

St. John Lutheran Church

AUGUST NEWSLETTER \ 2023

All are welcome here



A Letter From The Senior Pastor

ROBIN E. CALDWELL

Making room for the wonder of the child and the wisdom of the elder.

Worship this summer at St. John has been a joy, with different people of all services together, sharing a common liturgy and praising God through the variety of music our talented musicians offer us from the gifts God has given. During coffee hour and hanging out after worship on Sundays, we shared our names, our time, our lives, connecting with each other and caring for one another, deepening our faith life together.

Summer is always refreshing, but there is something settling about a return to the fall! Our Back-to-school Blessing and Confirmation Day signal the change this month, as we surround our children with prayer and blessing and return to our regular Sunday worship times. September brings Hunger Action Month, Quilt Sunday, and ministries for people of all ages.

Autumn brings back all these good and favored things, but, if you still wistfully long for the single worship service of summer...we've got a new opportunity this year to bring people together again across boundaries of worship time and age.

Between Sunday services in September and October, we are offering Sunday school for people of all ages!

This is an experiential, interactive, churchwide bible study that makes room for the wonder of the child and the wisdom of the elder. Called *The Generosity Project*, it is designed to turn us to scripture and toward one another to remember our values, strengthen our discipleship, and deepen our faith. Single people and families, older people, younger people, and everyone in between will engage with the principles of our faith, sharing the challenges of living them out, and strengthening the joyful practice of generosity.

We often begin the fall in the book of Genesis. Formational stories of our faith are found here, giving us glimpses from the beginning of time, nurturing an imagination of God and God's people, playing with ideas of where we came from, who we are, and why we exist.

The Generosity Project begins in Genesis, chapter one, when God created the world as a gift, making human beings in God's image and calling us to be stewards of it all - to be caring and connected, generous and grateful. The creation stories foster the belief that with God all things are possible, God will provide, and we have more than enough.

Through large group and small group story-telling, crafts, videos, songs, and simple questions, a generosity of spirit will be encouraged that we may share ourselves with the world God created as faithful stewards nurturing a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

See you in church! Peace + Joy

Pastor Robin

Youth, Young Adults, and Family

Sunday School

The first day of Sunday School is September 10th for families of children who turn 3 by September 1, 2023 through ninth grade. We are excited to engage in inter-generational ministry this year! Please register at stjohnjoliet.org.

Tween GO

Tween = 4th, 5th, 6th graders | GO = God & Others
Tween GO is a ministry designed for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students that meets one Sunday afternoon a month from 12:15pm to 2:30pm. During that time, we provide lunch, opportunities for your youth to start building relationships with their peers at church, fun activities, arts and crafts, and learning based around a topic. Again and again, we see that kids who come to Tween GO end up having deeper church friendships when they start Confirmation, and a clearer sense of what faith looks like in their life. Plus, it's just fun!

Youth Choir

St. John is blessed with thriving music ministries, and our youth choir is no exception. From musical development, to community building, groups like these help youth to form lifelong church friendships and silly memories that they will remember for years to come. This group of students 8th grade and under routinely performs in worship, as they learn music concepts that will serve them in future endeavors. No previous musical experience or skill is necessary, just sign up! Youth Choir meets Wednesdays from 6-7pm, contact Tori Hicks for more information.

Confirmation (7th-9th Grade)

Confirmation is the centerpiece of our youth program at St. John, and the rite of passage into adulthood in the church. Most Wednesday nights during the school year, from 7:00 - 8:15pm, our 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students meet to learn from our pastors about faith in a way that connects to their lives and answers the real questions they have. Each year is packed with large group learning events based on the theme of our curriculum, small group check-ins, activities to practice faith, service projects, and time set apart to play games and connect with each other. Registration is open for this fall semester and the form can be found on our website!

This Fall: Things will ramp up quickly with our Orientation Meeting on Sept. 13th and classes beginning the following Wed., Sept. 20th. This year our youth will be experiencing "The Year of Belief", which will cover The Apostle's Creed, Lutheranism, and Other World Religions! It will be a whirlwind with plenty of fascinating discussions, creative activities, field trips, and time for reflection about what we believe here at St. John by the Mall.

