

# Spirit *Alive!*



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER | ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

## Thank you!

In March, the fall dinner committee began planning for November 12th, the date for the actual dinner. An event, St. John's has offered for over fifty years.

Over the years, generations of church members have planned, cooked and served this delicious meal to thousands of attendees. People from Wittenberg, Oshkosh, Green Bay, Wausau, Waupaca, and Appleton are just a few of the destinations people have traveled to enjoy this wonderful meal!

A special thanks to all St. John's members who donate items, time, and money to make the dinner another success. This year 450 people were served in person or carryout.

One attendee of the dinner shared, "First time I have been to your church and harvest meal. That is the best church organization meal I have had in a long time. Thanks to all the church members and volunteers to make this happen."

I second their comments and extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all who participated in any way!

Here is hoping we can offer this wonderful, tasty, and tummy pleasing event for many years to come.

Council member,  
Mary Hoppe



**President—Amy Bazile**

**V. President —Ron Krueger**

**Secretary —Mandy Malueg**

**Pat Breitenfeldt**

**Tracy Conradt**

**Mary Hoppe**

**Melissa Pfeiler**

**Brian Sawall**

**Shirl Tischauser**

**Kelly Trebus**

**Wanda Tucker**

**Please contact the council  
members for any concerns.**





# **Pause, Ponder, Pray**

## **Reflections**

**Re-evaluate your priorities when life seems out of control.**

**Excuse imperfection in others with hope they excuse yours.**

**Faith will sustain you when you fall into the ravine.**

**Learn for your mind, laugh for your soul, love for your heart.**

**Exceed your expectations.**

**Conversation “trumps” texting.**

**Traverse outside your comfort zone and take the road less traveled.**

**Indulge in daydreaming on a regular basis.**

**Ordinary days ARE extraordinary.**

**NO is sometimes a positive word.**

**Simple is easier; Stuff requires management.**

**Listen more– talk less– especially to the young.**

**When confronted with a challenge, find ways to HELP not Hinder.**

**Forgive even when it is difficult.**

**Be the first to greet someone with a smile and a good day.**

**At all times preach Christ-when necessary, use words.**

**How you live your life reflects your relationship with God.**

**Be thankful for each day and use it to make a difference.**

**Look beyond the tinsel and focus on the manger.**

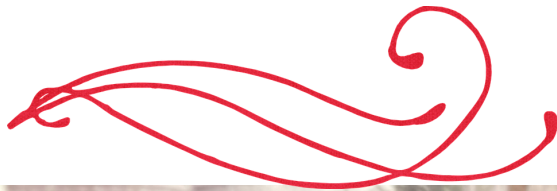
**The baby is Your Savior who loves you beyond all understanding.**

**Merry Christmas 2023**

# YEARS AGO...



If you recognize anyone in this picture. Please contact the church office so we can include the information in next month's newsletter. This picture was found in the Ladies Aid Yearbook from 1988-1989.



This picture was in last month's newsletter. No one identified those in this picture. Marion Bowers can be seen to left in the picture above.

Pictures like these can be found in our church library. There are also several new books, dvds, and cd's available to church members based on the honor system.



Adamdesigns. Pintrest, 16th of November, 2023. <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/cinco-de-mayo-png--1013028509905036500/>

## CHRISTMAS CAKE

2-1/4 c. sifted flour 1 c. fresh cranberries, diced  
1 c. sugar 2 eggs beaten  
1/4 tsp. salt grated rind of 2 oranges  
1 tsp. baking powder 1c. Buttermilk  
1 tsp. soda 3/4 c. salad oil  
1 c. chopped walnuts 1 c. Orange juice  
1c. diced dates 1 c. sugar

Preheat oven to 350°. Sift together in a bowl: flour, sugar, salt, baking powder, baking soda. Stir in the nuts, dates, cranberries, and orange rind. Combine eggs, buttermilk, and oil. Add to the flour-fruit mixture. Stir until blended. Pour into a well greased 10" tube pan and bake for one hour. Let stand in pan until cool. Remove cake to a rack placed over a wide dish. Combine orange juice and sugar. Pour over cake. Pour drippings over cake again. Set in deep dish. Wrap in heavy foil and refrigerate for 24 hours. Serve in slices with whipped cream or butter sauce. May be kept refrigerated for two weeks or more.

