



DONORS Needed in June

Dear Congregants,

St. John's is once again sponsoring a blood drive on **Thursday, June 4th** from **2:00-6:00 p.m.** We are asking that all our generous and dedicated folks step up to help in this effort. Versiti Blood Center of IL was founded in 1943. Based in Aurora, Versiti serves 63 hospitals in a 12-county area and collects 155,000 units annually. Versiti's core values include: do right always; strengthen the team (US!); find a better way; and make results happen. They recognize that the gifts of blood and life are precious.

1 bag = 3 saved lives

At critical times, we depend on our brothers and sisters for this life-saving gift. Health and eligibility questions are answered on Versiti's website (<https://www.versiti.org>). Unfortunately, Versiti no longer has the program which allowed for giving at an earlier date and crediting our drive. So, you must attend and donate on **June 4th**. Walk-ins are always welcome. IDs required. Appointments can be made by:

Calling 800-786-4483 (Versiti)

Calling 815-739-6207 (Connie Hamer)

E-mail: donate.il@versiti.org

Direct donor link:

https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11641521

Be a hero and save 3 lives today!

LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

May 12th

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

May 13th

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

Hooray Hooray May is here and with it comes Prom, Graduation, Planting and Mother's Day. Since it will be Mother's Day soon, we will focus on Baby Care Kits this month. We have been fortunate to be able to do about 20 Baby Care Kits a month. Needless to say, that takes a lot of T-shirts, pajamas, jackets, etc. The needed items are:

Lightweight cotton t -shirts (long or short sleeve) Sizes 12 months to 24 months/2T

Long or short sleeve sleeper or 2 piece pajamas without feet Size 12 month to 24 month/2T

Jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with hood. Can be knit or crocheted. Sizes 18 month or 24month/2T But there can be no fleece>

Hand towels in dark colors

8-9 ounces of a gentle soap like Ivory No mini bars

All items must be new or in "pristine" or "like new condition." We do have patterns and materials for sewing or knitting jackets and t-shirts. Contact Karol Grandgeorge if interested.

In the month of May, you will find us busy doing the usual jobs of putting quilts and Baby Care Kits together, cutting out school back packs and taking apart sheets, and sorting donations. We have received numerous totes of material from Steve Skopek and they all need to be gone through, sorted, measured and stored for future use. The people who have been sewing on the school backpacks at home during the year are making great progress. The bags will be ready to string in July and fill in August. There are always jobs for many workers, so pleasetake a few moments to come and give us a hand.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!

St. John's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - April 12, 2026

Members present: Bob Fraley, Connie Hamer, Mike Hamer, Scott Horsch, Cindy Karp, Wayne Karp, Joanne Robinson, Pastor Selena Blackwell

- Joanne read devotions based on Mark Chapter 16
- Wayne called the meeting to order at 11:08
- Mike made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Connie seconded. Motion carried.
- Scott presented the Treasurer's report. He pointed out that the first quarter contributions total was only 15.41 percent of this year's budget. We should be averaging \$18,000/month but have been seeing contributions below that. He went over balances in the activity accounts.
- Committee reports
 - ⇒ Fellowship/Hospitality – Picnic worship service is being planned for this summer.
 - ⇒ Outreach – None
 - ⇒ Finance – None
 - ⇒ Missions/Stewardship – See report
 - ⇒ MOG – Have not met since January, will meet the end of April.
 - ⇒ Parish Education – Confirmation is back with four more weeks left. Confirmation is set for May 17th with three students being confirmed.
 - ⇒ Property – The grease trap in the kitchen has been cleaned, but is collapsing. Estimates to repair are being sought. Raised beds are being delivered this week.
 - ⇒ Worship – See report. Sunday worship service changes to 9:00 May 24th.
 - ⇒ Tech – A new copier has been delivered and a contract was signed with the Gordon Flesch Company. They took away our old one.
- Pastor's report
 - ⇒ Pastor has begun to visit shut in members with plans to revisit those families soon.
 - ⇒ Sunrise service went well. Sixteen attended despite the inclement weather. There was one visitor.
 - ⇒ There will be a special service Saturday, May 9th to dedicate the raised beds.
- The May council meeting has been rescheduled for May 3rd on account of Mother's Day.
- Wayne mentioned that "Glory Way" gospel quartet has reached out to the church

- about scheduling a concert. The council discussed possible dates.
- Joanne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Connie seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:46.

In God's service,

Bob Fraley

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 4-1-26

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

Meeting began at 12:55pm.

Hymns and organists are all scheduled for May.

There is another baptism coming up on 4-12-26 for Caden Gunier. Parents are Emily and Dalton Gunier.

Lorelei Killey will make her first communion on Easter Sunday, April 5th.

Confirmation date has been set for 5-17-26. Last day of Sunday School is also on 5-17-26.

Other dates coming up in May are: May 10th, Mother's Day May 24th, Pentecost May 25th, Memorial Day

Closed our meeting at 1:15pm.