High School Ministry

One of the strengths of St. John is our vibrant high school ministry, which aims to engage our post-confirmation youth through fellowship, service, and faith building experiences like retreats, mission trips, and more!

Text the Remind code **@pastorevan** to the number **81010** to stay up to date with all things HS Ministry related!

F.I.R.E.

Our Weekly HS Youth Check-in, Begins 9/20/23

Does your high school youth need a safe space to talk about life with a community that loves them just as they are? Join us for FIRE on Wednesdays from 8:15-9:30pm to play games, share highs & lows, process life & faith, and pray for each other, all while being our silly, messy selves.

Youth Service Team (YST)

Our Monthly HS Youth Service Opportunity

If your child has a heart for serving others, is looking to grow as a leader, and/or needs service hours, they will likely enjoy our youth service team nights! We usually meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 6:30-8:30pm in the Narthex. During our meetings, youth help plan and engage in service projects benefitting the greater Joliet community while eating dinner and making friends. Additional service opportunity events are also offered throughout the year as they arise. Make sure to check the HS Remind to keep up to date with these special events! For more info, call/text Erica Swanson (630-802-7466). 8th graders are welcome!

H.S. "Save The Date" Postcard!

Our "Friends of the Youth" team, made up of adult volunteers has been hard at work coming up with ways to revitalize our youth program for this fall. Keep an eye on your mailbox in early September because we will be sending a "High School Ministry Save the Date Postcard", with all the dates for our retreats, trips, and special events happening between now and next summer! We're trying some new things this year that you won't want to miss!

College-Age Care Packages

Do you have a child who is between the ages of 18-24? Keep an eye on your email in late September for more information on how to get your child on the list to receive a care package from St. John with college-age essentials! And even if you don't have a child in that age range, you can be a part of the effort to collect food and supplies!

A look back on the Nashville Mission Trip with Pastor Evan Mayhew

From July 8th through the 15th, 11 kids and 5 adults from St. John piled into two 15 passenger vans and traveled down to Nashville, TN for a mission trip that none of us will soon forget! While we were there, we partnered with Serve Boldly, an ELCA based mission trip organization, who organized service opportunities, evening outings, and led our devotions and worships. The three adults who led us shared their passion and their inspirational stories, and we were so grateful to welcome them into our family for the week! We were also joined by 4 additional youth and a youth leader, Doug Dusthimer, from St. James Lutheran Church in Lake Forest, IL (one of our Campfirmation partners and the former parish of Pastor Richard Holmer).

While in Nashville, we had so many eye-opening experiences that it is hard to summarize all that happened. But one thing was certain: whether it was working the food line at Nashville Rescue Mission (a night shelter), working with kids at Mt. Carmel Community Church (a parish that had recently lost it's pastor), serving meals at Room in the Inn (a day shelter with a focus on dignity), organizing shoes at Soles 4 Souls (a non-profit repurposing old shoes to be sent all over the world), sorting medical supplies at Project C.U.R.E. (a non-profit that sends unused medical equipment to hospitals all over the world), assisting the local food bank, working at a community farm that employs adults with disabilities, doing yard work at community member houses, or just taking care of anything else that needed to be done, our kids rose to the occasion and then some. In fact, many of the organizations we worked with commented in awed gratitude on just how hard our youth worked, and how dedicated they were to the tasks at hand. Many said they were amazed at what we were able to get done in the limited time we had. There's a lot to be proud of, and that list of organizations barely scratches the surface of everything we did while we were there!

Along the way, our youth also delighted in what we called "Random Acts of Kindness", giving out tie blankets to anyone who they made connections with or who showed kindness to us on the road. This included non-profit managers, 7-Eleven employees, cashiers, and many more! The joy and surprise on their faces was a wonderful part of our trip. In the evenings, the youth were able to experience the local culture by spending time at Centennial Park, visiting the National Museum of African-American Music, going to a line dancing restaurant, and exploring Broadway (the main drag in Nashville). On our way down and back we were also able to do a little bit of sight-seeing. We experienced Fowling (a mixture of bowling and football) while in Indianapolis, visited the Lost River Cave in Kentucky, took a picture with Superman in Metropolis, IL, went swimming, and admired the Cross at the Crossroads in Effingham, IL.

