



LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWS/
INFORMATION



January 2026

Door Offering for January

The January Special Door Offering will be divided between the Hospitality/Fellowship and Outreach Committees. For the Outreach committee, Nancy Miller has manned a booth at the Somonauk Christmas Walk with information about our church and OUR SHRAING PANTRY. She has given away simple ornaments to adults and Kid's goodie bags with Bible stories and info about Sunday School and Bible School. The money to cover some of the purchases came from the Outreach budget. When you see Nancy, please tell her thank you. The postage for the mailings to shut-ins is also covered by the Outreach budget. The Hospitality/Fellowship Committee plans activities and outings to promote friendship and fellowship for our congregation and community. The after-worship coffee times, the Christmas catered dinner, and the church picnic are a few of the things they do. The members of the committee often provide baked items for these events but there are other expenses which need to be covered. Some of the activities are paid for by the participants, but there is money needed to help pay for entertainment. Let's help these two committees budgets by giving a little extra. Be sure to mark your giving envelope appropriately.

Thank you from LSSI

We wish to thank everyone that participated in buying for the LSSI Giving Tree. Ms. Kathy Hall came to pickup the items on December 3rd, and was overwhelmed with our generosity. Our church purchased at least 2 gifts for twenty people and also purchased \$1925.00 in gifts cards for the caseworkers to use for special gift to some of the people. The committee can't be happier for the response and we hope our gifts bring peace and joy to some of the 56,000 LSSI recipients.

LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

January 13th

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

January 14th

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

The days for Lutheran World Relief Work Days for 2026 have had some changes. We will now be meeting the second Tuesday and Wednesday of the month. This new schedule will help with the use of the Fellowship Hall. For the winter months especially we have taken out the Tuesday night work times. After a full day's work, going back in the cold has been tough! If this causes a problem for you, please let Karol or Connie know.

In the month of January we will be putting quilts and Baby Care Kits together. Someone will also need to be cutting out school back packs. People have been sewing these backpacks during the year so we will be ready to string them and fill them in August. The baby care quilts need to be put together and tied. We would like to get ready for the Personal Care Kit emphasis in February. Many jobs of all kinds for many people. Please take a few moments to come and see our process.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!



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

Members present: Bob Fraley, Connie Hamer, Scott Horsch, Cindy Karp, Wayne Karp, Joanne Robinson. Guest, Jerry Lundeen

- ◆ Joanne read devotions based off the book of Luke. God's presence is through Jesus who is our greatest gift.
- ◆ Wayne called the meeting to order at 11:12
- ◆ Jerry Lundeen, representing the Call Committee presented the Ministry Site Profile. The committee worked hard at forming and completing a nice document. Jerry asked for guidance regarding salary. It was suggested to offer synod guidelines. Jen Beamsley our synod rep has accepted a call. Jen Henry is our new rep.
- ◆ Motion to approve Ministry Site Profile presented by Jerry Lundeen, Chair Person of the St. John's Call Committee. To be submitted to NI Synod. First Connie, Second Joanne, All Approved. No Opposed. Motion Approved.
- ◆ Cindy made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Connie seconded. Consent agenda was accepted.
- ◆ Scott presented the treasurer's report.
 - ◊ Church finances are healthy
 - ◊ More gifting compared to last year at this point
 - ◊ Scott emphasized that 80 percent of our expenses are staff and property related.
 - ◊ Scott presented a preliminary budget for 2026. Joanne moved to approve a 4% increase for all staff wages for the year 2026. Connie seconded. Motion passed.
- ◆ Committee reports
 - ◊ Fellowship/Hospitality – The annual Christmas dinner went well.
 - ◊ Outreach – There have been a few young adult visitors attending recently.
 - ◊ Finance – None
 - ◊ Missions/Stewardship – See report. Bob shared an offer from the Sharing Pantry to increase their monthly donation because of rising utility costs. The council agreed to accept their offer and suggested a \$25/month increase. LWR quilters have decided to not quilt on Tuesday evenings anymore and may move the day to not interfere with the Sharing Pantry.
 - ◊ MOG – None
 - ◊ Parish Education – All good
 - ◊ Property – More work needed to be done at the parsonage than originally presented. The final bill was \$3400 as opposed to \$1200.
 - ◊ Worship – See report
 - ◊ Tech – The copy machine needs servicing. A motion was made by Cindy to receive copier lease estimates. Joanne seconded. Motion carried.
- ◆ Wayne reminded everyone to have their yearly reports in to the office by Christmas.
- ◆ Cindy made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Connie seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:18

In God's service, Bob Fraley

STEWARSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 12-3-25

The December Stewardship meeting was called to order at 8:48 a.m. with Michael Hamer and Connie Hamer present.

Connie completed the Safe Passage article, the Stewardship annual report, the task calendar, and the 2026 emphasis calendar. Karol will write the article for our January emphasis which is St. John's Outreach and Fellowship & Hospitality Committees.

Michael's November offering report was as follows: General Fund - \$12,024.15; Capital Fund - \$1344.41; Altar Guild - \$150; Good Samaritan - \$100; Kitchen Fund - \$700; Meals-on-Wheels - \$300; LSSI Giving Tree - \$406.37; and Sharing Pantry - \$625.00.

The Growing Hope Gala is scheduled for Saturday, February 21st at St. John's.

LWR news: Cindy Karp currently needs 12 & 18 month t-shirts. Our February emphasis is Personal Care Kits and the 5 items needed has not changed at this time – 1 bath towel, 1 nail clipper, 8 oz. of bar soap, 1 sturdy comb, and 1 toothbrush.

The LSSI Giving Tree mission was completed. We collected gifts for 18 people and additional gift cards from various vendors totaling \$1925. Kathy Hall picked up the offerings on Dec. 3rd.

