

St. John



Commitment to Community

JANUARY 2022

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

2021



Confirmation Pumpkin Night 10/27



Youth Service Team October



Reformation & Halloween; Sunday School 10/31



All Saints Day 11/6-7



45 College Care Kits! 11/10



H.S. Fall/Winter Retreat 11/12-14



Thanksgiving Meals 11/20



Livestream Team. 11/21



Decorate! 11/28



Sunday School Christmas Program 12/5



Confirmation Prayer Stations 12/8



Angel Tree Gifts 12/12



Youth Service Team, "The Gift of Time" 12/12



Light Up the Night 12/12



Altar Guild 12/23



Volunteer Christmas Prep. 12/23



"Silent Night" by Candlelight 12/24

How to Resist Jumping to Conclusions (And relieve yourself from a lot of unnecessary suffering)

Last November, on our way to my parent's home, we slowed down to make a turn, and saw this saying on a church sign:

Instead of seeing your cup half empty or half full,
why not be thankful you have a cup?

It made me laugh aloud. I'd been spending a lot of time jumping to conclusions, trying to figure out if things were "half empty or half full." But I hadn't spent a lot of time being thankful for the cup!

Since then, I've been chewing on my own reactions to what goes on around me. It's easy to jump to conclusions about what we're experiencing....assuming things about interactions with other people, or "foretelling the future" about events that are yet to unfold.

Jumping to conclusions is a human problem, one which Jesus addressed A LOT. He said: Why do you concern yourself about tomorrow's troubles? Today's troubles are enough for today. Jesus said: *Before you point out the speck in someone else's eye, don't forget to take the log out of your own.*

Jumping to conclusions raises anxiety, creates conflict where there might be none, and closes our minds to what God might be doing. If you don't believe me, spend an hour watching the news, and you'll soon find your reactions jumping into high gear.

There is another way. Here's what I've been practicing lately, something I go back to time and again when things feel upended:

- Sit quietly, bringing to mind a current instance that seems attached to strong emotions (i.e. something you just cannot seem to let go of....)
- What are you assuming about this situation, or person? Jot it down, or make a mental list. No need to be a hero here. Just be honest.
- Now ask— is that true? What else could be true? Could your loved one simply be tired, and not "always messing things up"? Could your boss be having a string of bad days, or maybe something going on at home? What about this current hardship feels out of control, and how might help be around you?
- Here's one of my favorite touchstones from the [Center for Courage and Renewal](#): When the going gets rough, turn to wonder. Turn from reaction and judgment to wonder and compassionate inquiry. Ask yourself, "I wonder why they feel/think this way?" or "I wonder what my reaction teaches me about myself?" Set aside judgment to listen to others—and to yourself—more deeply.
- Ask God for help. In other words— Relieve yourself by pulling that log out of your own eye. Relieve yourself by letting tomorrow's troubles stay where they need to stay. What is in your control, and what is in God's control? What do you need?

The goal of the practice is not to give yourself credit for when you get it right, or judge yourself when you get it wrong...

The goal of the practice is to stop and see:
you've got a cup in your hands.



Pastor Jen

Pastor Jen's newsletter articles highlight ways to 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.

A Faith Filled Life

Burning of the Palms

A Ritual of Faith

Bring in your Palms

The Sunday before Lent begins we burn the branches from the previous year's celebration of Palm Sunday. Ashes remaining from the fire are used to mark the sign of the cross on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, reminding us that we belong to God in life and in death.

Gather for this brief ritual during our Sunday School opening as a step toward our Lenten journey when we return to God seeking a rebirth of our spirit, renewed passion for life, and the reminder that the love of God always surrounds us.

During the month of February, bring your palm branches for burning. Please place them in the basket in the Narthex.

Palms into Ash

Join us at the Memorial Garden windows on February 27th at 9:45am to watch the flames in the hope that God brings life from the ashes! Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 2nd.

