



305 families served in 2 hours. Thank You volunteers & pantry supporters.



Evie Bishop
Soo wonderful 🍪🍪🍪🍪🍪🍪🍪🍪

In April, the Youth Service Team learned how to make cards for people on our prayers list.



Katie Hoffman is with Marge West and 4 others.

April 10 · 🌐

A successful return to coffee hour on Palm Sunday. Thanks to all who helped make this happen. We hope everyone enjoyed it! Hosanna! 🙌💜🌿

Palm Sunday, April 10th

[View insights](#)

616 post reach >



Robin Caldwell, Jen Rosenbohm Beamsley and 90 others

22 Comments 1 Share



Musician. Lilies. Candles. Getting ready for Holy Week & Easter, April 2022.



April 17, Easter Sunday. 6:30am Sunrise. 8:30am mid-morning; Children's Sermon. 11am; 12 member Praise Band music.



First Communion Preparation, May 1.



H.S. 1-day retreat, May 7.



Faith Milestone Sunday, May 22.

A Summer of Re-Creation

Pastor Robin is preparing for her Sabbatical!!

Pastors at St. John are granted a time of Sabbatical for rest and renewal after several years of service. Sabbaticals are extended time away from the daily ministry of the congregation — time away from the good work of ministry to spend time in retreat and/or learning, to take days slowly, and to spend time with family.

I will always remember the summer of 2016 as a gift from you. That was the year I received my first sabbatical, and I came back with a new perspective and a renewed spirit, and a deep gratitude for the work we do, together. I felt renewed in my my life's work and faith in God. I felt more deeply connected to the people and ministry at St. John. It was truly a time of re-creation.

This July, our congregation will gift Pastor Robin with her first sabbatical. We will hold a ritual of sending at our worship services on July 2nd & 3rd. We will abstain from calling, texting, and emailing her while she's on her sabbatical, granting time to renew, rest, and re-create. We will receive her back with joy on the weekend of August 28th. Pastor Robin wrote a wonderful outline of her sabbatical plans, which you can read on the next page.

While Pastor Robin is away, we'll be doing some re-creating ourselves. Our worship theme for June is "Sabbath," followed by a wonderful worship series called "God's World Wide Web of Creation" for six weeks beginning this July. Our summer worship times have already begun— during "God's World Wide Web of Creation", we plan to worship as we usually do at our 5:30pm Saturday and 8:30am Sunday worship, but are making plans to take the 10am worship outside, weather permitting. August's worship will center on belief, in anticipation of the Rite of Confirmation on August 21st. Keep checking your email for details.

In the meantime, pray for Pastor Robin, that her sabbatical time is filled with goodness, and mark your calendar for her sending during worship on July 2nd & 3rd.

I hope you find time for slowing down, spending time with loved ones, and getting outside this summer. Whether in the building or online, I hope to see you in worship, and that you find rest, renewal, and re-creation for your souls.

In Christ,

Pastor John



Beloved Members of St. John,

Sabbath is a necessary gift to rest, renew and re-create. God is wired for it and all that God made is, too!

After nine years of pastoral ministry, I am preparing for my seven-week sabbatical that was originally planned for my seventh year (In 2020)! I look forward to the resting, renewing, and re-creating that Sabbath time provides.

Rest: I will be taking myself out of my regular, busy, work routine to practice rest more fully, as my body needs. For seven weeks I will not be at St. John. I will not be checking my email, taking pastoral care phone calls, or conducting ministry planning meetings. But, I will be working! My work over these few weeks will be in our home. Tim and I plan to focus on creating spaces indoors and outdoors for rest, renewal and re-creation. This will include building a deck, planting trees, and tending our vegetable garden.

Renewal: I will be spending a few days alone at a retreat center in Michigan, where I will have my own cottage on the prairie. In this little house I will read books I've not had time to study. I will write and reflect in my journal about where I am in life, where I've been, and where I see myself going. In this prairie I will walk, communing with nature, my first love, surrounded by the grasses, forbs, trees, and all the critters who live among them.