The big theme of the trip was Gentrification and how it has affected the city and buildings of Nashville, but more importantly, the people who lived there. The question that was asked again and again was, "It's great when the city gets nicer, but what happens to the people who used to live there, and can no longer afford to do so?" One of our most impactful moments came while serving at Room in the Inn, a day shelter for those experiencing homelessness with a heavy focus on personal dignity, something that other shelters often are unable to do given the sheer numbers they are serving. Near the end of a tour, our guide showed us a mural of a tree, with each leaf containing a name. He reflected on how people who are homeless are many times given no dignity in life, and how often that also translates to no dignity in death. They are buried or cremated unceremoniously, often with no one present to mourn them. This tree was their way of making sure those people, often members of their community at the shelter, are not forgotten, with each leaf representing one person who had died. It was a stunning reminder of why it is so important that everyone knows that they are loved. Jesus remembers each of them, and we are called to do so as well.



Overall, it was a powerful trip that caused all of us to re-examine the comfortable world we live in. How might we live differently and treat the people we come across with dignity knowing better how they live and what they have to do just to survive? How does it change our daily attitude to know that we might not personally solve the world's problems, but we are called to be a link in the long chain stretching from the past and into the future of people working toward a solution? What might our community at St. John be called to do for our neighbors that we are not already doing? What might change in our personal lives as a result of this trip? On our final night, we processed everything we experienced and reflected on what wisdom we might bring home to our community, and you would be inspired to know all the connections our kids made. Their voices may very well be at the forefront of the next chapter of St. John.

Thank you for your support of the youth that makes life-changing trips like these possible! You may never see the impact you have made, but I hope you know that every participant on this trip left it a more well-rounded person. They will carry this experience with them for the rest of their lives.

Were you amazed by the Cosmos as we explored the "God of Wonders" during the Season of Creation? Do you want to help plan next year's Season of Creation?

Join the Green Team this fall as we begin to plan for next year. How about a migratory bird walk, a wildflower hike, or a visit to Morton Arboretum? We will also continue to work on naturalizing our campus by removing invasive plants and adding plants for pollinators. Help us work with the Property Committee to improve our energy and water efficiency in our building.

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.

If you are interested in being a part of this mission, please contact Bill Bromer at wbromer@gmail.com, evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org, or sign up at stjohnjoliet.org.



GREEN TEAM
REIMAGINING OUR MISSION

Join Us!
THE 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 4-5PM



What an exciting time to be a member of our St. John Music Ministry!
YOU, too, can join the singing, praising, bell ringing, laughing, fellowship and prayer with any of the St. John musical ensembles. Sign up at stjohnjoliet.org.



Questions? Contact Tori Hicks at torihicks@stjohnjoliet.org or call the church for more information.

Music Group	Rehearsal Day/Time	Kickoff Date	Commitment
Youth Choirs	Wednesdays, 6-7pm <i>Lent 5:30-6:15pm</i>	Wednesday, September 13	Sing on Sundays 1-2 times per month Sing at Christmas Eve worship
St. John Chorale	Wednesdays, 7:30-9pm <i>Lent 8-9:30pm</i>	Wednesday, September 13	Sing 2 - 3 Sundays per month Sing at additional special services
Handbell Choir	Mondays, 7-8pm	Monday, September 18	Play monthly at both Sunday services
Praise Team	Thursdays, 7-8:30pm	Continuous	Lead worship each Sunday at 11am
Sound Team	Training at your convenience	Continuous	Run sound for services as scheduled

September is Hunger Action Month

September is Hunger Action Month! Check out the new and exciting things we are doing to serve our neighbors! During the pandemic, the challenges we faced forced innovation in many areas. I had never taken advantage of online ordering for groceries as I loved to browse the aisles to meal plan, but now I could never go back from the convenience of placing my order when I am relaxing at home and swinging by the grocery store on my way home the next day to collect my groceries curbside. In the food pantry, we also worked hard to adapt to meet the growing needs of our neighbors in a way that allowed our volunteers to stay safe while serving the community. The work we did helped us strengthen our relationship with the community and our partnership with Northern Illinois Food Bank. This summer we were approached by the food bank to invite our agency to apply to be a part of a pilot program that would allow families to place their food pantry order online and pick it up curbside at St John!