Everyday Spirituality: The Gospel of John A Bible Study

Care

Take the winter months to care for your spiritual self and connect your weekend worship with your everyday spirituality. Join Pastor Jen for a Zoom Bible Study on the Gospel of John, Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm. Each session is a stand-alone study. Sign up by emailing her.

Zoom

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.

Contact: jenbeamsley@stjohnjoliet.org



Black History Month

A Resilience of Spirit

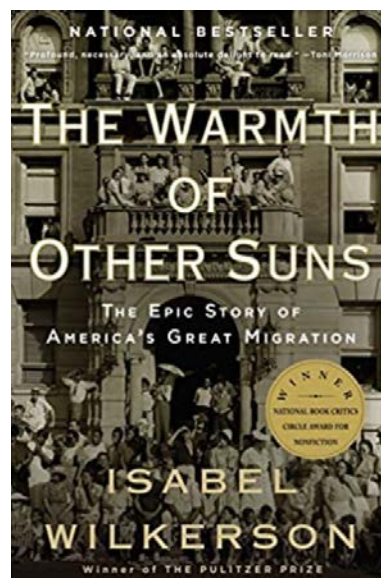
Connect

In the church, history is sustenance to our faith! It helps us see the world of today in a different light when we understand how our past shapes us, often repeating itself, while always creating something new. It's the stories of the past that reveal God's presence in our lives and give us hope for the future.

Recommended Reading

As our nation celebrates Black History Month, consider delving into history to celebrate a resilience of spirit that has overcome incredible obstacles, while recognizing challenges we continue to face as a nation, as people of faith, and as good neighbors. *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson is a book compiled of stories from three specific people who migrated from the south to the north and west, among six million other African Americans who were seeking a better life in the 20th century.

Purchase your copy for your personal enrichment through a local, Black-owned, independent bookstore at <https://bookshop.org/books/the-warmth-of-other-suns-the-epic-story-of-america-s-great-migration/9780679763888>, or search by state: <https://www.oprahdaily.com/entertainment/books/a33497812/black-owned-bookstores/>



Youth, Young Adults, & Family

Sunday School Resumes February 6th!

After a long and well-needed winter break, we are returning to Sunday School!

Sunday School serves the faith formation of our young people, welcoming them into a connected, caring, Christian community with small groups of peers and attentive teachers. We serve all kids from Pre-school (age 3 by September 1st, 2021) through high school. We welcome you back, no matter how long you've been gone! Register your kids for Sunday School at stjohnjoliet.org, if you didn't last fall!

February 6th, 9:45 - 10:45am

- Pre-school - meet in classroom in the West Wing.
- Kindergarten through 6th grade - meet in the Sanctuary (pick up kids from their classrooms in West Wing and Karin Johnson Hall).
- 7th grade through high school - meet in the Youth Room.

Questions about Sunday School classes, teaching, or helping? Email the Sunday School team.

Contact: stjohnjolietssundayschool@gmail.com

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 6th 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 students who participate.

Attend Sunday School on February 6th at 9:45am

Lessons until the end of the Sunday School year will cover one commandment each week.

Meet in the Sanctuary with Mrs. Morris, 1st grade teacher, or Mrs. Hudecek, 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 at tommorris1217@aol.com, or Pastor Robin at (815) 439-2320 ext. 101, or robincaldwell@stjohnjoliet.org

Tween GO!: 4th-6th Graders

Once A Month Gatherings

Supportive church communities can be a life-changing element in the life of a child, especially in a time where school communities can be fractured, and the deeper the relationships are, the greater impact they have.

Tween GO! is a ministry for 4th - 6th graders meeting once a month on Sundays 12:15 - 2:30pm that aims to grow these early youth relationships with afternoons of food, fun, crafts, and time to learn about faith together. If you are interested in sending your child, keep an eye on your email for future dates in 2022. No pre-enrollment necessary!

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 created, 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 students who participate.

