



Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church in America

OCTOBER 2025



## **CROP Hunger Walk 2025**

**St. John's has been involved with the Community Interfaith CROP Hunger Walk for many years. Because recent executive actions and policies are pushing more individuals and communities into poverty and hunger. CROP Hunger Walk is again partnering with CWS to step up to meet the increasing need. The local planning team has set a goal of \$20,000 to provide just and sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty. A portion (25%) of the funds raised here will go to the local food pantries.**

**From combating droughts globally, providing food and shelter to refugees, supporting survivors of natural disasters, to stocking shelves in hundreds of food pantries across the United States, CROP Hunger Walks are transforming lives. All are welcome and encouraged to register and raise funds.**

**This year's walk will be hosted by Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sandwich. The Oct. 5th walk is at the fairgrounds in Sandwich on Suydam Road. Various routes to suit all walkers young and old. The walk starts at 2:00 pm with registration between 1:15 and 2:00. There will be refreshments at the end of the walk.**

**See Mark or Mike at a registration table in the Welcome Center the last part of September to donate or register for the walk.**

# LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

October 21st

**9:00 am to 3:00 pm and  
7:00 pm to 9:00pm Bring a Lunch**

October 22nd

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

Because of the generous people at St. John's and the community we live in, we have sent a large amount to Lutheran World Relief. The LWR year started the 1<sup>st</sup> of October of 2024 and ended at the end of September 2025. We have sent 215 Baby Care Kits, 192 Quilts, 548 School Backpacks, 372 Personal Care Kits and 1 Fabric Kit. What an accomplishment for our congregation! A big thanks goes out to everyone who has helped in any way! Thanks also to the people who have remembered the LWR Shipping Fund. It is not too late to add to this Fund.

Work days for October will be used for putting together quilts and baby care kits and cutting out school back packs. There has been a large donation of fabric from St. John the Baptist Catholic Church which needs to be sorted and baby care quilts to be made. Please consider spending a little time with us for fellowship and work as we do God's work with our hands!

**GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!**

## St. John's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - Sept 14, 2025

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

- Bob read devotions from Isaiah 43:19 regarding the challenges of undergoing change in our church.
- Wayne began the meeting at 11:45.
- Connie made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Cindy seconded. Motion passed.
- Scott presented the Treasurer's report. He noted there were two large bill payments made this past month: The electric bill and the seal coating and striping of the parking lot. We are above where we were at this point last year. Our August offerings of \$16,287 were slightly lower than our \$18,000 to \$20,000 targeted monthly range.
- Committee reports
  - ◊ Fellowship/Hospitality – Joanne said there is a progressive meal being planned for December.
  - ◊ Outreach – Connie reported communion ministries are continuing with shut ins and that help would be welcomed.
  - ◊ Finance – None
  - ◊ Mission/Stewardship – See report. Connie mentioned that after the Fall gathering the Elgin location for LWR drop offs and the New Windsor, Maryland center will be closing.
  - ◊ MOG – No meeting
  - ◊ Parish Ed. – Ten kids started Sunday School today. Pastor John from Salem is teaching confirmation. Five from our church, Three from Salem.
  - ◊ Property – Carpets were cleaned. Parsonage was cleaned. Pastor and Steve's move went well.
  - ◊ Worship – There was no meeting. It was decided that the baby grand piano is too big for the worship area.
  - ◊ Tech – Pastor Chris bought her office's laptop to take with her. New laptop computers will be purchased for the new pastor and for Mike.
- Scott went over the employee benefits summary for the council to consider. This is needed to prepare for our church profile to present to future pastoral candidates.
- Wayne has lined up the next three weeks with supply pastors. Wayne is finding many on the list are already busy with scheduled dates. Still waiting to hear news about an interim pastor.
- Joanne made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:52.
- Council closed with the Lord's prayer.

In God's service, Bob Fraley

## **STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 9-3-25**

The Sept. Stewardship meeting was called to order at 8:50 a.m. with Karol Grandgeorge, Mark Lee, Mike Hamer, and Connie Hamer present. We prayed thanking God for his generosity and asking that He help us to determine His ways.