Recipe is from the cookbook: *Cookin' with St. John's* Copyright © 2009. Morris Press Cookbooks on page 133.

This cookbook and other St. John's Cookbooks can be found in the church library and loaned through the honor system.

## Did you know St. John's Sunday School sponsor's a Compassion International Child?

St. John's Sunday School students have been sponsoring Isuru since 2013. Isuru, 19, is from North Western Sri Lanka. The cost to sponsor Isuru is \$40 a month. Each week the Sunday School students take a weekly collection to sponsor Isuru.

The mission of Compassion International is to release children from poverty in Jesus' name. Compassion International advocates for children, committed to Jesus Christ as the core of the ministry. His life, teachings and character shape the program. Compassion International is the world's leading authority in holistic child development through sponsorship.

In 1952, Rev. Everett Swanson first flew to South Korea to minister to American troops fighting in the Korean War and felt compelled to help the orphans he saw on the streets.

Compassion International works through partnerships with thousands of local churches in 27 countries around the world. Compassion International is church-driven due to the desire to equip the Church to fulfill its role as salt and light. Local congregations are catalysts for community change, optimizing the mutual respect, resources and common purpose critical in caring for children.

Pictured to the left is Isuru.

**On December 17th, at the 10:30a.m. Children's Christmas Program, a noisy can offering will occur.**

**If you are interested in helping Sunday School sponsor Isuru, please come to the Children's Christmas Program for the noisy can offering or indicate in your weekly giving.**



**Month End:**                    **October 2023**  
   **Year to Date**

**General Fund:**

Revenue                            \$ 124,278  
Expenses                           \$ 127,866

**Financial Condition-  
Balances as of October 31st**

General Fund                    \$ 24,463  
Building &  
Church Improvements        91,432  
Benevolence Fund              1,794  
Special Funds                    45,839  
Check EFT                        320  
Total                                \$163,848



**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**

We are grateful for the ways Thrivent Members share generosity. To designate your Thrivent Choice dollars visit [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice), call 800-847-4836, or contact your local Thrivent financial professional. Designating dollars is an important step to take each year by March 31st.

**BAPTISM**



*I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*

Baptized on November 12th was Jacksen Arnold Brehm, son of Jeremy and Rebecca Brehm. The sponsors are Sarah Moser, Troy Schuelke and Darren Schuelke. Please welcome

Jacksen into our church family.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Any offerings for 2023 must be received by December 31st, 2023.

**Prayers**

- ◆ Amber Hedtke
- ◆ Becky Van Buren
- ◆ Bev Genskow
- ◆ Braeden Mielke
- ◆ Clarence Fenner (Peggy Hammond's dad)
- ◆ Corrine Kroening
- ◆ Darla Dieck
- ◆ Dave Krueger
- ◆ David Soik
- ◆ Denise Pamperin
- ◆ Dorothy Arndt
- ◆ Jaden Stuhr
- ◆ Jerry Zimdars
- ◆ Jim Johnson
- ◆ Judy Allen
- ◆ Karol Freeland
- ◆ Kay Moericke
- ◆ Laura Moericke
- ◆ Mary Mengert
- ◆ Nathan Nick
- ◆ Patty (Fournier) Beck
- ◆ Parker Wolff
- ◆ Will Wege



**Prayer for Those In Assisted Living**

- ◆ Karen Aschenbrenner
- ◆ Anne Erdman
- ◆ Gloria Krieser
- ◆ Lois Miller
- ◆ Arnold Kriesel

**Prayer for the Friends and Family of:**

- ◆ Polly Krieser

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## St. John's Church Council Minutes – October 17, 2023

**Council members present:** Amy Bazile, Linda Mielke, Mary Hoppe, Melissa Pfeiler, Mandy Malueg, Ron Krueger, Shirl Tischauser, Wanda Tucker, Pat Breitenfeldt, Kelly Trebus, Brian Sawall. **Also present:** Sheri Fuhrman **Absent:** none

Meeting called to order by Amy Bazile at 6:45 p.m. Ron opened with devotions and prayer.

The mission statement was read together.

**Secretary's Report:** The meeting minutes for September 2023, were reviewed. A motion was made by Shirl, seconded by Linda, to approve the Council minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** A motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Wanda, to approve the September 2023 financial statements as presented. Motion carried.