Apostles' Creed lessons begin Feb. 27th at 9:45am

Lessons will extend four weeks. Meet in the Sanctuary on February 27 for the Palm Burning, and in the classroom (Karin Johnson Hall) with Mr. and Mrs. Aincham, 5th/6th grade teachers, in the weeks following. 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

Confirmation for 7th - 9th Graders

Faith Formation

Confirmation at St. John aims to be more than a requirement or "church school", but an opportunity for our youth to encounter a faith without shame, one deeply intertwined with their lives, to form a church family who will hold them through the storms of life, reflect on who they want to be, and discover God's life changing, loving vision for this world in a time that feels chaotic and directionless.

Confirmation meets Wednesdays 7:00-8:15pm and contains time for learning, meditation, small group discussion, community, and fun. If you are interested in enrolling your child or feel called to help be a positive presence in the lives of our youth, contact Pastor Evan for more details.

Contact: evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org

High School Youth Service Team

Serving the Community

More than ever, youth have a hunger to make a positive impact on our world, but often find their ideas brushed aside or see the prospect of going it alone daunting. Our Youth Service Team, which meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month 7:00-8:30pm, gives high school students the tools and space they need to grow as leaders and see their ambitions to help others become reality. We have a place for your high school student and adults who feel called to help.

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

High School F.I.R.E.

Small Group Ministry

With the stress that high school students face, there are few spaces for them to simply be children, scarce opportunities for them to discern who they want to be in the world without the words "career" and "finances" & "college applications" looming over their heads, & no time to breathe or let their vulnerability show in a supportive community. Our youth group, FIRE, meets Wed. 8:15-9:30pm, and aims to be a sabbath from a relentless world, where we hold each other's struggles, celebrate joys, and explore our faith together.

Get in Touch!

If your child is interested or needs a group that will care for their soul, you can talk to Pastor Evan or join the

High School Ministry Remind for more info by texting the code @pastorevan to 81010.

Contact: evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org

College-age Check-in

Local & Out of State College Students Ages 18-23

Is your college-age youth lonely, unable to find a community, feeling overwhelmed by adulthood? ...They are far from alone. College-age Check-in is a community of young adults (18-23) that meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 9pm over Zoom. This is a place for your child to find a welcoming community to be real with.

Contact: evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org

Young Adult Ministry

Adults Ages 24 - 40

"Post College-age" life is a harrowing time to navigate alone, and yet so many do just that, isolated from friend groups, struggling with adulthood, and grappling with purpose and meaning. St. John's new Young Adult Ministry (YAM) is a new church family (ages roughly 24-40) navigating these issues together via Zoom on the 1st Tuesday and 3rd Thursday of the month 6-7:30pm.

If you need a new community and don't know where to start, this group is for you.

Contact: evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org



St. John Music

Youth Choir, St. John Chorale, Praise Team, Handbell Choirs

Did you know that singing in a choir and making music with others can:

- Strengthen feelings of togetherness
- Regulate heart rate & reduce stress levels
- Improve feelings of social well-being

All of our ensembles including Youth Choir, St John Chorale, Praise Team, or Handbell choirs are open for new members!

Contact: [Tori Hicks at torihicks@stjohnjoliet.org](mailto:torihicks@stjohnjoliet.org)

Food Pantry

**Commitment to Community:
Feeding our Hungry Neighbors**

A Family of Volunteers

At the food pantry, we are building a family of volunteers, committed to serving our neighbors, in a safe way. We sort donations, package food, and load cars up with an amazing abundance of food each week! We have shifts available on Wednesday morning, Thursday afternoon and evening, and Saturday mornings.

To get involved, sign up at stjohnfood.org or reach out to Heather Hinthorn or Pastor Robin with any questions. We can't wait to serve with you!

Contact: info@stjohnfood.org



Tackle Hunger on Super Bowl Sunday for the Souper Bowl of Caring!

