



DECEMBER 2025

DeKalb County Safe Passage

Dear Congregation,

St. John's continues to support worthy local organizations and charities whenever possible. Safe Passage has been our December emphasis for many years. Safe Passage (SP) is Dekalb County's only Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Crisis Center. As per their website, their mission is "to promote the right of all to nonviolent and abuse-free relationships through advocacy, intervention, and prevention. SP is funded through state and federal grants, private donations, and the support of some local agencies. SP was founded in 1981 as a grassroots non-profit organization run by volunteers who wanted to create a safe place in the community for victims of domestic violence." Their services include crisis intervention; emergency shelter; long-term transitional housing; case management; counseling; legal and 24/7 medical advocacy; community prevention education; and offender intervention services. All survivor services are completely free, confidential, and available to all no matter age, gender, or when the abuse occurred. SP's vision is a world without violence where all are safe. They focus not only on the victims, but also on interrupting cycles of harm. As mentioned in previous articles, SP is attempting to build a new facility. They now have the property, and the existing building on the new property was demolished. They are currently collaborating with an architect whose plans will be certified through Housing and Urban Development. Construction bids have already been approved by the Board, and they will be securing 80% of their total project funding before becoming eligible for a loan.

Let's be a part of Safe Passage's uplifting mission! St. John's and Safe Passage thank you for your past and present support. A donation for Safe Passage may be put in a blue envelope or brought into the church office at any time. Please remember to mark the intent of your donation, and thank you once again.

LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

December 9th

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

December 10th

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

On October 31st, Connie and Karol made a trip to the Church of the Brethren Warehouse in Elgin to deliver 2 vans full of LWR kits and quilts. Unfortunately, this will be the last trip to Elgin as the Warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland has closed and the Church of the Brethren will not be participating in the transport of LWR kits and quilts. The only warehouse open is the one in St. Paul, Minnesota. This means we will be storing our quilts and kits until there is an ingathering close to us. Ingatherings are generally held the month of October. There is usually one in Rockford and one in Naperville. LWR is trying to add more ingathering times and sights so that storage won't be such a problem.

Work days for December will be used, as usual, for putting together quilts and baby care kits and cutting out school back packs. There are always baby care quilts that need to be made. In this busy time of the year the need does not stop, so 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!

MERRY Christmas

St. John's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - November 9, 2025

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

- ◆ Connie led devotions on counting your blessings.
- ◆ Wayne called the meeting to order at 10:49
- ◆ Connie made the motion to accept the consent agenda. Joanne seconded. Motion carried.
- ◆ Scott presented the treasurer's report and noted that we are on target to meet our budget with two months left. Our synod support is where it should be. Wayne thanked Scott for doing a tremendous job managing our finances.
- ◆ Committee reports
 - ◇ Fellowship/Hospitality: Fellowship after church scheduled for November 16. Christmas dinner finalized for December 6th at \$25/person, paid in cash that night being preferred.
 - ◇ Outreach: Cindy Karp has volunteered to continue the mailings to the homebound that Jeanette was doing.
 - ◇ Finance: Scott will work on a budget.
 - ◇ Missions/Stewardship: See report. It was noted that the sharing pantry is requesting a representative from our church. Manual can openers are a need for pantry clients. It was agreed that the sharing pantry could use the parsonage garage for additional storage. Connie is working on obtaining addresses of members in senior care facilities.
 - ◇ Parish Ed: Attendance has been steady at eight students. Christmas program is scheduled for December 14th.
 - ◇ Property:
 - Connie made a motion to accept a bid from Chuck Warner for \$3788.52 to refinish the downstairs floors in the parsonage. Cindy seconded. Motion carried.
 - Joanne made a motion to replace the main door and storm door at the parsonage not to exceed \$1500. Connie seconded. Motion carried.
 - ◇ Worship: See report.
 - ◇ Tech: Cindy made a motion to purchase a laptop for the financial secretary for \$931.50. Joanne seconded. Motion carried.
- ◆ Wayne is continuing to work on scheduling supply pastors. John Yoeckel was suggested as a possibility. Wayne will contact him.
- ◆ The call committee is waiting to hear back from the synod regarding the ministry site profile.
- ◆ Joanne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45.

In God's service,
Bob Fraley

STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 11-5-25

The Stewardship meeting commenced at 8:55 a.m. with Mark Lee, Connie Hamer, and Karol Grandgeorge present.

The October minutes were approved.

Michael Hamer's October offering report was as follows: General Fund - \$44,663.95; Capital Fund - \$2,963.41; LWR Shipping Fund - \$30.00 (total-\$1232.77); and LWR Baby Care - \$20.00 (total-\$540.90).

Mark reported that Meals-on-Wheels was covered by other volunteers this month, so St. John's did not have to sign up drivers. June, 2026 would be our next month.

Connie will do the Safe Passage emphasis article for December. In addition, she will do the Stewardship annual report and the 2 Stewardship calendars.

Communion for home-bound or nursing home residents was discussed. Currently, only Karol and Connie are doing the visits.

Diane Wold, Karol, and Connie put up the LSSI Giving Tree. One correction is that all gifts must be returned to the church by November 30th. We will use the money from the Endowment Committee to purchase gift cards towards the end of the month.

LWR news: The Church of the Brethren in Elgin has closed their ingathering program. Karol and Connie took up the quilts and kits that were completed on Oct. 31st. We now await any information on dates and places for other ingatherings from LWR. This is an issue that should be handled at the state or national level. We used to take our supplies up to Elgin about 4 times a year. We are considering using the Mary/Martha room for additional storage in our church.

The meat and canned goods for the Fellowship Feast have been purchased. Michael, Mark, Karol, and Connie are distributing flyers at local businesses.

