



The vestibule doors & windows were replaced! Oct. 12-14

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

~ Matthew 7:7



At the Oct. 6 Memorial Committee meeting, members decided to replace pew coverings & kneelers by the altar rail this year!



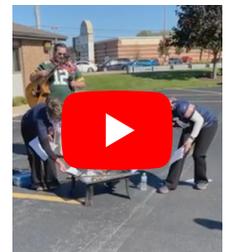
The new Youth Service Team visited worship. Oct. 3



Pastor Evan & members from Tween GO! held a Blessing of the Animals. Oct. 10



ST. JOHN THANKS YOU
for attending our 10/17
TAILGATE PARTY



We had a beautiful day for worshipping, celebrating, connecting, eating, playing games, burning the mortgage and saying goodbye to Lisa Marshall! While fans of one team may have had more to cheer about than the other team, we all agreed that the food was outstanding! Does anyone else have *Burn, Baby Burn* still playing in their head?

How to Create Meaningful Holiday Gatherings

With the holidays upon us, one's calendar will be begging to be filled! I recently came across a practice that promotes gatherings with intention, which I'd like to pass on because it feels like an act of mindfulness.

Here's how I stumbled upon this practice. With recent re-gatherings, I've noticed some of the gatherings I'm planning or attending are amazing, yet other gatherings fall flat. It got me interested in what made for a good gathering, and what made for a gathering that left me and others feeling uninspired and disconnected.

So I picked up a book called "The Art of Gathering" by Priya Parker. I'm learning a lot, but this month I want to tell you about how asking the question "why" will transform your holiday gatherings.

Parker defines a gathering as three or more people coming together around a purpose. Any meeting, worship service, holiday party, etc. is a gathering. In fact, the church is all about creating gatherings! And yet, Parker says, we rarely name the "why" behind our gatherings. Sometimes we assume we do-- for instance, I might say I have Thanksgiving at my home because, well, it's Thanksgiving. But "why" am I doing it? What makes it important **this time**?

This is a game changer. We recently put Parker's method to the test and left feeling we spent our time well, and were grateful for knowing why our attendance was worth giving a whole day off to.

The gathering was for my nephew's sixth birthday party. We hesitated going, because it's far away and we were tired and didn't know if we wanted to go to a function where we had to socialize. We'd just seen everyone at Gil's memorial service (my father-in-law) two weeks earlier. Would our nephew even notice if we showed up, we wondered?

We decided to take my "armchair" knowledge of gathering with purpose to the test. Taking Parker's advice, we defined the "why" behind our own attendance, to see if it would be worth giving our day to the event. Here's the method we used, and then I'll show you how we applied it:

1. Name the purpose of the gathering. Avoid using a "category" as a purpose. (i.e. Birthday Party is not a purpose, it's a category).
2. After you define the purpose for your planning or attending a gathering, ask "and why is that important."
3. Repeat "and why is that important" after each answer, until you've dug down to the real reason you are gathering.
4. Once you've defined why you're really gathering, decide if that aligns with your values. If it does, have fun! If not, change the purpose, or decide you can't meet the purpose and bow out.
5. Participate in a way that brings the purpose to life.

Here's how it worked for us:

1. We decided the purpose of the Birthday Party was to connect with family.
2. Then we asked: why is it important to connect with family on that specific day?" We kept asking "why" after every answer. Here's how that went:

- ❖ It's important to gather around something besides a memorial service or Gil's estate. Why is that important?
 - We need a reason to celebrate. Why is that important?
 - This will be the first time we gather without Gil and we feel a little sad about that....why is it important to attend?
 - It may bring us a lot of joy to celebrate a young life! So...
 - The purpose of attending the birthday celebration is to remember life goes on and we can celebrate the people we love today, taking note how young kids are really good at being present.

Suddenly, our purpose felt very precious and we were rushing to get out of the house. We bought an ostentatious present, sang "Happy Birthday," and played with our nephews and nieces. On the way home, we talked about our sadness, but also about what funny and creative young nieces and nephews we have.

If I'm to spend my time-- and if you are to spend your time-- gathering for church or family or friends, how can we do so with a sense of connection and purpose and inspiration? It's an important question as we plan gatherings of meaning and purpose, using the gift of time and energy to bring life to the connections God gave us.