At the St. John Food Pantry, we tackle hunger all year round, serving our hungry neighbors, filling cupboards and bellies, strengthening spirits and families. Help purchase nutritious groceries by giving a special offering for the national event: Souper Bowl of Caring, when faith communities across the country appeal to fund their local food pantries and soup kitchens for the coming year. Thank you for your generosity in loving our neighbors!

So many ways to give!

- Online Paypal contributions - stjohnfood.org
- Egiving using your Vanco account - stjohnjoliet.org
- Offering basket - place cash or check in a **blue Special Offerings envelope** and check the "Food Pantry" box!
- Mail your offering (*Please make checks out to St. John Lutheran Church and write Food Pantry on the memo line.*)

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

Adult Ministry

St. John Property Committee

Stewarding God's Blessings

Did you know that no one truly knows the number of classrooms, corridors & rooms that are available in Hogwarts because the space continues to change as needed to support the school? Same at St. John Lutheran Church! If you have a secret trade or share a love of maintaining and growing our worship space, reach out to Nicole Adams to see how you can be a part of the St. John Property Committee, we meet every 2nd Saturday of the month at 9am!

Contact: nicoleadams@stjohnjoliet.org

Adult Small Groups

Small Groups, Big Conversations

Whether in person or on Zoom, adult small groups regularly meet for devotion, conversation, prayers and fellowship. You can join at any time using the contact information below.

Monday Night Small Group

- 6:30pm; meets weekly

Contact: Linda Evans, lindaevans1975@gmail.com

Thursday Mornings, Coffee With Friends

- 9am; meets weekly

Contact: Marsha Getz, marshagetz@comcast.net

Thursday Nights, Martha Circle

- 6:30pm; meets monthly

Contact: Lynne Smith, lynneglenn@hotmail.com

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

Council Minutes December, 2021

Worship Attendance and Finance Reports:

Worship attendance (in-person and online) showing an increase. Finance Reports are within the range of expected income/expenses.

Update of December Financial Secretary and Treasurer/Finance Reports

The following motions were approved:

Motion: Disperse \$900 to VBS line item, funded by Memorial Fund Monies (Dee Gossen Memorials). [Designated usage of the memorials]

Motion: Disperse \$2000 to Friends of Mwangaza, funded by Special Gifting (\$1700) and African Mission/Mwangaza (\$300). [These are the first funds for this year and they will help to continue the teach the teacher program]

Motion: Disperse \$400 from Seminarian Support Fund to Sue Hoff, our member who currently attends Wartburg Seminary.

Motion: Designate the Finance Committee to review/approve December 2021 Financial and Year End Financial Reports. [This will enable the Finance Committee to review/approve the Annual report.]

Budget 2022

The 2022 General Fund budget was discussed. Year end giving will determine the final 2022 budget proposal.

Updates: December Worship and Events Pastors Robin and Evan noted the upcoming already published events and noted there is an increasing attendance and positive signs. Pastor Robin noted that the Food Pantry has maintained flexibility in receiving additional food sources and turning them around to distribute.

Adjournment and the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Blaesing, Recording Secretary

THANK YOU



I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the musicians and volunteers who have come back to leading worship: Choir members both adults and children (and their families), Praise Team vocalists and instrumentalists, Handbell ringers & chimers, those who provided special music and our amazing keyboard specialists: Janet Blomquist and Susan Fick. Special shout out to our amazing Livestream Team (led by Dawn MacGregor) and the Sound Team that make us sound great!

You all have made my first fall/Christmas season as the Director of Music one of great joy! Everyone is willing to work together, compromise, and share their amazing talents. St. John is a very special place with very special people and I appreciate you all. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Very Sincerely,
Tori Hicks



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

Sunday School Resumes
February 6

Ash Wednesday
March 2

Easter Sunday
April 17



Worship with us!
Saturdays, 5:30pm & Sundays, 8:30am, 11am
 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
Susan Yokubonis	susanyokubonis@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



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-1pm
 Sunday during worship

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



Save the Date...
"Keeping It Real"
High School Mission Trip
to Nashville, TN
July 9-16

