



Spirit *Alive!*

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2024 | ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

DO WE HAVE A PASTOR YET?

YES, WE DO! Not with a signed contract that offers a benefit package with the paycheck, But, bound by a contract between our Volunteer, Lay, & Visiting Ministers and their God. Our God. You can come to service on Sunday or again on Wednesday and you will hear a different voice, a different message and you will be surrounded by different faces. How cool is that! We are a fortunate Congregation, full of people with different talents and abilities. Churches around us are collapsing without a contractual Pastor. We are thriving. After all, this is Our Church. Our Home, Our Family, Our GOD. How lucky can we be? I've enjoyed serving you on Council. My terms are up, but you'll find me doing projects (most involving food or a paint brush). Please continue to support the many people who are keeping this place running. If you'd like to join the faces up front, or any of the activities, just ask. This is your church too! Did I make a difference? Ask yourself this every day...

Sincerely,
Shirl

Do not be conformed of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say everyone among you to not think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body, we have many members, and not all the members have the same function. So, we who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry in ministering; the teacher in teaching; the exhorter in exhortation; the giver in generosity; the leader in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. -Romans 12: 2-8



President—Amy Bazile

V. President —Ron Krueger

Secretary —Mandy Malueg

Pat Breitenfeldt

Tracy Conradt

Mary Hoppe

Melissa Pfeiler

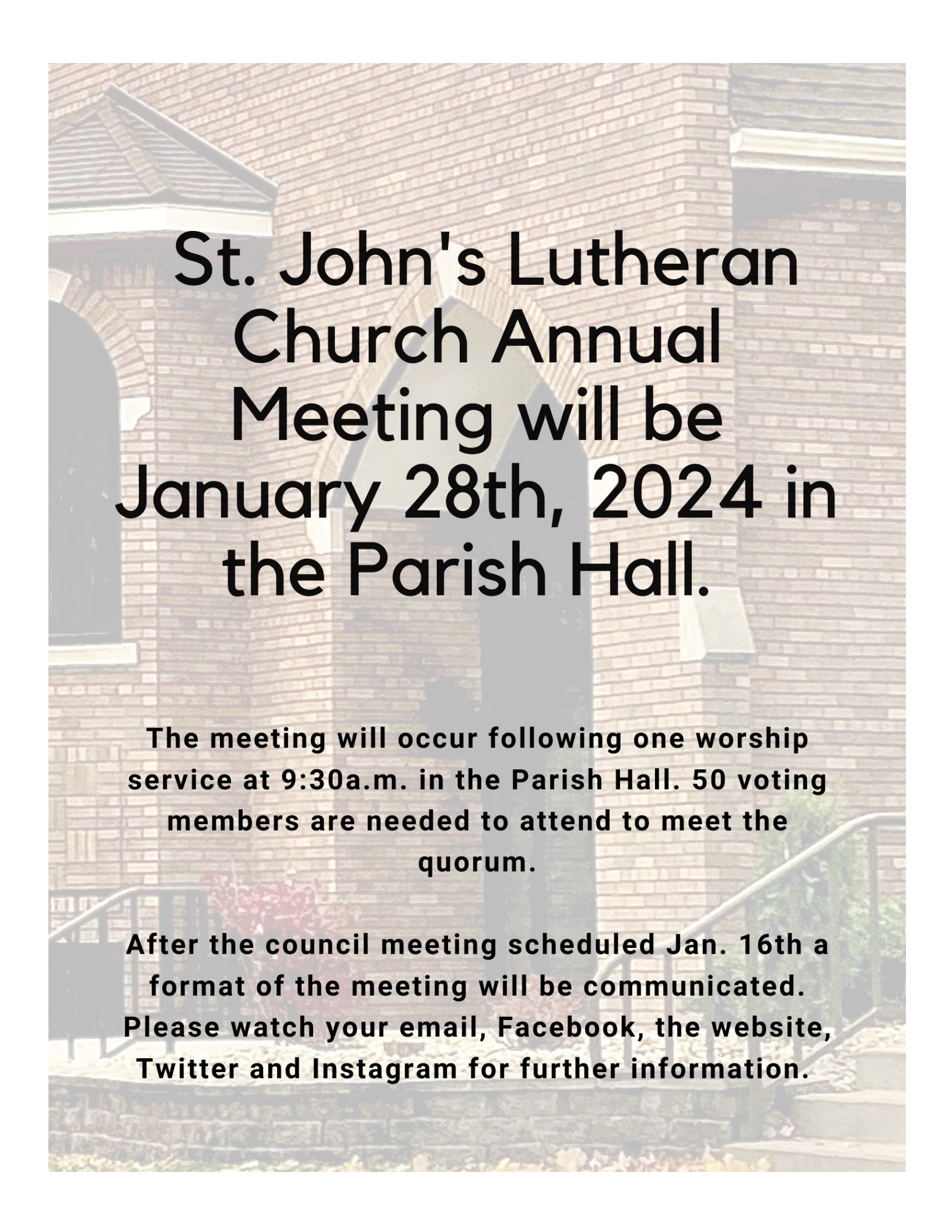
Brian Sawall

Shirl Tischauser

Kelly Trebus

Wanda Tucker

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



St. John's Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will be January 28th, 2024 in the Parish Hall.