Rebekah Circle

Date: Thursday, May 21st, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: St. John's Fellowship Hall

Lesson: Travels With Jacob

STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 4-1-26

The April 1, 2026, Stewardship meeting began at 8:50 a.m. with Karol Grandgeorge, Mark Lee, and Michael and Connie Hamer present.

The March minutes were approved as corrected. The meeting date should have been March 3rd.

Karol wrote the article for the April emphasis which is the St. John's Capital Fund. She called attention to several areas that need updating (ex. painting). May's emphasis is LWR Baby Care Kits. Connie will write the article for the blood drive, which is scheduled for Thursday, June 4th.

Michael's offering report for March was: General fund - \$12,595.58; Capital Fund - \$1159.60; Sunday School - \$710.99; We Are Called to Care (Lenten suppers) - \$855.00; Habitat for Humanity - \$70 (total-\$270); Personal Care Kits - \$100 (total-\$354.11). Michael will give Scott Horsch the form for giving the funds to We Are Called to Care.

LWR updates: 324 Personal Care Kits were completed for 2026. Remaining supplies are in the table and LWR storeroom. Karol reported that we have about 6 vehicles available to transfer completed LWR projects to Bethlehem Lutheran in St. Charles on Saturday, May 2nd. Also, there will be 2 ingatherings the first weekend of October in Naperville and Rockford.

Nancy Miller organized a community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28th. Hunters were divided into age groups and there were additional activities while waiting. Several church members volunteered to supervise activities and hide eggs.

Community Fellowship dinners – Robin Raupp has volunteered to organize St. John's responsibilities for the Fellowship dinners. She and Karol will attend the next meeting to gather details. Karol will contact Marilyn Wouda from Salem as to when the meeting will be held. Our next time to host a dinner will be August.

Easter services: Maundy Thursday – 6:30 at St. John's

Good Friday – 7:00 at Salem

Saturday Easter Vigil – 5:00 at St. John's

Easter Sunday – Sunrise 6:30 a.m. at St. John's Cemetery & 9:45 a.m. at St. John's

We adjourned at 9:25 a.m. by praying The Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 6th at 8:45 a.m.



Birthdays

Tom Harmon	05/01
Erik Wold	05/03
McKayla Eaton	05/06
Haven Ortega	05/09
Grant Shoener	05/12
Dayton Rogers	05/13
Nicholas Dingman	05/13
Linda Martin	05/14
Monda Denault	05/15
Nancy Miller	05/16
Mike Hamer	05/17
Bob Reis Sr.	05/17
Mary Burgin	05/18
Lynn Skrzypiec	05/18
Nancy Larson	05/19
Coleton Eade	05/20
Emma Reuter	05/23

Payton Christopher	05/24
Ava Lindstrom	05/25
Liam Wold	05/25
Diane Rogers	05/26
Andrew Hallman	05/26
Jackie Wendland	05/28
Richard Lumsden	05/28
John Guehler	05/30



Erik & Jessica Wold	05/06	20 Years!
Tyler & Julie Christopher	05/10	
John & Angie Shoener	05/17	
Maury & Cara Killey	05/29	55 Years!



LAST READING BUDDIES WITH WENDY
MERKEL'S KINDERGARTENERS FOR THIS
SCHOOL YEAR IS TUESDAY,
MAY 26TH
@ 10:00AM

SIGN UP IN THE WELCOME CENTER.



MEETING



Property Committee

10am Wednesday, May 6



Church Council

10:45am Sunday, May 10



Rebekah Circle Meeting

1:00pm Thursday, May 21



Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, May 6



Worship Committee

1:00pm Wednesday, May 6



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<h1>May</h1> <h1>2026</h1>			
3 8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	4	5	6 8:45am Stewardship 10:00am Property Mtg. 1:00pm Worship Mtg. 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
10 8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:45am Worship 10:45am Church Council Meeting	11	12 <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9:00am-3pm</i>	13 <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9am-3pm</i> 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
17 8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:45am Worship <i>Confirmation</i>	18	19	20
24 9:00am Worship 9:00am Worship 31	25	26 10:00am Reading Buddies	27



**Everything I need to know,
I learned from Noah's Ark.**

Don't miss the boat.

**Remember that we are all in the same boat.
Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when
Noah built the Ark.**

**Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone
may ask you to do something really big.**

**Don't listen to critics; just get on with the
job that needs to be done.**

Build your future on high ground.

For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

**Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails
were on board with the cheetahs.**

When you're stressed, float awhile.

**Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs;
the Titanic by professionals.**

**No matter the storm, when you are with God,
there's always a rainbow waiting.**

- Author Unknown

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

Mike Hamer

Connie Hamer

Cindy Karp

Joanne Robinson

Lutherdale Bible Camp Representatives-2026

Karol Grandgeorge, Nancy Miller

Synod Assembly Representatives-2026

Wayne & Cindy Karp

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, Adam Killey

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: Jerry Lundeen

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 May 2026

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



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

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