This September, in celebration of Hunger Action Month, we will be one of the first agencies in the network to launch this online ordering program! We are so proud of the work our volunteers are doing to prepare for this new distribution and excited to be able to serve 50 additional families each week! We would love to have you sign up at stjohnfood.org to "Take Action" and join us for a shift to help us with this exciting new initiative!



Serve

Serve: We can't continue this work without our volunteers and would love for you to join us on a shift! Each week we are serving over 450 families. At this current rate of need we will need to start limiting the number of families we serve unless we have more people join our volunteer team! Please consider checking out our volunteer shifts on stjohnfood.org and bring a friend!



Volunteer

Who can Volunteer? Food pantry volunteers come from all walks of life, have different abilities, and offer valuable experience that has helped us grow and serve efficiently. I'm so incredibly proud of what we have created and look forward to welcoming new and returning volunteers.



Donate

Donate: Did you know that St. John does not purchase any food pantry groceries? It's true. The Food Pantry budget is funded 100% by designated gift donations. Each week we spend \$900 on food and \$100 on personal care/baby products. Every donated dollar delivers an amazing abundance of food and personal care items without impacting St. John's operating budget.

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS September 23rd & 24th, All Services

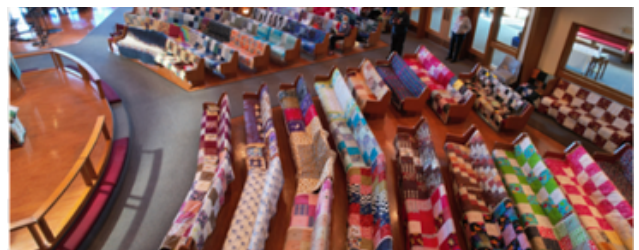
Come to the Blessing of the Quilts on September 23rd & 24th and help us celebrate this wonderful ministry! While you're there, enjoy coffee hour hosted by our quilters as a thank you for your ongoing support of the ministry.

QUILT DONATIONS FROM 2023

- 119 Quilts and Scarves to the SJ Food Pantry
- 90 Quilts to Easter Seals of Joliet
- 55 Quilts Morning Star Mission of Joliet
- 121 Quilts to Lutheran World Relief
- 4 Quilts to Raffle at the Taste of St John
- 1 Quilt to Raffle at American Legion
- 1 Quilt to a Local Special Needs Child

391 TOTAL QUILTS DONATED THIS YEAR!

Our quilters have been working so hard this year to make more donations than ever! This year St John Quilters have donated over 270 Quilts to local charities and families, in addition to making 121 quilts for the Lutheran World Relief. Globally over the last 25 years, Lutheran World Relief has donated almost 9.2 Million Quilts!



small groups

BIG IMPACT

A-Z

Altar Guild, adults

3rd Wednesday, Trinity Room, 10am

Contact: Monica Engel altarguild@stjohnjoliet.org

Boy Scouts, youth

Tuesday, Weekly, Karin Johnson Hall, 7-8:30pm

Contact: Shaun Wormsley swormsley@hotmail.com

Coffee with Friends, adult women

Thursday, Weekly, 9-11:30am

Meet in the Trinity Room

Contact: Cathy Kush cskmac@gmail.com

Faith Field Trips, all ages

Events throughout the year

Contact: Janel Eaton, janel.eaton@yahoo.com

Green Team

3rd Thursday, 4pm

Contact: Bill Bromer wbromer@stfrancis.edu

Martha Circle

Begins 9/14/23, 6:30pm-8:00pm

Meets every 2nd Thursday in the Trinity Room

Contact: Lynne Smith lynneglenn@hotmail.com

Monday Night Small Group begins 9/11/23, adults

Monday, Weekly, Trinity Room, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Contact: Linda Evans lindaevans1975@gmail.com

MOPS, Mothers of Preschoolers, adult/preschool

2nd & 4th Fridays, 9:30am, Narthex

Contact: Sarah Knudson thriftymom99@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry, teen - adult

1st Tuesday of the Month, Trinity Room, 4-5pm

Help make Prayer Shawls, we're running low!