Pastor Jen



Pastor Jen's monthly newsletter articles highlight ways to faithfully live with mindfulness. Her monthly newsletter articles focus on things she's tried herself, with an invitation for you to practice as well. If what you're reading is working for you, or you are wondering if there's a practice that will help you in a particular way, let her know at jenbeamsley@stjohnjoliet.org.

Footnote

Parker, Priya, *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2018.

All Saints Day

November 6-7

Send or bring your decorated cross to the church office.

The crosses will display in the Sanctuary on Nov. 6th-7th.

Directions

1. Inside the cross, write the name of a deceased person(s) who you wish to remember on All Saints Day.
2. Cut out the cross and color or decorate it as you wish.
3. Bring it to the church office on or before Friday, Nov. 5th.



Cross Decorating Station at St. John in the Narthex.

2021 Holiday Worship & Events

All Saints Day, November 6-7

Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 8:30am Worship **with Livestream**

Sunday 11am Worship

Thanksgiving Eve, November 24

Wednesday 7pm **with Livestream**

Church building closed November 25-26

Food Pantry closed November 27

Advent Week 1, November 27-28

Advent Week 2, December 4-5

Advent Week 3, December 11-12

Advent Week 4, December 18-19

Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 8:30am **with Livestream**

Sunday 11am

**No Sunday School on December 19

Angel & Giving Tree Tags Available, November 28

In Narthex and online at stjohnjoliet.org

Church Decorating, November 28

Sunday, 6-8:30pm,

sign up at stjohnjoliet.org

Advent Evening Prayer, Thursdays

December 2, 7pm **with Livestream**

December 9, 7pm **with Livestream**

December 16, 7pm **with Livestream**

Sunday School Christmas Program

December 4, 1-2:30pm Rehearsal

December 5, TBD, Children Arrive

4pm Program **with Livestream**

Return Angel Tree Gifts, December 11, 12

Saturday, December 11, 3-5:30pm

Sunday, December 12, 8:30am - Noon

**gifts may also be sent directly to Salvation Army

Light Up the Night, December 12

Sunday 7pm **with Livestream**

Christmas Eve, December 24

Friday 3pm **with Livestream**

Friday 5pm **with Livestream**

Friday 11pm **with Livestream**

Church building closed December 25

Food Pantry closed December 25

Sunday after Christmas, December 26

Sunday 10am **with Livestream**

**No Sunday School

New Year's Eve, December 31

Church building closes at Noon

New Year's Day, January 1

Food Pantry closed

Saturday 5:30pm Worship

Sunday after New Years, January 2

Sunday 10am **with Livestream**

**No Sunday School

Ways to Give this Season

Angel Tree Hybrid Style!

Visit stjohnjoliet.org to sign up for an Angel Tree Tag or grab a tag from the tree (*limited physical tags available.*) The Salvation Army requests gifts not exceed \$50 per Angel. We receive 100 tags per year.

Three gift delivery options:

1. Order online & send directly to the Salvation Army.
2. Bring your gift to the Joliet Salvation Army downtown location.
3. Bring your gift to St. John on December 11 or 12. Full details and information at stjohnjoliet.org in early November.

St. John Lutheran Church

As we celebrate the season of peace and hope come to us in the Christ Child, we invite you to consider adding St. John to your Christmas list! Christmas offerings help St. John make this world a better and brighter place. Look for our December mailing for more details, and thank you in advance for any sharing of resources you are able to offer.

Giving Tree, A St. John Tradition

Provide gift cards for struggling community members. You may choose to purchase \$10 gift cards from Walmart, Target, McDonalds, Speedway or Thorntons and return them on to the office please.

Provide a Holiday Meal

On the next page, Food Pantry Director, Heather Hinthorn gives details on how you can donate at stjohnfood.org and provide a Thanksgiving and/or Christmas meal to a struggling neighbor this season.

GIVING TUESDAY benefiting St. John Food Pantry

Be an ambassador for our hungry neighbors by spreading the word that our food pantry is participating in #Giving Tuesday on November 30th. We have ready-to-go social media posts for you to post to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & Snapchat as well as flyers to hang at your workplace, brochures, photos, etc. Serving hundreds of hungry families takes all of us working together! We appreciate your gifts and help spreading the word. See Pastor Robin or Heather Hinthorn for any resources you may need.



