:30pm
Registrations are taken at the door when parents drop off their youth. We will use masks and social distancing to keep our kids safe. Come join us for a fun afternoon!
Contact: evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org

Faith Milestone: 5th and 6th Graders

The Apostles' Creed

In worship we recite The Apostles' Creed together as shared words of faith...but what do they matter to us right now?

We introduce our 5th and 6th graders to the meaning and mystery of these ancient words of our Christian faith which describe three facets of our understanding of God, whose love creates, saves, and sustains our life and faith - yesterday, today, and for all eternity! When lessons are complete, we will have a blessing together and a small gift for kids who participate.

- Apostles' Creed lessons begin Feb. 27th at 9:45am
Lessons will extend four weeks.
- Meet in the classroom (Karin Johnson Hall) with Mr. and Mrs. Aincham, 5th/6th grade teachers.
- Register your 5th and 6th grader for Sunday School at stjohnjoliet.org, if you didn't last fall!

Questions about Apostles' Creed Faith Milestone?

Contact: Heather Aincham, haincham@gmail.com,
or **Pastor Robin** at (815) 439-2320 ext. 101, or
robincaldwell@stjohnjoliet.org

Other Faith Milestones Coming Soon!

Coming Soon: First Communion

We practice an open table at our Holy Communion celebration every week. All are welcome to receive the body and blood of Christ! We have a learning event for families to talk about the connection between the Passover meal (with the Israelites before the Exodus from Egypt), The Last Supper (with Jesus and the disciples before Jesus was arrested and crucified), and Communion (with you and me and everyone around the world who celebrates until Jesus comes again)! We also get to visit the special room called the "sacristy", explore the "chancel" and taste whatever is in those little cups!

Families of 3rd graders (and anyone older who hasn't had their first communion yet) are invited to the learning event and our Faith Milestone Celebration in May, to receive first communion, begin this faith practice, and to become the body of Christ in the salvation of the world! Registration details will come during Lent. Please save these dates on your calendar.

- Family learning event: May 1st, 2-5pm
- First Communion recognition: May 22nd 8:30 & 11am worship services

Ask questions and/or to update your email address for communications and registration, contact **Pastor Robin** at robincaldwell@stjohnjoliet.org

Coming Soon: My First Bible

One way the love of God is revealed to us is through the scriptures. We invite 2nd graders to receive their first Bible from St. John for use throughout their learning at church and reading at home. At this learning event, kids and parents will learn how to look up verses and explore all the other helpful learning materials that are bound right into the kids Bible we give them!

Learning event and Faith Milestone Celebration will be in May! Registration details to come during Lent.

With questions or to update your email address for communications and registration, contact **Pastor Robin** at robincaldwell@stjohnjoliet.org

Confirmation for 7th - 9th Graders

Faith Formation

Confirmation classes are for our 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students. We meet most Wednesday nights during the school year from 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. We want youth to learn about faith in a way that connects to their lives and answers the real questions they have. The year will be packed with large group learning events based on the 10 Commandments and the story of the Exodus, small group check-ins, activities to practice faith, service projects, and time set apart to connect with each other. [Confirmation Schedule](#)

During Lent

Confirmation may be off during Lent, but it doesn't mean our community stops existing! Youth are encouraged to attend lenten worships and stay in contact with their care groups.

Contact: evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org

High School Youth Service Team

Serving the Community

If your child has a heart for serving others, is looking to grow as a leader, and/or needs service hours for school or college applications, this group combines all three of these needs! Youth Service Team meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month from 7:00-8:30pm at church. During these meetings, youth have the opportunity to plan and engage in service while building leadership skills and acting on their passion for changing the world. For information, speak to Erica Swanson.

Contact: Erica Swanson, call/text 630-802-7466 or youthserviceteam@stjohnjoliet.org

High School F.I.R.E.

Small Group Ministry

Does your high schooler need a community that loves them just as they are? Or a safe space to talk about life? FIRE may be the family they need! Your youth can join us on Wednesdays at church from 8:15-9:30pm for a "mini-Sabbath" where we share highs and lows, process life, faith, and the world, play games, and pray for each other (all while being our silly, messy selves). We have a place for them! To join and to stay up to date with meeting times and changes, text the Remind code @pastorevan to the number 81010.