The meeting will occur following one worship service at 9:30a.m. in the Parish Hall. 50 voting members are needed to attend to meet the quorum.

After the council meeting scheduled Jan. 16th a format of the meeting will be communicated. Please watch your email, Facebook, the website, Twitter and Instagram for further information.

2023 Christmas Program



Pause, Ponder Pray

Stones and Rocks

Anyone who has grown up on a farm in Wisconsin knows well the phrase every spring, "today we are picking stones." Ugh.

For some reason, every spring a field proudly displays the stones and rocks it produced over winter that now require removal before the spring planting can begin.

Trudging down the furrows picking up stones can be monotonous. Often the picker is wondering where did you come from? Did not see you last year. (Talking to stones is a common occurrence during these sessions!!). And then, one spies the tip of a stone that soon reveals itself as a ROCK. It requires either another person to help remove it or maybe even some equipment. Unforeseen initially, yet turns out to be a bigger event.

How often do stones and rocks appear in our lives?

Stones, the little bumps in the road that may be described as running out of gas on the way to work, missing a deadline, misplaced the car keys, forgetting it was garbage day and the bins are still in the garage. Easily resolved events that may disrupt the flow of the day or bring on self-scolding comments with ourselves as to how we could be so DUMB!

STONES – An inconvenience!

Rocks are or can be life altering events. A serious health diagnosis. A family tragedy. Loss of a job. A broken relationship.

Rocks require assistance. Strength to endure the "rock(s)" event require help. Support of family and friends. The experience and knowledge of professionals whether it be therapists, surgeons, or oncologists to name a few.

Looking UP more often is a necessity! Seeking the comfort, peace and strength of our Creator helps us endure the path we are being asked to traverse. The rock is impeding our path. He will help us remove it, sending others with the strength to support us!

ROCKS – A problem!

Problems that with God's help have solutions. Our faith in his guidance will see us through.

2024

May your stones be small inconveniences and your ROCKS be manageable with our Creator's help and guidance!

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. This picture was in a Ladies Aid Yearbook from 1988-1989. The description of the picture is 5 musical numbers were performed by 5th and 6th grade students of Mr. Dan Larson.

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.



"We'd love to have you speak, Ezekiel, but we're a non-prophet."

ChurchArt Online. 13th of December, 2023. https://www.churchart.com/subscriber/viewimages?image_type=cl%2cca&page=5&ipp=50



Hash Brown Casserole

- 1 2-lb. bag of hash browns, thawed
- 1/4 c. butter, melted
- 1/2 c. onions
- 1 c. grated cheddar cheese
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 pt. sour cream
- 1 can cream of chicken or celery soup

Save a little of the butter to pour over the top. Mix the rest together in a 9x13 pan. Bake at 350° for 60-90 minutes, until done. From: Arlette Nehring pg. 41 of *Cookin' With St. John's* 2009 Cookbook



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

General Fund:

Revenue \$ 144,192
Expenses \$ 141,869

Financial Condition-

Balances as of November 30th

General Fund \$ 34,698
Building &
Church Improvements 95,751
Benevolence Fund 3,233
Special Funds 44,673
Check EFT 20
Total \$178,374



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OFFERING ENVELOPES

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

THANK YOU

To all who have volunteered, given time, talents, made donations of any kind, thank you for supporting the church. May we approach each day with SOUL-serving others uplifting lives.

Prayers

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Jerome Portnoy
- ◆ Jerry Zimdars
- ◆ Karol Freeland
- ◆ Laura Moericke
- ◆ Nathan Nick
- ◆ Patty (Fournier) Beck
- ◆ Parker Wolff
- ◆ Will Wege



Prayer for Those In Assisted Living

- ◆ Karen Aschenbrenner
- ◆ Anne Erdman
- ◆ Jack Lozier
- ◆ Arnold Kriesel
- ◆ Gloria Krieser
- ◆ Mary Mengert
- ◆ Lois Miller
- ◆ Ronda Radtke

Prayer for the Friends and Family of:

- ◆ Kay Moericke
- ◆ Dave Polzin
- ◆ Gary Rasmussen
- ◆ Norman Fischer
- ◆ Tyler Jahnke

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St. John's Church Council Minutes – November 21, 2023

Council members present: Amy Bazile, Linda Mielke, Mary Hoppe, Melissa Pfeiler, Mandy Malueg, Ron Krueger, Shirl Tischauser, Wanda Tucker, Pat Breitenfeldt, Brian Sawall. **Also present:** Sheri Fuhrman **Absent:** Kelly Trebus

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

The mission statement was read together.