Food Pantry

Commitment to Community: Feeding our Hungry Neighbors

You will often hear me enthusiastically say, "look at this amazing abundance of food!" as I walk through the organized chaos of Wednesday morning food delivery from **Northern Illinois Food Bank**, Thursday night packing shifts to prepare for distribution, and Saturday morning distribution. It's one of my absolute favorite things to say during each shift and has become a way to encourage our volunteers that the hard work of unpacking, stocking, and loading thousands of pounds of food into the trunks of over 200 families we serve each week. Every week we are passing that amazing abundance from within the walls of St. John into the homes, pantries, and bodies of those who rely on us to meet a very basic human need.

Steve, his family, and his team enthusiastically agreed and even donated additional funds to ensure that the cost of these meals were covered. This year, 140 meals have been sponsored by their team as well! Providing those holiday meal boxes was one of the highlights of my professional career. Pastor Robin worked hard to bag the turkeys and our volunteer team worked hard to load them into the trunk of each family that visited us the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Our thought process as we worked through the decision making and logistics of that event were that people had faced an absolutely awful year, and we wanted this to be a bit of positivity for them.

The families who we serve still face many challenges and we are committed to providing a spark of hope and positivity in their lives with the gift of Thanksgiving meal kits again this holiday season.

Providing those holiday meal boxes was one of the highlights of my professional career.

Last Thanksgiving, the Food Pantry Team made the decision that we wanted the opportunity to provide each family that we served, at that point well over 300 families each week, with a Thanksgiving meal kit. These meal kits included turkey, side dishes, and dessert. We looked at our budget and realized that a mobile food pantry sponsorship could be reallocated to purchase these holiday meals. We spoke to Steve Engel of **Baird & Warner** and explained that every single Saturday was now a mobile food pantry with deliveries of fresh produce, meat, milk, and more. These deliveries were covered under a government grant and provided each family with a 35 pound

Each meal kit is \$18 & includes a 12-15 pound turkey, stuffing, gravy, corn, potatoes, rice and dessert.



As many of us have the opportunity to sit down with loved ones, family, and friends this Thanksgiving, we will have the good fortune to look out on an amazing abundance of food at our tables. With your support, we can ensure that families throughout our community can also experience this feeling.

Please consider donating by visiting our website at stjohnfood.org or sending a check to St John Lutheran Church 2650 Plainfield Road Joliet, IL 60435. To volunteer, sign-up at stjohnfood.org

Happy Thanksgiving from my family to yours.

Thank You,
Heather Hinthorn - Food Pantry Director



GIVING TUESDAY

After the hustle and bustle of black Friday, small business Saturday, and cyber Monday, visit stjohnfood.org and support the good work we do for and with our community, all year long

You Make All the Difference

- Ask your employer or community organization to select St. John Food Pantry as their #Giving Tuesday charity of choice. We have everything you may need to support your ask...posters, brochures, business cards, photos, 501(c)(3) paperwork and a fact sheet. Email robincaidwell@stjohnjoliet.org or heatherhinthorn@stjohnjoliet.org or reach them at 815-439-2320.
- Make a donation on Giving Tuesday at stjohnfood.org.
- Invite your family, friends and co-workers to support our pantry!

What 2020 & 2021 Taught Us

- We learned that people and businesses give to you and the organizations you believe in.
- We learned that in many instances, all that's needed is simply to ask.
- We learned that St. John members who can't volunteer for various reasons are some of our greatest fundraising advocates & askers.
- We learned that the community that drives past our church wants to financially support those who they see waiting in line.

Secure Your Swag at stjohnfood.org

Short Sleeve Tee

Back

Front



Long Sleeve Tee

Back

Front



Zip Up Pocket Hoodie

Back

Front



Polo (no design on back)

Front



Youth, Young Adults & Families

Sunday School - God's Greatest Gift



Remembering the reason for the season, we are planning a socially-distanced, in-person gathering for our kids to tell the story of God's Greatest Gift!!!

Our Livestream team will broadcast the storytelling of the birth of Jesus Christ, our savior, who revealed to us God's presence in our world. New staging will create more space between kids as they act out the scenes in Bethlehem, in the fields, and in the starry sky. ALL Sunday school kids through 6th grade are welcome to participate!

Mark your calendars

- Nov. 28 - Sunday school meets Thanksgiving weekend
- December 4, 1-2pm Christmas program rehearsal
- December 5, 4-4:30pm Christmas program (*kids arrive early, time is TBD*)
- December 19 & 26, January 2 - NO Sunday school

Fall & Winter Students will be meeting inside! We'll continue this until spring.