Contact: Rachel Yergler, rcyergler@gmail.com

Quilting Ministry

Every Friday in West Wing, Room 5

Time: 9-11am

Contact: Jane Barnet j-barnet1t@comcast.net

SUPPORT *groups*

Al-Anon

Monday, Weekly, 7:00pm

West Wing 3 & 4

Contact: Janice Kelm janicekelm4@gmail.com

Ala-Teen

Sundays, 6-7:15pm

Mokena Fellowship Center (Downstairs)

A.A. Women's Group

Closed Women's Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous Monday, Weekly, Karin Johnson Hall, 7pm

Contact: Kim Zechel kczechel@comcast.net

A.A. Men

Open Men's Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous: Thursdays,

Weekly via Zoom, 7-8:15pm

Contact: Dave DHyper@live.com or more information & link to Join

JOIN ALTAR GUILD!

We are such a fortunate congregation in so many ways. We have caring Pastors to lead us, welcoming members to worship with, amazingly talented musicians to lead us in song each week, and a beautiful space to worship. In order to keep our space beautiful, we need help each week to do so.

The Altar Guild is responsible for assisting the Pastors in setting the tone for the service by setting the table, having flowers, checking the candles, and changing the banners and paraments. If you are looking for a way to serve your church and give praise to the Lord, come give Altar Guild a try!



We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 10am in the Trinity Room. Attendance at the meetings is not mandatory, the minutes from these meetings can be emailed to you! You just need to be able to give 2 hours of your time one weekend a month or so. We welcome all members with a desire to keep our worship space looking its best: singles, couples, and families of any shape and size!

If interested or if you have questions, please contact Monica Engel by phone at [815-341-8482](tel:815-341-8482), or by email at altarguild@stjohnjoliet.org

New MEMBERS



Jinny Buchholz



Jinny is excited about how "people oriented" the Church services are each Sunday. She feels that they are inclusive and that joy just radiates from the sanctuary from both members and church leaders!

She is looking for a sense of belonging, acceptance, to make friends where God wants her to serve Him. She looks forward to getting involved in daytime bible study and volunteering.

Dennis Paulson



Dennis and his wife always wanted to visit St. John. They moved into Carillon Lakes 20 yrs ago. His wife's name was Susan Jane Paulson (former teacher), they were married for 57 years and met at Augustana College on a blind date. After his wife's passing this past February, he decided to come over and check us out. He was so touched at everyone's kindness and warm welcome. Dennis has three kids and is a former employee of the YMCA.

Dennis is looking for a place to belong and to get back to Lutheran roots. He's like to get involved in the food pantry and other areas once he's more familiar with what we have to offer here at St. John!

Rachel & Bradley Ufflemann (Son Conner)



Rachel and Brad have been married for 9 years, having met in a local community orchestra. Both have strong musical backgrounds, each having earned advanced degrees in music. Brad plays clarinet and Rachel plays violin and viola.

Brad is the network admin for Joliet HSD and Rachel is currently a SAHM with Connor, previously having spent almost 20 years teaching orchestra.

They are most excited to have found a thriving church with a large youth program and community for Connor (and baby to be named later) to grow up in, reflecting both the values of our respective churches growing up and a modern inclusive environment. We look forward to getting more involved in the various programs the church offers as our time with kids allows.

Tracy Adolphson Storme & Robert Storme (not pictured)



A few fun facts: Tracy's career is in nursing, Bob is a software engineer, they have 5 children, enjoy long bike rides, and attending live music concerts. Tracy loves doing yard work. They will be celebrating our 10th Anniversary this year! They are enjoying attending St John's and look forward to meeting new people and ever growing faith. They have felt very welcome since attending and boast that the music is outstanding!

Marsha & Jose Reyes (Daughter Madi)



The Reyes family own a horse farm and Madi & Jose train horses. They love horses! Horses are their life. Jose is also a semi-truck driver. Both Marsha & Madi are weekly volunteers at the St. John Food Pantry.

