



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



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

Journal
November 2023



A Thanksgiving Message from your Pastor ...

*"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God
that has been given you in Christ Jesus..."*
1 Corinthians 1:4 NRSV

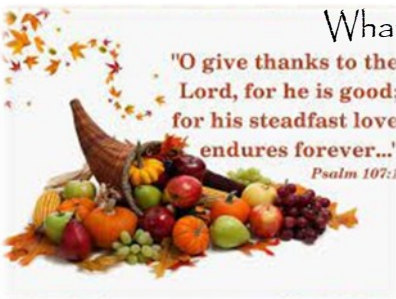
November is a time to count our blessings and give thanks to God for the bountiful harvest and for all the gifts God has given to us.

Worship, Sunday School and Confirmation, Bible Studies and the various Committees of this church are off to a good start this school year. The weekend of November 4th & 5th is All Saints weekend – we will remember those who have left us and have joined the “great cloud of witnesses”. If you would like to add someone to the list of names we will remember, please let Julie or me know before November 3rd.

Our annual Community Thanksgiving Service will take place at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church on Sunday, November 19th at 6:30 p.m. It will be an ecumenical service with area churches. Please consider joining us as we give thanks to God for our bountiful blessings!

The Church Offices will close on Wednesday November 22nd at noon and will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 23rd & 24th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. November 25th & 26th is the end of the liturgical church year. It is Christ the King weekend. After Thanksgiving, the Holiday Season begins with the 1st weekend in Advent, December 2nd & 3rd. On Tuesday, December 5th, I will begin Advent Morning Prayer for 3 weeks in Advent at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

As the holiday season begins, we remember to give thanks to God for all God's gifts.



What a joyful time to give God thanks and praise for all things!

Pastor Chris



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Bob & Darla Fraley
30 Years!!

11/06

Daniel & Renee Hallman

11/09

- Kherington Killey** 11/01
- Diane Wold** 11/02
- Rhea Lumsden** 11/03
- Nicolas Marquez** 11/03
- Robin Raupp** 11/04
- Marian Larson** 11/04
- Lee McKenzie** 11/08
- Karen Mander** 11/16
- Mary Bark** 11/21
- Hazel Hilliard** 11/21
- Mark Lee** 11/29
- Patrick Eaton** 11/30
- Keelee Beal** 11/30



Rebekah Circle

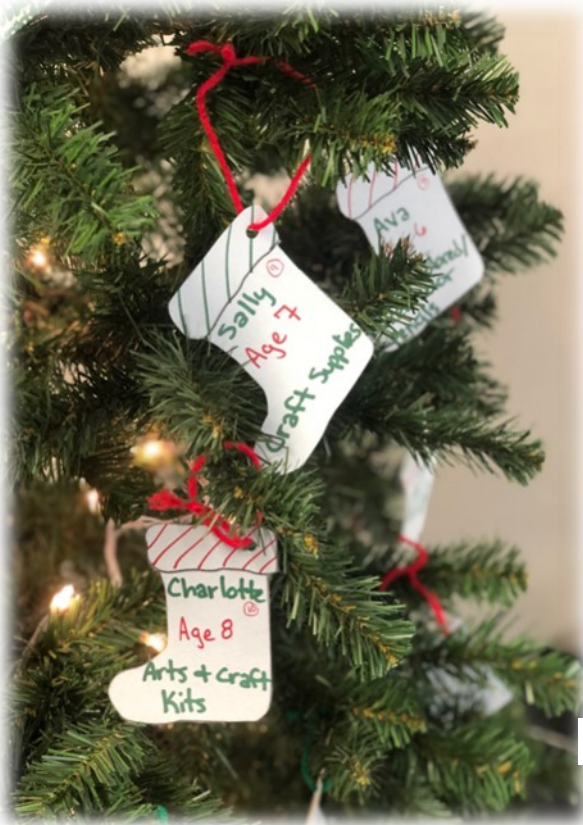
Date: Thursday, November 16th

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: St. John's Lutheran Church

Lesson: continue from end of Oct. lesson

Also, be thinking ahead to our
December meeting at The Village Courtyard
6:00pm on Dec. 7th!



IT'S time to start thinking about the Giving Tree for the children at Lutheran Social Services of Illinois! The tree will be put up the first week of November. Just pick a name tag (or more than 1, if you are willing and able), shop for the item and bring the gift back to the church by December 10th. Remember, we ask that you DON'T wrap the gift but, gift wrap, tape and labels are always welcome and will be passed on to LSSI. We will also have a list near the tree of places gift cards can be purchased from .

Proverbs 19:17 "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." Let's be generous so these kids who don't have a family or are not with their family, will have a wonderful Christmas.

News from St. John's Committees

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 10-4-23

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm. with prayer. Lois Spizziri, Pastor Chris, Toni Lundeen and Julie Horsch were present.

