

St. John's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

monthly NEWS
INFORMATION



SEPTEMBER 2026

A Wonderful Celebration



FROM OUR
PASTOR

The community food bank, Our Sharing Pantry, celebrated its 40th anniversary on August 16. The celebration was wonderful. The work that it does on behalf of the community is truly commendable and its impact in this community is more profound than I had realized.

I just attended a two-day conference for faith leaders on mental health. It was organized and led by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). There are than 650 NAMI state and local affiliates nationwide. Locally, there is an affiliate that serves DeKalb County along with Kendall County and southern Kane County. You may be familiar with this organization, but this was relatively new information for me. What was also made a deep impact on me was the connection between mental illness and hunger.

Hunger disrupts the way people think, feel, and connect. Food insecurity sows anxiety, shame, and uncertainty into daily life, especially for those who don't know when or if they'll eat again. These emotional burdens accumulate, affecting how children develop and how adults cope, often without visible signs. It is a chronic source of stress that can alter brain function, impair relationships, and weaken emotional resilience. It affects decision-making, self-worth, and a person's ability to feel safe in the world. Over time, the consequences ripple through education, employment, health, and family life.

Addressing hunger means protecting mental well-being as much as physical health. The effects of food insecurity begin early, stretch across decades, and touch every part of a person's life unless they are met with care, compassion, and systemic support.

When Jesus fed the multitudes, not only was it an act to show God's care and providence in meeting human need, but also divine love in the way Jesus showed respect and dignity for those gathered. In Mark's Gospel, right before Jesus fed the crowds, he looked at them and had compassion for them. That compassion is mirrored in the way the staff and volunteers of Our Sharing Pantry treat the clients with dignity and respect and love. They are doing more than filling the bodies with nourishing food, they are feeding their souls and adding to the health of the whole community.



Joe Denault	09/01
Ward Hearn	09/03
Jennifer Reuter	09/04
Chuck Lee	09/04
Bob Fraley	09/06
Dennis Heaney	09/06
Jackson Vidito	09/08
Wayne Karp	09/08
Ron Merkel	09/09
Charles Vermeland	09/13
Madison Vermeland	09/13
Karie Misener	09/18
Homer Hulon Sr	09/19
Benjamin Stahl	09/24
Susan Keenan	09/27
Bryan Drost	09/28
Merlyn Milligan	09/28
Angie Shoener	9/30

Dale & Joanne Robinson	09/03 60 Years!
Don & Rose Rubis	09/17 50 Years!
Dan & Kelly Denault	09/19
Ward & Cheryl Hearn	09/20
Blair & Paul Lindstrom	09/26
Bob & Anita Reis Sr.	09/30



**IT'S TIME TO FILL SCHOOL BAGS! JOIN IN ON
THE FUN ON SEPTEMBER 6TH AT 4:30 PM.
PIZZA AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED AROUND 6:00.**



September 20th!! Rally Day!!

Sunday School is back in session!!

Sunday September 20th at 8:30AM

Please join us for our Rally Day Celebration!

Meet the teachers!

Play games!

Crafts!

Join us after the 9:45AM Worship Service
for a light lunch.



St. John's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - June 15, 2026

Members present: Bob Fraley, Connie Hamer, Mike Hamer, Scott Horsch, Cindy Karp, Wayne Karp, Joanne Robinson, Pastor Selena

- Connie read devotions on ministering to others with compassion and empathy
- Wayne called the meeting to order at 10:09
- Mike made a motion to accept the consent agenda items. Cindy seconded. Motion carried.
- Scott presented the treasurer's report. Our contributions are lower than what we hoped, but are consistent. Still on track to meet our budget. Connie asked if the payment had been made to Mid-west Shelter for Homeless Vets. Scott replied he had paid them. Scott asked Mike to look into why the mission endowment checks haven't cleared. Scott pointed out the large expense for Church Mutual insurance (\$18,000) which has been going up around \$1000/year. Comcast has been sending us past due notices even though the payment has been made.
- Committee reports:
 - ◆ Fellowship/Hospitality: There were 35 in attendance for the service at the park. Four from the Congregational Church. There will be fellowship hour on October 4th. Glory Way gospel singers are scheduled for October 25th.
 - ◆ Outreach: None
 - ◆ Finance: Budget preparations will begin soon.
 - ◆ Missions/Stewardship: See report. It was brought up that the church wasn't open for people dropping off food when the fellowship dinner was held. Attention needs to be given to this in the future.
 - ◆ MOG: Approximately \$601,000 in the account. Approximately \$87,000 in the money market. No music scholarships have been requested.
 - ◆ Parish Ed: September 20th is "Rally Day". Pastor offered presenting it as multigenerational.
 - ◆ Property: Jerry, Ward, and Bob trimmed the bottom of the boiler room door in the kitchen. The washing machine at the parsonage makes a noise. Wayne will look at it.
 - ◆ Jerry Lundeen on behalf of the Sharing Pantry has proposed some upgrades: concrete approach, electric doors, and a canopy. The costs will be around \$30,000 with \$25,000 of it possibly pledged already.
 - ◆ Worship: Did not meet.
 - ◆ Tech: Mike asked about the old computer under his desk. The council suggested dropping it off at Best Buy for recycling.
- Pastor's report:
 - There were two funerals.
 - She will be gone on a Friday in November to attend a conference.
 - Pastor will lead the service at the Sandwich Fair on September 13th.
 - October 3rd is the blessing of the animals.
- There was no new business.
- Connie made the motion to adjourn. JoAnne seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:21.