The Fellowship Community dinner held at St. John's on Nov. 23rd went well. We served 90 for the meal and 95 were at the worship service. The meal was chili, corn bread, salad, various casseroles and desserts.

The shortest Stewardship on record was adjourned at 9:01 a.m. by praying The Lord's Prayer. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 7th.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 12-3-25

Present were: Lois Spizzirri, Julie Horsch and Cindy Karp. We began our meeting at 1:15pm.

Hymns and organists are all scheduled for January.

Advent morning began this past week on Tuesday, Dec. 2. Not a very big turnout, we had 6 people. Hopefully the next two will be a few more people.

Lenten season will be here soon, Ash Wednesday is February 18th Palm Sunday, March 29th Good Friday, April 3rd Easter Sunday, April 5th

A question came up at our meeting about whether it has to be an ordained Pastor who does the ashes. Wayne was going to find out.

Pastors are even a little harder to get now that it gets darker earlier and winter is here. We do have a Pastor for Sunday, December 14th. I have faith that God will provide what we need!

In God's service, Cindy Karp

Rebekah Circle

Date: Thursday, January 15th

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: St. John's Fellowship Hall

Lesson: Renew, Respond, Rejoice

Session #3

Hostess: Jackie Harmon

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



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Doug Stahl	01/02	Caitlyn Norris	01/21
Charles Hoepe	01/03	Marilyn Abbott	01/24
Stephen Kossak	01/03	Catherine Drape	01/25
Kyle Reuter	01/03	Crystal Pyle	01/25
Alexander Shoener	01/03	Nancy Gletty-Olson	01/27
Neil Miller	01/07	Keith Larson	01/27
Addyson Barnes	01/07	Steven Vermeland	01/27
JoAnn Fox	01/10	Kelly Denault	01/28
Martha Johnson	01/11	Sharon Goode	01/29
Dale Robinson	01/14	Vanessa Pyle	01/30
Erin Killey	01/19	Kirk Schmitt	01/31



Michael & Nancy Maroscia 01/06

Lee &



Nancy Miller had a table representing St. John's during the Somonauk Hometown Christmas event as part of our outreach. She had goodie bags for kids along with ornaments, magnets for adults, and flyers about St. John's and Our Sharing Pantry. It's the second year she has done this. Thank You, Nancy !!

READING BUDDIES
With Wendy Merkel's kindergarten class

January 27 @ 10:00am

Sign up in the Welcome Center



MEETING

MOG Committee

7:00 pm Tuesday, January 6

Property Committee

10am Wednesday, January 7

Fellowship & Hospitality

2:00pm Wednesday, January 7

Rebekah Circle Meeting

6:00pm Thursday, January 15

Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, January 7

Worship Committee

1:00pm Wednesday, January 7

Church Council

10:00am Sunday, January 11

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<h1>January 2026</h1>			
4 8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	5	6	7 8:45am Stewardship 10:00am Property Mtg. 1:00pm Worship Mtg. 2:00pm Fellowship & Hospitality 7:00pm MOG meeting
11 8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:45am Worship 10:00am Church Council Meeting	12	13 <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9:30am-3pm</i> <i>7pm-9pm</i>	14 <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9am-3pm</i> 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
18 8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	19	20	21 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
25 8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	26	27 10:00am Reading Buddies	28 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 5:00pm Worship
8	9	10 5:00pm Worship
15 1:00pm Rebekah Circle	16	17 5:00pm Worship
22	23	24 5:00pm Worship
29	30	31 5:00pm Worship



Dear Parishioners,

Throughout the year, our Mission/ Stewardship Committees emphasize different charities or organizations that St. John's supports. In previous years, we took a supply gathering for Midwest Shelter for Homeless Vets in January and a monetary donation in August. This year, we decided to combine the supply and monetary donations into one month, June. MSHV is a non-profit agency that provides housing, supportive services and community outreach to help homeless and at-risk veterans and their families achieve self-sufficiency. Founded in 2007 in Wheaton, IL, by 2 veterans, MSHV operates on the vision of no veteran left behind due to homelessness, joblessness, poverty, and/or mental health issues. MSHV desires to ease suffering for veterans and their families and to empower veterans to become productive members of their communities. MSHV is a not for profit 501(C)3 organization and their non-profit tax ID # is 36-4337985 (for your tax purposes).

We will be accepting supplies throughout the month of June, and the door offering the weekend of June 26th and 27th.

Following is a list of needed supplies, the asterisk indicates they are almost depleted:

- *paper plates (regular size)
- *microwave (new, please)
- Zip-loc bags (gallon/quart)
- *toilet bowl cleaner
- *liquid laundry soap (standard size)
- *bathroom cleaning spray
- *all purpose cleaner (ex. Mr. Clean, standard size)
- *hand and body lotion
- *ethnic hair care products
- *comforter sets (F/Q & T)
bathmats
- *dish sets for four
- *pot and pan sets
- *flatware sets for four
- *baking pans
- kitchen towel sets
- oven mitt sets
- garbage bags (13 gallon)
- disinfectant spray (Lysol)
- coffee maker (new, please)

Gift Cards:

- *gas
- *grocery stores
- *stamps

In addition, if you would prefer to shop online, you may go to: <https://a.co/b3ifTXn> to view their Amazon wish list.

Due to Covid-19, MSHV is no longer accepting used clothing or other used items. They do accept item in the original manufacturing packaging, all clothing items must be new.

YOU, dear friends in Christ, have been absolutely amazing throughout the pandemic lockdown and have kept our missions strong. Thank you for all your generosity and caring attitudes!

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

Lutherford 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

January 2026

God's work. Our hands.



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

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