Report from altar guild: Karol will call about prices for poinsettias then a sign up sheet will be out. The Sunday School Christmas program will take place during worship on Sunday, December 17th.

Report from Pastor: Liturgy and songs in place for Growing Hope Globally celebration. She is working with Pastor Ted. Reformation weekend is October 28th and 29th. Stewardship and Missions committees will be handing out the Time & Talents Survey. The Thanksgiving Eve service will be held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church on November 22nd.

Advent Morning Prayer will last three weeks starting on December 5th. On Christmas Eve, there will be a regular Sunday service at 9:45 am and an afternoon service at 4:00 pm.

It was noted that the budget should be changed to reflect the raise in the accompanists' stipends.

Hymns for November were chosen.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 2:02 pm.

MOG MINUTES 10/3/23

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by chairperson, Kathy Anderson. Pastor Chris Schoon led us in prayer as we prayed a prayer entitled May God's Spirit Work Among God's People. Present at this meeting were Kathy Anderson, Linda Johnson, Anita Milligan, Pastor Chris, Nancy Miller, and Connie Hamer.

Anita moved and Linda seconded to accept the July minutes as printed. The motion passed unanimously. Nancy Miller then gave the treasurer's report. Nancy indicated that Resource purchased additional stocks for our portfolio on 9/15/23. These were purchased from some of the funds that have been giving us steady and good returns. Scott Horsch still needs to be put on as a secondary signature on the MOG accounts. Monies are still being received from the Hilliard, Voss, and Eighner funerals. When asked, Nancy responded that she spends about 1 ½ to 2 hours monthly on the MOG finances. Kathy reminded us that we will need to give the St. John's audit group our books when they are ready to do the church audit. Connie moved and Anita seconded to accept the treasurer's report as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no old business. Current Sunday School funds, vacation Bible School funds, and church picnic bills have all been covered.

Under new business, Pastor brought up that St. John's is purchasing a new Hewlett Packard laser/copy machine. Difficulties with the current machine have been going on for about a year. She asked if MOG was willing to help with this expense. The new machine costs \$800 and the toner cartridges cost \$250 (4 needed). Nancy said we have \$5700 in unspecified funds. Connie Hamer moved and Anita seconded to give St. John's \$1800 toward the purchase of a new laser/copy machine and toner cartridges. All were in favor. That leaves \$3910 in the unspecified funds.

Connie will complete the annual MOG report (due in early Dec.). Several names were recommended as a possible new members and we will ask those people. The 2024 annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 21st. MOG meeting dates for 2024 are: Tuesday, January 2nd, Tuesday, April 2nd, Tuesday, July 2nd, and Tuesday, October 1st.

There being no other business, we adjourned at 7:43 p.m. by praying The Lord's Prayer.

STEWARDSHIP MINUTES 10-4-23

The Stewardship meeting commenced at 8:50 with a prayer asking that the Holy Spirit unite us in common mission, shared life, and justice. Present were: Lynn Skrzypiec, Pastor Chris Schoon, Karol Grandgeorge, Mike Hamer, and Connie Hamer. There having been no September meeting, the August minutes were approved as printed.

CROP Walk was held at St. Paul's in Hinckley on October 1st. Mike reported that he took \$720 from our congregation (current total) and that the walk seemed to go well. Pastor reported that Nancy Fraley said they had gathered over \$14,000 for CROP. We may be the site for the 2024 CROP.

Michael's financial report:

<u>August, 2023</u>	<u>September, 2023</u>
General fund - \$15,063.86	General Fund - \$24,5787.23
Capital fund - \$568.60	Capital Fund - \$1,740.13
LWR school bag supplies - \$480.31	LWR shipping - \$1,461.70
Good Samaritan fund - \$230	Lutheran Disaster Response - \$300
	Cemetery - \$5000

Growing Hope Globally is scheduled to begin with worship at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21st. Set-up will be on Friday, Oct. 20th.

Karol reported that 568 school kits were delivered to Elgin on Sept. 14th. Three vehicles driven by Karol, Wayne and Cindy Karp, and Steve Schoon made the delivery. We need 4 oz. bars of Ivory soap for Baby Care kits. Sunday school and Confirmation students have been asked to contribute.

Karol also reported that Heidi Eaton will not be setting up the LSSI Giving Tree, so she and Julie Horsch have taken over the task. They chose 10 teens, 25 young children, and gift cards for this year. We will put up the tree after Bible Study on Oct. 26th as the project must be completed by November 26th. We are not certain of a pick-up or delivery date currently.

We believe Mark Lee has the drivers he needs for Meals-on-Wheels in November.

Pastor Malindabigwe will not be coming to St. John's as his appointments are all filled.