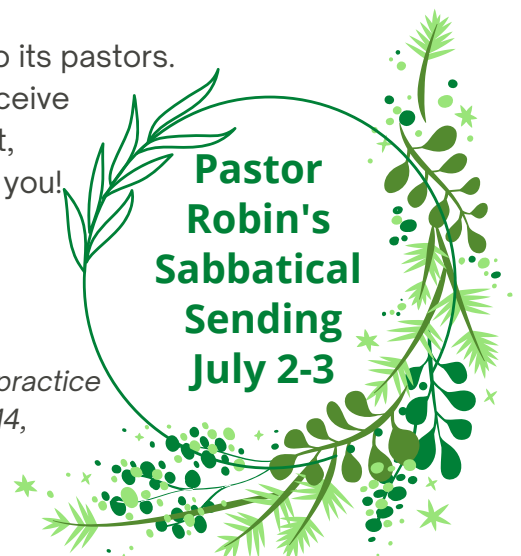
Re-create: Tim and I will both be going to the state of Washington to a retreat center for a week. We can hike, participate in daily prayer, swing in the hammocks, and find peace in the contemplative spaces. I will be taking a watercolor class to learn techniques for painting the galaxies! At night-time we will be star-gazing to capture images of the annual [Perseid meteor shower](#) as inspiration for painting, and to be in awe of the vast magnificence of this world God made.

During sabbatical, I will also be re-connecting with extended family, particularly those who are experiencing significant life changes - starting new businesses, fighting cancer, and aging. Life is short, so I want to spend time with people I love who I am unable to see frequently.

I am extremely grateful that St. John offers this opportunity to its pastors. I am confident that the rest, renewal and re-creation that I receive will bring me back in August with a clear head and a full heart, ready to re-engage in ministry as a pastor once again. Thank you!

Peace + Joy,
Pastor Robin

P.S. For examples of God's own practice and expectation that we practice Sabbath, see Genesis 2:3, Exodus 20:8-10 and Deuteronomy 5:12-14, and Leviticus 25.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

AGE 4 - ENTERING 6TH GR.

JUNE 6 - 8 2022

6 - 8 PM

**ALL
ABOARD!**



JOIN US FOR ROCKY RAILWAY VBS JUNE 6-8 FROM 6PM TO 8PM FOR KIDS AGE 4 TO ENTERING 6TH GRADE.

AT ROCKY RAILWAY, WE WILL LEARN THAT JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH!!!



Enjoy crafts at Imagination Station, Bible stories at Bible Adventure, games at Loco Motion Station, and snacks at the Chew Chew Cafe!

Interested in volunteering?

[Click Here to Sign Up](#) or visit stjohnjoliet.org

We are looking for crew leaders, helpers, station helpers, setup and take down helpers, and set builders. If you are interested, contact Sarah Wernli at sarahewernli@gmail.com or 815-641-7349.

Help us fill the box car!

The congregation is invited to join Rocky Railway VBS, who will be collecting any food in a box...Collection begins Monday 6/6 and continues through the month of June.



Nonperishable Food-In-a-Box Ideas

...cereal, fruit snacks, applesauce, mac & cheese, hamburger helper, crackers, pasta, rice, milk, salt, raisins, granola bars, barley, cookies, popcorn, oatmeal, goldfish, pancake mix, rice krispy treats, chewy bars, dessert mix, stuffing, Jello, mashed potatoes, broth, pudding, soup, tea, breadcrumbs, baking soda, corn starch, graham crackers, juice...

Sunday School

First Day of Sunday School

September 11, 2022 - Save the Date!

Teachers & Helpers, 2022 - 2023

Be a part of a rewarding and fulfilling experience with our young ones.

You don't have to know all the answers! We just need caring adults who want to deepen their own faith as they serve our youngest members. Maybe you are interested, but can't commit to every Sunday of the school year? We will work with you!

Talk to Pastor Robin or any member of the Sunday school team with questions or to express your interest in being a teacher, co-teacher, classroom helper, or substitute teacher.

