



As in the past, we will be doing the LSSI Giving Tree again this year during the month of November. We are planning to hang paper ornaments on a tree in the Welcome Center. On the back of each ornament will be a person's name, age and desired gift. We have asked for 12 children's names, 4 teenagers' names and 4 adults' names. We ask that you go shopping for that gift and return it to the large box near the tree. Please DO NOT wrap the gift and be sure to securely attach the tag to the gift. All of the gifts must be returned by the **first weekend in December**. We are hoping to get a list of gift cards that are also needed and we will make that list available on the tree. The gift cards should be placed in a plain, white envelope and placed in the box. They will not have names on them. Gift wrap and ribbon donations are also accepted. If you would like to help, but cannot shop, you may place a donation in a blue envelope and mark it LSSI Giving Tree. The money will be used to purchase some extra gift cards. Thanks in advance for your help. You may contact the office or Karol Grandgeorge at 815-370-0883 with questions.



Community Feast !

St. John's is hosting the Thanksgiving Community Feast and Ecumenical worship service on November 23rd, 2025. The dinner will be from 4:30-6:00pm with worship at 6:30.

Lots of help is needed for food preparation, table setting, serving and cleaning up. Please consider signing up to lend a hand! Sign up sheets are in the Welcome Center.

LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

November 18th

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

November 19th

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

Thanks again to everyone who helped in any way as we put together many things to be sent to the LWR warehouse. Our accomplished kits and quilts are very similar in numbers to other years. We pray there are no disasters in the near future because that can deplete the warehouse inventory in a hurry.

Work days for November will be used, as usual, for putting together quilts and baby care kits and cutting out school back packs. There has been a large donation of fabric from a community member which needs to be sorted and baby care quilts need 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 - October 12, 2025

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

- ✕ Cindy gave devotions regarding shepherding.
- ✕ Wayne called the meeting to order at 10:42
- ✕ Joanne made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Connie seconded. Consent agenda was approved. Scott noted the electric bills have been high due to extreme hot weather.
- ✕ Treasurer's report
 - We have a little more in our general fund than we did at this point last year.
 - Slightly below our monthly goal in offerings.
 - On pace to meet our budget.
 - Close to meeting our Synod contribution goal.
 - Scott pointed out that both the parsonage and church buildings are included together in the utility bills.
- ✕ Committee reports
 - Fellowship/Hospitality – Sunday social planned for October 19th. A Christmas progressive dinner is being planned for December 6th.
 - Outreach – None
 - Finance – Scott has begun working on a preliminary budget, keeping in mind our future ministerial needs.
 - Missions/Stewardship – See report.
 - MOG – Nancy Miller has been in communication with Resource Bank about changes they have made with their system. MOG is offering to pay for music lessons for members. A new member will be needed with Kathy Anderson going off.
 - Parish Education – Averaging 7 – 8 kids. There are 8 confirmation students.
 - There was a workday held to clean out the furniture in the parsonage. Items were placed in the driveway for free and most of it was taken.
 - Worship – See report.
- ✕ Wayne updated the council that the call committee has met 3 or 4 times and that they are in the process of making up the ministry site profile.
- ✕ Finding supply pastors is challenging at times.
- ✕ Wayne read a letter from Pastor Tolzmann thanking us for letting him preach. He offered a suggestion of since there are two weekend services let the supply pastor choose which day and offer service of the word on the other day.
- ✕ Joanne made a motion to adjourn. Cindy seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:29.

In God's service,

Bob Fraley

STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 10-1-25

The Stewardship meeting began at 8:50 a.m. with Karol Grandgeorge and Connie Hamer present. Karol led us in prayer citing a common mission to restore us in God's mercy and grace.

The Sept. minutes were approved.

The offering report for September was: General Fund - \$10,429.92; Capital Fund - \$913.41; Good Samaritan - \$200; LWR Shipping - \$1202.77. Also, \$780 dollars gathered will go directly to CROP.

CROP, hosted by Our Savior's Lutheran, is Sunday, October 5th with walking at the Fairgrounds. Rosati's of Sandwich will donate a portion of their profits on Tuesday, Oct. 7th to CROP.

No information at this time on Meal-on-Wheels for November.