In God's service,

Bob Fraley

STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 8-5-26

The August Stewardship meeting began at 8:52 a.m. with Karol Grandgeorge, Mike Hamer, and Connie Hamer present.

The July minutes were approved.

LWR updates – Karol will include our September emphasis which is the LWR shipping fund in her monthly LWR article. Regarding our August LWR school bag emphasis, there are currently 500 strung school bags in the Mary/Martha room along with the supplies for 450 bags. We will pack the bags starting at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 6th. Stewardship will provide pizza and pop. Michael will order more cartons for packing.

Michael's offering report for July: General Fund - \$12,725.41; Capital Fund - \$1159.60; Altar Guild/Worship - \$1001.90; Kitchen - \$190.

There is no more news on the Fellowship Feast scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 27th at this time.

Michael will seek out info on CROP which is usually the first Sunday of October (Oct. 4th?).

There is no need to order more giving envelopes currently.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 2nd at 8:45 a.m. We adjourned at 9:47 a.m. by praying The Lord's Prayer.

Rebekah Circle

Date: Thursday, September 17, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: St. John's Fellowship Hall

Lesson: Food for the Journey

Session #2, page 32

Hostess: Connie Hamer

LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

September 8th

9:00 am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch

September 9th

9:00am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch

September is the month we collect funds for Lutheran World Relief Shipping Fund. The monies from this fund get the quilts and kits from the warehouse to the needy people all over the world including in the United States. It cost approximately \$4.00 to get a quilt or kit to where it is needed. We have completed 324 Personal Care Kits, 224 Baby Care Kits, 500 School Back Packs and 70 Quilts. (Some of these numbers are approximate as we have not finished September.) To ship all of this to those in need, we will try to collect about \$4900. Please be generous in you Special Offering for September. You can add your offering to your regular envelope or use a blue envelope. Whichever you use be sure to mark it **Shipping Fund**.

September workdays will find us working on large quilts, making backs and centers for the quilts, cutting out school bags for 2027 and putting together Baby Care Kits. If donations have come in, we will be sorting and tearing apart those things that will go in large quilts. Remember we will be putting School Backpacks together on Sunday, September 6th at 4:30pm with pizza and pop to follow. There are always jobs for many workers, so please take a few moments to come and give us a hand.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!



MEETING

Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, September 2

Worship Committee

1:00pm Wednesday, September 2

Church Council

10:45am Sunday, September 20



During the week at St. John's, the Sunday School area of the church will be used by Raven Behavior Analysis, a company that Lily Horsch works for, to provide ABA therapy services to children with autism. ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) is a type of therapy that helps children learn necessary social and communicational skills through play and positive reinforcement techniques. We are grateful for the opportunity to make use of this space in a way that supports children and families in our community. If you know of any children or families that may benefit, please reach out to Lily Horsch at 815-570-7567, or contact the church office. We are currently looking for clients in the area!

Check out the website: ravenbehavior.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
September 2026		1	2 8:45am Stewardship 1:00pm Worship Mtg.	
6 9:00am Worship School bag filling event 4:30pm Pizza at 6:00pm	7	8 <i>LWR Workday 9:00am-3pm</i>	9 <i>LWR Workday 9:00am-3pm</i>	
13 No worship at St. John's Worship at Sandwich Fairgrounds 8:30am Ag Land Stage—west end	14	15	16	
20 RALLY DAY 8:30am Sunday School Resumes 9:45am Worship Note Time Change for Fall/ Winter 10:45am Church Council Meeting	21	22	23	
27 9:00am Worship	28	29	30	

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	3	4	5 5:00pm Worship
	10	11	12 5:00pm Worship
	17	18	19 5:00pm Worship
	24	25	26 5:00pm Worship
			5:00pm Worship

GLORYWAY

MUSIC



A MESSAGE THAT MATTERS.