Church Wide BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL AGES

ADULTS • YOUTH • KIDS • EVERYONE

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKS OFF SEPTEMBER 10TH WITH
OUTDOOR GAMES, CRAFTS, AND STORIES FOR FAMILIES.
SEPTEMBER 17TH BEGINS CHURCHWIDE BIBLE STUDY FOR
ALL AGES!!

THIS WILL BE A FIVE WEEK LONG CURRICULUM

Come one, come all! Adults, Youths, Kids... EVERYONE is welcome!
We had such a great time this summer, but now that we're going
back to two services on Sunday we need a place to connect. This
Fall we can meet in the middle and learn together! Sunday School
For All Ages is part of the Generosity Project Sermon Series and
Year-long Sunday school. We will have large group learning in the
Karin Johnson Hall and then at times break into small groups to
discuss each weeks topic further.

The theme during this **5-week session** is nurturing the spirit of
sharing , growing as disciples of Jesus, and gratitude for an
abundant god.

Starting in November Sunday School will go back to age-based
classroom learning for children 3 years old through 9th grade.
The Sunday School theme this year is Attitude of Gratitude.

> REGISTER NOW
at stjohnjoliet.org



St. John Newsletter is going PAPERLESS IN 2024

You read that correctly, by Spring 2024 our goal is to go fully digital!

What does this mean exactly?

As part of our Stewardship plan to keep our costs down while
simultaneously helping the environment, we will be making a focused
effort to transfer our large, costly, USPS mailing list into one large
FREE **email list**! You will receive your newsletter and monthly letters
from Pastor Robin all digitally!

What can you do right now?

Update your email address! Call/Email/Talk to the
front office staff about updating your info today OR
fill out this quick google form



THE
GENEROSITY
PROJECT
Growing in God's Grace Generation to Generation



Learn more at
www.elca.org/generosityproject

Follow -US-



Like the St John
Facebook Page



SUBSCRIBE to our
YouTube Channel

Try to engage with the
church Social Media weekly
by liking or commenting on
Facebook, or by visiting the
church webstie !



Read the weekly email for
the most up to date St John
information!



Friends of the Youth

**NEXT MEETING
AUGUST 31ST
AT 6:30PM
IN THE NARTHEX**

You may have heard the phrase that it takes a village to raise a child. It is very much the same in churches, especially when you consider all the adults it takes to pull off ministries like Sunday School, Tween GO, Confirmation, and our various High School events, trips, and retreats. Each one of those adults, whether directly interacting with youth or behind the scenes, made an indelible impact on a child's faith. Without their wisdom, time, and effort, our ministries simply would not exist. Recognizing the need for a larger volunteer base, this past Spring, a new group of adult volunteers was formed to help shape, support, and direct our High School ministries, called "Friends of the Youth". Since then, they have been hard at work re-imagining how we can better engage children and adults in this post-pandemic world, and have formed an exciting and ambitious plan for the upcoming year of programming that includes many new events and ideas. We are excited to see what happens next as a result of their efforts, and we hope that you will join us in the work as we make sure every child finds a life changing faith community at St. John.

DAYBREAK DONATIONS NEEDED

CAN YOU MAKE A FOOD DONATION?

- ✓ Specific food sign-up sheets are located in the narthex
- ✓ Volunteers are always needed!
- ✓ Only 1-2 hours a month
- ✓ Providing supportive services to homeless individuals and families

**QUESTIONS?
CALL PAM ATKINSON
(586) 260-2480**

St. John
Lutheran Church

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matthew 25:35



FAITH FIELD TRIPS

Have you ever been curious about how other Faith Communities worship?

Do you enjoy experiencing Faith through outreach, music, film, stage, architecture and history?

Faith Field Trips will happen throughout the year and be both in-person and virtual! We will offer opportunities to share faith with other churches. Please join us on our new adventures!

Keep a look out in your weekly email for more information on our next Faith Field Trip!

Questions? Contact Janel Eaton, Coordinator - [815-341-7365](tel:815-341-7365)

4:12 - The Next Chapter

4:12 - The Next Chapter is a new ministry team dedicated to meeting the evolving needs of community building and future growth at St. John. Focused on the big picture and our growing edges, their goal is to find creative solutions and fill gaps so that every person who walks through our doors is able to find a deep, life-changing church community.