Leadership Team Openings

We plan the fun stuff, help facilitate kids' learning, and support teachers in the classrooms! Working behind the scenes and outside the classroom, this team plans holiday events for the kids, Pajama Day, First and Last Day of Sunday school activities, and teacher appreciation day, as well as supports teachers and kids by providing supplies and resources, recording attendance, and choosing curriculum. Talk to Pastor Robin or any member of the current Sunday school Leadership Team to find out more!

Chris Markwell mothergoose60544@yahoo.com

Kathy Moore kathmoor1248@yahoo.com

Becky McAdam 2btall@att.net

Karen Norem ksnorem@gmail.com

Heather Specht heatherspecht1109@gmail.com

Pastor Robin robincaldwell@stjohnjoliet.org

Faith Milestone Extravaganza

Fifty-five children reached Faith Milestones by participating in First Communion, First Bible, 10 Commandments and Apostles' Creed at the first ever St. John Faith Milestone Extravaganza! We celebrated the fulfillment of promises made at baptism by blessing our children and families in worship together, laying hands on the shoulders of one another to recognize our connection through faith, with tokens, certificates, and pictures to remember this day, and...with cake! It was a memorable day, shared by our family in faith! *There are lots of photos on our Facebook page to view.*

Youth, Young Adults, & Family

Confirmation, 7th - 9th Graders

After a full year of learning how to love and live in community, our confirmation students have begun their summer break! However, our 8th graders can look forward to a week at Campconfirmation this June!

High School FIRE

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 a few times during the summer 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**.

High School Youth Service Team

If your child has a heart for serving others, is looking to grow as a leader, and/or needs service hours, consider Youth Service Team. We meet at St. John the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month from 7 - 8:30pm. Youth plan & engage in service, build leadership skills, & act on their passion to change the world. Contact Erica Swanson at 630-802-7466 or youthserviceteam@stjohnjoliet.org.

Badger TEC (H.S. Retreat)

August 4-7 (Thurs. Eve - Sun. Afternoon)

Grace Lutheran - Libertyville, IL

Registration is opening soon for this amazing faith retreat held bi-annually in Wisconsin. Youth going through for the first time will build deep relationships, play games, and realize all the ways God's love surrounds them. Youth who return to go a second time help make the weekend possible for others, growing in leadership and maturity while building lifelong friendships (youth can continue to participate in this way throughout college). Youth returning to TEC will need to attend training: July 29-30th.

College-age Check-in

Our "College-age Check-in" is a community of college-age people (ages 18-23) who meet to 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.

Young Adult Ministry (YAM)

Calling all people in (roughly) their 20s and 30s! 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. During the summer, we will meet once a month in person, and then in more exciting ways in the fall. There's never been a better time to get involved! If you would like more info, talk to Pastor Evan!



Thank you to everyone who generously supported the families we serve through our Mother's Day Donation Drive! We were able to share thousands of diapers, many packages of wipes, an abundance of baby food, and much needed formula! We were also able to share children's books, snacks, and beautiful fleece blankets. I'm so thankful for the support of the members of this Church and look forward to continuing this work with your backing! Diapers are one of the requests we receive the most often and families are overjoyed when we have them available for their little ones.



Sandy and Frank sharing donations with our neighbors.



Yenny Munoz-Swaninger

Recently, a mother confided in one of our registration volunteers, Yenny (pronounced Jenny) Munoz-Swaninger, that the free diapers that she was able to obtain for her special needs daughter were too small and were leaving marks on her legs. Yenny swooped into action to connect this mom with me, translate her needs to me, and I was able to request the correct size of diapers from one of our generous donors!

Our commitment to families in our community goes deep and with the generous support of our friends at [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#), we were awarded a grant to hire Yenny as a Bilingual Food Pantry Coordinator.