Family serving opportunity Set up tables and chairs for our Sunday school classrooms only once a month. This is a necessary and wonderful way for families to work together to serve the community and love your neighbors in a behind-the-scenes way. Contact robincaidwell@stjohnjoliet.org to find out more!

Supporting faith at home. THE SAME BIBLE STORIES FOR EVERYONE! New this year! In Sunday school, all students will be studying the same weekly Bible stories we have in worship - so grandparents, parents, teachers, kids, will all hear about the same complex characters and amazing miracles in sermons, children's messages, and Sunday school! This is an opportunity for us to be steeped in the Word of God, to inspire conversations with one another, and to foster our faith in relationships at church and at home. Support your faith journey with weekly emailed resources for adult devotionals & children's bulletins.



Tween GO!

Sunday, November 21st
12:15 - 2:30pm

Tween = 4th, 5th, 6th graders
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! 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!

Confirmation Confirmation classes are for our 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students. We meet most Wednesday nights during the school year from 7:00 - 8:15pm. 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.

This Month Moving on from the story of the Exodus, our youth dive into the 10 Commandments. Attend class and find out what Luther's Small Catechism says about the Exodus and 10 Commandments. We're also looking forward to holiday Confirmation traditions in December and the return of meditation time on Wednesdays! View the [November Confirmation schedule online](#) or on the next page.

High School FIRE Are you in high school? Do you need a community that loves you just as you are? Or a safe space to talk about life? FIRE may be the family you need!

You 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 you! To join and to stay up to date with meeting times and changes, text the Remind code [@pastorevan](#) to the number **81010**.

November

Confirmation

Schedule

November 2021	Event/Topic	Attendance
11/3 (Wednesday) 7:00 - 8:15pm	Learning Event: Wilderness Wanderings and the 10 Commandments	All students and leaders
11/10 (Wednesday) 7:00 - 8:15pm	Learning Event: Who is Martin Luther, and what is the Small Catechism?	All students and leaders
11/12 - 11/14 (Friday-Sunday) (9th Grade Students only)	High School Fall/Winter Retreat Lutherdale Bible Camp	All 9th Grade students are encouraged to attend
11/17 (Wednesday) 7:00 - 8:15 pm	Care Group Leaders Meeting	Leaders Only - NO students
11/24 (Wednesday) 7:00pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service (NO CONFIRMATION)	Worship Service with Fellowship & Pie to follow (see below)

Youth Service Team An excellent new addition to our high school ministry is the Youth Service Team which meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month from 7-8:30pm at church. If your child has a heart for serving others, is looking to grow as a leader, and needs service hours for school or college applications, this group combines all three of these needs. Participants will plan & engage in service opportunities throughout the year while building leadership skills and acting on their passion for changing the world.



For more information or to join, contact Erica Swanson at youthserviceteam@stjohnjoliet.org or 630-802-7466. You can also [join the BAND group](#) (similar to Remind) or scanning our QR code above.



Badger TEC - Save the Date!

February 3-6, 2022
Lutherdale Bible Camp

Badger TEC

One of our newest high school retreats, Badger TEC (Teens Encounter Christ), is making its return this February! This exciting faith retreat includes lots of food/snacks, games, making new friends, growing in faith, meaningful discussions, singing, swimming at a pool, general silliness, and lots of memories! Registration opens later this month so please keep an eye on your email.

Please note

- **This retreat requires taking a day off of school (Friday), so plan ahead now!** (Youth may consider using a mental health day, as the state of IL has newly provided.) I promise it is well worth it!
- Youth who have already gone to TEC may return to serve on Team to make the weekend possible! **This involves an overnight training on Jan 14-15, typically Friday 6pm to Saturday 6pm.**
- Youth must have completed Confirmation to attend.

College-age Check-in Are you between the ages of 18-23? Do you need a community to belong to? Our "College-age Check-in" is a community of college-age people who meet twice a month to reconnect, share high and lows, wrestle with becoming adults, play games, and navigate life together. To find out more about when & how we meet, contact Pastor Evan, or scan the QR code to the right to join our GroupMe.



Young Adult Ministry (YAM):

Are you roughly between the ages of 23-40? Are you struggling with faith, finding a community, or being who you want to be? Well, so are we! Our Young Adult Ministry (YAM) kicked off in September and we have great things coming up next! We are excited to build a new community where we can support one another, talk about faith, reflect on our hopes, fears and goals, and help each other navigate "adulthood". If you would like to be a part of this ministry, talk to Pastor Evan and keep your eyes open for future events!