In the spring, the churchwide parking lot picnic was a massive success! This fall, plans are underway for a Trunk-or-treat outreach event! The role of 4:12 is fluid right now, as they consider the goals the church council established as priorities this year, and envision what creative solutions the "next chapter" might require. Future goals may include helping form an "Outreach Committee" that will look for opportunities to represent St. John at community events, rebuilding our Young Adult Ministry, and joining the effort to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community. Keep an eye out for this team!

1 TIMOTHY

4:12

DON'T LET ANYONE LOOK DOWN ON YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG, BUT SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE BELIEVERS IN SPEECH, IN CONDUCT, IN LOVE, IN FAITH AND IN PURITY.



Confirmation Class of 2023

Isabella Trae Aincham
 Sydney Diane Basham
 Ethaniel David Cherry
 Annabelle Marie Covault
 Kara Marie Day
 Nathan Robert Dybas
 Peyton Elizabeth Isaacson
 Aubrey Jayne Morris
 Drew Robert Frederik Spencer
 (Not Pictured)

Message from the Council President

Greetings dear friends in faith,

I was sitting here preparing to write this message and my mind was wandering with thoughts about what I did this summer. It seems the time has flown by so quickly. Vacation Bible school seems like yesterday, I haven't even unpacked my Eeyore costume. There was the wonderful church picnic hosted by the 4:12 ministry, Synod Assembly, Campfirmation, and the Mission trip. Also occurring was the Teens sharing friendship around the firepit, and the confirmands reading their confirmation papers to the church council. We went to one service with a little trepidation, but the response has been overwhelming. The idea of putting the three services into two has worked out well. And the coffee hour fellowship overflowed with opportunities to chat with friends at the church. The congregation voted to call Pastor Robin as our next Senior Pastor. Many ministries at St. John continued to meet and share in the good work of the church. The men of St John recently hosted a pancake breakfast and over a 100 people attended. The Food Pantry served significant numbers of people within our community and the need continues to increase. Vibrancy is the word I use to describe the level of engagement in our church.

Now as autumn approaches we start bringing back many programs that take the summer off. Sunday school, Confirmation, Chorale and Bell rehearsals among other ministries. And we start the planning process for the Pastor Robin's Installation on October 14-15, 2023. We will have the Saturday evening service at 5:30pm and one service on Sunday led by Bishop Fidler, followed by a celebration with food and fellowship. More details will be forthcoming. God has been very generous to St John Lutheran Church. Just reread the above and add whatever I missed. Generous, think about the word. It is defined as an act of kindness and plentifulness. How does God fill you with generosity? How do you praise and thank God with your generosity? In the next few weeks, we will hear the word generosity quite frequently. It is an act we are taught at an early age. Being kind to others, helping others, caring for others, and sharing what you have. St John has so much to offer us because God's love is plentiful, and the Holy Spirit moves in us in many ways. Vibrancy and generosity go hand in hand.

Peace to all of you,
David Luecht
Council President



David Luecht, Council President
Robin Caldwell, Senior Pastor
Photo taken on Robin's first official
day as Senior Pastor!

Save the Date

*Installation of
Pastor Robin Caldwell*

10.14.23

5:30 PM

WORSHIP

BRIEF RECEPTION FOLLOWING
SERVICE

10.15.23

9:30AM

WORSHIP

11AM-2PM

HORS D'OEUVRES PARTY

More details and invite to come



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 235
Joliet, IL 60435

Senior Pastor Robin Caldwell
Associate Pastor Evan Mayhew

SAVE THE DATE

Installation of Pastor Robin Caldwell

5:30PM **10.14.23**
WORSHIP

RECEPTION TO
FOLLOW

9:30AM **10.15.23** **11AM-2PM**
WORSHIP HORS D'OEUVRES PARTY



Sanctuary Worship

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

Pastor Robin Caldwell

Pastor Evan Mayhew

Nicole Adams

Janet Blomquist

Tori Hicks

Heather Hinthorn

Pam Kornaus

Jenelle Lambert

Susan Yokubonis

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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- Thursday 9am-4pm

Friday & Saturday Closed

Sunday Open 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.