The idea for this grant request started with something as simple as this request for diapers, but we know will have far reaching implications in our community! Yenny will be working Saturday mornings to register families and will also work to build our bilingual volunteer team and spread the word about our food pantry! If you would like to get involved, we would love to serve alongside you! Sign up for a shift at stjohnfood.org



St. John Lutheran Church Food Pantry

Welcome Northern Will County Special Rec. Program Volunteers!



St. John Lutheran Church Food Pantry

Published by Heather McKeon Hinthorn
April 28 · 🌐

These hard working volunteers from the Northern Will County Special Rec program helped us prepare lots of wonderful food for the families we serve!

We are so thankful for all of our volunteers but they might be my favorite 😊 Looking forward to working with them again!

Welcome Dick's Sporting Goods Volunteers!



St. John Lutheran Church Food Pantry

Published by Heather McKeon Hinthorn
March 24 · 🌐

Our next door neighbors at Dick's Sporting Goods came out tonight to pack over 600 bags of food to serve for families visiting the pantry this weekend!

We are so thankful for them and for all they do for our community!

welcome new members 5/22

in their own words



Laura & Dave Bernhard

We like to garden, spend time with our grandkids and enjoy Michigan. We look forward to meeting new people at St. John.

Lauren Burgess

I'm currently studying medical coding and in my spare time I like to sew and knit. I'm new to all things Lutheran! I'm looking forward to growing in my faith and meeting new friends at St. John, as well as being a part of such a wonderful community!



Jim & Sally Downey

Jim is from Joliet and Sally is from Constableville, NY. We met in Washington DC in 1965. Jim retired from American Airlines and the USAF in 2004. We have 2 children and 5 grandsons and are looking forward to being a part of the St. John community.

Mary Gaeke

I enjoy playing badminton and watching ice skating. I am looking forward to working with other members of St. John's to better the community.



Eric & Katie Hoffman with their children, Kaylee & Kelsey

Erik - I enjoy helping others, spending time outside, and taking yearly trips to the renaissance fair.

Katie - I am a stay at home mom. I love to go on family vacations, especially to the beach, and the Backstreet Boys are my favorite band.

Kaylee - I like to draw, I love cats, and I am very active.

Kelsey - I love to dress up, draw with chalk, and have silly fun.

We are excited to be a part of such a welcoming faith community and becoming active members within the church. We are looking forward to Kaylee and Kelsey continuing their religious journey as they grow up.

welcome new members 5/22

in their own words



Beth & Tyler Marcum with their children, Laila & Isaac

Beth is a Quality Management Technologist in the laboratory at Hines VA Hospital. She enjoys traveling and a good glass of wine.

Tyler is a Will County Board member, lifelong Joliet resident, and spends his free time gardening.

Laila just turned 2 and Isaac is 6 weeks old.

We are looking forward to attending worship and getting our children involved in activities at St. John. Beth's mom and step-dad Laura and Dave Bernhard are also new members and Tyler's sister and brother-in law are members Allison and Ben Gunnink.

Diane & Ron Niemann

Ron likes to play golf and watches the Cubs or White Sox on tv.

He is looking forward to retiring and looking forward to belonging in a church again.

Diane - I've worked in the health care for many years and my passion is working with the older generation and helping them out. I'm looking forward to the St. John community beliefs.



Andy Nelson

I'm a big sports fan, mostly the White Sox and Bears. I love dogs and have a black lab/ greyhound mix named Haley.

I'm excited to join St. John to learn more about God and Jesus. and to have religion in my life.

Sam Riggi

Sam likes to hike and enjoys helping people.



Barbara Reed

I love animals and nature. I enjoy card making and other arts and crafts.

I'm excited about getting other people at St. John involved in card making for our homebound members as well as others on the prayer list. I am also excited to hear St. John might plant a butterfly garden.



**Do you play an instrument? Do you sing in the car or shower?
Are you hiding your light under a bushel...?**

Well, summer worship is the time to let your light shine! We are looking for musicians who are willing to share their talents by providing special music during summer worship. Whether you are a piano student, High school band member, vocalist or instrumentalist, novice or maestro.... we need you! Are you interested in sharing your talents? Contact torihicks@stjohnjoliet.org, call St. John and leave a message, or find Tori any Sunday morning to schedule your date. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!