The LSSI Giving Tree is our November emphasis. Karol will contact Kathy Hall to request 20 names with 3 presents per name. We will ask for 12 children, 4 teens, and 4 adults. We will use extra monies donated to purchase gift cards. We will receive the names by Nov. 1st and gifts must be returned by Dec. 5th.

Connie will speak with the St. John's church council about a commitment letter for November.

The Fellowship Feast, hosted by St. John's and scheduled for Nov. 23rd, will have the meal from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with the ecumenical service to follow at 6:30 p.m. The menu will be as follows: St. John's: chili, oyster crackers, cheese, onion, sour cream, chili powder, lettuce salad and dressings; Salem: 4 cornbreads, 4 veggie casseroles, 4 meat casserole; UC of Sandwich: 10 desserts.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m. The next Stewardship meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 5th at 8:45 a.m.

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Jeanette Pfeifer's new address:
502 E. 3rd. Street
Herscher, IL 60941
Cell phone: 815-603-4203

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 10-1-25

Present: Toni Lundeen, Lois Spizzirri and Cindy Karp.
We began our meeting at 1:10 pm.

Worship committee did not meet in September.

Karol Grandgeorge and Diane Wold have spoken to Angie Grandgeorge from Ivy Oaks here in Somonauk. She is willing to work with us in supplying flowers when we need them.

The first day of Advent is November 30th. Advent Morning Prayer services will be at 9:00am on the following Tuesday mornings: 12-2, 12-9, and 12-16.

Toni is checking with Becky to see if she is available to play.

The Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service is the same day after the Community Feast on Sunday, 11-23-25.

We talked about Christmas service but can't make any definite decisions that far in advance when we don't know if we will have a Pastor or not. An option would be to join other area churches for their services. We will figure things out with God's help! We closed our meet with the Lord's Prayer at 2:00pm.

In God's Service, Cindy Karp



Reading Buddies with Mrs. Merkel's class!

Join us next time! Friday, November 21st 10am

NOVEMBER

Birthdays

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

NOVEMBER

Anniversaries

Bob & Darla Fraley 11/06
Daniel & Renee Hallman 11/09 40 Years



The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee will host the annual Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 6th at 6:00pm. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center and bring a friend or two. The cost will be \$25.00 and can be paid at the appetizer table on the night of the dinner.

Rebekah Circle

Date: Thursday, November 20th	Time: 1:00 pm
Location: St. John's Fellowship Hall	Lesson: Renew
Session #2	Leader: Cheryl Hearn