Connie will write the Safe Passage article for Dec., as well as the yearly report,

and 2 Stewardship calendars.

Connie, Karol, and Pastor Chris will meet on Thursday, Oct. 12th after Bible study to draft a commitment letter and review our member list. Mark and Michael will do the mailings by Monday, October 30th.

Lynn will research NI Food Bank schedules and volunteers for participation.







Pastor and Mike will talk with the council on the 12th about any changes on the Time and Talent Brochures.

We will pass them out on Reformation weekend, Oct. 28th and 29th.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 1st at 8:45 a.m. We closed at 9:47 a.m. by praying The Lord's Prayer.



Total raised at the celebration on October 21st was \$13,634.12!!!

-  Highest pie brought \$525 (total for pies was \$6940)
-  Beef Raffle was \$705...thank you Daus
-  Pumpkin carving \$48
-  Toy Raffle \$75
-  Voting for the projects \$197.22----winner was Guatemala
-  Auction items other than pies---\$1,440

St John's Lutheran Church Quarterly Meeting October 1, 2023

Pastor led us in prayer.

Treasurer's report

Scott Horsch spoke that he took over the position six months ago and he thanked the congregation for their contributions and support.

There is \$86,648.21 in the church's account.

We are taking in a little more than what we are spending.

We have outsourced our payroll.

We are continuing to look at ways to save money.

MOG report

There have been no payouts.

Money should be coming in from recent funerals.

Karol Grandgeorge asked if there is a limit set. Nancy explained they haven't yet but are looking at it on a case by case basis.

Connie Hamer is going off so a new member is needed.

Connie asked about three stocks which were recently purchased. They were purchased from funds giving us good and steady returns.

Endowment report

Mike Hamer said there is around \$11,000 which will be distributed in November.

Wayne asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Pastor Kris closed with a reformation prayer.

In God's service, Bob Fraley

St. John's Lutheran Church Council minutes for October 12, 2023

Council members present: Jim Beal, Bob Fraley, Drew Hallman, Mike Hamer, Scott Horsch, Wayne Karp, Jeanette Pfeifer, Lynn Skrzpiec, and Pastor Schoon.

Wayne called the meeting to order at 6:37.

Jim Beal read devotions related to A.I. technology, the future, and the possibility of life elsewhere.

Sean Nadeau, Senior District Executive with the Three Fires Council of the Boy Scouts of America spoke to the council. He asked us to consider partnering with them to become a charter organization in helping to restart a Cub Scout Pack for Somonauk.

Mike Hamer made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Jeanette seconded. Mo-

tion carried.

Scott Horsch presented the Treasurer's report.

The church is doing okay and is running a little ahead with its finances.

Some recent amounts have come in and will need to be transferred to other accounts.

Scott recommended that the Council review our contributions to the Synod next year based on how our recovery has gone. Pastor commented that the Synod is aware of our situation.

Committee Reports

Fellowship/Hospitality – None

Outreach – Jeanette suggested inviting and hosting a reunion with former members.

Finance – Wayne is working on organizing a meeting.

Missions/Stewardship – See report. Mike added that undated giving envelopes have been purchased which should save on purchasing future envelopes. Lynn asked whether the Northern Illinois Foodbank is still a part of our missions. Mike said he will talk with Cheryl Hearn.

MOG – See report.

Parish Ed – Sunday School and Confirmation are going well. The children will sing Reformation Sunday.

Property – Drew installed handicap signs in the parking lot. Huber plumbing replaced the AC thermostat at the parsonage. Wayne gave Drew the okay to purchase a new printer and cancel our agreement with Konica Minolta.

Worship – See report.

Tech – None

Pastor's report – See report.

Old business

Wayne listed council members terms

Ending January 2024 – Jim Beal (2nd term), Lynn Skrzpiec (2nd term)

Ending January 2025 – Mike Hamer (2nd term), Drew Hallman (2nd term), Wayne Karp (2nd term), Jeanette Pfeifer (2nd term), Bob Fraley (1st term).

New business

Bob asked whether there has been anymore discussion regarding Jessica Ortega asking if a music group can use our church facilities. Wayne said she was notified yes but have not heard any further information.

Drew asked about if there was a cemetery committee. Bob said that he, Doug Stahl and Glen Reuter were the committee members. The council discussed adding Bob's name to the cemetery checkbook account.

Jim made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Drew seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

In God's service, Robert Fraley



MEETING

Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, November 1

Property Committee

10am Wednesday, November 1

Worship Committee

1:30pm Wednesday, November 1

Endowment Committee

6:30 pm Tuesday, November 7

MOG Committee

7:00 pm

Fellowship & Hospitality

2pm

Rebekah Circle Meeting

1:00pm Thursday November 16

@St. John's

LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

NOVEMBER 14^h 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm to 9:00pm - Bring a Lunch

NOVEMBER 15th 9:00 am to 3:00 pm - Bring a Lunch

We ended the LWR year with fantastic totals. We were able to complete 229 Baby Care Kits, 15 Sewing Kits, 568 School Back Packs, 234 Quilts and 236 Personal Care Kits. That is awesome for a congregation our size. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way make this a reality!