Mark moved to approve the August minutes and Michael seconded. The vote was for a unanimous approval.

Michael's offering report for August was as follows: General Fund - \$17,796.91; Capital Fund - \$1364.65; Kitchen Fund - \$200; LSSI (children's charities) - \$40; LWR school bags - \$990.22.

CROP, which is being sponsored by Our Savior's Lutheran (Sandwich), is on Sunday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. Walking is at the Fairgrounds. We will have someone taking donations and signing walkers before and after church on the last two weekends of Sept. Once again, they will have a tip jar at The Loghouse during the Sandwich Fair. A portion of sales at Star 34 on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> will benefit CROP; not certain of a date for Rosati's.

Mark will be seeking drivers for Meals-on-Wheels for November. Connie will take November 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.

Connie will check with Pastor John at Salem Lutheran as to whether there will be any work nights for confirmands.

Karol will write the article for the LSSI Giving Tree for the November newsletter.

We will continue to discuss commitment letters and pledges in October.

548 boxed school bags will go to Elgin on Thursday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>.

We are hosting the Fellowship Feast on Sunday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30-6:00 p.m. with an ecumenical Thanksgiving service to follow at 6:30 p.m. Karol will apply for a Thrivent card to cover food costs. We are thinking of chili as the main course.

Our next Stewardship meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:45 a.m. We adjourned by praying the Lord's Prayer.



# MEETING

## **Property Committee**

10am Wednesday, October 1

## **Stewardship Committee**

8:45am Wednesday, October 1

## **Fellowship & Hospitality**

2:00pm Wednesday, October 1

## **Worship Committee**

1:00pm Wednesday, October 1

## **Church Council**

10:00am Sunday, October 12

## **MOG Committee**

6:30 pm Tuesday, October 7

## **Rebekah Circle Meeting**

1:00pm Thursday, October 16

## **Endowment Committee**

6:30 pm Thursday, November 13



**Cheyenne Palmer 10/02**  
**Curtis Moody 10/04**  
**Susan Thomas 10/06**  
**Cara Killey 10/10**  
**Lucas Hallman 10/14**  
**Dave Gottlieb 10/15**  
**Mary Carlson 10/22**  
**Cheryl Hearn 10/24**  
**Gerry Gehrke 10/28**



**Adam & Amy Killey 10/01**  
 20 Years  
**Jackie & Brad Eade 10/05**  
**Wayne & Cindy Karp 10/07**  
**Doug & Linda Stahl 10/08**  
**John & Sue Weber 10/08**  
**Tom & Jackie Harmon 10/21**

# Rebekah Circle

Date: Thursday, October 16th

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: St. John's Fellowship Hall

Lesson: Renew

Session #1

Leader: Karol Grandgeorge



# St. John's Interim Pastoral Care Plan

As we walk through this time of transition together, we want you to know that **St. John's is being cared for**. With the help of the Synod and several area pastors, we've put an **Interim Pastoral Care Plan** in place so that worship continues each week and your pastoral care needs are supported until an interim pastor is placed.

## Worship

- Weekly **pulpit supply** is being arranged so worship and preaching continue without interruption.
- You can expect Saturday and Sunday services to feel familiar and steady as we move through this season together.

## Pastoral Care Team

- **Area pastors (Pastor John Rothfusz and Pastor Hope Johnson)** have graciously offered to walk alongside St. John's during this time.
- They'll be available to help with **urgent pastoral care needs, funerals, and some weddings** (depending on their availability).