Music

Ministry

Please don't hide your light under a bushel!



NOW IS THE TIME to make yourself known!



- Do you have a hidden talent?
- Did you take music lessons as a child?
- Do you sing in the shower or in your car?

Singers are ALWAYS welcome to be a part of either the Youth Choir or the St. John Chorale.



The Praise Team is looking for guitar players, bass players, and percussionists.



- Did you play in the band when you were in school?
- Does your child sing to all the Disney Movie Soundtracks?
- Do you have a secret yearning to be a part of something that helps lead and enhance worship services?

Contact Tori at torihicks@stjohnjoliet.org

if you are interested, mildly curious, or out and out

chomping at the bit

to be a part of these amazing ensembles at St. John.



Small Groups

Monday night small group, 6:30pm
Contact: Linda Evans,
lindaevans1975@gmail.com

Thursday morning Coffee With Friends, 9am
Contact: Marsha Getz,
marshagetz@comcast.net

Thursday night Martha Circle, 6:30pm
Contact: Lynne Smith,
lynneglenn@hotmail.com

Support Groups

Contact the church office to get contact information for the following support groups:

- 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

Council Minutes - September 28, 2021

An in-person meeting was held at St. John; masks were worn and safe distancing was observed.

The meeting was called to order by Ken Swanson at 7:00 p.m.

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

Devotions were led by David Luecht.

Consent Items

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

1. Approval: Agenda and August Minutes
2. Approval of Financial Secretary and Treasurer/Finance Reports for August
3. Worship Attendance - August
4. September Devotions - Jonathan Adams

Retirement of Lisa Marshall, Employment of Nicole Adams

Pastor Jen shared that Lisa Marshall is retiring at the end of October; a letter from Pastor Jen and a letter from Lisa has been sent to the congregation. The letter also shared that Nicole Adams is being brought on as Executive/Operations Administrator to work side-by-side with Lisa for the month of October to prepare to take on the role in November. Pastor Jen praised Lisa for her work and dedication and wished her much happiness in her retirement. Pastor Jen thanked God that Nicole, with the needed skills and activity in our church, was ready for such a position just at the time we needed her. God provides. Farewell celebrations for Lisa have been planned.

Discussion: Future Church Growth - Headwinds and Tailwinds

The council split into 3-person groups to identify the Headwinds, i.e., things that made ministry and growth difficult, over the past 5 years. The items/events identified from each of the groups were placed on the wall in a timeline. Then the same groups identified the Tailwinds, i.e., things that made ministry and growth more possible and easier, over the past 5 years. These items/events identified were placed on the wall in a timeline below the Headwinds.

Discussion: Creating and Defining Objectives for a Focus Group re: Future Church Growth.

Pastor Jen asked for volunteers to work with her in a series of meetings to create this focus group and objectives. David Luecht and Jonathan Adams volunteered.

Adjournment and the Lord's Prayer

Motion: To adjourn the meeting [Smith/Doyle].
Motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Blaesing, Recording Secretary

THANK YOU



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the awesome weekend of my farewell and sending. I was overwhelmed by your kind words, cards, individual gifts, and the gift from the congregation. I am certainly humbled by your outpouring of love and generosity. I will be forever grateful to God for my time at St. John and all the people who have travelled on my path as I have on yours.

*Love,
Lisa*

SAY
IT
WITH **ALTAR**
FLOWERS
ORDER AT
STJOHNJOLIET.ORG



All Saints Day
November 6-7

Thanksgiving Eve
November 24

First Sunday of Advent
November 28

Pastor Jen Beamsley	jenbeamsley@stjohnjoliet.org
Pastor Robin Caldwell	robincaldwell@stjohnjoliet.org
Pastor Evan Mayhew	evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org
Nicole Adams	nicoleadams@stjohnjoliet.org
Janet Blomquist	janetblomquist@stjohnjoliet.org
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Dawn MacGregor	dawnmacgregor@stjohnjoliet.org
Sarah Wernli	sarahwernli@stjohnjoliet.org



Commitment
to **Community**

-  815-439-2320
-  815-439-0575
-  info@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-1pm
Sunday 8:30-11:15am

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



Daylight Savings Time ends on
November 6th
at 2am

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