A huge thank you to all who made my first year as Director Music one of joy and praise!

The Handbell Choirs, the Praise Team, The Youth Choir, the Senior Choir, vocalists and instrumentalists came together to play, sing, ring and make wonderful music together! It was a year that presented a set of unique circumstances, however we were able to provide music and lead worship through it all. Thank you.

Working with the Music Staff is a dream come true. Sarah Wernli is devoted to her handbell choir and ensemble while also reinstating the Chimers. Thank you so much! Susan Yokubonis and Janet Blomquist continued to amaze us with their talents at the piano and organ keyboard. Their time, talents and complete dedication to St John shines through weekly. Thank you!

The Pastoral staff and Office staff made my transition to Director of Music a time filled with love and grace. Thank you all for your patience with me.

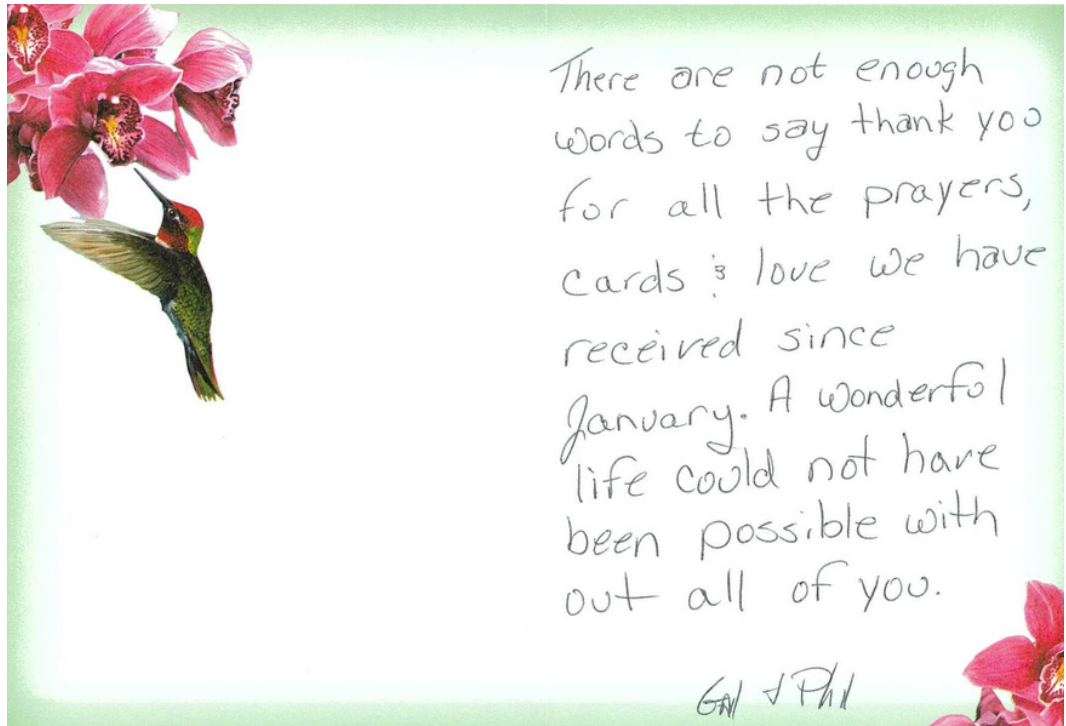
Finally, the body of Christ that makes up St. John Lutheran Church...St John by the Mall. You all never cease to amaze me. I thank God every day for the opportunity to serve here.

With Heartfelt Gratitude,

Tori Hicks
Director of Music

THANK
YOU

Gail Hartley asked us to share this card with the congregation in the next newsletter. Shortly after that, our beloved Gail Hartley passed from earthly life to Eternal Life late Wednesday morning, May 25, 2022.