Member Comments: A suggestion was brought forth to schedule a congregational meeting when any projects happening at the church require any major changes.

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

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Ron, seconded by Mary, to approve the October 2023 financial statements as presented. Motion carried.

Vital Statistics: Jacksen Brehm was baptized on November 12, 2023.

Old Business: Items of Old Business considered were:

- Budget Approval – The budget is being prepared. Council will approve the draft budget in December for final approval at the Annual Meeting.
- Performance Reviews – All necessary reviews have been performed.
- Nominating Committee Update – All positions have been filled.

New Business: Items of New Business considered were:

- Approval of Confirmed Members– A motion was made by Wanda, seconded by Shirl, to approve the 2023 confirmed members of St Johns. Motion carried.
- Christmas Dinner – The Christmas Dinner will be held on Christmas Day. The meal will be take-out only.
- Christmas Bags – Christmas “goodie” bags will be given again at the Christmas program.
- Any Other New Business –

AED Grant – The estimate to purchase an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is \$2500. Annual maintenance will need to be performed by a professional for a nominal fee. A motion was made by Mary, seconded by Pat to order the AED, funds coming from Sanctuary fund. Motion carried.

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

- Property – The inspection on the elevator has been completed. The elevator has passed inspection. Quotes will be requested for the recommendations. Thermostats may need to be replaced to regulate even heating and cooling. During the Fall Dinner, it was discovered that more outlets are needed in the clubroom. The cemetery lawnmower may need to have the deck replaced.
- Worship and Music - Christmas Eve 3:30 and 5:30 will be led by Pastor Lois with communion. The Advent services are planned.

- Community – The Fall Dinner was a huge success, serving approximately 450 meals.

Closed Session: none

The next meeting will be on December 12, 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. The Camelot Service is a community outreach program. It is an opportunity to worship and receive Holy Communion.

- **Communion**

The next time communion will be offered is Sunday, January 14th at 8a.m. and 10:30a.m. services.

- **Offering Envelopes**

The offering envelopes are ready for pick-up. The offering envelopes are upstairs in the Great Room. Please feel free to pick-up for family and neighbors. **Any offerings for 2023 must be received by December 31st, 2023.** Please do not use new envelopes until 2024. Thank you for you generous giving throughout the 2023 year.

- **Activities 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 OPPORTUNITIES

- **Backpack Program**

This is an early reminder our church will be responsible for packing backpacks every Friday in the month of February. If you are interested in helping with this, please sign up on the sign up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary.

- **Wanted**

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

- **Youth Wishlist**

Meals are being prepared for the confirmation'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. We are also sending a group of youth to Wisconsin Dells Quake. We are looking for donations like microwavable popcorn, hamburger or hotdog buns, a case or two of water, snacks such as a box of assorted chips, Gift/Gas Cards to transport the kids. Any items that are not used for this trip will be used for Sunday School and Confirmation kids. Thank you for supporting the youth!

MARION FOOD PANTRY

Food pantry needs for January are mac 'n cheese and soup.
Food pantry wants are shampoo and laundry detergent.
Distribution is the first and third Thursday of every month
from 3-4p.m.



CHURCH CALENDAR

Church Services

January 7th-8 & 10:30a.m. Worship

January 3rd, 10th, 24th, 31st-6p.m. Worship

January 14th-8 & 10:30a.m. Worship with Communion (Pastor Bob Wilkinson)

January 17th-6p.m. Worship with Communion (Pastor Jill Meyer)

January 21st-8 & 10:30a.m. Worship with Communion (Pastor Dennis Nelson)

January 28th-9:30a.m. Worship in Parish Hall **Annual Meeting to follow the service**

No Sunday School-January 28th

Camelot Worship-January 3rd at 3p.m.

Confirmation Class-Every Wednesday at 6:45p.m. except January 3rd

Council-January 16th at 6:45p.m.

Dominos-Every Wednesday 1p.m.

Quilting-Every Wednesday 12:30p.m.

Yoga-NO CLASS on Thursdays; Mondays at 9a.m.

Youth attending the Quake event in Wisconsin Dells-Please be at church at 2p.m. on February 16th.

PARENTS YOU WILL NEED TO GET YOUR CHILD OUT OF SCHOOL EARLY!

Your first payment of \$53 should be submitted to the church office by January 2nd. The second payment of \$53 is due on February 5th.



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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