**Vital Statistics:** Pierson Lee Matz was baptized on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023; Beverly Fischer passed away on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, no funeral service will be held.

**Old Business:** Items of Old Business considered were:

- Confirmation Update – Pastor Gary will be preaching for Confirmation Sunday. Fellowship and snacks will be available at 8:30 am in celebration of the confirmands.

**New Business:** Items of New Business considered were:

- Budget Planning Sheets– Property and Worship and Music will need budget planning sheets. All budget sheets need to be turned in by December 1, 2023.
- Performance Reviews – The executive team will schedule a meeting to complete the performance reviews.
- Youth T-Shirts – A motion was made by Ron and seconded by Brian to approve the Endowment Fund purchasing SOUL t-shirts for St John's Sunday School students, confirmation students, and teachers. Motion carried.
- Mail Delivery – Mailbox vs PO Box – It was stated that the rent for a PO Box is \$98. It was decided to continue to rent the PO Box. No changes will be made at this time.
- Activity Room Update – A motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Wanda to approve Fran repainting the room. Motion carried.
- Wednesday Night Soup Nights – The idea was discussed to provide Wednesday night soup nights for the students in confirmation. It was decided to serve pizzas to the students on Wednesday nights, as in past years.
- Any Other New Business –  
Carts - A motion was made by Wanda, seconded by Melissa to purchase two additional carts to transport the tables in the Parish Hall. Motion carried.

Floor in Parish Hall – A motion was made by Ron, seconded by Mary to postpone any updates to the Parish Hall floor. Motion carried.



**Action Team Reports:** The following Action Team reports were provided:

- **Property** – The flower beds are cleaned out and replanted. The estimate to fix the sidewalks is \$8K-10K. The project will take place next summer. The gutters are completed. The west side of the Parish Hall leaks when it rains. The estimate to repair/replace is \$4145 which includes new fascia and leaf guards. A motion was made by Mary, seconded by Pat to approve the gutter installation on the west side, from the roof fund. Motion carried.
- **Worship and Music** - Christmas Eve 3:30 and 5:30 will be led by Pastor Lois. Pastor Bob has agreed to preach once a month through May of 2024.
- **Education** - Sunday School is going well. A Noisy Can Offering will be collected at the Christmas Program.
- **Community** - Fall Dinner planning is going well. Clipboards need to be passed around for volunteering options.

**Closed Session:** none

The next meeting will be on November 21, 2023, at 6:45 pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## •Camelot Worship

Camelot Worship service is typically the first Wednesday of each month at the Camelot Apartments at 3:00p.m. However, this month it will be on Wednesday, December 13th at 3p.m. The Camelot Service is a community outreach program. It is an opportunity to worship and receive Holy Communion.

## •Christmas Flower

If you are interested in donating a Christmas Flower in memory or in honor of someone, please sign-up on the clipboard near the Sanctuary entry. Please drop flowers off on Thursday, December 22nd and pick up after the second service on December 24th. If you order through Larrabee Gardens, they will be dropped off at church on December 22nd. Thank you to all who help decorate our church to celebrate Christmas.

## • Communion

The next time communion will be offered are Sunday, December 10th and on Wednesday, December 20th at 6p.m.

## ACTIVITES ROOM

St. John's has an activities room! Invite your friends or come alone. Take a break from electronics, meet with friends, or just kill time. Playing cards, dominoes, puzzles & games are supplied, or bring your own favorites. There are 3 rules: 1. Be respectful to others, 2. Put away your "toys". 3. Have fun! The room is available to use when St John's Lutheran Church is open Monday thru Thursday from 8:30a.m.-4:30p.m. \*disclaimer: puzzles need not be put away until finished.

# SOUL OPPORTUNITES

## • Decorating the Church

On Wednesday, December 6th after the church service at 6p.m., the youth will decorate the Parish Hall and Great Room. Adults are needed to help with decorating in the Sanctuary. Lunch will be served after. If you are not able to help, but wish to provide treats, that is also greatly appreciated. This is always a night of fun and fellowship. Please sign up on the clipboard in the back as you are able.

## • Salvation Army

Volunteer Bell Ringers are needed on December 9th at Tadych's MarketPlace Foods in Clintonville from 8a.m. to 6p.m. If you are interested in signing up please sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary or sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0848A5A82EA0FA7-20182>.

