



Pastors: Jennifer Beamsley, Robin E. Caldwell, Evan Mayhew

September 23, 2021

Dear Beloved Community,

As the Fall brings a season of change, there are some changes to our church staff as well. Please read on for more information.

Lisa Marshall Retires End of October

Lisa Marshall, our Parish Administrator, will be retiring at the end of October, and included in this mailing is a direct letter to you from Lisa. Here's what I have to say about this change:

Some time ago, Lisa came to me, outlining her dream to retire to North Carolina, where she and Carlos could enjoy quiet mornings on their deck looking at the mountains, unscheduled days, and dedicated time with family and friends. The only problem with this dream: Lisa loves her work at St. John, work that gives meaning, purpose, and connection with an extended church family she loves.

But God calls us to many things in one lifetime, and for Lisa, it's time for the dream to be a reality! She's taking the plunge towards a retirement she and Carlos dreamed about. We are behind you all the way, Lisa!

Changes can bring mixed feelings. Lisa is experiencing excitement for the upcoming transition, and a sense of the unknown. Some in our congregation might also feel the same.

For 14 years, Lisa welcomed us, encouraged us, inspired us, and cared for us. Our mission and ministry were enhanced by Lisa's focus and skill. Lisa's generous heart and ways are woven throughout our faith community. It's challenging to imagine a future without Lisa's presence flowing through St. John's community and corridors.

But God has been working on our future, just as God has been working on Lisa's future.



St. John Lutheran Church
2650 Plainfield Road
Joliet, IL 60435

☎ 815-439-2320

☎ 815-439-0575

🌐 stjohnjoliet.org

✉ stjohn2650@stjohnjoliet.org

Another Announcement

We— the leadership and staff of the congregation— have been praying and thinking about our next steps. This position requires a person who would make the mission, ministry, and vision of our faith community come alive through the daily operations & administration of our building, property, & events.

As we wondered how this would all play out, God was planning to give us what we needed. Nicole (Goddard) Adams, a member of St. John, was looking for meaning, purpose, and connection in her work. Nicole wanted a job in which she could use her skills in project management and operations; a job which would be more about people than production.

God keeps giving us what we need. Come October, Nicole will join our staff, working alongside Lisa, stepping fully into the role this November. We are ready and excited to receive what Nicole brings to our staff! You will have opportunities to meet Nicole if you haven't already— more on that in the weeks to come.

But first things first: we need to create a meaningful time of gratitude and farewell for Lisa.

Gratitude and Farewell for Lisa

Say thank you. Say goodbye. Say it with a card or gift. Make it all possible by marking these events on your calendar:

- **October 16-17: A Blessing of Gratitude and Farewell** at all worship services; Sunday fellowship time on October 17th.
- **October 17th: Tailgate party** in the church parking lot, noonish. Lisa wouldn't miss it for the world, she will be there. Details coming to a mailbox near you, soon.
- **Cards and Gifts:** to church office on or before October 17th.
- **Send your Congregation Gift Contribution by October 9th** if you would like to contribute financially towards a shared congregational gift/donation; checks made to St. John, memo line: Lisa's congregational gift.

Thank you, beloved community, for making St. John a crucial place of meaning, purpose, and connection. As this Fall approaches, I am excited to see what God is planning for us, who will be part of it, and how it will all play out. One thing is for sure— whatever comes our way,

God is planning to give us what we need.

Peace,


Pastor Jen

September 23, 2021

Dear Congregation,

It is with much excitement and some trepidation that I announce that I will be retiring from St. John at the end of October. As some of you know, my husband Carlos and I bought a retirement home in North Carolina a few years ago; and now I am feeling the call of the mountains.

St. John was such a gift to me when my family and I moved to Illinois 15 years ago from Michigan. Not only did St. John provide me with a continued career in church administration, but it provided me with a family of like-minded believers. It has been such a joy to serve this congregation and I will truly miss you all.

Over the years, I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with many great volunteers who help the ministries of St. John thrive. From the members who have volunteered in the church office, to those who found their calling on the Property Committee or taking care of the church grounds, to those who have served on our church council and other committees and teams, to the hundreds of volunteers in the food pantry, to the members who teach, support and care for our youth, along with all those who have provided a welcoming, enjoyable, and meaningful worship every weekend. I am grateful and humbled by your service to St. John and our community.

It is with sadness that I leave the wonderful staff that I have been fortunate to work with for 14 years. In Michigan, I worked at a church after transitioning from local government where I had worked for over 13 years. I can honestly say that I have never experienced the great teamwork and mutual respect that our staff has for one another, and for our congregation. I am truly grateful to have not only had wonderful co-workers but dear friends also. I have never seen such a hard-working, dedicated staff. It started with Pastor Holmer but has really blossomed and been nurtured by Pastor Jen.

Thank you to the staff, pastors, and congregation members for allowing me to be a part of this loving, engaging, fun-filled, Christ-driven church. It has been a fulfilling experience working here and I will miss you all. I'll look forward to visiting St. John when I'm in town. Know that I will be thinking and praying for you fondly as I sit on my deck enjoying retirement.

God's blessings,

Lisa Marshall