## If You Have an Urgent Pastoral Care Need

1. **During Office Hours:** Call the church office, and they'll connect you with the right person for support.
2. **After Hours or Weekends:** A **designated council member** will serve as your emergency contact and help connect you with the pastoral care team.
3. Wayne Karp 708-284-6361

**ON OCTOBER 19TH AND NOVEMBER 16TH, THE FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE WILL BE HOSTING THEIR NEXT INSTALLMENTS OF SUNDAY SOCIAL. PLAN TO STAY AFTER WORSHIP FOR GOODIES AND FELLOWSHIP!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	
<div>October</div> <div>2025</div>			<div>1</div> <div>8:45am Stewardship 10:00am Property Mtg. 1:00pm Worship Mtg. 2:00pm Fellowship &amp; Hospitality</div> <div>6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's</div>	
<div>5</div> <div>8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum</div> <div>9:45am Worship</div> <div><div><div>ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME CROP HUNGER WALK</div><div></div></div><div>CROP Walk Oct. 5 – 2:00pm Sandwich Fairgrounds</div></div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> <div>6:30pm MOG meeting</div>	<div>8</div> <div>2:00pm Fellowship &amp; Hospitality Meeting</div> <div>6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's</div>	
<div>12</div> <div>8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum</div> <div>9:45am Worship</div> <div>10:00am Church Council Meeting</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div> <div>6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's</div>	
<div>19</div> <div>8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum</div> <div>9:45am Worship</div> <div>Sunday Social</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <div>LWR Workday 9:30am-3pm 7pm-9pm</div>	<div>22</div> <div>LWR Workday 9am-3pm</div> <div>6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's</div>	
<div>26</div> <div>8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum</div> <div>9:45am Worship</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>10:00am Reading Buddies</div>	<div>29</div> <div>6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's</div>	



	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<div>2</div> <div>9:00am Bible Study</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>5:00pm Worship</div>
	<div>9</div> <div>9:00am Bible Study</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div> <div>5:00pm Worship</div>
	<div>16</div> <div>9:00am Bible Study</div> <div>1:00pm Rebekah Circle</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>5:00pm Worship</div>
	<div>23</div> <div>9:00am Bible Study</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <div>5:00pm Worship</div>
	<div>30</div> <div>9:00am Bible Study</div>	<div>31</div>	

The background of the entire page is a vibrant autumn-themed illustration. It features several large, detailed pumpkins in shades of orange and yellow, some with green stems. Interspersed among the pumpkins are various types of leaves, including some in shades of blue and grey, suggesting a mix of different tree species. The overall style is artistic and painterly, with soft lighting and a warm, cozy feel.

# The Parents Corner

As long as we live, we are always becoming. As a Girl Scout Leader, one of my most satisfying activities was the yearly evaluation of the progress of the girls and myself as a leader. That evaluation is something we should do in our personal lives, also. Otherwise, we may get stuck in a rut.

Before I married, my future mother-in-law had a private talk with me warning me of her son's temper. My betrothed was then in his late twenties, and that was not how I knew him. He was extremely patient, problem-solving and worked hard on self-control (he had progressed from a wild teenager), but that is not how his family saw him. They called him "Junior". Did he have a temper? Yes. He seldom let it loose (and only then for the silliest reasons).

As our families should be, our country was founded on the ideal of self-government. As the years have gone by, that has come to mean voting. But self-government is an all day, every day exercise. We are born squalling for food, warmth and dry clothing. Then gradually, gradually we become something more. If we are wise, we will let God and His Word guide us through this journey.

Submitted by Lois Spizzirri

## **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  
Connie Hamer  
Cindy Karp  
Joanne Robinson

## **Lutherdale Bible Camp Representatives-2025**

Karol Grandgeorge, Nancy Miller

## **Synod Assembly Representatives-2025**

Karol Grandgeorge

## **Cemetery Ministry Team**

Bob Fraley, Glen Reuter, Doug Stahl

## **Endowment Ministry Team**

Marion Gaffney, Mike Hamer, Ward Hearn, Wendy Merkel

## **Finance Ministry Team**

Chuck Hoepe,  
Bob Mueller, Joanne Robinson

## **Memorial and Other Gifts Fund Team**

Kathy Anderson, Connie Hamer, Linda Johnson,  
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: Stella Gardner  
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: Chuck Lee  
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: Jason & Kim Boczek  
from Salem Lutheran Church, Sandwich

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

**Esther Circle:** Jeanette Pfeifer

**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 October 2025

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



**We're on the Web:**  
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