Contact: evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org

High School Spring "One Day" Retreat

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 7th

[Dickson Valley Retreat Center](#)

College-age Check-in

Meeting on Zoom

Our "College-age Check-in" is a community of college-age people (ages 18-23) who meet twice a month to reconnect, share high and lows, wrestle with "adulting", play games, and navigate life together. To find out more about when and how we meet, contact Pastor Evan.

Contact: evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org

Young Adult Ministry

Adults Ages 24 - 40

Calling all people roughly between the ages of 24-40!

St. John's community of young adults is now meeting twice a month via zoom on the 1st Tuesday and 3rd Thursday of every month at 6pm! We are building a community where we can support one another, talk about faith, reflect on our hopes, fears and goals, and help each other navigate life. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, talk to Pastor Evan!

Contact: evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org



March 13, 2am

Daylight Saving Time Begins
Clocks Spring Forward 1 hour!

March & April Special Offering is Helping Hands

Your generosity helps keep people

- in their homes *utility assistance*
- at work *gas & transportation assistance*
- healthy *prescription assistance*



Use a blue envelope and check Helping Hands or click "give" at stjohnjoliet.org



Summer Employment Opportunities

Assistant Program Director

Counselor

Counselor-Day Camp

Health Coordinator

Hospitality Specialist

Lifeguard/Aquatics Coordinator

Maintenance Specialist

Summer Camping Ministry at LOMC

The Purpose of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center is to be the Church in outdoor settings, nurturing Christian faith and providing experiences connecting the Word of God with the World of God.

A summer of camping ministry is highly rewarding and challenging!

Work within an intentional community in which you are responsible to one another. Gain valuable skills in problem solving as you help children, youth and adults navigate their summer camp experience. Respond to rapidly changing weather and other environment challenges. Experience helping children and youth with experiences that challenge you to be creative in your planning, response, and spontaneity. [Read more](#)

[...from LOMC website](#)



Food Pantry

Commitment to Community: Feeding our Hungry Neighbors Cold Hands - Warm Hearts

After a holiday break in December, our volunteers and the families we serve came back in full force in January. We are seeing an increase in families visiting our pantry for the first time and families that never expected to need our help reaching out for support.

Our volunteers brave the cold and work hard to be able to serve each family with genuine kindness in their hearts. I find myself taking a step back and watching our volunteers build connections with each other and with the families we serve. While we work to adapt to serve during the cold weather months, what we do doesn't change...we greet each family with kindness, we bag an amazing abundance of food, and we load each car that drives into our parking lot and send them on their way with one less worry for the day.

Each Wednesday morning, we receive between 10,000 and 20,000 pounds of food! Much of this food is refrigerated and frozen items that we sort and store in our walk-in cooler and freezer. We couldn't do this without the hard work and year-round winter gear of **Rob and Matt Kornauss**. These two keep our Wednesday morning team laughing, do much of our heavy lifting, and are always willing to step up to help in any area of the church while they are here! While the world has faced staffing shortages, our volunteer coordinator, **Sandy Smith**, has worked incredibly hard to keep our volunteers coming back to serve! Our outdoor volunteer lead, **Michele Tippet**, serves with a smile on her face (and her famous mask), and our indoor lead, **Barb Furmankiewicz**, manages to organize thousands of pounds of food each week to distribute equitably for our neighbors we serve. As a result of their hard work, they were honored as our Volunteers of the Year for 2021.

If you're willing to brave the cold and be a part of this family of volunteers, sign up to join us at stjohnfood.org

Sign Up Here



Rob & Matt Kornauss



Barb Furmankiewicz, Michele Tippet & Sandy Smith

Council Minutes

January 18, 2021

Abiding by safe distancing standards during the uptick in Covid-19 cases, the Council held a virtual meeting via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by Jackie Mansholt at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Pastor Beamsley, Pastor Caldwell, Pastor Mayhew, Glenn Smith, Shawn Roark, Kristen Vorrier, Ken Swanson, David Luecht, Jackie Mansholt, Meghan Doyle, Jonathan Adams, and Brent Rimmke. Excused: Keri Cortese. Guest: None.