MEETING



Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, November 5



Property Committee

10am Wednesday, November 5



Worship Committee

1:00pm Wednesday, November 5



Fellowship & Hospitality

2:00pm Wednesday, November 5



Church Council

10:00am Sunday, November 9



Endowment Committee

6:30 pm Thursday, November 13



Rebekah Circle Meeting

1:00pm Thursday, November 20



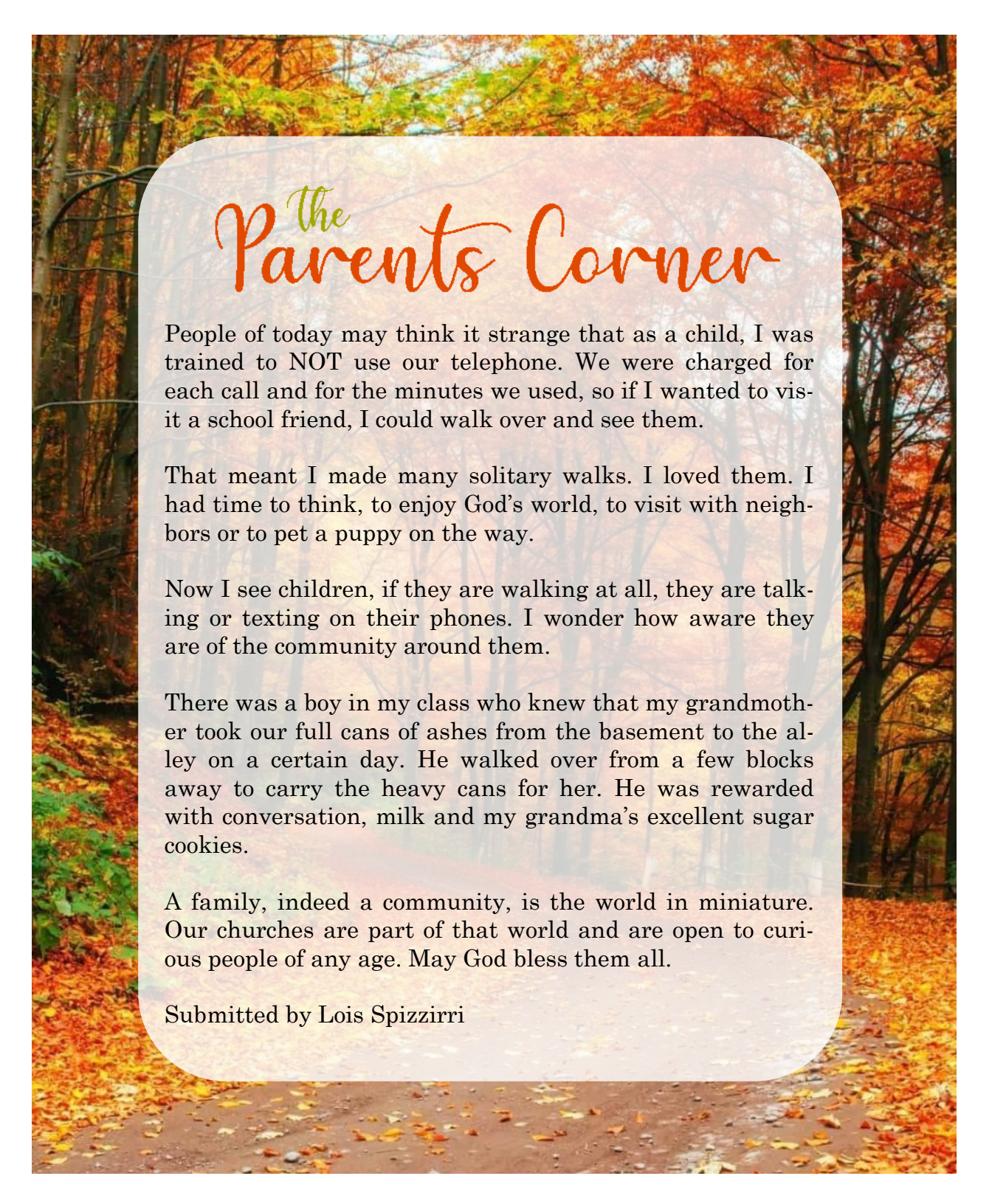
MOG Committee

7:00 pm Tuesday, January 6



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
November 2025				
2 8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:45am Worship Pastor Heaney	3	4	5 8:45am Stewardship 10:00am Property Mtg. 1:00pm Worship Mtg. 2:00pm Fellowship & Hospitality 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem	
9 8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:45am Worship 10:00am Church Council Meeting	10	11	12 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem	
16 8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:45am Worship Sunday Social after worship	17	18 LWR Workday 9:30am-3pm 7pm-9pm	19 LWR Workday 9am-3pm 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem	
23 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship 30	24 Community Feast @ St. John's 4:30-6:00pm Ecumenical Worship Service 6:30pm	25	26 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem	

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:00pm Worship Pastor Heaney
	6 9:00am Bible Study	7	8 5:00pm Worship
	13 9:00am Bible Study 6:30 pm Endowment Meeting	14	15 5:00pm Worship
	20 9:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Rebekah Circle	21 10:00am Reading Buddies	22 5:00pm Worship
	27 	28	29 5:00pm Worship



The Parents Corner

People of today may think it strange that as a child, I was trained to NOT use our telephone. We were charged for each call and for the minutes we used, so if I wanted to visit a school friend, I could walk over and see them.

That meant I made many solitary walks. I loved them. I had time to think, to enjoy God's world, to visit with neighbors or to pet a puppy on the way.

Now I see children, if they are walking at all, they are talking or texting on their phones. I wonder how aware they are of the community around them.

There was a boy in my class who knew that my grandmother took our full cans of ashes from the basement to the alley on a certain day. He walked over from a few blocks away to carry the heavy cans for her. He was rewarded with conversation, milk and my grandma's excellent sugar cookies.

A family, indeed a community, is the world in miniature. Our churches are part of that world and are open to curious people of any age. May God bless them all.

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:

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:

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 November 2025

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

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