*****The service time has been changed to 6:00 p.m.*****

This was not discussed at the meeting, but with council's approval, Karol and Connie drafted a commitment letter, which was printed and mailed to parishioners. We did not include pledge cards during this transitional time between pastors.

Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 3rd at 8:45 a.m.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 10-1-25

Present: Lois Spizzirri, Toni Lundeen, Julie Horsch and Cindy Karp.

Began our meeting at 1:00pm. For Christmas Eve we don't have a Pastor as of yet. We will go ahead and plan for service of the word. We will sing Christmas songs and give the Author and history before singing them like we have been doing. Jessica has been asked if she can play that night for us but we haven't heard back from her yet. Toni said she would check with her again. If Jessica can't do it, we will check with Brad Haas to see if he would be available.

Anita Miller's vision will be on 11-29-25 from 10:30 am to 11:30am. There will be a celebration of Life service at 11:30am. with a reception in the fellowship hall after the service. Margaret Page will be playing the music.

Becky Stephens has said she can play for us at Advent Morning Prayer Services on Dec. 2, 9 + 16. The first day of Advent is November 30th. The Advent candles will be lit on 11-30, 12-7, 12-14 and 12-21. We ended our meeting at 1:30pm with the Lord's Prayer.

In God's service, Cindy Karp

December Rebekah/Women's Gathering



Location:

The Village Courtyard for dinner

Date: Thursday, Dec. 4th

Time: 6:00 p.m.

*****Please let Connie Hamer know by
Saturday, Nov. 29th if you plan to attend.**

Growing Hope Globally Gala

Saturday, February 21, 2026

**St. John's Lutheran Church, 235 S Green Street, Somonauk, IL
Social Hour with Charcuterie Service 5:00-6:00 pm**

Formal Plated Dinner Service with live piano music at 6:15pm prepared by

The Traveling Chef \$150.00 per plate

More info in the Welcome Center



DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Sharon Mueller	12/06
Evelyn Smith	12/07
Cindy Westbrook	12/07
Anita Beal	12/08
Hudson Christopher	12/08
Taylor Johnson	12/11
Johnny Johnson	12/14
Abigail Denault	12/20
Doris Rogers	12/21
Bob Mueller	12/21
Ed Stahl	12/21
Sharon Rhea	12/22
Dave McKenzie	12/30
Lorelei Killey	12/30
Bruce Wold	12/31



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.



DECEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph & Rosemary Underwood	12/02
Tom & Kathy Anderson	12/29
Martha & John Johnson - 30 Yrs	12/30



MEETING



Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, December 3



Property Committee

10am Wednesday, December 3



Worship Committee

1:00pm Wednesday, December 3



Fellowship & Hospitality

2:00pm Wednesday, December 3



Church Council

10:00am Sunday, December 14



Rebekah Circle Meeting

6:00pm Thursday, December 4

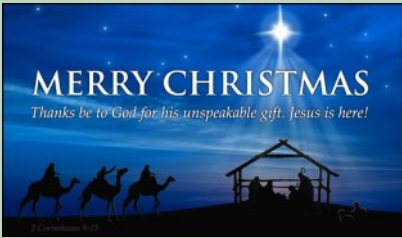


MOG Committee

7:00 pm Tuesday, January 6



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<div>December</div> <div>2025</div>	1	2	3 <div>8:45am Stewardship 10:00am Property Mtg. 1:00pm Worship Mtg. 2:00pm Fellowship & Hospitality</div> <div>6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's</div>	
7 <div>8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:45am Worship</div>	8	9 <div>LWR Workday 9:30am-3pm 7pm-9pm</div>	10 <div>LWR Workday 9am-3pm</div> <div>6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's</div>	
14 <div>8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:45am Worship SS Christmas Program</div> <div>10:00am Church Council Meeting</div>	15	16 <div>10:00am Reading Buddies</div>	17 <div>6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's</div>	
21 <div>No Sunday School</div> <div>9:45am Worship</div>	22	23	24 <div><div><div>WORSHIP WITH US!</div><div></div><div>CANDLELIGHT SERVICE</div><div>4:00 pm</div></div></div>	
28 <div>No Sunday School</div> <div>9:45am Worship</div>	29	30	31	

Thursday		Friday	Saturday
4		5	6 5:00pm Worship
11		12	13 5:00pm Worship
18 1:00pm Rebekah Circle		19	20 5:00pm Worship
25 		26	27 5:00pm Worship



The Parents Corner

Our Sunday morning Bible study of 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel continues. Samuel was a prophet at a time when the Israelites were not satisfied with God as their ruler. They wanted a human king like other nations. Samuel argued against this, but God advised him to help them have their earthly king and see what happens. These books of the bible are worth studying for our country and our time.

Unlike the Israelites, the people who started this nation chose to toss out a human king in favor of God. Our founding documents... The Declaration of Independence attesting to the sovereignty of God, the United States Constitution, acknowledging human frailty and trying to guide and control the good and evil in human beings... are always under attack.

I learned a hymn in my government school as a child and sang it in my Lutheran Church. I remember especially the last verse (our current hymnal has only the first two verses printed in it).

“ Our fathers God to thee, Author of Liberty, to Thee we sing. Long may our land be bright, with freedoms Holy Light. Protect us by Thy might, great God our King.”

Thousands of years ago, Israelites sought an earthly king and ended up wandering the world in search of what they had lost. Our country got it right in the beginning. Let's remember that and teach our children who is in charge. Only God is our God.

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.

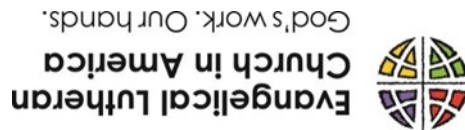
Stewardship /Missions Ministry:

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 December 2025



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

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office@elcastjohns.org

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