DATE: Sunday, October 25th

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: St. John's Lutheran Church
Somonauk, IL Free will donation appreciated



glorywaymusic.com



@glorywaymusic



glorywaymusic@aol.com

Church Staff

A. Administration

- i. Office Secretary: Julie Horsch

b. Business

- i. Financial Recorder: Mike Hamer
- ii. Treasurer: Scott Horsch

c. Facilities

- i. Building Superintendent: Diane Wold

d. Worship

- i. Accompanists: Jessica Ortega, Toni Lundeen,
Becky Stephens, Margaret Page

Church Council

President: Wayne Karp
Vice-President:
Secretary: Bob Fraley

Congregation Council

Mary Carlson
Mike Hamer
Connie Hamer
Cindy Karp
Joanne Robinson

Lutherdale Bible Camp Representatives-2026

Karol Grandgeorge, Nancy Miller

Synod Assembly Representatives-2026

Wayne & Cindy Karp

Cemetery Ministry Team

Bob Fraley, Glen Reuter, Doug Stahl

Endowment Ministry Team

Marion Gaffney, Dan Denault, Ward Hearn, Cara Killey, Wendy Merkel

Finance Ministry Team

Chuck Hoepe,
Bob Mueller, Joanne Robinson

Memorial and Other Gifts Fund Team

Kathy Anderson, Connie Hamer, Linda Johnson, Adam Killey
Jerry Lundeen, Nancy Miller, Anita Milligan

Church Ministries & Organizations Contacts

Altar Guild

CROP Walk: Mark Lee & Mike Hamer

Growing Hope: Jerry & Toni Lundeen

Global Missions: *In need of leadership*

Habitat for Humanity: Karol Grandgeorge

Hearts & Hands:

LSSI Christmas Hope Chest: Karol Grandgeorge & Julie Horsch

LWR Projects (Mission Quilts, Baby Care Kits, School Kits,

Personal Care Kits, Sewing Kits): Karol Grandgeorge

Meals on Wheels: Mark Lee

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans: *In need of leadership*

Our Sharing Pantry: Jerry Lundeen

Prayer Chain: Karol Grandgeorge

Parish Education

Confirmation

- a. Primary Instructor—Scott Horsch, Maury Killey
- b. St. John's Congregational Council

3N1: 7—12 gr. Youth Ministry:

Coordinators:

Youth Ministry Connection from St. John's—Julie Horsch

Esther Circle:

Rebekah Circle: Connie Hamer

Sunday School Coordinator: Nancy Miller

Chairpersons/Ministry Summaries

(Listed alphabetically by ministry)

Cemetery Ministry: Bob Fraley

Oversees the care of the church cemetery, maintenance and improvements.

Communications Ministry: Bob Fraley

Seeks to improve communication with members and the community.

Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry

Plans activities and recreational outings to promote friendship and fellowship in our congregation and community.

Finance Ministry: Scott Horsch

Proposes the budget and administers incoming and outgoing funds.

Outreach Ministry:

Reach out to the community by welcoming new neighbors with bread, hosting/participating in community events, following up with visitors, and bringing God's love to St John's 'special members' from cradle roll through the homebound.

Parish Education Ministry:

Oversees Sunday School Program, Summer Bible Day Camp, and youth related activities.

Property Ministry:

Oversees the care of the church facilities and grounds, maintenance and improvements.

Stewardship /Missions Ministry:

Provides opportunities for members of our congregation to use their gifts and resources, which includes raising funds for special projects. Provides a variety of opportunities to do God's Work with Our Hands. Organizes activities, publicize events and coordinate participation. Please join us in any way that works for you.

Worship Ministry: Cindy Karp

Striving to provide Spirit filled worship opportunities in an atmosphere of hospitality.

Newsletter of St. John's Lutheran Church September 2026

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



We're on the Web:
www.elcastjohns.org

235 South Green Street
P.O. Box 245
Somonauk, Illinois 60552

Church Office 815-498-3667
office@elcastjohns.org

Follow and like us on Facebook

*[www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheran
churchsomonauk/](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranchurchsomonauk/)*