## ♦Wanted

We are looking for Worship Leaders and Readers. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

## • Confirmation Wishlist

Meals are being prepared for the confirm-and's prior to class. If you would like to help feed the kids, we are looking for donations of pizzas. We encourage you to put the pizzas in the white freezer in the back of the kitchen. Thank you for supporting the youth!



# CHRISTMAS DONATIONS NEEDED

Please consider donating to one of the following organizations for this Christmas Season. Goodfellows Clintonville/Marion or The Giving Tree – Tigerton. These organizations are assisting the less fortunate in these areas. They are looking for gift cards for high school students. Please purchase a \$20.00 gift card from one of the following merchants:

Subway  
A & W  
McDonalds  
Tiger Bucks in  
Tigerton  
Culvers  
Walmart



All cards should be in the church office by December 4th.  
Thank you and God's Blessing during this holiday season!

## COMMUNITY *Christmas* DINNER

DECEMBER 25TH-CHRISTMAS DAY

ST. JOHN'S IN MARION

Turkey and Ham Dinner with all the trimmings

Free Will Offering

Curbside Pick-Up From 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Limited Deliveries for the City of Marion

Please call: 715-754-2992 by December 21st

Only reservations will be served

No walk-ins

**BREATHE.**  
Matthew 11:28

**WI DELLS, WI**

**FEBRUARY 16-18, 2024**

**SPEAKER**



BOB LENZ

**MUSICIAN**



LYNN STONEKING

**QUAKEEVENT.COM**



**Peace**  
*by*  
**Piece**



East Central Synod of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**JOURNEY WITH JESUS**  
Synod Youth Gathering

February 16-18, 2024 @  
Imago Dei Village

Students Grades 6-12



Featuring Musician  
and Motivational Speaker

*Franki Moscato*



Come see these Christmas Program Stars on December 17th. Unfortunately we were not able to capture all of the stars. Two are missing in our confirmation photo to the right but we are thankful and honored for all of the students and teachers that make the Sunday School Program happen.

Sunday School

# Christmas Program

December 17th at 10:30a.m.  
in the Parish Hall

**NOISY CAN OFFERING**

Offering goes toward Sunday School's  
Compassion International Child



# Mark Your Calendars!



## Christmas Worship

DECEMBER 24TH, 2023

3:30 & 5:30 P.M.

WITH COMMUNION

## LESSONS & CAROLS WORSHIP



DECEMBER 31ST, 2023

9:30 A.M.

## **CHURCH CALENDAR**

### **Church Services**

December 3rd, 24th-8 & 10:30a.m. Worship

December 6th, 13th-6p.m. Worship

December 10th- 8 & 10:30a.m. Worship with Communion (Pastor Bob Wilkinson)

December 17th-8a.m. Worship

**Sunday School Christmas Program**-December 17th at 10:30a.m.

**NOISY CAN OFFERING-PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS SUNDAY SCHOOL'S SPONSORING COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL CHILD ISARU**

December 20th-6p.m. Worship with Communion (Pastor Jill Meyer)

**Christmas Eve**-Worship at 3:30 and 5:30p.m. with Communion (Pastor Lois Graper)

December 27th-NO WORSHIP

**Lessons & Carols**-December 31st at 9:30a.m. in the Sanctuary

**Salvation Army Bell Ringing**-Saturday, December 9th 8-6p.m. at Tadych's MarketPlace Foods in Clintonville

**Camelot Worship**-December 13th at 3p.m.

**Confirmation Class**-Every Wednesday at 6:45p.m. except December 27th

**Council**-December 12th at 6:45p.m.

**Dominos**-Every Wednesday 1p.m.

**Quilting**-Every Wednesday 12:30p.m.

**Office Closed**-Thursday, December 21st starting at noon

Monday, December 25th, Christmas Day

Monday, January 1st, New Years Day

**Worship & Music Meeting**-December 4th at 5p.m.

**Yoga**-Monday, December 4th, 11th, 18th at 9a.m.

NO CLASS on Thursdays; Monday, December 25th; Monday, January 1st

Monday, January 8th at 9a.m.



**St. John's Lutheran Church**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

P.O. Box 235 • 318 E Garfield Ave • Marion, WI 54950

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