Devotions were led by Glenn Smith.

Consent Items

There were no changes to the consent items so they were adopted as follows:

1. Approval: Agenda and December minutes
2. Worship Attendance – December
3. February Devotions – Shawn Roark

Discussion- 2021 Year End Financial Reports and 2022 Proposed Budget

Glenn Smith led the review of year end financial reports for the Council. Pastor Jen reviewed the 2022 Proposed Budget. The following motion was presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was carried unanimously.

Motion: To forward the 2022 Proposed Budget for Congregational consideration.

Forum and Congregational Meeting Date Change

Due to the current uptick in Covid numbers, the Forum and Congregational Meeting were deferred as follows:

Budget Forum: February 6, 2022 at 10am

Congregational Meeting: February 13, 2022 at 10am

2022 Sabbatical for Pastor Robin

Pastor Robin shared her approximately 8-week sabbatical plans for summer of 2022 – Holden, hubby and home – which includes a trip to Holden Village (a retreat center in Washington state) with Tim as well as time in her new home planning and making needed changes. She will also focus on options for renewal and faith milestones. This sabbatical is delayed from the originally scheduled time in 2020.

2022 Synod Assembly and election of Northern Illinois Bishop

The Council received Information for Voting Members of the 2022 Synod Assembly Process which is a series of meetings that are a combination of Zoom and in-person meetings that begin 6/5/22 and conclude 6/18/22. The following Council Members expressed interest and will be attending: Kristen Vorrier, David Luecht, Jackie Mansholt and Brent Rimmke. Congregational members are encouraged to participate as non-voting attendees.

Adjournment and the Lord's Prayer

Motion: To adjourn the meeting [Rimmke/Swanson].

Motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Blaesing, Recording Secretary

Our church calendar is now a



- link to your personal calendar
- ical available

subscribe today: stjohnjoliet.org/calendar

Support Groups

Anonymous

God did not create us to travel this world alone, especially in times of difficulty. Support and help is available in our community. Please share this information.

- A.A. – Thursdays, 7pm on Zoom
- A.A. Women's Group – Mondays, 6:30pm at St. John
- Al-Anon – Mondays, 7pm at St. John
- Ala-Teen – Sundays, 6-7:15pm Mokena Fellowship Center, (downstairs) 13550 W. Maple Rd (Rt. 30), Mokena, IL 60448

Contact: Church Office 815-439-2320



We want to Know

If you or a family member are in the hospital, having surgery, etc. please contact the church office personally, or have someone in your family contact us. Hospitals are not reaching out to us as they used to and we don't want to miss important information.

Senior Pastor Jennifer Beamsley
Associate Pastor Robin Caldwell
Associate Pastor Evan Mayhew

Palm Sunday, April 9-10
Maundy Thursday, April 14
Good Friday, April 15
Easter Sunday, April 16-17



Worship with us!
Saturdays, 5:30pm & Sundays, 8:30am, 11am
Livestream Sundays 8:30am  

Pastor Jen Beamsley
Pastor Robin Caldwell
Pastor Evan Mayhew

Nicole Adams
Janet Blomquist
Tori Hicks
Heather Hinthorn
Pam Kornaus
Dawn MacGregor
Sarah Wernli
Susan Yokubonis

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pamkornaus@stjohnjoliet.org
dawnmacgregor@stjohnjoliet.org
sarahwernli@stjohnjoliet.org
susanyokubonis@stjohnjoliet.org



Commitment
to Community 



815-439-2320



815-439-0575



contact@stjohnjoliet.org



stjohnjoliet.org



stjohnfood.org



St. John by the mall - Joliet, IL



St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet

Church Office Hours:

Monday/Wednesday/Thursday 9am-4pm
Tuesday/Saturday by appointment
Friday 9am-12pm
Sunday during worship

Worship with us!

Saturdays, 5:30pm
Sundays, 8:30am, 11am
Livestream Sundays 8:30am



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.