Please accept our profound and heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your outpouring of care, concern and generosity as we continue to mourn the death of Mike, my husband, our kids Dad, and our grandchildren's Papa. He was loved by many and is greatly missed. Your love continues to sustain us, and we are appreciative for the numerous cards, calls, texts, visits, support, and so much more. We are very grateful for our St. John Church family! Thank-you for who you are!

Our love to you all!
Linda Evans and Family

Many thanks to all who saw me through my recent back surgery. The surgery was successful and I am on the mend. The prayers, cards, and visits are significantly helping my recovery. (The prayers for the doctors helped, too😊.) I did pick up a cold from the hospital (not Covid, thank God) after two years of staying safe. Go figure. Like many of us, I am fortunate to having a supportive circle of family and friends. Hope to see you soon!

Much Love,
Glenn Smith.

Council Minutes

April 19, 2022

The meeting was called to order on April 19, 2022 by Jackie Mansholt at 7:03 p.m

Present: Pastor Beamsley, Pastor Caldwell, Pastor Mayhew, Shawn Roark, Kristen Vorrier, Ken Swanson, David Luecht, Jackie Mansholt, Meghan Doyle, Keri Cortese, Jonathan Adams, and Brent Rimmke. Excused: Glenn Smith.

Devotions were led by Pam Blaesing.

Consent Items

The following items were approved by consent: Agenda and March Minutes, Financial Reports, Worship Attendance & May Devotions.

Update

Food Pantry Access Grant from NIFB

Pastor Robin shared that Spanish-speaking volunteers are needed to effectively communicate and reach out to a portion of Food Pantry clients for whom Spanish is their primary and sometimes only language. An NIFB grant that will fund a bilingual coordinator for 10 hours a week for 12 months was applied for and granted to St. John. A current volunteer, Yenny Swaninger, is fluent in Spanish and has connections with other Spanish resources in the Spanish-speaking community. She expressed interest in the position and is scheduled to begin this position in May. We have hopes that her designated work in the Food Pantry and connections with other resources will enhance our ability to serve our community.

Sanctuary Pew Recovering

Pastor Jen reported that we have a contract with a company to recover the pews and the process of measuring all of the pews has begun.

May Congregational Meeting which was held May 8, 2022 at 9:45am

Pastor Jen shared that the meeting agenda items include Council nominations from the Nominating Committee as well as recognition of congregational members Jackie Mansholt, Chris Markwell, and Karen Norem for their many years of serving our congregation.

Council Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Blaesing, Recording Secretary



Will County Annual Book Reuse and Recycling Event. June 3-5, 2022 from 9:00am - 4:00pm. Residents are invited to bring books and magazines to share or recycle to this

three day event in Joliet. This event is FREE of charge and a great place to find children's books as well as many more! Location: Pilcher Park Nature Center, 2501 Highland Park Drive, Joliet, IL 60432.

GREEN TEAM

REIMAGINING OUR MISSION

Join Us!

Do you love nature? Is your faith connected to the outdoors? Are you passionate about sustainability? Our Green Team is in the midst of reimagining itself to be more than just the "recycling team".

We hope to help the whole congregation deepen their love for God's created world, work together, both individually and communally, to be more sustainable, and discover a spirituality rooted in the world around us.

Look forward to an invigorating Season of Creation in July and August! If you are interested in being a part of this mission, please contact Bill Bromer or Pastor Evan or sign up at stjohnjoliet.org.



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

Church Office Hours:

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



Worship this summer at St. John
Saturdays, 5:30pm & Sundays, 8:30am, 10am
Livestream Sundays 8:30am

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
Tori Hicks	torihicks@stjohnjoliet.org
Heather Hinthorn	heatherhinthorn@stjohnjoliet.org
Pam Kornaus	pamkornaus@stjohnjoliet.org
Dawn MacGregor	dawnmacgregor@stjohnjoliet.org
Sarah Wernli	sarahwernli@stjohnjoliet.org
Susan Yokubonis	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, 10am
Livestream Sundays 8:30am



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