The work days in November will be used to work on the quilts and cutting out more school back packs. We usually have some taking apart and sorting to do as donations are never ending. We work hard at getting more quilt kits and school back packs made for people to sew at home. If you can sew and are looking for something rewarding to do, consider sewing a quilt top from the basket in the hallway by the kitchen. If you are interested in sewing school back packs, see Connie Hamer or Karol Grandgeorge for help.

Please consider spending some time with us at work days in November. We need to continue making our LWR year a good one. Remember: GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<h1>November</h1> <h1>2023</h1>			1 8:45am Stewardship 9:00am <u>Women of the Bible Speak</u> book study 10am Property 1:30pm Worship comm. 6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's
5 8:30am Sunday School 8:30 Adult Forum 9:45am Worship Noisy Coin Collection	6	7 6:30 Endowment Comm. Meeting	8 2:00pm Fellowship & Hospitality Comm. Mtg. 6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's
12 8:30am Sunday School 8:30 Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	13	14 LWR Workday 9am-3pm 7pm-9pm	15 LWR Workday 9am-3pm 6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's
19 8:30am Sunday School 8:30 Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	20	21	22 6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's
26 8:30 Sunday School 8:30 Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	27	28	29 6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00am Bible Study	3	4 5:00pm Worship
9 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	10	11 5:00pm Worship
16 9:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Rebekah Circle @ St. John's	17	18 5:00pm Worship
23 9:00am Bible Study	24	25 5:00pm Worship
30 9:00am Bible Study		

The Parents Corner

Like most of us, my life has been a continuous cycle of learning and teaching. The 2nd and 3rd chapters of the book of Revelation tell of error in the practices of six churches formed to worship God as Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit. Straying from truth was easy, especially when people could not read God's word for themselves. Following the invention of the printing press and translation of the Bible into common languages, people became aware of how much error occurred in doctrines of church and rules of government.

I was privileged to acquire a tome containing photos and reprints of letters, speeches, prayers and governing documents in this country from the early 1600s to the mid-twentieth century. From it, I learned that our northern Atlantic seacoast was settled by people seeking a place to worship God without fear of reprisal for beliefs that sought to correct error. A gift to me this year was "The American Story" by David and Tim Barton. The events and ideas described in it are familiar to me through my previous reading.

Long ago, when I attended Sunday School, I loved the singing. I wonder if children still learn one of my favorites. "The wise man built his house upon a rock." We sang the beginning verse loudly, but we sang the second verse even more so, and when "the house built on the sand went crash!", we shook the rafters. We also learned a vital truth at the same time. God is our rock in time of trouble.

For most of the years I taught Sunday School, we studied the Gospel of Mark but took a side-trip to Ephesians 6:10-17. Instructions to put on "the whole armor of God"... the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes to take you to proclaim the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God... creates a powerful image for students and encouragement for adults.

So, onward Christian soldiers. Put on your armor to save our God-Blessed country and ourselves.

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

Jim Beal

Andrew (Drew) Hallman

Michael Hamer

Jeanette Pfeifer

Lynn Skrzypiec

Lutherdale Bible Camp Representatives-2023

Karol Grandgeorge, Nancy Miller

Synod Assembly Representatives-2023

Pastor, Mike & Connie Hamer

Cemetery Ministry Team

Bob Fraley, Glen Reuter, Doug Stahl

Endowment Ministry Team

Mike Hamer, Wendy Merkel, Jeanette Pfeifer, Dale Robinson

Finance Ministry Team

Tom Harmon, Chuck Hoepe, , Dave McKenzie,

Bob Mueller, Joanne Robinson

Memorial and Other Gifts Fund Team

Kathy Anderson, Connie Hamer,

Nancy Miller, Lynn Skrzypiec

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

House of the Little Ones: Linda Johnson

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: Doris Miller

Partners In Mission - Uganda, Africa: *In need of leadership*

Prayer Chain: Karol Grandgeorge,

Parish Education

Confirmation

- a. Primary Instructor—Pastor Chris & Scott Horsch

- b. St. John's Congregational Council

3N1: 7—12 gr. Youth Ministry:

Coordinators: Jason & Kim Boczko

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: Doug Stahl

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: Jeanette Pfeifer

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: Jim Beal

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

Property Ministry: Drew Hallman

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

Stewardship /Missions Ministry: Lynn Skrzypiec

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: Lois Spizzirri

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

Newsletter of St. John's Lutheran Church October
2023



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www.elcastjohns.com

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